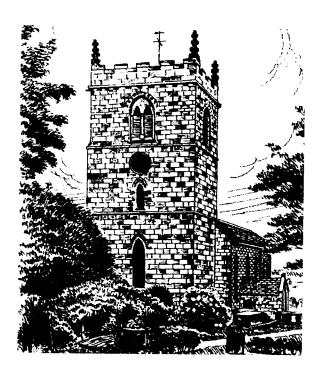
Parish News April 2012



The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Woodkirk

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Gail Townsend 0113 2528710

Churchwardens: Gail Townsend 0113 2528710

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Glyn Jennings 01924 470272

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PCC Secretary: Julie Hyde 0113 2521339

PCC Treasurer: Gary Mortimer 0113 2528935

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,Derek Barraclough, , Audrey Bourne,, Brian Gledhill John Hardcastle, Julie Hyde, Glyn Jennings, Gill Mahoney, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Kath Randall, Sally Shaw, Dawn Tattersfield, Gail Townsend

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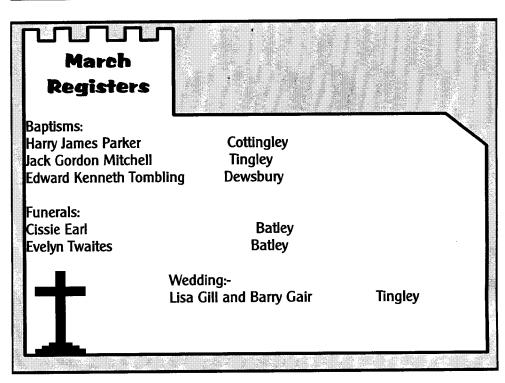
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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this parish magazine. If you wish to know more about church groups, please get in touch with the contacts - their names are on the inside front $\mathbf{\delta}$ 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 Jan 2011 issue only) can be downloaded from the web site.

Twitter

twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair

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

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Easter? So what?

It all started on Easter Day 2011.

After the long dark journey through Lent, the oppressive feel of Holy Week, and the anguish of Good Friday, the experience of the sheer exuberance of the Easter Sunday service gives a sense of utter joy. People say to me, "Of course, this is one of your busiest times of year – that and Christmas!" But Easter is far more demanding because it is emotionally draining in a way which Christmas isn't. It's always a joy to have an open invitation to an old friend's home, some miles away, for Easter Sunday lunch – the beginning of a much needed week of rest.

And that's when it started. Rebekah, our youngest daughter, studying for finals, had looked drawn for some days, but was clearly unwell. By the evening of Easter Day we were with her in A&E. It would be the first of many visits in a 6 month time span passed in a haze of hospital admissions, operations and emergency phone calls which left us never knowing what was coming next. Life felt like it was in meltdown, with exams deferred, along with the graduation ceremony, other celebrations postponed, and plans put on hold. A major operation on September has allowed her to get her life back on track, for which we are all hugely thankful.

Easter is a time of stark contrasts – from Good Friday anguish through to Easter Sunday joy. And for us, from Easter Sunday morning singing lustily, "Thine be the glory!" to the anxiety and whispered hush of an A&E cubicle the same evening. Easter clearly doesn't mean that all our worries and challenges are overcome in an overwhelming triumph of "Hallelujah" s. There were few Hallelujahs around the A&E ward that night.

So, what difference does Easter make? The question "Why?" was still asked. The anxiety was still palpable. But under girding all the trauma of 8 A&E trips, over 30 nights of hospital admission, and two operations, was a deep confidence that the God of the empty tomb was big enough to handle this. And though we would have to go through a painful journey to get there, the end of this story would be a "Thine be the glory!" moment too.

Rebekah would be the first to tell you that's how it was. In August she had to beg some reluctant consultants, wanting to operate, to allow her to be discharged to sit her already deferred finals. Stress is not good for Crohn's, but she had to do it. She had to carry a dossier everywhere in case of a medical emergency. She was weakened by a very restricted diet as well as significant weight loss. If she had a flare-up on any exam day, (and there was a constant danger of it) and failed to sit the paper, she simply would not graduate. She was literally carried through on prayer. She was prayed through all six exams –for one of which she was given the wrong exam paper. Going into the process on a 2:1,

she would have been happy to scrape a 2:2 just to know she had graduated.

A few days later, she rang in tears. We feared the worst. "It doesn't matter – sit them again next year when you're stronger!" "That's not why I'm crying. I got a First! It shouldn't be my name on the Degree Certificate. It should be God's. He did it!" What can I say? Thine be the glory!

Easter doesn't change the reality that we will go through our own Good Fridays, our days of darkness and desolation. But it does change the way we can view them, and cling onto the faith that the God of the empty tomb is big enough to handle them. May we find, through that faith, our own "Thine be the glory!" moment bursting through in the most unexpected of places.

May God bless you this Easter.



What's happening in the Church car park??

As I sit at my desk, I am looking out on a view of concrete blocks, JCB diggers, piles of soil and debris. Work is afoot across the road in the church car park. A number of folk have asked me what's happening, so here it is....

The old fencing is removed, to be replaced with a rather more aesthetically pleasing fence in due course. The car-park will be re-surfaced and kerbs added to ensure vehicles can't hit the fence easily. New signage will be erected once the work is completed. It's all part of the MY WOODKIRK project, which is redeveloping the banking into a display of mosaics to celebrate the heritage of our community. These will be enhanced with the addition of trees supplied by the Woodland Trust as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. You will see elsewhere in this edition that the only Oak tree which is part of this pack has been gifted to St. Mary's Churchyard by the project team – a real sign of partnership between community and church.

The subjects of the mosaics has been decided in collaboration with local schools and the designs have been brought to life by the skill of local artist Melanie Wilks, one of the MY WOODKIRK project team. The team also includes local councilors, school, community and church representatives, all working to ensure that our area, which lacks a focal point for many folk, has a sense of where it has come from and takes pride in its history.

The mosaics project is just the first phase in the journey. It is hoped that the development of a photographic heritage base in the rear of the church, once the planned redevelopment has happened, will continue the process, and allow the church building to enrich our appreciation of our history as a community.

The View from the Pew. Your church needs YOU....Yes, YOU!

Do you know someone who could express the view from the pew? Who is a good listener, and who understands how people feel? Who loves God and is willing to serve his people? If you say "No!", I don't believe you! We all know someone at St. Mary's who could fit that bill. Is there someone who you would feel confident to approach if you wanted to raise an issue of concern about something related to St. Mary's? Then why not approach them and tell them that? And then why not ask them to consider standing for the PCC?

The PCC makes many of the major decisions affecting the life of the church, and it is vital that the people who represent the church on the council represent the differing ages groups and interest groups, the varied characters and points of view which make up the rich tapestry of St. Mary's. It's not a group that you qualify for once you've been coming for three decades or more, made up of the longest standing members of the church. It's not an elite power-base who come to make sure they 'get their own way' and that 'nobody rocks the boat'. It's not an information shop to attend so you are 'kept in the know'. It IS a rich, varied group of people who belong to the church and who are keen to represent the 'view from the pew' in the discussions which will guide St. Mary's into the future. It would be great to have folk whose experience is chiefly of the All-Age Worship, or those who attend the monthly 8am service. No –one can complain about decisions that are being made while ever there are vacant places on the PCC which they could fill!

If you are on the Electoral Roll of the church, you qualify to stand for the PCC. It meets once a month, on the second Monday of each month, so the weight is not too onerous. This year, we have seven vacancies for the PCC, and each person appointed will stand for a three year term. Once any individual has completed two consecutive three year terms, they will be obliged to stand down to allow new people to fulfil the role. There are also two vacancies for representatives to attend Deanery Synod meetings – these will have part in some significant decision-making over the next few years as the shape of our Diocese may change, and there may be voting taken on the legislation which will allow women to become bishops.

Since the pattern of standing down after two consecutive terms of office was established, very few people have returned to PCC membership after their break. Please remember – it's just a break, not necessarily retirement! The PCC needs those with maturity and experience as well as those with youthful energy and fresh ideas!

Remember- it's not up to a few, the wardens and vicar, to approach someone and ask them to stand, it's up to YOU – the whole church.

Our APCM is on 22nd April, after the morning service. Please consider being there – a picnic lunch will be provided as an added incentive! Packs of reports should be available at the back of church on the Sunday before for those who attend to peruse before the day.

Amanda

Playgroup News

We are enjoying lots of singing of our favourite songs at playgroup this term, which have included some old favourites 'the wheels on the bus' and not so familiar 'sleeping bunnies!' As well as making Mother's day cards and celebrating Easter.

Our registers are currently full, with children waiting for places. We will be saying Goodbye to only 2 children at Easter, who are taking up school nursery places.

I am currently studying for my Early Years Professional Status, which is a qualification which will demonstrate that I am leading, managing and delivering effective practice in line with 39 national standards! It is certainly keeping me very busy and thanks to my hard working and dedicated team I am well supported.

This year Playgroup are once again supporting a children's charity. We are currently raising money for Martin House Children's hospice. We are collecting 5p's, and we have a barometer on display to measure our collection total. We aim to raise a good sum of money in the 6 weeks term to help this worthy Charity.

Lisa Fyffe

15th Morley Cubs and Beavers

The Beavers and Cubs have had a wonderful evening at Pets at Home in Dewsbury, we were able to pet the rabbits, chinchillas, guinea pigs, hamster and Lizards' we are very grateful to the staff as they took good care of us and helped the Cubs and Beavers understand what a responsibility it is to look after pets. We also have a Gardening morning planned with the Cubs, and we are planting some horn thorns in the Church- yard which were given to us by MY WOODKIRK project.

The Cubs had their swimming Gala no trophy this time but we still did very well and are now looking forward to next year.

We have a full programme ahead of us for both Beavers and Cubs, with some sponsored walks.

Akela

Albert's Entertainment Body Parts' Quiz

Find the body parts suggested by the following clues. You may need to ask your grandmother about some of them! No part appears more than once.

- 1. Body part in the title of a Max Bygraves hit about flowers from Holland?
- 2. Bond film villain who lived under the sea in several other films?
- 3. Body part in the title of a film for which Daniel Day-Lewis won an Oscar?
- 4. Body part in the title of a 1983 gangster film starring Al Pacino?
- 5. Body part in the title of a recent Paul McCartney album that has kisses on?
- 6. Body parts often referred to in Bingo Halls?
- 7. Body parts of a 1946 film beast that played the piano and strangled people?
- 8. Brave 1995 Oscar winning film starring Mel Gibson?
- 9. Elvis Presley's early rock and roll years nickname?
- 10. Body part in title of 1967 film in which Paul Newman ate lots of eggs?
- 11. James Bond film title made up from the colour of a metal and a body part?
- 12. Mother Brown was urged to lift these up in a popular dance song?
- 13. Body part in the title of the first "spaghetti western' starring Clint Eastwood?
- 14. Doomed part found in the title of the 1984 film in the Indiana Jones series?
- 15. Bade farewell in a 1932 Gary Cooper film these body parts resurfaced in 1958?
- 16. Body part found in title of film starring Errol Flynn as a pirate captain?
- 17. Guarded by Kevin Costner in 1992 film co-starring Whitney Houston?
- 18. What you got me under in this early Frank Sinatra hit?
- 19. Body part in the title of a film for which Geoffrey Rush won best actor Oscar?
- 20. Body part found in the title of a long running TV comedy series starring Wilfred Brambell and Harry H. Corbett?

St. Mary's Plants an Oak Tree for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's historic 2012 Diamond Jubilee, the Woodland Trust is helping millions of people across the UK to come together to plant 6 million trees. We at Woodkirk have planted a tiny Oak Tree sapling in the Graveyard to be a part of this great National Project.

With Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal as Patron, the Jubilee Woods project aims to create hundreds of Jubilee Woods and 60 special Diamond Woods, transforming our landscape in a generation and providing a lasting and meaningful tribute for many years to come. This includes the Trust's exciting new flagship Diamond Wood in the heart of The National Forest in Leicestershire, a haven for wildlife and a wonderful monument to Her Majesty, open for all to enjoy.

Neighbours, communities, schools and families have come together to plant thousands of individual trees in their gardens, playgrounds and community spaces – each taking the chance to mark this special moment in history in a way that will stay with them forever.

The Woodlands Trust set themselves an amazing challenge to kick start the year of tree planting for the Jubilee Woods project – to plant one million trees in February. And the great news is that this has been achieved in fantastic style with Dermot O'Leary planting a tree as a final celebration of this incredible feat.

Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal planted a Jubilee tree at the Sandringham Estate, Dame Judi Dench, Blue Peter, Kate Humble, BBC Winterwatch, Clive Anderson, Sam and Eve Branson but most importantly, thousands of children and adults across the country.

With trees planted across the UK and also famous places including Kensington Roof Gardens and the Tower of London we really are celebrating this Diamond Jubilee year in style.

This is a great start to 2012 but one million trees is just the beginning. The Woodlands Trust aim to plant 6 million trees across the UK to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, create hundreds of Jubilee woods and 60 special Diamond woods and we at St. Mary's can be proud to be part of that. See the Tree for yourself – it's about 50 yards from the front door of the Church and has a protective green shroud around it at the moment.

David Townsend.



Churchyard Matters.

Having one of the largest churchyards in the Wakefield area can be a challenge! I know that it is a place close to many peoples' hearts and that it matters to them that others respect that. I just wanted to make a few comments to ensure that people know they are being heard.

Firstly, people sometimes come to tell me that flowers have been removed fromor sometimes placed on – stones, or that soil from an adjacent grave has been left on their loved ones grave. It's important to remember that each grave is important to someone and should be respected. The church has no means of policing what happens to individual plots and rely on the community to ensure the peace and dignity of the place is maintained.

A churchyard is different from a council run cemetery and relies on community volunteers to assist to keep it tidy. We do what we can as a church, but value the support that anyone can give on the first Saturday of each month from 10am-1pm. (Machinery and suitable training will be given as necessary!) To assist with the challenge of maintenance we require that no pebbles are placed around stone or on plots as it makes mowing impossible and upkeep more difficult. For the same reason no grave plots are permitted to have fencing or flowerbeds on them, nor other garden ornamentation such as solar lighting, figurines, teddies or wind chimes etc. The feel of a churchyard should be one of quiet reflection and such things are not regarded as being 'in keeping' with the place. The booklet given to a bereaved family makes all this clear at the time the grave is first dug, but the passing of time can make it easy to overlook these regulations. Such rules are not created by this church, but apply to all churchyards in the Diocese of Wakefield in a legal form.

The problem we have is that when a family is approached individually and asked to remove items which contravene regulations, they tend to point to another plot and say it's not only them. Meanwhile, the other plot, having received the same form of request, does the same and little progress is made. Alongside all this, other families who strive to comply with regulations in the interests of maintaining the essential feel of gentle, uncluttered quiet are distressed to find the area un mown or unkempt because we have been unable to maintain it properly. A magazine article is perhaps one way of ensuring that you can have confidence that all are being asked the same thing.

Much of this comes from the misconception that the family 'owns' the plot when in fact they merely have the right to use a piece of consecrated ground which remains in the ownership of the church – the equivalent of renting your house rather than owning it. It is not the family's to do as they wish with. If you rented a house and made some significant alterations you can be certain your landlord would ask for you to rectify the situation! The same is true in this case.

So, if you have a loved one interred at St. Mary's, please remember these matters and please be assured that others are being asked to do the same.

The World Around Us

We thanks the Lord for all, The dew that falls at dawn, The sun that keeps us warm, The lambs that hails the spring, We thank the Lord for all.

We thank the Lord for all,
The trees that give us shade,
The grass and every blade,
The friends that we have made,
The world in which we share,
We thank the Lord for all

We thank the Lord for all, The kindness we are shown, The forgiveness we have known, The love within our hearts, The life that we've been given, We thank the Lord for all

Gail Townsend

Woodkirk Scouts Win Swimming Gala



15th Woodkirk Scouts team won the District Gala Luke, Carl and I won every race, and along with Laura, Jack and Conner won the Scouts District Gala.

Luke, Carl and I have won for the last 3 years and this was our last opportunity together as Luke and Carl move up to Explorers next term . We still don't know who won overall. Watch this space!!

Thank you to Skip and Gareth for all your support.

Sam Hyde

Wooden Shops!

A wide variety of wooden shops was once a feature of many communities.

I know that in my home town – Batley – there used to be plenty of them operating even in post war years. But it's a feature of public life which has almost completely disappeared and the Batley History Group, of which I am chairman, is now busily engaged in trying to draw up a list of those which existed detailing where they were, what they looked like, who operated them and what they sold.

Some were very small affairs. In fact quite a number were mounted on wheels which had not only enabled them to be sited at their trading spot but also made it possible for them to be wheeled elsewhere if the need arose. They were owned by lots of characters, enterprising men and women who, perhaps, unable to afford to buy or rent more permanent stores, saw the cheaper wooden shops as a means for them to be able to express their entrepreneurial selves.

They were varying characters ranging from the thin-stick men who never seemed to halt for breadth to the ample-sized woman who, seated on a buffet just behind the counter, seemed able to stretch to every corner of her shop to pick up any item the customer wanted.

They were used for groceries, tripe, sweets and tobacco, fishing gear for children going to the local park and, amazingly considering the highly combustible state of the "building", as fish and chip shops!

As I say, the Group is collecting knowledge of these shops to pass on to future generations so that they, too, can marvel at this quirk of local life.It's not the kind of thing which necessarily features in history books - as yet. But it might well do so in future.

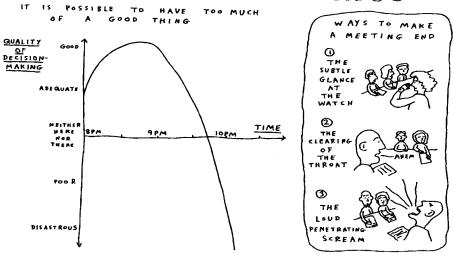
But what about the area covered by the Woodkirk parish? After all, if the area can be known because it once had a wooden church – surely that's how Wood Kirk first got its name – it must surely have had some wooden shops as well at some time.

Do you know where they were? What they sold? Who ran them? Have you any photographs of these buildings and do you know when they were felled or removed? I'd be interested to hear of any in Woodkirk and West Ardsley and especially about any you can remember in Batley too.

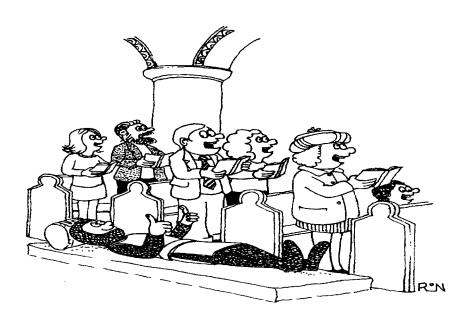
By the way I'd also be obliged if someone can help me detail a little more about a milepost. I seem to remember such a post on the opposite side to the road to the church pointing towards the crossroads and declaring London 183 miles. Am I dreaming or is this correct? And exactly where was it? And, furthermore, do you know what happened to the sign?

Malcolm Haigh

COMMITTEE MEETINGS



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



Sir Rodney really enjoyed Easter Sunday.

Diary for April & early May

	Diary to	r April 6 early may
Holy Week beg	gins	. (: 1)
Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
PALM SUN	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) & JAM Club
		- service commences in Parish Centre
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Mon 2 nd	7pm	Compline (short reflective service)
Tues 3 rd	7pm	Compline (short reflective service)
Wed 4th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
		& refreshments
Thurs 5th	10.30am	Chrism Eucharist – Dewsbury Minster
MAUNDY	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
THURSDAY	7pm	Passover meal – in Parish Centre
		(church open for quiet prayer from 9-10pm)
Fri 6 th	12 noon-3pm	At the foot of the Cross
GOOD FRIDAY	((a series of reflections – come when you can, go
		when you must) - followed by refreshments at
		the Vicarage
Sat 7 th	9.30-1pm	Church & churchyard clean-up
	8.30pm	Easter Eve reflective service (meet in Parish
		Centre)
Sun 8 th	10.30am	All-Age Easter Celebration
EASTER DAY		Holy Communion for Easter
NO MIDWEE		COMMUNION ON 11 TH APRIL
Sun 15 th	10.30am	Holy Communion & JAM Club
		Service to be conducted by Revd. Hazel Walker
Mon 16 th	12 noon	'First Steps' Toddler Service in Centre
		- 'Henry's new shoes'
	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting
		- 'Pebbles & Rocks, streams & rivers' - Annette
		Smith
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Parish Centre
Wed 18th	9.15am	Church open for prayer (1662 sotting) $\delta_{\rm r}$ refreshments
	10am	Holy Communion – (1662 setting) & refreshments
	8pm	Home Group at 945 Leeds Road
		- home of Peter Crookes & Margaret Hampshire
Thurs 19th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 22 nd	10.30am	Holy Communion & JAM Club
	12 noon	Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see article)

Wed 25 th	9.15am 10am	Church open for prayer Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments
Sun 29 th	8am	Holy Communion (said) PLEASE NOTE:
	10.30am	THIS SERVICE IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL All-Age Communion
May		
Wed 2 nd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
	8pm	Home Group at 12, Woollin Crescent, West
Thurs 3 rd Sat 5 th Sun 6 th	2pm 10am-1pm 10.30am 12.30pm	Ardsley - Home of Gail & Dave Townsend Holy Communion at Soothill Manor Church cleaning & Churchyard clean-up Holy Communion (sung) Baptism Service

NO MIDWEEK SERVICE ON WED 9TH MAY

2011 12 _a ,	10.30am	All-Age Service			
	12 noon	Holy Communion			
		C	_	 _	

- Service to be conducted by Revd. Carol Gill

Services to be conducted by Revd. Hazel Walker



Albert's Quiz Answers

1. Tu <u>lips</u> from Amsterdam.	11. Golden eye .
2. <u>Jaws</u> .	12. Knees.
3. My Left <u>Foot</u>	13. A Fist ful of Dollars.
4. Scar <u>face</u> .	14. The Temple of Doom.
5. Kisses on the Bottom .	15. A Farewell to <u>Arms</u> .
6. Legs Eleven.	16. Captain Blood .
7. The Beast with Five Fingers.	
8. Brave heart .	17. Body guard.
9. The Pelvis .	18. You Got Me Under Your Skin.
10. Cool <u>hand</u> Luke.	19. Shin e.
- or coordinate Euric.	20. Step toe and Son

20. Steptoe and Son Albert Shaw SOIL AND SUDS SERVICES

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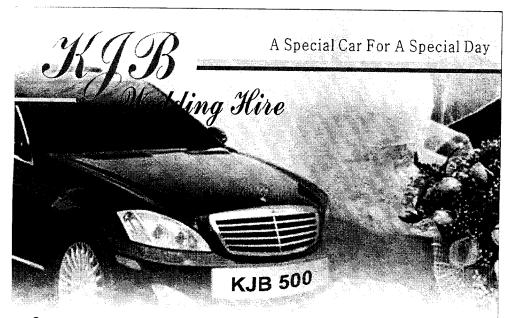
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What's on

Mothers' Union 3rd 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 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 689992

Brownies Thursday 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

Keep Fit Class Thursday 8:00pm

Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721

Young at Heart 1st & 3rd 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

Jam Club First and 3rd Sunday of the month 10.30am

Derek Barraclough 01924 472375

Services

Sundays, except the 2nd Sunday of each month

10:30 am

Parish Communion & Jam Club

1st Sunday of the month

8:00am

Holy Communion

12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month

10:30 am

Family Service

12:00

Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month

10:30 am

The Grog-Zone interactive worship in the

Parish Centre

12:30pm

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Wednesdays

10:00am

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