

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk



December 2012



This Month:

An Archbishop; The Falklands; Tanzania; The Queen; John Bunyan; the Home Office; the Taliban; Remembrance and a White Wedding.

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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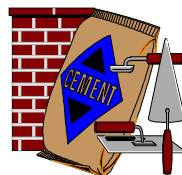
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Have a look at
the **Daily Newspaper** on
the website:



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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - 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 a minimum donation of £9 a year to cover magazine costs, post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far. Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site & Twitter

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 can be downloaded from the web site.

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

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

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The New Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Right Reverend Justin Welby for election as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury. He will succeed Dr Rowan Williams who is retiring at the end of December after ten years as Archbishop. The Right Reverend Justin Welby, aged 56, is currently Bishop of Durham. He will be enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral on 21st March 2013.

He said today: "I don't think anyone could be more surprised than me at the outcome of this process. It has been an experience, reading more about me than I knew myself. To be nominated to Canterbury is at the same time overwhelming and astonishing. It is overwhelming because of those I follow, and the responsibility it has. It is astonishing because it is something I never expected to happen.

"One of the hardest things will be to leave Durham. I work with a group of wonderful senior colleagues and remarkable clergy and lay people. It is an astonishing part of the country, one which as a family we were greatly looking forward to living in for many years. The people are direct, inspiring and wonderfully friendly. In many ways it has been the ancient cradle of British Christianity. It is a place of opportunity and an even greater future than its past."

A brief history of Justin Welby.

He was educated at Eton College before going to Trinity College, Cambridge to study history and law. He worked for 11 years in the oil industry for the French oil company Elf Aquitaine in Paris. In 1984 becoming treasurer of the oil exploration group Enterprise Oil PLC in London. He retired from his executive position in 1987, when he said he sensed a calling from God to be ordained. During his oil industry career, he became a congregation member at the evangelical Holy Trinity, Brompton.

He was appointed Dean of Liverpool Cathedral and was installed in December 2007. He was enthroned as Bishop of Durham in Durham Cathedral in November 2011, introduced to the House of Lords in January 2012, and gave his maiden speech to the House in May 2012. Selected to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury 9th November 2012.

Before we look forward to the joy of Christmas, in these first two Articles, we take a look back into November and the Remembrance Day services:

Remembrance Sunday.

Here at St. Mary's there were two Remembrance Services in the Church and one Outdoor Service at the Tingley Air Crash Memorial held jointly with Revd. Glen Coggins of St. Michael's, East Ardsley and the Royal British Legion.

St. Mary's 10:30 Service.

This service was extremely well attended, with the Uniformed Organisations (Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows) in full force, as well as the President, Chairman and Standard Bearer of the Royal British Legion (East and West Ardsley branch), along with ex-servicemen and their families.

Revd. Amanda, in her address, spoke about how, in the event of an invasion in World War two, there had been two million posters printed, which read: 'Keep Calm and Carry On'. They were never needed, however, Winston Churchill refused to have one on his wall.

Today David Cameron has a copy on the wall of 10, Downing Street. It was printed as a wartime message, but could equally be an economic message for today. Everything, it seems, is measured in terms of 'success'. Winston Churchill described success as 'the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm'.

Our Armed forces, however, do what is right, regardless of success. They 'Keep Calm and Carry On' even under the most extreme of circumstances. That is what Jesus did too. Despite the difficulties he faced leading up to his death on the cross, his maxim may well have also been: 'Keep Calm and Carry On'. Like the armed forces and Jesus before them, Revd. Amanda urges us to 'Keep Calm and Carry On' by doing what is right and honourable and good and true.

Tingley Air Crash Memorial Outdoor Service.

The Memorial is placed on Bradford Road to remember the seven air crew who lost their lives on the 14th November 1944 when their Halifax Bomber got into difficulties not long after leaving the RAF station at Snaith. The aircraft never gained enough height to enable the crew to parachute to safety. All crew members perished.

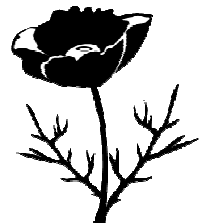
It was Walter Townend who campaigned for many years before the Memorial was finally placed at Tingley in November 1989, with seven trees placed in an arc around it to represent the seven crewmen. Sadly, he died earlier this year, but his daughter Sue, welcomed the large crowd who had assembled at 2:30 pm on the 11th day of the 11th month. The Royal British Legion once again led the Service along with Revd. Glen and Revd. Amanda.

In attendance were the Mayor of Morley, Andy Dalton, Tingley Brass Band, the 168 Air Training Corps and the RAF Regiment. This poignant service included an 'Ode to the Seven' as well as the placing of 'Poppy Crosses' by the Air Training Corps, for each of the Aircrew as well as others, and the laying of Wreaths for those who have fallen.

The 6:00 pm Memorial Service.

This service was for family members who have had their loved ones' funerals at St. Mary's church or which were conducted by Amanda at a nearby crematorium giving them the opportunity for remembrance on this special day, regardless of circumstances.

The service was very well attended, with more than 100 in the congregation. There was a 'Time to Remember' and 'Music for Reflection'. The focal point of the Service was the reading of Names of all the loved ones during which time a family member lit a candle in their honour.



The Falklands Islands on Remembrance Sunday.

Last year the Falkland Islands Government approved a plan for a 50 strong Pilgrimage to the Islands in November 2012 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. This one week Pilgrimage, which coincided with Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2012, was primarily for Veterans who have not returned to the Falkland Islands since 1982 and next-of-kin of those killed in action. The trip was organised by the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA82) in conjunction with the islands' government. The Falkland Islanders gave generously their accommodation and transport on the Islands.

One man who went is Mark Dilworth. Mark lives in the Parish, on Syke Avenue and in 2014 his daughter will marry at St. Mary's. Mark was chosen because he served on board Merchant Ship 'MV British Tay' from April 1982 to June 1982 during the Conflict. The ship was there to refuel the task force, but she also transported the 134 Survivors from the only Merchant Ship to be destroyed in the Conflict, the Atlantic Conveyor. Mark was one of the youngest crew members, being only 18 at the time and trained as a Ship's Cook. In this once in a lifetime opportunity, Mark and the other 49 veterans, or relatives laid wreaths at San Carlos, The Liberation Monument and over HMS Ardent (sunk during the conflict), as well as at the Cathedral during Remembrance Sunday.

When Mark first knew he was going he asked Revd. Amanda if he might take a photo of St. Mary's to present to the Church over there. More recently, the host families who will be opening their homes to the returning soldiers were asked to name something they would like to be taken which they can't get on the Falkland Islands, as a gift from their guests. The family with whom Mark is staying asked for a King James Bible and some tea! Mark was given a presentation pack from Yorkshire Tea and asked if we at St. Mary's could donate the Bible. The picture shows Revd. Amanda presenting Mark with the Bible as well as the Church picture.

Mark has now returned from his visit. Here are some of the highlights in his own words.....

I met The Duke of Kent and The Falklands Islands Governor.
Attended San Carlos Cemetery for Service with Duke of Kent. Stood on the same spot as I did in 1982. Memories and Tears.



Marched along Stanley front for remembrance Sunday Service with The Royal Marines Brass Band. The Duke asked me "what was my role in the Conflict" I said "to put the Boots on the soil Sir, British soil Sir" I was told afterwards that he meant what was my job, I was training to be a Ships Cook and my answer made him Laugh.

Was invited onto HMS Edinburgh as Captains Guest, sang on The Warship for their remembrance Service. Jointly laid a Wreath to the Merchant seaman who lost their Lives.

Led the Service with my King James Bible to remember the 12 Seaman who lost their Lives at Sea on MV Atlantic Conveyor. Laid a Wreath over HMS Ardent, 22 lads lost, with a Seaman who was pulled from the Water.

Paid my respects at The Argentine Cemetery. Visited all the Monuments to the fallen. Lived with a Falkland Islander Family - did not pay for anything at all ! Now home I miss my Penguin eggs for breakfast and Mutton for Tea. Weather was Snow on the first day and glorious sunshine for the next week.

"I returned to The Falkland Islands as a former Merchant Seaman, I came back very much a part of Operation Corporate 1982"

Mark Dilworth

On behalf of Bishop Tony Robinson:

Dear Friends,

As I write, Malala Yousafzai is now in hospital in Birmingham. This brave 14-year-old from Pakistan is fighting for her life after being shot in the head by the Taliban for daring to campaign for girls to be educated.

The shooting has shocked Pakistan and tens of thousands have taken to the streets in condemnation and to support her calls for greater rights for girls and women.

There is a petition being organised to send her our best wishes. I would like to encourage you to sign up and let us show those who committed this shooting (and those who approve of it) that this sort of behaviour is totally unacceptable.

Just go to <http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/malala-yousafzai> to sign up.

The attempted assassination of Malala highlights the worldwide struggle between HOPE and hate. From the persecution and harassment of minorities in the UK to the genocidal killing fields of East Africa; from Governments trying to outlaw homosexuality in several countries to the religious extremists who are trying to impose their worldview on believers and non-believers alike – there is just too much hate in this world.

Malala should be a symbol of our resistance to hatred. That is why we want to let her know that we all want her to recover. The petition organisers will deliver one copy of the Get Well book to the hospital and another to the Pakistan High Commission.

Thank you.

Tony Robinson

Bishop of Pontefract

Amanda's Letter: It's all in the preparation...

Some may have noticed workmen around the vicarage recently. As I speak there is banging and crashing above as a shower cubicle is replaced – an unsettling environment in which to ponder deep thoughts! I long for a quiet space – but it's not going to happen! So, as the chaos continues, so will I...

The work has just 'come indoors' after several weeks of exterior work. It has been very thorough, taking a long time before the gloss appeared. There was a lot of sanding down, preparing the surfaces to receive the new coat of paint, otherwise, the benefits are lost. Then the undercoat came along – dull and unattractive, but very necessary. It's vital for the new coat to be embedded deeply into the surface. The vicarage looked a drab, grey place for some time, no shine or colour at all. I began to wonder when the gloss might appear. But, as they say, "It's all in the preparation." The long-term value of the hard work is determined by how thorough the preparation.

The month of December, as we move closer to the Christmas season, is the Advent season of preparation for the festivities. I wonder what that preparation means to us? It will undoubtedly include 'trimming up', buying food and gifts, writing cards, organising school and works Christmas festivities. So much to do! But in a culture where the shopping centres are full of the glitter and bling which goes with the season, I ask myself how much of that is just multiple layers of gloss, like the gloss paint now adorning my garage door?

There's plenty of shine and colour around, but how much of it really allows the truth at the heart of Christmas to become deeply embedded into the people we will be when January comes? Without another sort of preparation, the inner sort, sanding off the tarnish of the past, reflecting on the truth of the Christmas message, maybe we will lose the long-term benefits of Christmas. It will all peel off like paint from a poorly prepared surface.

Long-term benefits of Christmas?? It has to be more than left-over turkey and unwanted gifts!

More....

Sadly, there is so much pressure on folk to think about the day itself, rather than considering that the Christmas message is meant to enrich the other 364 days of the year. "God is with us" is as true on that depressing gloomy day in January when the credit card bill comes through the door as it is in the joy of 25th December. Maybe we need to know it more then! If we get the preparation right, we'll be less tempted to throw money we don't have into the gloss of Christmas day, and look deeper to discover the true meaning.

So why not make the time to do the preparation work that, like undercoat, nobody sees? The quiet opening of our hearts to welcome the child born in a stable. God's stable investment in this unstable world. You are welcome to join us for any of the forthcoming services as we celebrate the greatest gift of all: Jesus.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas! Amanda.

The Children's Society.

Thankyou for all the support you have given to the Children's Society, it makes a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

Throughout the year we have raised a total of £740.80. We have about thirty Box holders at present. If anyone would like a Collecting Box please let me know. Susan Walshaw.

The Children's Society Beliefs and Values:

Our Christian values of love, justice and forgiveness underpin the way we work with children and young people.

Love is the obligation to care for the well-being of others, respect human dignity and put the needs of others before our own.

Justice is love in action - putting right what is not right in personal, social and political affairs.

Forgiveness is casting aside barriers to love. It is the discounting of all things that come between people, restoring and reconciling relationships.

Parish News shocker: 'Mrs Thrower' Unmasked !

A mysterious Garden expert called Mrs. Thrower has been writing for the magazine. Now she exclusively reveals her true identity:

The new Editor asked if I would 'Come out' and reveal my identity to the world. I thought long and hard about it as I have enjoyed my anonymity. In the end I decided I would reveal myself. Yes, it's me, Sandra Gledhill. Garden Party plant stall vendor for the last three years or so. What's that you say? You knew it was me all along? Well fancy that.

My gardening expertise is limited mostly to growing vegetables. My husband, Brian and I have always had a garden but we really only cut the lawn, weeded and now and again bought a new bush or shrub. We never went in for landscaping or planting many flowers. However in 2008 for some reason I fancied growing some veg. I subscribed to the Amateur Gardener magazine, bought some onion sets, peas, runner beans, carrot seeds, beetroot seeds and some tomato seeds. I dug over a border in the back yard, planted the onions and peas and put the seeds in pots in the back bedroom and waited. Fortunately everything grew quite well.

Except the carrots.

Christmas 2008 brought a new greenhouse so 2009 was beginning to look interesting. The tomato and carrot seeds went in again (in the back bedroom) more onions and beetroot in the plot with runner beans and this time some potatoes. I had some health problems in 2009 but Brian helped and we ate home grown veg. My beetroot won second place in the Embsay show. Everything came up well. **Except the carrots.**

2010 saw me retired with a bigger plot. (Dug up some lawn) I grew potatoes in the new bed and also onions, beetroot, beans and peas as usual. Tomato seeds and carrots were planted and put in the back bedroom to start. Everything came up really well. **Except the carrots.**

2011 and 2012 have been much the same. This year I grew some pumpkins. They carved well and are now in the compost bin. Most of what I planted came up well this year. **Except the carrots.**

A Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

See you in January with more seasonal suggestions.

Sandra.

See Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions for December on Page 33 - Editor.

All-Age Worship Feedback: The Results are in.

In the summer, we asked the congregation of the All-Age service to complete a questionnaire about their feelings towards the service. We promised to report back to the wider Church family. This is the report!

Do you enjoy it?

The first question asked whether people enjoyed All-Age worship. 90% said that they strongly agreed or agreed, with the remainder not offering an opinion. Nobody said they didn't like it. It is pleasing that this is so high, and as attendance is extremely good (120 in October) we are really positive about the All-Age services we provide.

More Services?

A suggestion which triggered this survey was, considering All-Age worship is so popular; would there be an appetite for more in the month? The results for this were more spread out. There were a smaller number (37%) who said 'Yes', but 30% were not bothered either way and 32% said 'No'. It seems that for a lot of families, this Service once a month is really beneficial, but lots of other commitments means that more Services would be difficult to attend. This is really interesting and valuable feedback.

Improvements?

Finally, we asked for suggestions on how we could improve what we offer for All-Age? Suggestions were made for more interactive 'Activities' in the Service, and for ideas related to hymns and music. Interestingly, a number of people made suggestions for more 'Social opportunities' linked to this congregation.

What's next?

The PCC had a good discussion in October and November about these results, and we will be looking at ways to positively act on the results of this feedback. Thank you to all who took part in the survey, and remember that feedback about any aspect of the life of St Mary's can be given at any time to the Vicar, Churchwarden or any member of the PCC (remember, photos are in the porch!).

Neal.

3. Inspirational People: John Bunyan.

In this, our third in the Series of five, Derek Barraclough talks about John Bunyan who famously wrote 'Pilgrim's Progress'.

So what are the most published books of all time?

1 The Bible: 5 to 6 billion copies

2 Quotations from Chairman Mao: 800 million

3 The Qur'an: 800 million

4 Don Quixote 500 million

5 Book of Common Prayer: 300 million

6 Pilgrim's Progress: 250 million

7 Foxes Book of Martyrs 200 Million

Harry Potter is way down the list with 'only' 107 million.

'The Pilgrim's Progress' has never been out of print and is the sixth most read book of all time! But what of the man John Bunyan?

He actually wrote a lot more than just 'Pilgrim's Progress', producing around thirty works in total. He was born in the village of Elstow near Bedford in 1628. His father was a brazier or tinker and that was Bunyan's trade too. When his Father died he left six old pence to each of his children. He was very poor. After his Mother's death in 1644 he enlisted in the army fighting probably for the parliamentary cause in the English Civil War. Later, he drew from these experiences in his books and teaching.

It is important to look at the time in which he lived. In 1620 the Mayflower set off for America with the Pilgrim Fathers aboard looking for Religious freedom. They were also called Puritans. Why? They believed that the Established Church of the day had departed from the biblical teaching and preaching of the Gospel. From within this group arose another known as 'non-conformists', not conforming to The Church of England. John was one of this group. They wanted to set themselves apart and remain pure. Interestingly St Mary's was at one point a Puritan congregation, which may explain the lack of medieval stained glass windows.

Bunyan married after the Civil War. In 1655 his wife died leaving him with four young children. So now he had the responsibility for raising these small children with no childcare or social security. Though he was poor he had a good grasp of the English language. He was influenced by two books, 'The Practice of Piety' and 'The Plain Man's Pathway to Heaven' by Arthur Dent. It was this book which put him into spiritual turmoil, and we see something of this in The Pilgrim's Progress.



Though he took delight in ringing the bells in the tower of Elstow Church, his conscience troubled him in the matter, and he gave up the practice, yet not without reluctance. "I would go to the steeple-house and look on, though I durst not ring, but quickly after I began to think how if one of the bells should fall? So after this I would yet go to see them ring, but would not go any farther than the steeple-door; but then it came into my head, how if the steeple itself should fall? And this thought ... did continually so shake my mind that I durst not stand at the steeple-door any longer, but was forced to flee for fear the steeple should fall upon my head."

In 1653 he joined Mr Gifford's Church in Bedford and moved his family there. At this time he began to preach without a licence, in the villages and towns. There was no permission given, unlike today, for ordinary lay folk to speak. What's more, this put him at odds with the authorities because he was not licensed to preach. Bunyan attacked the follies of the day, exposing and condemning heresies without mercy.

In 1658 he was arrested for his preaching and thrown into Bedford Gaol. In all he spent twelve years in prison for his beliefs, but it was a time and experience that he would not have changed. Before his imprisonment he had remarried and so his small children were not alone and were looked after. While in prison he was able to continue his trade, he made boot laces and sold them to buy food for himself and his family. He was even allowed out to preach and lead services by sympathetic jailers.

It was whilst he was in prison that he was appointed as leader of a small Christian group of believers, that met in fields and barns. Even though he was still a prisoner they wanted him as their Pastor. He detested the idea of theologians at a desk poring over the minutiae of the Gospel, if it did not have a practical application. Christianity was for living not thinking!

It was during his time in prison he wrote this book, 'The Pilgrim's Progress' as an allegory (fable): It had a hidden meaning woven into the story. He was released from prison in 1672 for the final time. During that time there had been the publication of the Book of Common Prayer in 1662, The Plague in 1664 and The Great Fire of London in 1666. Just before his birth we had the publication of The King James Bible in 1611. A time of great turmoil both in the Church and beyond. If you read 'The Pilgrims Progress' you may recognise characters that you know or have met, or it may shine a light into your life. In 1688 he travelled to London to try to reconcile a father and son. He rode in a thunderstorm, caught a chill and died. He is buried in Bun Hill Fields London.

So if you are in Bedfordshire - have a couple of hours in Elstow, visit the Moot Hall, the Stump Cross village green and see some of the items from John Bunyan's life, from which he drew to create this great work of literature. I visited there a while ago and found it quietly uplifting. To walk the fields and paths from Bunyan's time. To see his chair, bible and plate in the Moot Hall, I felt was a privilege. To place your hands on the Old Cross or stand by the Bell Tower door. When you get home dust off that old copy of the Pilgrims Progress and enjoy his work once more. As he said, even in the suffering he would not have traded it for anything.

It is not just the book that has inspired me; it is John Bunyan's life and experiences that I can learn from. Even though he was from a poor background and suffered hardships, he still is a major figure of faith and literature. In some ways I envy him, he had none of the outside distractions of today's modern life. It was a much simpler though far more dangerous time of our history.

Derek.

Special Epiphany 'Celebration of Confirmation' at St. Mary's.

Epiphany, which falls on 6th January, is the celebration of the visit of the Wise Men to the young child, Jesus. It's a reminder that we are all on a journey of discovery to find out more of God's presence in our lives. What better day, then, than Epiphany, to mark the confirmation of our four candidates, who have been on their own journey of discovery into God over the last few months.

Laura Wiesiolek & Gareth Twohey, (who are to marry at St. Mary's next May) together with Paul Martin and Hannah Tombling will be confirmed by the Bishop of Wakefield, Stephen Platten, during our 10.30am service. Gareth will also be baptised. What a wonderful way to mark the beginning of a new year at St. Mary's as we all continue to adventure forward to learn more about Jesus together. So put the date in your diary and come and join us in this very special occasion! It will not only be an encouragement to our candidates – it will be an encouragement to us too. That's a good way to beat the post-Christmas blues!

Amanda.

Harvest Festival – Thank You

At Harvest time we give thanks that we have enough to eat. We pray that all the people in the world will soon be fed and nobody will go to bed hungry. £85.36 was collected for Christian Aid at the Family Harvest Service and a generous amount of this was received from Hill Top School. Food was also collected for the charity 'Caring for Life' which will be put to good use helping vulnerable families.

Thanks,

Sally Shaw

Are you an Organ Donor?

The Church's View may surprise you...

A Church of England response to a national consultation says people should make it their "Christian duty" to register as an Organ Donor - and suggests that they should take the time to tell their loved ones of their wishes.

A response by the Mission and Public Affairs (MPA) Council of the Church of England to the National Health Service Blood and Transplant Consultation on Organ Donation Post 2013 Strategy says: "The Church of England affirms that 'giving one's self and one's possessions voluntarily for the well being of others and without compulsion is a Christian duty of which organ donation is a striking example.

The MPA Council response reports that whilst "there are 18.9m people on the Organ Donor Register", "there are 1,000 people dying each year whilst on the transplant list". It notes that in 2011/12 "37 per cent of eligible donors resulted in transplants" with "the wishes of relatives often over-riding individual consent".

By recommending a 'hard opt-in' donation policy "where consent given on the Organ Donor Register is treated in the same way as an Advanced Decision or clause in a Will", it rejects other options, such as 'opt-out' and 'mandated choice'.

The Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt Revd James Newcome, said: "Christians have a mandate to heal, motivated by compassion, mercy, knowledge and ability - and this extends to organ donation. The Christian tradition both affirms the God-given value of human bodily life, and the principle of putting the needs of others before one's own needs."



Amanda in Africa: Part 1.

“So, WHAT was she doing in Tanzania??”

In January, with its bleak cold, I received an intriguing e-mail inviting me to be part of a team of three, travelling to Morogoro diocese of Tanzania to deliver a follow-up discipleship course alongside three local clergy. ‘Rooted in Jesus’ is a course enabling African Christians to discover faith in a way best suited to their culture. I travelled with Jonathan Rendall, a retired head teacher from Worcester, and Ed Mitchell, a retired vicar now living in Skipton.

I quickly discovered that well-meaning Christians in the west tend to take to Africa the courses they have found helpful. They are translated into the local dialects and offered to African Christians. Sadly, the issues we face in the West are not the issues that face most Africans, so the materials don’t always prove to be as helpful as they might have been. We face the challenges of Secularism, of a Scientific view of reality, of whether God exists in the midst of life’s problems.

None of those issues are dominant in the minds of the African culture, where there is a deep awareness of the spiritual dimension of life. Just as secular materialism distorts our understanding of Christian faith, so traditional religious beliefs and practices, visiting the witchdoctor for example, dominate the daily lives of many African Christians. We in Britain need no teaching on issues like witchdoctors, polygamy and other concerns which face them.

‘Rooted in Jesus’ helps to train Christian leaders in understanding their faith at a deeper level, and in enabling their congregations to think about how being a Christian affects the choices they make in their lives. It is more than just a set of beliefs. Many church leaders have no more than a primary education, and struggle to teach their congregations effectively. They have no teaching resources to help them to prepare sermons other than a King James Bible (in Kiswahili). Try as they might, how effective was their preaching? Even in places where clergy are well-trained and educated, they are few in number relative to the communities they serve.

A small Rooted in Jesus group discussing the Bible



We led two four day conferences, teaching these leaders more about their faith and teaching them also the skills to return to their congregations and lead small groups to discuss the Bible together. Many travelled long distances to be part of the experience and they showed a hunger to learn rarely seen in the average British congregation. We have such easy access to good teaching that we can easily take it for granted. They listened intently, took copious notes, asked many questions and were generally like sponges, soaking up what was on offer. It was a great environment to work in!

At the end of the conference each candidate was presented with a certificate to show they had completed the training – these certificates are treasured in a country where any accreditation is precious and certificates are rarely given in the education system. They also returned with the first of the four available course books providing them with basic material to lead small groups in discussion about faith. Many of these small local discussion groups will meet under trees or in full public view, and often attract others to join. Most of all, they leave with a fresh enthusiasm to share what they have learnt with others, and a renewed fire in their bellies for ministry!

They weren't the only ones to leave with new enthusiasm and energy! Being amongst such faithful and warm hearted folk, seeing them grow in their faith and experience God's love for them humbled me and brought me back to Britain with renewed vision and faith. Amanda.

Child Trafficking: The Home Office replies to Brian Gledhill's letter, sent on behalf of the PCC, voicing our concerns.



Dear Mr. Gledhill,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Home Secretary about human trafficking. As I am sure you can appreciate, the Home Secretary receives a vast amount of correspondence and is unable to respond to each item individually. Your letter has therefore been passed to the Direct Communications Unit and I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

Firstly, I would like to say that the Government is fully committed to combating human trafficking and to protecting and supporting the victims of this appalling crime.

The Government published its human trafficking strategy on 19 July 2011. The strategy focuses on four key areas: improving victim identification and care; working with international partners to stop the threat early; smarter action at the border; and strengthening intelligence and enforcement in the UK through better co-ordination.

Our key aim is to stop people from becoming victims in the first place by working with priority countries to tackle the problem at source; improving intelligence; sharing and co-ordination of law enforcement in the UK; and addressing the demand that fuels this crime. We are also working to improve victim identification and continue to strengthen the care and support we provide for victims which remains a fundamental part of our anti-trafficking efforts.

We are determined to build on the UK's strong track record in supporting victims and fighting traffickers.

The UK Government applied to opt in to the EU Directive on Human Trafficking in July 2011. In October 2011 we received confirmation from the European Commission that our application had been accepted. The UK is already compliant with the majority of the provisions in the Directive and we are now working to ensure full compliance.

The UK has been a world leader in fighting trafficking and has a strong international reputation in this field. It is vital that we maintain this position. Implementing the Directive sends a powerful message to traffickers that the UK is supportive of international efforts to tackle this crime.

Taking effective action against traffickers is central to the Government's strategy. We recognise that the risk to traffickers remains too low and the profits they can generate are too high and too secure. We are therefore committed to disrupting their activity, increasing the risk of being convicted, and seizing their criminal profits.

There is cross-government support for the idea that scrutiny by an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group (IDMG) is sufficient, and the revised terms of reference for the IDMG enable it to perform this function. It is important to have a transparent and living strategy and various multi-agency consultation / working groups. In terms of data gathering, the UK Human Trafficking Centre will act as a central repository for intelligence and data on human trafficking on a multi-agency basis with dedicated resources supplied as required.

The system we are proposing is broadly in line with practice amongst our EU neighbours. We are only aware of two countries within the EU that have an independent National Rapporteur on human trafficking: The Netherlands and Finland. I hope that this helps to clarify the Government's position.

Yours sincerely

K Robinson

Direct Communications Unit

Max and Kelly are getting married on

Christmas Eve.....Here at St. Mary's !

Max Steele and Kelly Tame were planning to get married in France in two years' time, then their world was turned upside down. Only a few weeks ago, on the day they moved into their new home in St. Helens in Lancashire, Max came home and announced he had a new job – in Abu Dhabi !

The job starts in March 2013 and living arrangements would be very difficult if they went there un-married. So Max and Kelly decided to move their wedding plans forward - by a couple of years. Both of their respective parents are locals; Max's parents were also married at Woodkirk and Kelly's parents live in Woodkirk Gardens. Max himself was baptised in the Church. So why Christmas Eve?

Kelly takes up the story: 'My Great Grandfather died on Christmas Eve many years ago and this has meant some sadness on this day. I want to help the family remember a happy event on that day, so we have chosen Christmas Eve as our special day.'

Max and Kelly met at Woodkirk School on Rein Road, and Max is a blast engineer in the Oil and Gas industry. We wish them a great day and success in their new venture together in the Middle East.

The only question left to answer.....will it snow?

If you are reading this after your Christmas lunch—you'll know the answer!



Sun Tan Oil ??





A Message from The Queen:

"I send my grateful thanks to the Members of Wakefield Diocese Mother's Union for their kind message of congratulations, sent on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of my Accession to the Throne.

In return, please accept my good wishes for a most memorable and enjoyable Diamond Jubilee Year."

ELIZABETH R.

Mothers Union Christmas Lunch.

This year the Christmas Lunch will be at **Heath Cottage** on Monday 17th December at 12:30 pm for 1:00 pm.

There will be a choice of Menu plus coffee and mince pies all for £19.00 per person. If you are not a member and would like to join us, you will be very welcome. Deposit of £5.00 required. Names and deposits to Betty Aveyard. Tel: 0113 253 4960.

Mother's UNION Meeting. Nov 19th 2012

Malcolm to the Rescue!

On behalf of all our members, I would like to thank Malcolm Haigh for stepping in at the very last moment, when our intended Speaker rang to say he could not be with us. Malcolm Rennison (our intended speaker) phoned me at 9:30 pm on Sunday evening, saying that he had just returned from A&E after having an accident at his home. He had broken bones and his wife, Hazel, had also been injured. It was, therefore, impossible for him to give us a talk the following afternoon, which was to be about his visit to the Holy Land.

More....

What on earth could we do? Peter, sitting at the side of me, said: 'Why not give Malcolm Haigh a ring and see if he can help. This, I did, and wonder of wonders, Malcolm was at home and free on Monday afternoon. I could not believe it! He said even as I was speaking to him, he was thinking he would speak to us about some 'notable women of Batley'.

What a delightful and most interesting afternoon we had. Malcolm's skill as a raconteur brought these women alive to us and made us realise just how much we owe these courageous women from the past. Thank you so much, Malcolm. You are indeed a jewel in our crown.

Margaret Hampshire on behalf of MU Committee Members.

Women Bishops: 'No' vote despite majority.

Twenty two years after allowing women to be ordained as priests, the Church of England's general synod has voted against appointing Women as Bishops.

Campaign group Women and the Church called it "a devastating blow" for the Church and the people of England. Both the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the outgoing Archbishop, Rowan Williams earlier called on the synod to approve the measure.

Disagreement persisted over the provisions allowing parishes opposing women bishops to request a stand-in male bishop.

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham James, acknowledged that the vote showed there was still division and said a "very big challenge lies ahead". Speaking on behalf of the Church of England, he said it was "very disappointing that the vote was lost so narrowly" (by a 'handful of votes') but important to note that the majority of the Synod had voted in favour. The House of Bishops will meet to see how "we can go forward as a Church". It will be 5 years or more before another vote can be taken in the synod.

David T.

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

December is all about tidying up and preparing for the worst of the winter weather. You might even think about insulating your cold-frame if you have any plants in there.

Sandra's Top Tip: Look in your garden for colourful branches, conifer stems, seed heads and cones. With a little florists wire and some imagination you can save money by making your own wreaths and swags. Have a go!

Now is the time to....

1. Get on with your winter digging if the ground is not frozen or too water logged.
2. Get hold of some well-rotted manure and dig it in. Don't add lime at the same time, but do remove weeds.
3. Earth up spring cabbages and winter brassicas.
4. Harvest Brussels Sprouts from the bottom up.
5. Dig your Runner Bean trench – leave it open to the elements for now.
6. Dig up the last of your beetroot and carrots before the frost ruins them. Store in boxes of almost dry sand.
7. Prune fruit trees but remember to burn all prunings as they might be infected with disease or aphid eggs.
8. Order seed catalogues.
9. Clean pots and containers. Thorough cleaning will reduce problems with sowing, propagation and germination rate.
10. Check indoor plants for pests.



St Gargoyles



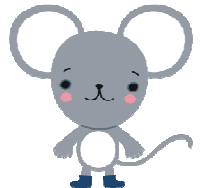
*The children found that daddy was
free between midnight mass and the
8 o'clock service.*

This St Gargoyles cartoon is reproduced with permission.

The Church Mouse.....sssshhh!

From the nooks and crannies amongst the pews and quire stalls of St. Mary's, I hear little snippets of conversations and whispers of things to come. It's all a bit much for a little heart like mine. What's a mouse to do? Sometimes I don't hear any more for a month – or even longer. It's all too much.

This month rumours of Snail racing in the Parish Centre persist, meanwhile, a Methodist has a story to tell – but who will tell it? My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, tells me all the Ash trees in the Churchyard are going to die? Oh the stress of it all ! I think I need to have a lay down in the vestry. At least it's quiet in there. More next month. (I hope).



Misha.

Harvest Activity Day at St. Mary's:

The Kids Dig it!

Activity Days are a real 'hands on' for kids. Gail organised them into four teams and we were off! The teams were 'Peas', 'Beans', 'Carrots', and 'Onions'. Each group moved around the Parish Centre making Birdfeeders with Sally and Albert, Scarecrow Gingerbread Men with Dawn and Margaret, Tea-Light Autumn leaves with Brian and Sandra and Wood and Straw Barns with Dave and Kate. In between they played games such as Scarecrow beetle drive, Vegetable jigsaw puzzle and there was a guest appearance of 'Charlie and Alice'. All this for £3.00 on a Saturday Morning is hard to beat! The next Activity Morning, is on December 8th.

Contact Amanda to book your child's place:



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Poetry Corner.

Do you write Poetry? ? Or do you have a friend who writes? If you have an original work and you'd like it published please see me—or send it to me. If its not your work you'll need the author's permission, otherwise copyright law only allows free publication 70 years after the Author's death. Never written before? Why not have a go! To get you started, here is one of mine. Next month its your turn!

The Sermon.

Your thoughtful phrase and kindly words,
Are helping us to cope.

We take away your message,
Of worth and life and hope.

We sit and ponder quietly,
But conscience loud and clear.
Then cast around so furtively,
In case someone could hear.

That little voice inside of us,
Awakened by your words,
Has broken through the silent calm,
Creating lots of noise.

If I but listen carefully,
Guided by your hand,
I'll hear the things I need to hear,
To make me understand.

There is a message to be heard,
With words from high above,
On wisdom, feeling, hurt and meaning,
But, most of all, of Love.

This one has a religious theme, but they don't have to. E.g. If your child or grandchild has written a rhyme - why not send it to me?

David T.

Albert's Christmas Quiz:

1. Which archangel told Mary she would become the mother of Jesus?
2. In which town was Jesus born?
3. Who was the Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth?
4. In which modern day country was the ancient city of Troy?
5. By what name is the 'Helleborus Niger' better known?
6. Which horse won the 1964 Derby?
7. In which 1994 film did Richard Attenborough play Santa Claus?
8. What is the name of Lisa Simpson's cat?
9. In which TV series did Robbie Coltrane play a criminal psychiatrist?
10. Which country gives London a Christmas tree each year?
11. What did my true love give to me on the ninth day of Christmas?
12. In which Hyde Park lake do swimmers take a Christmas Day dip?
13. What did Little Jack Horner pull a plum out of?
14. Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
15. Which world famous film star died on Christmas Day, 1977?
16. What is the nickname of Hollywood, the famous film centre?
17. Christmas Jones is a character in which James Bond film?
18. Which country produced the first Christmas postage stamp?
19. Name the three wise men that brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
20. Name all Santa's reindeer in the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'?

Answers on Page 43.



Kids: Don't forget Jam Club !
Sunday Morning 10.30 - 11.30
Jesus - And - Me
Learning & Doing in Faith.



15th Morley (Woodkirk St. Mary's) Scout Group.

This Month: Hiking, Volcanoes, Hockey Finals and Wildlife...

The Beavers (Age 6 to 8) are saving up £15 to adopt a real life Beaver! In association with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, they are saving up a little each week to help the re-introduction of (real) beavers into the Scottish Highlands and sponsoring helps. They haven't decided on a name yet. Watch this space! Meanwhile for their Experiment Badge they made erupting Volcanoes. With a yogurt pot, some vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and a little washing up liquid, mountains of bubbles erupted in the Parish Centre!

The Cubs (Age 8 to 10 ½) Over the last few weeks, the Cubs have been working on their **Home Help Activity badge**. So far they have learnt how to set a table, make a bed, sew a button on, iron a neckerchief and cook a meal.

On the 21st October 2012 the cubs took part in the District '**Unihock**' competition. This is five a side indoor hockey. We entered one team with two subs. Ten teams from the District took part. Our team finished second in our group and qualified for the semi-final. We won our semi-final against Carlton A by 1-0.

The Final was a tense and fiercely fought affair against Belle Isle. Although we scored first we conceded a penalty which Belle Isle converted making the score 1-1. We were then awarded a penalty but missed! Unfortunately with the very last hit of the match Belle Isle scored and our team lost 2-1. Izzy, Zack, Joey, Mason, James, Thomas and Madeline were all a credit to the group and hopefully we will have better luck next year.

Scouts (age 10 ½ to 14 ½) and **Meer Kat Explorers** (age 14 ½ -18).

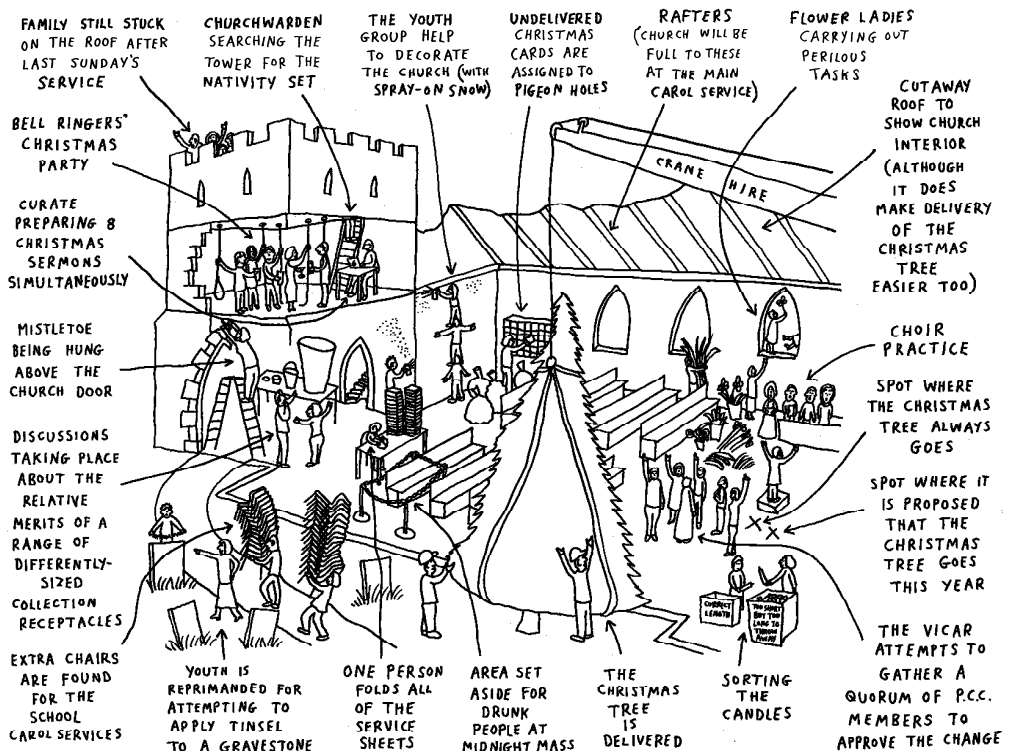
Following the Monks Walk in June this year we can now reveal they raised a total of £350 for the Church re-ordering. Well done! Then in September the Scouts won the District First Aid AND Cooking competitions. The Cooking competition was the third year in a row they have won it. Unbeatable!

At the end of October these hardy youngsters went on a hiking weekend to Hag Dyke at Kettlewell. It was -5C on their 7 mile walk up and down Hag Dyke, along the Dales Way. Trevor, their leader said they all coped well – much better than him!

With thanks to Jonathan, Joanne, Skip and Gail.

It's all Go...!!!!

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS



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Diary for December and January

Sun 2nd See Opposite (Toy Collection & Posada begin today)

Tues 4th 7.30pm 'Beyond Ourselves' Course – Vicarage

Wed 5th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (Common Worship setting) & refreshments

Thurs 6th 2pm Holy Communion at Soothill Manor

Sat 8th 10am-1pm 'Stable 'n' Stars' Activity morning

Sun 9th See Opposite (End of Toy Collection).

Mon 10th **See Opposite** then 7.30pm PCC meeting in Parish Centre

Wed 12th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
6pm Carol Singing at Soothill Manor

Sun 16th See Opposite

Mon 17th 6pm Carol Singing at Lydgate Lodge Care home

Wed 19th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments

Thurs 20th 11am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
7pm Westerton Road School Carol Service

Fri 21st 9.45am Hill-Top School Carol Service

Sun 23rd See Opposite

Mon 24th 12 noon Wedding

CHRISTMAS EVE: See Opposite

Tues 25th CHRISTMAS DAY: See Opposite

Wed 26th NO MIDWEEK SERVICE

Sun 30th 10.30am All-Age Communion

JANUARY 2013

Wed 2nd 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (Common Worship) & tea

Thurs 3rd 2pm Holy Communion at Soothill Manor

Sat 5th 9.30am-1pm Church cleaning

Sun 6th 8.00am Holy Communion (said)

EPIPHANY 10.30am Special Holy Communion & Confirmation Service
12.30pm Baptism service

Tues 8th 7.30pm 'Beyond Ourselves' course – Vicarage

Wed 9th 9.15am Church open for prayer

Christmas Services 2012.

Sunday 2nd December Advent 1.

8:00am Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Holy Communion
12.30pm Baptism Service

START OF TOY COLLECTION – UNWRAPPED, NEW ITEMS.

Sat 8th December 10am-1pm ‘Stable’n’stars’ Christmas Activity morning.

Sunday 9th December: Advent 2.

10.30am All-Age Service with Nativity (DIY Style)
2.00 noon Holy Communion

END OF TOY COLLECTION.

Monday 10th December

12 noon ‘First Steps’ toddler service in church
“Henry’s Christmas present”

Sunday 16th December: Advent 3.

10.30am Holy Communion
4pm Carol Service by candlelight – with special guests

Thurs 20th December

7pm Westerton Road Carol Service in church

Friday 21st December

9.45am Hill Top Christmas Carol Service in church

Sunday 23rd December: Advent 4

10.30am Holy Communion

Monday 24th December: Christmas Eve.

3pm Christingle (aimed at younger children)
5pm Christingle (aimed at older children)
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Tuesday 25th December: Christmas Day.

10.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion (all-age)

Sunday 30th December

10.30am All Age Holy Communion

What's Your Story?

Do you have a story or Article for the magazine? Maybe you have a religious relative or you have experienced something unusual in your Christian life? Do you work with charities or other religious groups, helping in our community? What do you know about the local history – especially about St. Mary's? You can write your own story – or see me for a chat if you like. My contact details are at the front of the magazine. Don't be shy.

Church Organisations:

Why not have your own space in the magazine? Keep everyone up to date and let them know what's coming up. One e-mail a month is all it takes. Get in touch with me for more info.

Thankyou.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's magazine. It's great to get articles - big or small - for inclusion in our very own publication.

The Editor.

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St Mary's Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

On the 4th November we welcomed 5 children into the church family at their BAPTISM's

Ava Marie Bywater daughter of Richard and Helen from Tingley

Francesca Lily Auty daughter of Craig and Sarah of Tingley

And it was a family occasion as the children of Carl and Mandy of Morley were baptised together

Amber Rhiannan Holmes-Davis

Eva Louis Holmes-Davis

And Louis Nathaniel Homes-Davis

Funerals:-

Ernest Todd (77) beloved husband of Vera from West Ardsley

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Gabriel. 2. Bethlehem. 3. Augustus Caesar. 4. Turkey. 5. Christmas Rose. 6. Santa Claus. 7. Miracle on 34th Street. 8. Snowball. 9. Cracker. 10. Norway. 11. Nine ladies dancing. 12. Serpentine. 13. A Christmas Pie. 14. Isaac Newton. 15. Charlie Chaplin. 16. Tinsel Town. 17. The World Is Not Enough. 18. Austria. 19. Balshazar, Caspar, Melchior. 20. Dancer, Prancer, Dasher, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner & Blitzen.

Albert Shaw

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1891. The family pride themselves
on their caring and understanding
of the bereaved and offer a complete
funeral service including a pre-paid
funeral 'plan'.

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CONSULTANTS

CHRISTINE BENNETT
RACHEL STONES

RESIDENCE
3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 7:30pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am to 12:15pm Lisa Fyffe 0776 1762661
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Rainbows	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 689992
Brownies	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
Keep Fit Class	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
Young at Heart	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
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	1st and 3rd Sunday of the month - 10.30am Derek Barraclough 01924 472375

Services

Main Sunday Service: (except the 2nd Sunday of each month)

10:30am Parish Communion & Jam Club

Additional Services:

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:

10:30am Gro-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 on 0113 2528710 Email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org