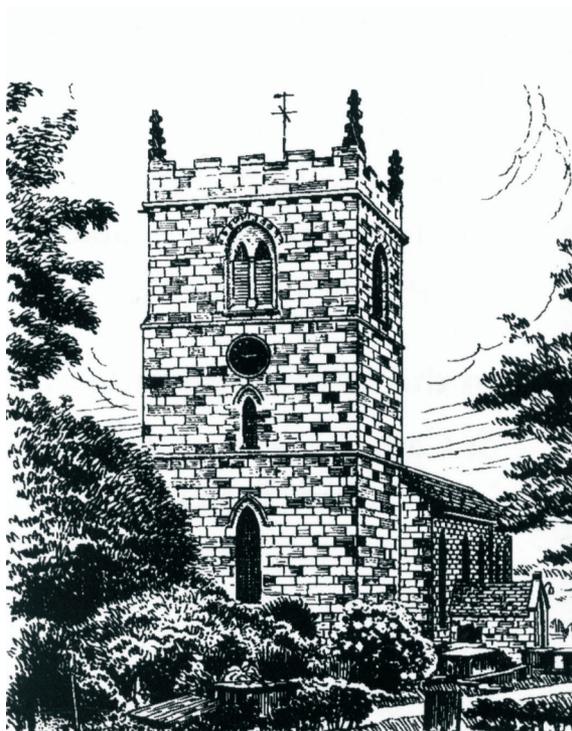


Parish News

February 2011



**The Church of
St Mary the Virgin, Woodkirk**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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January Registers

Baptisms:

Joel Anthony	Brian Bentley	West Ardsley
Lucie Beryl	Nash	Ossett

Funerals:

Thomas Colbeck	(93) Tingley
Anne Dennison	(61) Tingley
Malcolm Barstow	(76) Woodkirk
Alay Clayton	(71) Tingley
Lilian Clough	(103) Batley
Michael Corbally	(69) Tingley
Anthony Morland	(76) Tingley



Welcome!

Enjoy reading this parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about church groups, please get in touch with the contacts - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers.

You'd be most welcome to join us for worship. Service times are on the back page. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Meanwhile may God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending at least £9 a year to cover magazine costs, post and packaging to: Margaret Longden 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Telephone 01924 473064

It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far.

Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at:

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

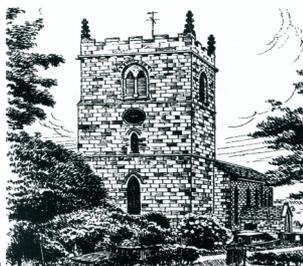
Copies of the magazine (from April 2005 issue only) can be downloaded from the web site.

Wheelchair

A wheelchair is available to help people move easily between the church and Dewsbury Road. Just ask.

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A special anniversary – for a book!

It may have escaped your attention, but 2011 is a very significant year. We celebrate the first publication of the King James Bible (often known as the Authorised Version). Though it is rarely these old phrases of the first English Bible which are used in church services, the language is in our bloodstream more than we generally realise. Did you know that there are as many as 78 phrases in everyday use in the English speaking world today which have their beginnings in the King James Bible? So, even if you think you don't know much about the Bible, you might be surprised to discover that you use phrases from it almost every day! Phrases like, "the twinkling of an eye", "living off the fat of the land", "the apple of his eye.", "a fly in the ointment" all have their origin in the phraseology of the 1611 Authorised version.

Now you might think that the publication of a now antiquated book has little to do with your life today, 400 years on. But you might be surprised. Before its publication, it was the sole responsibility of the clergy to tell people what the principles of right and wrong were, based on its teaching. A few folk were determined to give people access to their own Bibles, and teach them to read it, and thus to allow them to inform themselves and think for themselves. The beginnings of democracy! Dangerous territory, it was then considered, and the church campaigned against it. When the first Bibles were made available, booksellers were ordered by bishops not to sell them, and if they were found on the shelves, they were summarily taken out and burnt in the streets. This book is clearly powerful stuff – or why make such a fuss about it?

William Tyndale, who had worked tirelessly to translate the Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew texts, was accused of heresy, strangled and then burnt at the stake for the work he did. His final words as he faced death were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!" Just 4 years later, that same king who had sought to suppress an English text, ordered English translations, and each was based on the work of Tyndale. An answer to his final prayer, perhaps?

What you might not realise is that James I, whose name is bound up with this Bible, left more of a mark on it than we suppose. Not only does the first English translation of the Bible have his name in its title – it goes a little further than that. James is not a Jewish name, and none of the men of Bible times would have had that name. "Hang on a minute,!" you might be saying, "what about James and John, the brothers who were disciples? What about the letter of

James, and the oldest brother of Jesus who would become the leader of the early church, also called James?" The Bible is riddled with people called James! If you refer back to the Greek original, you will find the name on each occasion was 'Jacobus' – or Jacob. But King James I intended to have a piece of the action – so he decreed that his name should be written into the script of Scripture! Hence Jacobus became James in translation! Crafty, eh? But what he did is perhaps a reminder to us that, whether or not our name appears in the text of the Bible, our lives are entwined with its story, whether we realise it or not.

For all its idiosyncracies and quirks, it has shaped the world within which we live more than we realise. So wouldn't it be good to make 2011 a year to explore the Bible in more depth, to find out what it means for us today?

Many people attempt to read the Bible, but make the mistake of starting at Genesis. Few emerge at the other side of Leviticus! The New Testament is a much better place to start. There are also many types of reading notes available giving short, daily bite-sized chunks. For the iPod generation there are many resources to be found to guide you through a discovery of the Bible's message, as there are online.

Undoubtedly the world has changed enormously, but human nature is much the same. The Bible provides a strong moral compass to navigate the storms of life – we need it more than we realise and overlook it at our peril!

Amanda



Can you spare any change guvnor!

We all have it don't we? Loose change stuck in draws, in old purses, tins, boxes. What is he talking about I can hear you asking. Old coins now not legal tender, euro "shrapnel" foreign coins and notes, just lying there doing nothing. But is there a way to clear these items and perhaps make a little usable cash for St Mary's. Perhaps there is. These old coins and notes could be sold as collectables, singly or in lots if we receive enough some by be able to be exchanged at the bank for legal tender. If you have such items then pass them to me and I will try to raise funds from them. I will try this throughout the year and inform you of any progress. From the beginning of the month I will put a box at the back of church for any donations. All donations gratefully received as they say. Thank you.

Derek Barraclough.

Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service

Whilst I appreciate that the 14th November seems a long way away, I just wanted to share my experience from the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service held in Church.

Amanda had asked me a few weeks before if I would do a reading, which I was happy to do.

The reading was; *'Tears' By Robert Hedinger* and goes as follows:

When I read what you have been to many friends....Tears.
When I ride in the car that took you last....Tears.
When I see your face in the prime of life....Tears.
When I go where we have been together....Tears.
When I announce again and again that you have died....Tears.
When they sing "O when the saints go marching in"....Tears.
When we'll be there together then....Tears no more.

It is now over three years since I lost my dad very suddenly, and my faith, my family and my friends have helped me throughout that time, so much so that I felt that I would get through the service without any particular upset, however, I have noticed that the only time my defences are lowered, is when I am with Christian friends, and this service became one of them.

Who would have thought that a simple poem of seven lines would have had such an effect on me, but it did. I think the line about When I go where we have been together, and also When we sing "Oh when the Saints go marching in" really touched me, the first one because we used to nip off all over the place, and the second because it was a hymn my dad loved (being a Manchester United fan I think his version went along the lines of "When the Reds go Marching in"!, but there you go), they brought back to me such appropriate and happy memories that I wasn't sure I would make it to the end of the reading.

My Christian belief and the strength it has given me, as well as the knowledge of my church family's love for me, over these past three years, continues to help me deal with the loss of my dad, and the remembrance day service enabled me to let my guard down for a short while and remember with great fondness the little things that I can now smile at. The reading used sometimes at funerals, and which was read at my dad's has the words; "Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name; speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference in your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow ; laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was, let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of shadow on it.

My church friends and sense of a sorrow shared at the Remembrance Service have again reminded me that I am not alone, and that other people have been where I have found myself, and whilst we will always miss those who have gone before us, remembering is all part of that and I do look back and giggle over some of the things me and my dad did get up to, and I hope that the remembrance service and the love of the church for those that were there will help sustain those who are still coming to terms with their loss and enable them in the future to look back not with tears but with a smile and a giggle like me and my dad.

Dawn Tattersfield

Posada

Room at the Inn, well not quite, but there was certainly a space large enough for me to have “lodgers” as part of my ongoing Christmas preparations. Gail called to see me with a small box and we went through some prayers and thoughts as she carefully presented me with Mary and Joseph and a very well behaved Donkey who were to stay with me overnight.

I must admit, I did feel that my home did have special guests in it that night, and it was lovely to be a part of POSADA in the build up to Christmas.

I then safely delivered the POSADA family to Neal the following day, although I think his cat was a bit nonplussed!

Watch out next December perhaps you will have a chance to find room in your heart and home for the holy family and feel that you have had some very special visitors as part of your Christmas preparations.

Dawn Tattersfield

Christingle

Our 2 Christingle services on Christmas Eve raised £303.00 for the children’s society. This included £94.00 from the collecting candles; some people filled them and brought them along for the service.

We made 300 Christingles! Thank you to everyone who was involved especially the five children who were loading up the sticks with sweets. They seemed to have got it off to a fine art!

The services on Christmas Eve are so moving; seeing all the children and their families together for Christmas to listen to the true meaning of Christmas.

I would like to say thank you to pupils and staff at Westerton school who donated £78.50 from their Carol Service.

Thanks once again

Susan Walshaw

Carols by Candlelight

Remember THAT? Well, I for one, certainly hope so. But WHY was this year so different, SPECIAL, BETTER than previous years?

Well, there are many reasons. Let's begin with the choir from Hilltop School. I begin here as I feel strongly that, after all our joint celebrations of the birthday, of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Christmas is a time for children. This is why we have Father Christmas for the sole purpose of something extra special for our children, so that they will grow up in the knowledge that Christmastide is a very special time. (I even got to see the world from Santa's side this year at the Christmas Fayre, a first for me, and how I enjoyed it, meeting excited children barely able to wait to tell Santa how well behaved they had been and what they would like him to 'deliver' on that very special night as their reward, just as Mary was delivered with her very special gift that night, too.) Oops!!! digressing, sorry. Back to HILLTOP SCHOOL CHOIR.

What a credit to their school, children so smartly 'turned out', well behaved, and enjoying what they were doing! That was obvious by looking at their faces. Let's not forget the members of staff too, all giving their time to come along for us, to add their element. Beautiful singing of some Christmas songs that were most likely very new and very very enjoyable to us all. It takes me back to both my choirboy days at St. Lukes' in Bradford and our 70+ strong choir at Carlton Grammar School for boys, when my boy soprano voice, ready for breaking at any time, was stretched to its limits to sing Zadock the Priest and other similar choral works. I distinctly remember the school Master of Music who so loved his choirs, coaching and cajoling us all, and my telling him that my throat was hurting.

At age 13 I was certain my voice was ready to break at any moment. "Look here, young Hardcastle," he growled at me. "Once this concert is over, it can do what it likes, but until then, keep it intact. Understand!". He whispered threateningly directly into my ear from a range of about one inch, "I cannot lose my lead treble at this point." Enough said, he was a very large man in both height and girth, causing one to shake in one's boots at the very thought of crossing him at all. The children from Hilltop came through with the goods for us. Well done, all of you. I did get the chance to speak with some of them after the service, along with proud parents, who told me how much they had enjoyed the experience.

At the P.C.C. meeting the Monday prior to the service, Amanda told me that a possible soloist had volunteered her services, and she was going to contact me by e-mail and send some music through the internet for my perusal. The said music arrived the next day, so I duly printed it off, then called our 'mystery soloist' to see if she wanted a rehearsal prior to the service. Within literally seconds "Diane Wales" and I were chatting away like long-lost buddies, surely

an arrangement forged by God Himself. These things don't just 'happen' is my belief . I think we both KNEW it was going to be good. A short run-through in Church 45 minutes before the service was due to commence confirmed that. Result, "Didn't she do well" !!! Yes, Diane Wales is truly outstanding, and no 'prima donna' either. She is a lovely person wanting to give of herself, that beautiful voice surely a gift from God. .

Then we are very fortunate at St. Mary's to have a building which lends itself to such an occasion.

Let's also not forget our very own Amanda, who wrote (or should I say composed, formatted or compiled) the entire occasion. Thank you so much Amanda for all your work.

FINALLY, it is my good fortune to have a beautiful organ to play on which to lead the singing. What a difference it makes to know one has a little in reserve to give a full Church a strong lead, or as my old tutor used to say "ave a few pieces of coyl left in't bucket to throw on, just in case" (Only the more senior of us will understand that one I think). That, together with beautiful mellow tones for the quieter passages too, did you notice times when you were not sure if I was playing or not, so soft was the music? THAT is what makes the instrument. We all worked hard to obtain it, but together we did it. I hope you all feel it is worth while. Oh yes, for those of you who have wondered, just how loud can that thing go? You got your answer to that one during the last verse of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" Yes, folks, that was 'IT' at "full tilt' (Aye lads and lasses, and all 't coyl were ont' fire too, fair blazing up chimney it were).

I have of course highlighted the musical side of the event, but we must not forget all those others who were every bit as important in making this an event to remember, the readers, announcers, and of course that very small 'army' who lit (and subsequently extinguished) how many candles? I didn't even attempt to count. Did you? Somebody will know no doubt.

Yes it was just one of those evenings when, no matter what the weather was doing outside, one felt very warm inside. That's what it did to ME anyway, hope it had the same effect on you. I will remember, for a long, long time..... and.....

There is ONE FINAL element to complete the story ALL OF YOU!!!!

Without you it would not have been possible, nor worth the time and effort everyone put into it.

Thank you,
and

God Bless ALL OF YOU

John Hardcastle (Organist)



Looking back at Christmas

Christmas comes and goes so very quickly, and before you know it you're hoo-vering up the pine needles, and stopping the cats from eating them! This Christmas has been particularly special, and that is because the real meaning of Christmas seems to have been more prevalent than in previous years. This, for me, is for two reasons; our church services, and at last the TV actually showing something religious during primetime TV.

The BBC came up with the biggest surprise of the whole Christmas period with *The Nativity* which was shown in 4 parts from Monday 20th December at 7pm on BBC1 - how more primetime can you get! This wonderful drama put a lot of meat on the bones of the Bible text, which is actually very sparse, and dealt with a number of the 'human' issues which arose between Mary and Joseph - the planning of their life together and the inevitable tension once the pregnancy was discovered, Mary and her family, Joseph and his family and the effects of Jesus' birth on others in the area. It also delivered the magic, wonder and utter joy of Jesus' birth in a way which was amazing. The journey of the Magi was told in a way not seen before starting from their astronomical discussions to their journey and dealings with Herod. If you get the *Radio Times*, the letters page has some more wonderful testimonies to this programme. Didn't know the angel Gabriel was Irish though, but then again, why not?

St Mary's services started on the 19th December with the Candlelit Carol Service. The mixture of carols, childrens' choir, soloist and images of the season was very enjoyable. Following on from this, the Christingle services were busier than normal, and the sight of the lights off and just the light from the candles while the children sing *Away in a Manger* really brings back memories from childhood!

We were lucky enough to put our names on the rota for the Posada. It was a real privilege to have Mary, Joseph and the donkey in the house and was a lovely way of bringing the Christmas story into our homes and share it with other people. I look forward to more ideas like this during the coming year to bring our faith and prayer from within the church to the homes of the parish. Christmas Eve was a lovely service, and was definitely in winter conditions. Overall the attendances at services was really pleasing considering the awful weather, and it proves a real wish from people to celebrate Christmas in church and a massive positive.

This should give St Mary's real momentum into what will be a challenging 2011. Let us all support the church throughout the year by encouraging friends and family to experience what it means to be part of God's family.



Neal

Epiphany Corners

As you will have notices during Epiphany there have been 6 prayer stations in the church.

On January 2nd the first 3 prayer Stations were put in place one for each of the gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men, one of Gold, one of Frankincense and one of Myrrh. We do not really know why these perceptive gifts were give, but I like to think maybe the gold was given to help Mary and Joseph on their flight from Herod, the Frankincense burnt in the Synagogue as purification a gift from God, Myrrh used to anoint the body before burial. I wonder what Mary thought of these gifts and when she saw her son on the cross, did she remember these gifts.

On Sunday 9th January the 4th Station was added this was at the Font in remembrance of Jesus's Baptism by John, this also help us to focus on our Baptism, even though for many of us this was a long time ago, and remember that invisible cross on our foreheads that only God can see, but makes us his child. On Sunday 16th January, a 5th Station was placed; this was to remind us of the calling of the fishermen, just ordinary men, just like you and I called to serve God with whatever gifts he has given us, they became a family in God, so we must also remember that we are part of this family.

On Sunday 23rd January the 6th and Last station was placed, this was the Presentation of Jesus into the Temple, this was the time that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to God, and Simeon said to Mary and Joseph the word we all familiar with "Lord now I can die in peace! As you have promised me, I have seen the Saviour you have given to the people," And Mary and Joseph were amazed at what had been said about Jesus. Then Simeon went on to tell them that Jesus would be rejected by his people in Israel, and to Mary a sword will pierce your very soul.

On Saturday 29th January the Church was open from 10am until Noon for anyone who wished to come and pray at the stations or to just look around, refreshment were also served in the Parish Centre. I hope all who came and looked around found the stations a place where they could find peace to pray or reflex.

The Core group who placed the Station found it very inspiring and an honour to do; it also gave us food for thought.

Gail Townsend



St Valentine - who was he (or they!!) - and what is Geoffrey Chaucer mixed up in this for?

Numerous early Christian martyrs were named Valentine. The Valentines honoured on February 14 are Valentine of Rome (Valentinus presb. m. Romae) and Valentine of Terni (Valentinus ep. Interamnensis m. Romae). Valentine of Rome was a priest in Rome who was martyred about AD 269 and was buried on the Via Flaminia. His relics are at the Church of Saint Praxed in Rome, and at Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland. Valentine of Terni became Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni) about AD 197 and is said to have been martyred during the persecution under Emperor Aurelian. He is also buried on the Via Flaminia, but in a different location than Valentine of Rome. His relics are at the Basilica of Saint Valentine in Terni (Basilica di San Valentino). The Catholic Encyclopaedia also speaks of a third saint named Valentine who was mentioned in early martyrologies under date of February 14. He was martyred in Africa with a number of companions, but nothing more is known about him.

No romantic elements are present in the original early mediaeval biographies of either of these martyrs. By the time a Saint Valentine became linked to romance in the 14th century, distinctions between Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni were utterly lost.



In the 1969 revision of the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints, the feastday of Saint Valentine on February 14 was removed from the General Roman Calendar and relegated to particular (local or even national) calendars for the following reason: "Though the memorial of Saint Valentine is ancient, it is left to particular calendars, since, apart from his name, nothing is known of Saint Valentine except that he was buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14." The feast day is still celebrated in Balzan (Malta) where relics of the saint are claimed to be found, and also throughout the world by Traditionalist Catholics who follow the older, pre-Second Vatican Council calendar.

The first recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love is in *Parlement of Foules* (1382) by Geoffrey Chaucer. Chaucer wrote:
For this was on seynt Volantynys day

This poem was written to honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. A treaty providing for a marriage was signed on May 2, 1381. (When they were married eight months later, they were each only 15 years old).

Readers have uncritically assumed that Chaucer was referring to February 14 as Valentine's Day; however, mid-February is an unlikely time for birds to be mating in England. Henry Ansgar Kelly has pointed out that in the liturgical calendar, May 2 is the saints' day for Valentine of Genoa. This St. Valentine was an early bishop of Genoa who died around AD 307.

Chaucer's Parliament of Fowles is set in a fictional context of an old tradition, but in fact there was no such tradition before Chaucer. The speculative explanation of sentimental customs, posing as historical fact, had their origins among 18th-century antiquaries, notably Alban Butler, the author of Butler's Lives of Saints, and have been perpetuated even by respectable modern scholars. Most notably, "the idea that Valentine's Day customs perpetuated those of the Roman Lupercalia has been accepted uncritically and repeated, in various forms, up to the present"



Neal

Limbering up to Lent

By the time you read this, we would normally be on the brink of Lent, which usually tends to start in mid-February. But not this year. 2011 sees Easter falling as late as it is possible to do – those of you with schoolchildren will be well aware of the problems this has caused with the holidays. What used to be Easter holidays are now that no longer! Many children will have their holidays and return to school just as Holy Week is starting. Because Easter falls so late, on 24th April, so Lent starts later, on March 9th, which is this year's date for Ash Wednesday. We will be marking the date, (and indeed marking ourselves with ash) at 7.30pm in church, in a service shared with others from our community.

The positive thing about the late date is that it gives us all plenty of time, after the Christmas and Epiphany celebrations are over, to ponder how best to use Lent. Often, it is on us before we realise and we are almost 'caught on the hop'. This year, we have no excuses! So, how will we use Lent as an opportunity to follow the path of sacrifice?

Lent Groups will meet to read Bible passages, listen to music, to one another and to God. Indeed, the emphasis this year is on listening. We live in a world so full of noise, that stopping to listen to the 'still,small voice' within us can be difficult. The 5 week course will give us the opportunity to tune in to that wavelength.

The course is called 'Praying the Scriptures' and is one which has been developed by a group drawn from our own Diocese and the Catholic Diocese of Leeds, who will be using the same material. It is based on a form of Bible reading called 'Lectio Divina'. Now, doing something with a Latin name may sound a little scary, but we are promised it isn't.

Some folk are cautious about Lent courses because they feel they will be expected to talk, and they consider themselves to be much better at listening! So if this course is about listening, maybe it's just the course for you? Why not come along and find out? The course will run on Tuesdays, starting on Tuesday 15th March, and with the last session on Tuesday 12th April, at the Vicarage. There will be an afternoon session, from 2.00-3.30pm, and the same material will be offered in the evening from 7.30-9.00pm. Both will be led by the Core group. Refreshments will be shared at the end of each session. Some folk find that, though they perhaps couldn't manage every session, by coming sometimes in the afternoon and at other times the evening, they can get to more than they expected. It proves to be a very good way of getting to know folk better, and I don't think I've met anyone who has regretted coming along. Why not sign up and give it a try?



Amanda

Banking plans.

No, this is nothing to do with fat-cat bonuses at the big financial institutions, but of banking of a much more 'down to earth' variety – literally. I refer to the banking which lies between the church car park and the road. It has long been an eye-sore and has been plagued with the recurrent nightmare of Japanese knot-weed. Furthermore, because ownership of this piece of land has been difficult to pin down, it has been a challenge to know how to improve things.

But thanks to the vision and hard work of a small band, including Mick Coates, representing the sports club, Melanie Wilks, a local artist, and Judith Elliot (who needs no introduction) plans are afoot to create a focal point which would be largely maintenance free and give some insights into the history of our community. For this, Melanie has visited the church, and explored some of the history which it reveals. Our time-line, put together by the Core group some two years ago also provided some useful information. Melanie aims to create a number of distinct mosaics, looking to local schoolchildren for additional help, which reflect something of life in this community down through the last 1000 years, which will form part of the feature. Tiles for the mosaics are to be donated by Al-Murad, and we hope that the end result will be one which is admired for many years to come.

I was going to say, "Watch this space!" but perhaps it might be more appropriate to say "Watch that space!" Let's face it, it's long overdue for some attention, and the more maintenance free it is, the better it will continue to look.

Marriage – something worth celebrating!!!

Whether you're looking forward to marriage, newly married, whether you've been married for many years or now simply have the memories to cherish, marriage is something worth celebrating. Don't you agree?

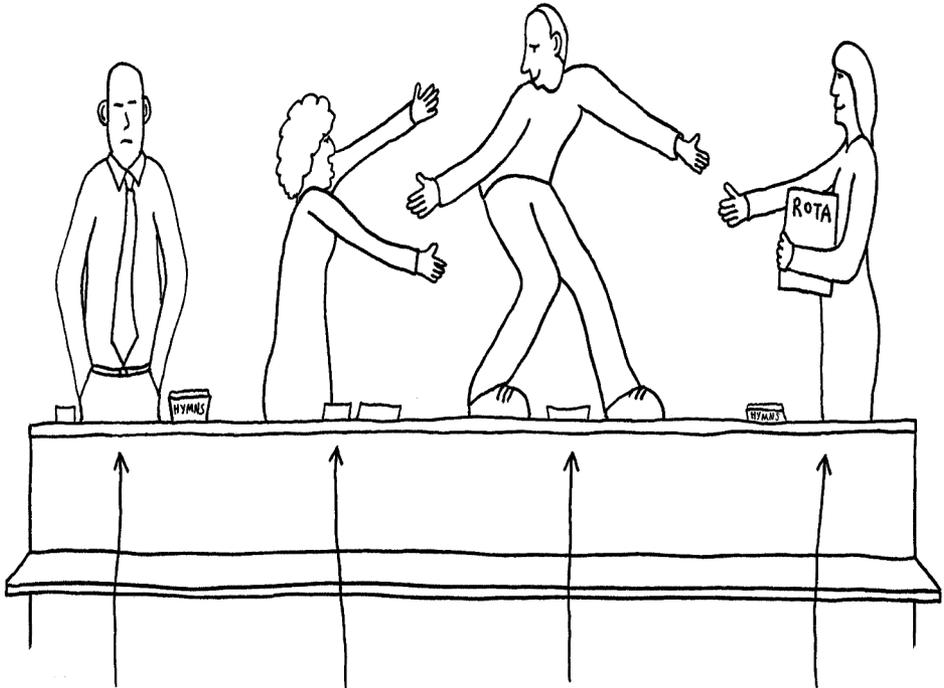
Our Celebration of Marriage service is only held once every two years, but has become very popular, as we invite those who have recently been married at St. Mary's to join us. And what better way to get in the mood for Valentine's Day, the day after? Why not come along and join us? Couples at various stages of their married life will be offering readings and inviting us to join them in singing again one of the hymns which made their wedding day special. 'Wedding' cake and bubbly will be served after the service. Why not bring the family along to this special event?

Sunday 13th
February 2011
3pm St. Mary's Church

Amanda

THE PEACE

THIS IS A TIME DURING THE SERVICE WHICH IS SET ASIDE FOR PEOPLE TO BE NICE TO ONE ANOTHER. DIFFERENT PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE IN DIFFERENT WAYS:



THE NON PARTICIPANT.
TRIES TO AVOID EYE
CONTACT IN THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT
SOON THIS
INDIGNITY WILL END

THE PERSONAL
SPACE INVADER.
PURVEYOR OF
UNWANTED HUGS
AND KISSES

THE OLYMPIC
PEACEGIVER.
AIMING TO
GREET ENTIRE
CONGREGATION.
EYES ALREADY
ON NEXT VICTIM

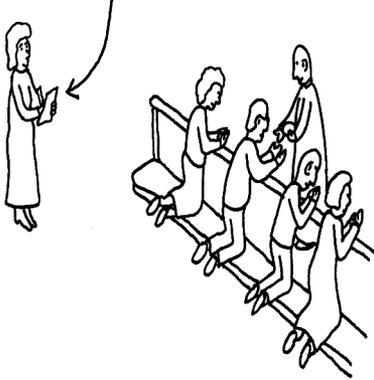
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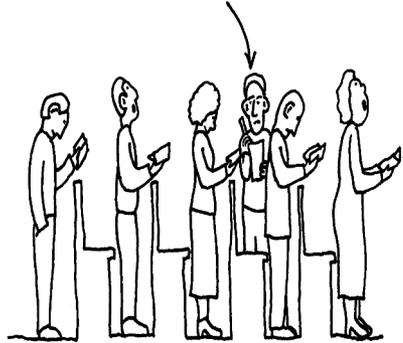
This CartoonChurch.com cartoon originally appeared in the Church Times and is taken from 'The Dave Walker Guide to the

NUMBERS

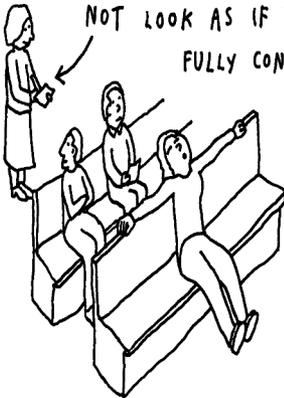
THIS IS THE LADY
WHO COUNTS THE NUMBERS
OF THOSE TAKING COMMUNION



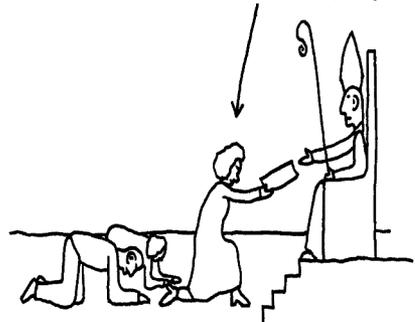
THIS IS THE MAN WHO COUNTS
THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO ARE
NOT SINGING THE HYMNS WITH GUSTO



THIS IS THE LADY WHO COUNTS
THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO DO
NOT LOOK AS IF THEY ARE
FULLY CONCENTRATING



EVERY NOW AND THEN THEY
ARE SUMMONED BY THE BISHOP,
TO WHOM THEY MUST PRESENT
THEIR FINDINGS



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"This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times. Reproduced with permission."

Book Review

We haven't booked our holidays yet but I have my book to read by the pool already.

I first discovered this author from a recommendation in another book. Once I had read one I looked for the others. Some are nonfiction, but this is fiction, a Christian who done it with a twist at the end. Please don't be put off by the author's name, Randy Alcorn, Yes He Is American.

This book that I am writing about is the one that I read on Holiday last year; DEADLINE is a book about three lifelong friends, how their lives are intertwined, and how an accident turns quickly from an accident to murder. As it say's on the back His body hung suspended between two friends his soul between two worlds.

Jake Woods is an award winning author, but when tragedy strikes those close to him he calls upon his journalistic skill to uncover the truth about the suspicious accident. Along with a seasoned New York cop, Ollie Chandler they try to unravel the series of events, look for a motive, who was the intended target? If you like mystery and suspense this is a book for you. Who did it? And why? You need to read the book; the end may catch you unawares. A copy of this book is available to borrow in the tea room on the shelf. If you do read it I would be grateful for your view, Hit or Miss



Derek Barraclough

Need for sit-on mower to solve churchyard problem

Maintaining a neat churchyard at Woodkirk St Mary's is a pretty awesome task . . . and it is going to get even more difficult this year.

For David Jenkinson who has provided enormous amounts of time – and his sit-on mower – to keep the various grass paths under control for many years has now decided to step down.

Which poses a real problem for the rest of us unless we can find someone to step into the breach.

I well remember the time when the paths were so overgrown with weeds and brambles that it was impossible to walk from the open spaces in front of the church to the various paths and current burial ground at the far end of the churchyard.

It took a wholehearted effort by many church members to clear away all the mountainous weeds and bring the area under reasonable control.

Sadly, over the past few years, the number of helpers willing or able to turn out and take part in organised mowing sessions or ad hoc visits has dropped. But there was always the saving grace that, thanks to David's individual efforts, mourners and visitors to the churchyard could always move easily between various parts of the churchyard.

So how do we cope with the loss? The cost of buying a new or even second hand mower together with maintenance and storage problems might be too much for St Mary's to bear when budgets are so tight.

Perhaps we might be lucky enough to find someone in the parish who has access to a mower suitable for keeping the paths open and would be willing to loan it to us or, alternatively, do the work themselves.



If there is such a person – or you might know of a possibility would you, or they please get in touch with me to see how we might best solve this problem? My telephone number is 01924 479824.

If that proves impossible we might find that we our dwindling group of workers will have to hand-push mowers over the lengthy paths as well as and in and around burial plots at the far end of the churchyard.

That would inevitably mean maintenance of other parts of the churchyard would be lessened. And with the Spring growing season not so very far away that's something we would not like to contemplate. On the other hand you might have other ideas as to how we might tackle the problem. Please feel free to submit them as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Malcolm Haigh

Woodkirk Sports Club

Woodkirk Sports Club is seeking photographs of former teams and club events to help decorate its revamped clubhouse.

If you have a photo you would like to give or loan to the club you should contact Jason Tabor, chairman of Woodkirk Wolves on 07940 210866.

And if you can provide details of the team or the occasion that would be even more interesting.

Malcolm Haigh

Diary for February and early March 2011

Wed 2 nd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
	8pm	Home Group at 12, Woollin Crescent (Home of Gail & Dave Townsend)
Thurs 3 rd	11am	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
Sun 6 th	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) & JAM Club
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Wed 9 th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
Sun 13 th	10.30am	All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion
	3pm	Celebration of Marriage service (<i>see article</i>)
Mon 14 th	12 noon	'First steps' Toddler service in church – Henry makes a discovery
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Parish Centre
Wed 16 th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
	8pm	Home Group at 12, Woollin Crescent (Home of Gail & Dave Townsend)
Thurs 17 th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge Nursing home
Sun 20 th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) & JAM Club
Mon 21 st	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting in Parish Centre Judith Elliot – My year as Lord Mayor of Leeds
Wed 23 rd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments
Sun 27 th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) & Gro-Zone interactive worship
	5- 6.30pm	Wannabees Youth Group at Vicarage



MARCH

Wed 2 nd	9.15am 10am	Church open for prayer Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Thurs 3 rd	11am	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
Fri 4 th	7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer service at St. Mary's
Sat 5 th	10am-1pm	Work for Church morning
Sun 6 th	8am 10.30am 12.30pm	Holy Communion (said) Holy Communion (sung) & JAM Club Baptism Service
Wed 9 th	7.30pm	Holy Communion with ashing
ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS. (No morning Communion today)		
Sun 13 th	10.30am 12 noon	All-Age Worship for Lent Holy Communion



Playgroup update

We said goodbye to 12 children at the end of Christmas term and are now starting to stagger the intake of new children. Thursday is our busiest day, but we still have a few places on a Monday so book now to avoid disappointment!

The topic this term is animals and the children will be enjoying lots of lovely animal stories, as well as making puppets, masks and animal homes. We will also be doing some music and movement making the most of the large space we have!

We have a new noticeboard which, as well as telling everyone our latest news has a star of the day and a picture of the day. The Children all feel very proud to see their names displayed & to gain a sticker to celebrate.

I have developed a prospectus for playgroup which is available, to everybody, in the foyer of the parish centre. Feel free to take a copy, or pass it on to anyone new in the area; if you need any further copies then please do let me know.

For our next topic we are looking for some willing volunteers to come in and engage with the children, e.g. sewing, baking. Or it could be that you have a job that is interesting to talk to the children about! Do you know any Firemen? Police women? Dentists? Please come and see me or give me a ring if you have an hour or two to spare sharing your skills.

Lisa Fyffe

Make a Note

Please join us in the Parish Centre for a Snowman Drive on Saturday 26th February at 7pm. We will be playing a game similar to Beetle followed by a quiz. Between these two activities refreshments will be served. Children are welcome the cost will be £4 adults and £2 children. Proceeds are going to Christian Aid. Tickets are available from Sally Shaw. Telephone 01924 475 048.

Sally Shaw

Margaret's Scones

1lb Self Raising Flour
Tip of Teaspoon of baking powder
7oz Margarine □ soft stork
4oz Castor Sugar
3-4 Raisens □ if required
2 Eggs beaten with milk to make up 8 fl ozs of liquid

Keep a little back to brush scones
Mix flour and fat to bread crumbs.
Add sugar and fruit □ mix in liquid.
Use plenty of flour when placing mixture on working surface
Press gently with hands □ do not use rolling pin.
Makes between 16 □ 18 scones(depending on cutter size).
Scones should be touching on baking tray so they will rise and not spread
Hot oven for 10 minutes (approx).
Half quantities works and they are good for freezing.
Any problems see me in church.
Happy baking!

Margaret Longden

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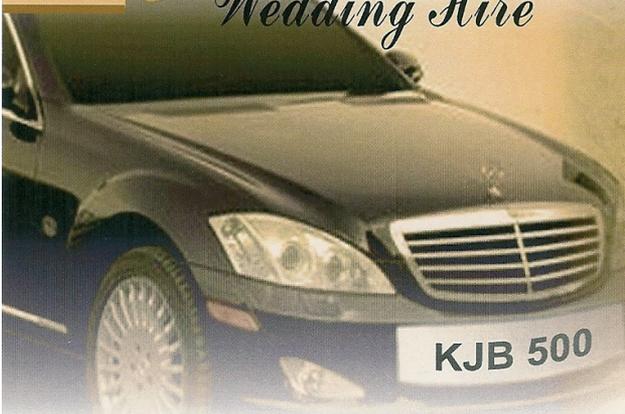
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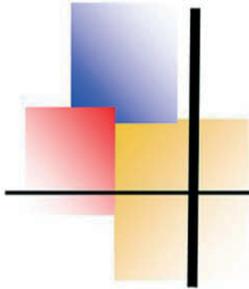
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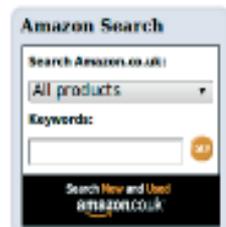
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 7:30pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am-12:15pm Lisa Fyffe 0776 1762661
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Jenny Willert 07950 278268
Prayer Group	2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays 7:15pm Derek Barraclough 01924 473375
Rainbows	Thursday 6.00pm Elizabeth Reid 07725 311023
Brownies	Thursday 7.00pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
Keep Fit Class	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
Young at Heart	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Clarice Gough 0113 252 7436
Beavers	Friday 5:00pm Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
Cubs	Friday 6:30pm Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
Scouts	Friday 7:45pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
Explorer Scouts	Friday 7:45pm Chris Ingham 0113 252 9976
Youth Group	Last Sunday of the month (term time) 5:00-6:30pm Amanda Barraclough 01924 472375

Services

Sundays, except the 2nd Sunday of each month

10:30am Parish Communion & Jam Club

1st Sunday of the month

8:00am Holy Communion

12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month

10:30am Family Service

12:00 Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month

10:15am The Gro-Zone interactive worship in the
Parish Centre

12:30pm Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

1st and 3rd Wednesdays

10:00am Holy Communion

2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays

7:15 pm Prayer Group

8:00pm Holy Communion

1st Thursday

11:00am Holy Communion at Soothill Manor

Monday to Friday

8:45am Morning Prayer

To arrange for baptisms, confirmations, funerals, the reading of banns or any general matter, please contact the vicar, Amanda Barraclough
St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road, Woodkirk, WF12 7JL 01924 472375
Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

To book weddings please contact the Wedding Coordinator, Gail Townsend, 0113 2528710

Email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org