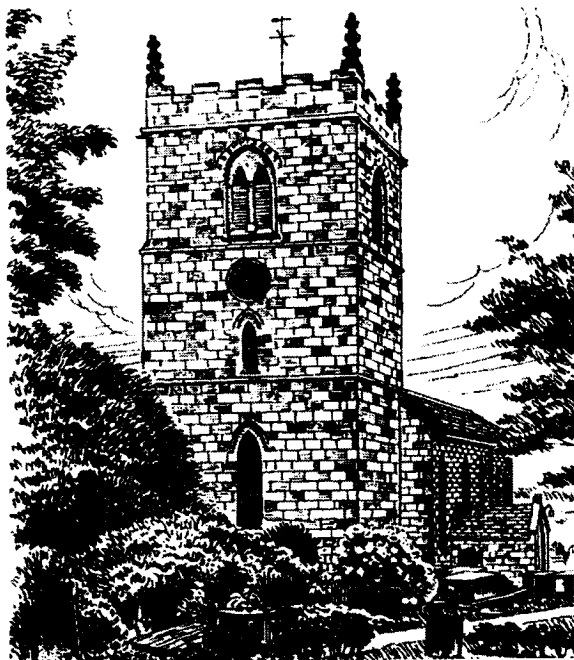


Parish News

March 2012



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

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: The Rev Amanda Barraclough, St Mary's Vicarage,
Dewsbury Road, Woodkirk, WF12 7JL 01924 472375
Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

Lay Pastoral Minister: Derek Barraclough 01924 472375
Gail Townsend 0113 2528710

Churchwardens: Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Deputy churchwardens: Derek Barraclough 01924 472375
Glyn Jennings 01924 470272

Organist: John Hardcastle . 0113 258 7451

PCC Secretary: Julie Hyde 0113 2521339

PCC Treasurer: Gary Mortimer 0113 2528935

Social Chairperson: Gary Mortimer 0113 252 8935

Parish Centre Hire: Brian Walshaw 01924 479380

Parish Centre Manager: Glyn Jennings 01924 470272

Parish Legacy Officer: Henry Gill 0113 253 0585

Child Protection Officer: Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

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Data Protection Officer: Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 2524001

Magazine editor: Julie Hyde 0113 2521339
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Contributions by the 15th of the month

Weekly News Sheet: Peter Crookes 01924 476721
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Contributions by Thursday evening

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Derek Barraclough 01924 472375

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

,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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February Registers

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Tingley



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 & 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

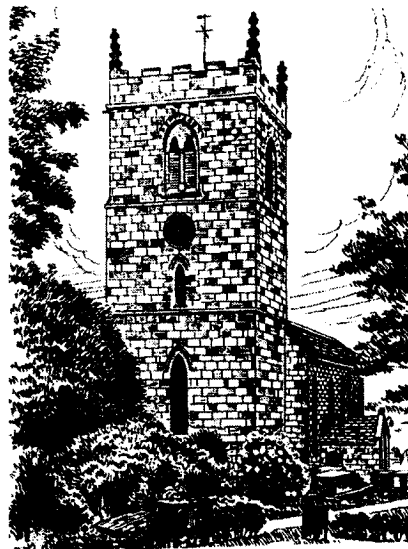
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Wheelchair

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

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The joys of scaffolding.

As I write we are experiencing church services in half of the building whilst the other half is full of scaffolding.

It was thought wise to get this pressing work done to repair the ailing cornice before the wedding season begins – I'm not aware of many brides (or grooms, come to that) who have a particular desire for scaffolding to be part of the backdrop to their big day! (And, since the 'bride's side of the church' is completely taken over with scaffolding, it would add its own complications to the church seating arrangements).

Time after time, our experience has been that when major challenges happen to change our usual way of doing church, far from being a handicap, it has been very good for us.

We certainly felt that way when we had to decamp to the Parish Centre for church services for several months some 4 years ago when the ceiling and floor in church were replaced. It was good for us, bringing us closer together. It was our prayer that this might also be an experience which enriches us.

And last Sunday it did. We sat closer to one another, and it generated an atmosphere of warmth and friendship. Conversations were struck up which might never have happened had we had the whole building available to spread out in.

What's more, the scaffold served as the perfect visual aid to support the Bible verse we were reflecting on, "In Jesus, all things hold together". Scaffolding speaks of holding up, supporting, giving shape and structure – a framework from which something can be created, or restored. Scaffolding speaks of 'work in progress'.

All of us are just that – a 'work in progress'. None of us are the finished product – not just yet! We are on a journey towards becoming that which we have the God-given potential to be. For that to happen we need a framework of support – a scaffold – and that is exactly what a living faith in Jesus offers.

I speak regularly to people who, having found that support and sense of being 'held up' by a relationship with God, find the courage and confidence to take up new things, reach new heights, and face those damaged areas of their lives which need God's restoration. It is one of the greatest thrills of my role to see that happening, one life at a time. "I'd never have believed I would be doing this today – isn't it amazing?" "I couldn't have done that without God's help." Each transformation is as unique as each individual, but each has the hallmark of the Master Builder, God, whose plan for each of our lives is better than we could begin to imagine. These are lives made new.



This is at the heart of the journey through Lent to the promise of new life at Easter. It's not just theoretical, 'nice idea' stuff. It's life-changing stuff. And as we make our journey through Lent towards Easter, may we know the joy and anticipation of that.

Amanda



Henry Bear's Baptism Party – Buns and Fun.

Every alternative year, at Candlemas, we invite children who have been baptised to join us for a service. Due to the popularity of Henry Bear with the Playgroup children, the children were invited to his Baptism Party. All baptised children aged between 2 and 6 were invited.

With 15 children and almost twice as many adults, Henry Bear was roused from sleep by the boisterous singing, and proceeded to show the children his home-made crown. The crown bore the words, "Henry Bear is special to God", a reminder of the message of his baptism day.

The children then proceeded to make their own crowns (with the able assistance of parents and helpers) which were worn with pride for the rest of the celebration.

One of the highlights for many of the children were the 'waterlily' prayers, which opened up as if by magic to send the prayer up to God, when placed on water. (Great fun for the grown-ups too. I suspect this will become a bath time game for some of these youngsters!) Then, after renewing baptism vows, we all got thoroughly splashed as a reminder of our baptism.

As an alternative to the candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, each child was given a small glow-stick which they waved as they sang, "Baptism candle shining bright" (Tune :Skip to my Lou).

Of course, after all this action, Henry Bear was exhausted and in need of a nap, so he was sung to sleep while all the rest went to the back of church for a feast of buns, crisps and biscuits. No baptism party would be complete without them.

A big thank you to all the folk who worked to support this –providing the buns, serving refreshments, playing the piano (I know –' Here we go round the Mulberry Bush' is not a tune most church organists would be required to know!! Thank you, John!)

My own experience is that worship like this is invigorating for adults too, and the children's responsiveness to Jesus means you always get back more than you give. Churches should have more of this!

A fresh look at Communion – the Passover Meal

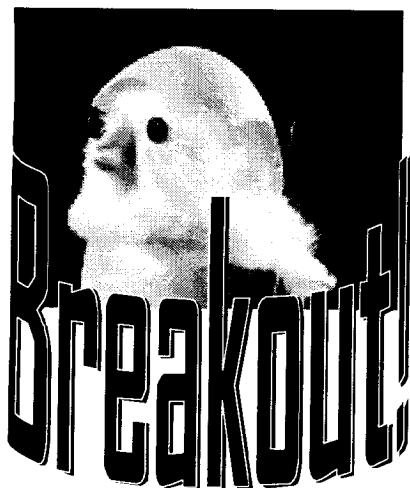
The way we celebrate Communion, wonderful as it is, is undoubtedly very different to the way Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples. For one thing, Jesus was not in a place of worship at the time! And the bread and wine were shared in the context of a family meal of celebration – the Jewish Passover Meal.

Passover was the biggest celebration of the year (equivalent to our Christmas) and was prepared for weeks in advance. It commemorated the time when Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt. God's people had been protected by the blood of a Lamb daubed on the doorposts of their homes, and so death passed them by – unlike the Egyptians. As Jesus celebrated the meal, he was giving it a new significance – he was to be the new Passover Lamb whose blood would release his people from death's power. Seeing this Jewish meal through Christian eyes allows us to see Communion in a new light too.

I first experienced a Passover Meal some 25 years ago when, as a member of All Saints' Normanton, we were fortunate enough to have a curate whose wife had been brought up a Jew, and had found faith in Jesus. Michele never thought of herself so much as a Christian as a 'Completed Jew' – a Jew who has found the final and complete truth her faith had missed – Jesus. She introduced us to this wonderful meal which opened our eyes to the heritage which would have been second nature to Jesus, and using a service as close as possible to that which would have been used in the Upper Room.

Why not experience it for yourself? On Maundy Thursday (5th April) at 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre we will be holding our own Passover Meal, and everyone's invited! We ask you to bring along an item of food for a shared meal – the only rule being there must be NO bread! (Jewish women sweep the floor thoroughly in preparation to make sure there is not so much as a crumb to be found). Unleavened bread (Matzos) will be provided, and wine (non-alcoholic as most will be driving and it is meant to be drunk in plentiful quantities!). But bring along a pie, a salad, a cake, a pizza, cold meats etc – it will all add to the sense of occasion. And don't eat any tea before you come – you'll need all the stomach space you can get!

I promise you, experiencing Passover will enrich your appreciation of the roots of the Communion we celebrate every week. Just sign up on the sheet in the porch so we know how many places to set at table. You won't regret coming! The experience will finish by 9 pm, at which point the church will be open for an hour of quiet prayer for those who wish to be there, just as Jesus left the party atmosphere of the Passover to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane.



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Albert's Quiz

Where Was It?

Can you name the fictional places where the following series were located?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Yogi Bear. | 11. Peter Pan. |
| 2. Porridge. | 12. The Good Life. |
| 3. Coronation Street. | 13. Billy Bunter. |
| 4. The Archers. | 14. Heartbeat. |
| 5. Crossroads. | 15. A Touch of Frost. |
| 6. Superman. | 16. Psycho. |
| 7. The Simpsons. | 17. Drop the Dead Donkey. |
| 8. Merlin. | 18. Prisoner Cell Block H. |
| 9. Father Ted. | 19. Dad's Army. |
| 10. Winnie the Pooh. | 20. Monarch of the Glen |

Lenten Thoughts

A time to reflect
On our lives
A time to deflect
Attention from mundane things
A time to repent
For all our misdeeds
A time to make peace
With our misguided friends
A time to abstain
From food and wine
A time to pray
For those in pain
A time to thank God
For all that we have
A time to pledge ourselves
To doing good whenever we can.

Sandra Martyres

Biography of Sandra Martyres

I hold a Master's Degree in Economics and work for an International Financial Institution. I enjoy writing Poetry more as a hobby, a form of expression and relaxation. Other interests include Reading, Philately, Theatre and Travelling.

Butterfly

The weather mild, unseasonably warm
And in the church the heating works for once,
Blaring dry gusty gales to swirl and rise
Up to the distant lofty raftered roof
Where dust lies dark and dry and decades deep.
Mothering Sunday: children crowd the pews,
A buzz of chatter, craning up to watch
The puzzling pattern of the liturgy.



Observing all from the back pew's redoubt,
I see the servers' solemn concentration,
The choir saintly beyond the figured screen
And flowers clutched in small and eager hands
In touching tribute to a mother's love -
The happy holy muddle of a day
Relenting of its penitential mood
To grant refreshment in our pilgrimage.

And then, unscheduled, in erratic flight
A butterfly takes wing above the pews,
Dipping and rising on its glittering way:
Aroused too early from its winter sleep,
Bewildered by the moving, glaring light
To flutter in untimely resurrection;
It swiftly surfs the tides of tepid air,
Lost in a moment out of sight and mind.



When all is done and stillness falls again,
Intent on vestry business, counting cash,
My glance is held by brightness on the floor:
The glinting coinage of a higher realm -
A fallen angel, peacock-bright in death,
Wings wide and still, the colours glowing deep,
Back in a sleep with no awakening,
While we still wait our Easter flight of faith.

Chris Price
St Faith's Church, March 9th, 1997

Re-development update.

The PCC have decided to press ahead with an application for faculty approval to proceed with the redevelopment project.

The legal process is a requirement for any work planned for a church building, whereby the plans have to be checked and approved by a panel of experts in church architecture and furnishings.

Although the faculty process can be cumbersome and is invariably met with groans from any church council (and especially from the Churchwardens responsible for their completion) it is a safeguard.

It means that no maverick priest can come along, persuade their PCC to pursue a course which will damage the building and its aesthetic interest, and get away with it. All work needs to be considered carefully and impartially by those who are charged with authorising adaptations to buildings.

Nothing will get through the process which has not been approved by the authorities. Time-consuming as it is, we should rejoice that these safeguards are in place to prevent us from making mistakes which we may live to regret.

Once faculty approval has been given, the only obstacle to getting the work started is the finance. We will have to do everything we can to apply for grants, and will need to show that we as a church and community are prepared to invest in the project personally. So, if you can organise an event, or do a sponsored 'bungee jump' or wing walk(!!) (or something more sedate) to help raise funds, go for it!

We should not suppose that 'Someone' will have to come along and foot the bill for us – there is a responsibility on *our* shoulders to show financial commitment to this project. It is certainly not beyond what God can achieve through us.

A number of folk have reminded me that we caught the vision to raise money for the new organ, and £22,000 was raised in a fortnight – through US! And the sheer joy in everyone's faces when we realised that shows just how fulfilling the challenge became. We have a sense of real pride in the new organ because we can look at it and say, "We did that – by the grace of God and to his glory!"

Imagine how wonderful it will feel to be able to stand in the west end of church and say the same. The wonder of what God is able to do through us ordinary people should thrill and inspire us to believe great things of him for the future.

In fact, I'm convinced that whilst our agenda might be to get better facilities in our church building, God's agenda might be different. His intention might just be to grow our faith to believe that he can do great things through people like us. May that be our experience as we pursue this exciting but scary journey.

Amanda

Albert's Quiz Answers

1. Jellystone National Park.
2. Slade Prison.
3. Weatherfield.
4. Ambridge.
5. King's Oak.
6. Metropolis.
7. Springfield.
8. Camelot.
9. Craggy Island.
10. Hundred Acre Wood.
11. Never Never Land.
12. The Avenue, Surbiton.
13. Greyfriars School.
14. Aidsfield.
15. Denton.
16. The Bates Motel.
17. Globelink News Office.
18. Wentworth Detention Centre.
19. Walmington on Sea.
20. Glenbogel.

Albert Shaw



Last of the Summer Wine at Woodkirk!!

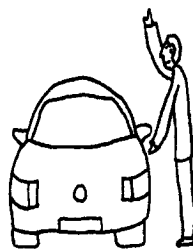
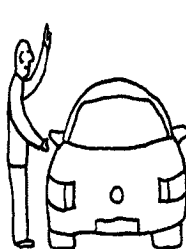


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THINGS YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEARN FROM THEM



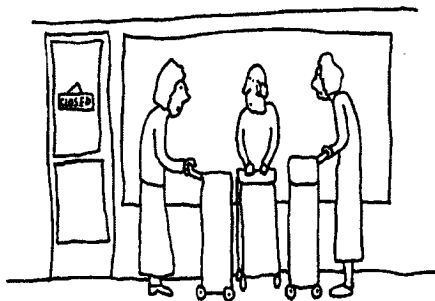
THERE IS NOTHING WRONG
WITH DRESSING A BIT STRANGELY



IT IS OK TO WANT THE SAME
THINGS AS YOUR FRIENDS



HAVING A FEW DRINKS WILL HELP
NUMB THE PAIN FOR A WHILE



IF YOU HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO
IT IS FUN TO LOITER BY THE SHOPS

CartoonChurch.com

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

Supporting Mum – The grace of giving.

What lengths would you go to to support your mum? What sacrifices would you make to ensure her security and well-being? Most of us would do whatever it takes and gladly, aware of the support we'd been given when we needed it.

On Mothering Sunday, 18th March, we'll be reflecting on the way in which the church has nurtured and supported us, instilling good things in our lives. Despite its more secular expression, Mothering Sunday did not originate so much as a focus on our mums, but on the church as mother. It's a day therefore to ask ourselves what lengths are we prepared to go to to support the work which happens at St. Mary's?

We are encouraged that the ministry of our church extends far beyond the congregation who form the core of its life, and is able to touch and enrich many others – those who seek support in times of bereavement, those who wish to get married, youngsters whose social lives and skills are broadened through uniformed organisations, the Playgroup, Mums and Toddler groups. Then there are those who enjoy the social gatherings, barn dances, quizzes, concerts, and Garden parties. There are others too – those who turn up at the Vicarage in need of practical support in emergencies, in need of pastoral support in trauma, in need of spiritual support when life's big questions are pressing. There are the school groups and historical societies who come to explore the history and heritage contained and given visual expression in the beauty of a church building which is older than any other structure in our community. St. Mary's is far from being a church there for a devoted few – it is a church which thrives on being there for all. We reckon that as many as 12,000 people access our facilities each year – and that doesn't include those who come for funerals and weddings.

All this seeks to be part of the motherly role of support, nurture and care – so as you can see, this is a hands-on mum who delights in being there. We want to be able to be there in the future, to extend the welcome St. Mary's is increasingly known for to others, and to ensure we can continue to help and support folk who need it. For that reason we are appealing to all those who are linked to our church in whatever way to consider whether they might help us financially to sustain and extend our ministry.

If you believe in supporting mums, what about the Mother Church? If you give already, could you perhaps increase your gift? If you don't, would you consider doing so? For more information, speak to Gary, the Church Treasurer, on 0113 252 8935. Sunday 18th March, Mothering Sunday, will see us making our response of thanksgiving to God and his church. We'd love you to join us.

Thank you.

Amanda

Diary for March and early April 2012

Thurs 1 st	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
Sat 3 rd	9.30-11.30am	Church cleaning and churchyard morning
Sun 4 th	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) & JAM Club
	12.30pm	Baptism service
Tues 6 th	2-3.30pm	'Hilarious living' Lent meeting 2 – the Vicarage
	7.30-9pm	'Hilarious living' Lent meeting 2 – the Vicarage
Wed 7 th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Sun 11 th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 12 th	12 noon	First Steps Toddler service 'Henry's Easter Egg' (church)
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Parish Centre
Tues 13 th	2-3.30pm	'Hilarious living' Lent meeting 3 – the Vicarage
	7.30-9pm	'Hilarious living' Lent meeting 3 – the Vicarage
Wed 14 th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
Thurs 15 th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 18 th	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Communion & Giving in Grace thanksgiving service (& JAM Club)
		– <i>Archdeacon Peter Townley to preach</i>
Mon 19 th	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting
Tues 20 th	2-3.30pm	'Hilarious Living' Lent meeting 4 – the Vicarage
	7.30-9 pm	'Hilarious Living' Lent meeting 4 – the Vicarage
Wed 21 st	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
Thurs 22 nd	9am-3pm	Archdeacon Peter Townley's visitation
Sun 25 th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) & JAM Club

Tues 27 th	2-3.30pm	'Hilarious Living' Lent meeting 5 – the Vicarage
	7.30-9pm	'Hilarious Living' Lent meeting 5 – the Vicarage
Wed 28 th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)
Thurs 29 th	9.45am	Hill-Top School Easter Service in church
Sat 31 st	10am-1pm	'Breakout!' Easter Activity morning for children <i>(see article)</i>
	1pm	Wedding

April

Holy Week begins

Sun 1 st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
PALM SUN	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) – <i>service commences in Parish Centre</i>
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Mon 2 nd	7pm	Compline (short reflective service)
Tues 3 rd	7pm	Compline (short reflective service)
Wed 4 th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Thurs 5 th	10.30am	Chrism Eucharist – Dewsbury Minster
MAUNDY	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
THURSDAY	7pm	Passover meal – in Parish Centre <i>(church open for quiet prayer from 9-10pm)</i>
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) – <i>followed by refreshments at the Vicarage</i>
Sat 7 th	9.30-1pm	Church & churchyard clean-up
	8.30pm	Easter Eve reflective service <i>(meet in Parish Centre)</i>
Sun 8 th	10.30am	All-Age Easter Celebration
EASTER DAY	12 noon	Holy Communion for Easter

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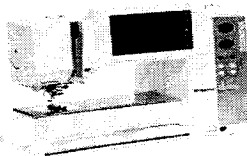


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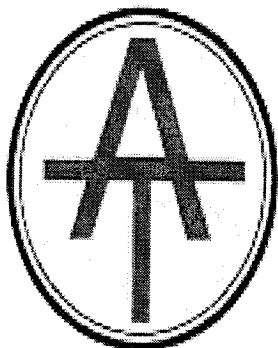
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What's on

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 6.15pm - 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	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
Jam Club	First and 3 rd 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