

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

December 2013



Merry Christmas

This Month:

**Garage Sales; Rahab; Baby Goo;
Hunger; Railways &
Roadmaps.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org



Who's who at Woodkirk

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Elizabeth Aveyard, Derek Barraclough, Brian Gledhill, John Hardcastle, Julie Hyde, Glyn Jennings, Gill Mahoney, Ian Marchant, Averille Milburn, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Dave Townsend, Gail Townsend, Barbara Tate.

If you enjoy the magazine– a donation of 50p really helps to keep it going!

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THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING,
AS NO-ONE IN THE
MUSIC GROUP CAN
PLAY THE GUITAR

FIVE GOLD
BISHOPS' RINGS
IN THE SAFE
IN THE VESTRY

FOUR CALLING
BIRDS BEING
SILENCED BY A
CHURCHWARDEN

A PARTRIDGE
IN A PEAR
TREE - THE
VERGER FORGOT
TO ORDER
A CHRISTMAS
TREE

TWO TURTLE DOVES
TRAPPED IN
THE ROOF

TWELVE DRUMMERS
DRUMMING, TO THE
CONSERVATION OF
THE CHOIR

SIX GEESE
A-LAYING
IN THE
ECO-AREA
OF THE
CHURCHYARD

EIGHT MAIDS
WHO HAD BEEN
A-MILKING, BUT
WHO MANAGED
TO COMPLETE
THEIR DUTIES
IN TIME FOR
THE 10AM

TEN LORDS
A-LEAPING
OVER THE
MOAT DUG
BY THE
YOUTH GROUP

THREE FRENCH HENS-
PROPS FOR THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY

NINE LADIES DANCING
DURING ONE OF THE
MORE MODERN CHRUSES

SEVEN SWANS
A-SWIMMING
IN THE FONT

Cartoon Church is reproduced with permission

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.

Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. 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 £12 a year to cover magazine costs (see Page 35). Post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Call Margaret on 01924 473064. 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 from the middle of the month of publication.

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.



Time for a clean-out!

My mum is not big on housework. Her theory, she once claimed, was that if dust is left for three years it never gets any thicker. (We disproved that when moving a wardrobe which has been in the same position for perhaps 20 years at my aunt's home, to find around 4 inches of dust on the floor behind it.)

The dust is never actually left for three years – because every year, Christmas comes around. And Christmas is different. The house is dusted and scrubbed, polished and prepared to within an inch of its life. Every ornament (of which there are many), vase, decorative plate and nic-nac is given eagle-eyed scrutiny as she prepares for this great family gathering. With as many as 9 of us sleeping over, and 6 bedrooms to prepare, it keeps her going for the whole of December – and maybe even longer.

The problem is, those 6 bedrooms are convenient places to store all the bits and bobs that get acquired over the course of time. My mum is 'a bit of a hoarder'. (In fact, it's become a bit of a joke that she still has her school skirts, some 60 years on!) Usually if one spare bedroom is being used, the bits and bobs can be moved into another spare bedroom. But what happens when all the bedrooms are needed? "Maybe it's time to get rid of some stuff?" my brother suggests. "Just think how much you'd like it if you could put this huge pile of cookery books on your bookshelf! If you just chose some of those old dusty volumes which are taking so much space up to get rid of, it could happen." We try all arts of persuasion, but to little effect.

Now we're having a taste of our own medicine. With our children having left home, we suddenly have almost as many 'spare bedrooms' as my mum. So we have space to store things. We have spread out, and Derek's stock of 'e-Bay' stuff ready to be listed and sold is growing. What's worse, the congregation have now got the idea that Derek welcomes any unwanted items when they're having a clear-out to sell and raise money for church. The Vicarage is becoming the depot for all St. Mary's unwanted goods! Great – until we need the space. And with all the children coming back for Christmas, that time is now!

Time for a clear-out, so that the house is fit to welcome guests, coming from far and wide to be together for this wonderful celebration. I am at least a little more able to let go of stuff than my mum – with 3 large boxes of books ready to go, piled in my office, I'm feeling quite proud of my ability to clear my shelves.

Advent is a time for that sort of preparation. We tend to think of the season as being about preparing by acquiring more – the tree, the

food, the presents, the decorations. Our consumer-driven culture encourages us to think of it that way. The only thing they intend us to clear out is our bank accounts! But maybe it's a good time to have a clear-out, both inwardly and outwardly. How many items could be taken to charity shops - shops which will be scoured by hard-pressed parents struggling to give their children a great Christmas in these straitened times?

Advent is not primarily about being inward-looking – **my** house, **my** family, **my** Christmas. It's about considering the wider community and putting plans in place which make sure others will have a Christmas worth remembering too. I encourage you to consider giving a toy to our toy appeal for a child in a struggling family, or to take part in our Christmas Food appeal. (see article)

Being more outward-looking is part of our inner preparation for the Greatest Guest of All, the One we are preparing to welcome at Christmas. It enables us to change our perspectives, to correct our focus. Preparing our homes, having a clear-out is great – but it's even greater if it is seen as a means to clearing our vision, and preparing our lives to welcome the child of Bethlehem. May God bless you this Christmas, and make you a blessing to others.

Revd. Amanda

From the inside out:

Christians Against Poverty & the Credit Industry...

With the government cracking down on the likes of Wonga, QuickQuid and various other payday lenders who have been defending their lending practices in Parliament, CAP is also working to tackle the issue on another front. By working with these companies, CAP is a voice for the vulnerable, influencing policy from the inside.

My team, the Creditor Liaison Unit, is in the business of 'speaking up for those who can't speak for themselves'. We work with over one thousand creditors – from high street banks to payday lenders – to get the best results for our clients: to get them out of debt as quickly as possible and to protect them from the storm of collection activity until they get there.

My particular role involves liaising with the movers and shakers of the credit industry to impress upon them that the clients they are dealing with are not just figures and boxes to tick, but real people with real lives...

Dawn Stobart, Director of Debt Management and Creditor Relations

All Age Service @ St. Mary's

Remembrance Sunday 10:30am, 10th November.

Heavenly Father, as we gather to hear the names on our Memorial, we realise how quickly and how easily we forget.

We forget who people were and what they did. We forget the contributions they made and what they meant to their families.

Reverend Amanda asked us to think about a jigsaw without a picture. It's difficult to remember what it was like. We put the pieces - or members - of the jigsaw back together. We 're-member' the puzzle.

Our minds are like that too. We put together the memories of those people and their acts of bravery. The poppy - the symbol of our remembrance - can be re-membered. Its petals, stalk, seed head and leaves are put together as a reminder. It grows in a field but those who died can no longer grow. The petals remind us of the blood that was spilled. The black centre reminds us of the black times but also it resembles a full stop. We hope there will be a full stop to war.

God can see the whole jigsaw and understands how it all fits together. When we arrived we were all given a Poppy petal, shaped like a heart. Reverend Amanda invited us to write the name of someone we want to remember on the petal. We build Poppies from the hearts along the window bottoms of the Church.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars, and in conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away. The names on the memorial Board are recited.

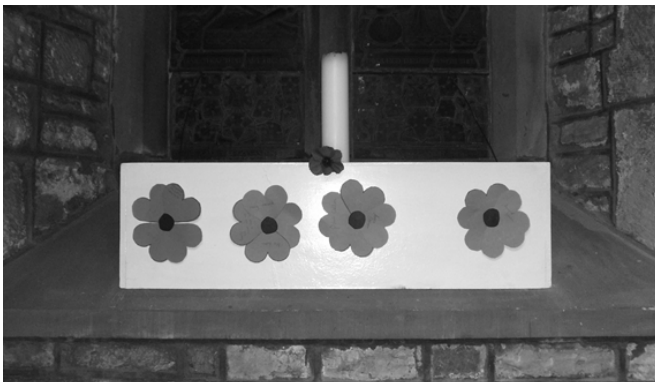
They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

David.

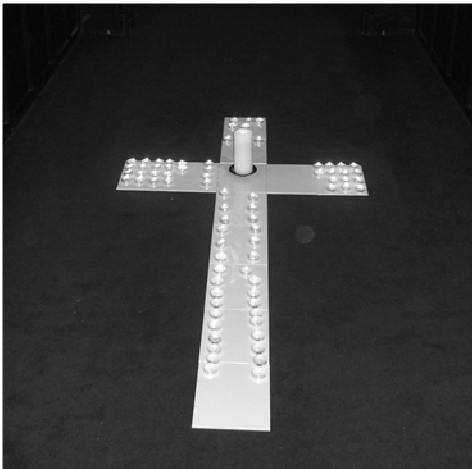


A Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving.

Remembrance Sunday 6:00pm, 10th November.

This very well attended service also allowed members of the congregation to remember their loved ones by name and light a candle in their memory, regardless of circumstances.

The British Legion were in attendance, laying a wreath as well as playing the Last Post.



Ever living God

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence. May that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish harmony among the nations through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We hold before you too, those whose names are never far from our lips, whose lives have shaped ours, and whose memory we cherish.



The August Talks: Rahab.

In the fifth of five talks on figures from the Old Testament, Gill Mahoney tells us of Rahab, the prostitute

It is only human nature when given or confronted by some information to form a picture in our minds. We sometimes need this instant judgement mechanism when we are faced with danger and need to make a snap decision. This instant decision making could also lead to us missing out on something or someone special. This is what I want to focus on today.

I have a book which usually sits on my bookshelf at home. Inside its cover it has some intriguing stuff. It has stories of thieves, betrayal, wars between nations, power and oppression, mentions circumcision, prostitution, the devil. Oh yes not to mention the odd murder here and there thrown in for good measure. Do you know which book I am referring to? Yes, the Bible. It was given to me when I was 7 years old, and is even older than Neal's teddy (see Neal's August talk). It has no alluring pictures on the cover to catch your eye - with just two words as its title.

If you went out into the street and offered people a selection of books including the Bible, I wonder how many would choose the Bible? What preconceived perceptions would they have? Boring? For prudes? Too much like hard work? However, I wonder if the Bible was presented in a different form would it attract more interest rather than just being instantly dismissed by some? For instance, if the cover was alluring depicting scenes more fitting to its contents and it had the word censored stamped on the cover perhaps this would evoke people's imagination (even better if it was written in modern form)? I wonder if it then would become a media sensation on the same level of the book 'Fifty Shades of Grey?'

I too have misjudged this book in the past. I sometimes go through bouts of insomnia. Believe me I've had a few sleepless nights over this! On one such occasion I had a restless night you know how it goes tossing and turning, clock watching. Then the bargaining begins. If I don't go to sleep now I won't get up for work. In the end I thought I've had enough of this! I got up and I thought I know what will get me off to sleep I'll read the Bible! Well I picked this book up and started reading it - boring? No! Fascinating? Yes! It certainly did not cure my insomnia!

I am going to tell you about someone in this book, a woman who was regularly judged and shunned by society. Her name was Rahab

and she was a prostitute. She also played an instrumental part in the downfall of Jericho. She was not only different from the other inhabitants of Jericho because of the way she earned her living but her belief system was different. She followed a different path. She did not worship different Gods, but the one true God outside the city walls, the God of the Israelites. She knew only too well that whatever defence strategies were used to protect the city they were no contender for God the Almighty. Rahab lived in hope that one day God would send in his people and take Jericho and this would be her ticket to freedom.

There isn't actually a great deal in the Bible regarding Rahab. What we do know about her is that she had a relationship with the King. Joshua 2: 3. So the King of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

Why would the King have a relationship with a prostitute? Maybe she had once been a member of his household? She had to be close to the King to know his insecurities. Maybe she used this to her own advantage and it was no coincidence that she had a house built into the city wall near the East gate? There she could report back any suspicious comings and goings to the King. She was also in a prime position to hide anyone suspicious, after all, who would bat an eyelid if a strange man entered her house – a prostitute. Of course she wasn't on the lookout for any stranger but someone who was sent by God.

The day arrived. Rahab was sitting by her window and noticed two young men surveying the wall. If she noticed them, others will too. She must get to them and quick! They had not gone unnoticed and a guard came knocking on her door. She hid the spies on her roof. She told the guard that there had been two men at her house but they had left. She sent the guard off on a wild goose chase in the opposite direction to the one she eventually sent the spies. She risked life and limb to save the spies and wanted something in return – her freedom! Rahab also wanted freedom for her father, siblings and their families. This was granted.

It was agreed with the spies that she would hang a red cord from her window and that is how her house could be identified. The spies reported back to Joshua. In time the city was taken. Its city walls were crushed along with its inhabitants, all except Rahab and her family. Rahab got her freedom to worship the God of the Israelites

and freedom from the life she had lived.

I came across the following and found it thought provoking:- Many would assume that Rahab – a pagan, a Canaanite and a prostitute – would never be interested in God. Yet Rahab was willing to risk everything she had for a God she barely knew. We must not gauge a person's interest in God by her background, life-style, or appearance.

If Rahab was standing where I am now (in the pulpit) and she revealed what she had done for a living. How many of us - if we are being honest - would recoil in disgust? Throughout this story there has been a theme running through it. God has been at Rahab's side. God's grace is greater than ours. He had a purpose for Rahab's life. He did not judge her for what she was on the outside but judged her within.

1 Samuel 16:7 It says:-

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance but looks at the heart.

I judged this book (the Bible) by its cover and got it wrong. I wonder how often we get it wrong when we look at other people and form a view based only on appearance?

Let us pray:-

Lord when we are quick to fall into the trap of stereotyping may we slow down, reflect on your good grace and not judge the book by its cover.

Gill

Playgroup Update

This month has been a very busy month in playgroup. The children have been helping to make calendars, book marks and Christmas decorations.

This year we will not be joining in the family service in church, although I know parents are welcome to take their children along. Henry Bear will be holding a short service at the end of each session week commencing 9th December. This is where we hope to raise funds by holding a raffle (donations very welcome), selling the Christmas crafts the children have made and cakes that have been made by our very valued volunteers.

Our last day of term is 19th December and we will be saying goodbye to a few children who are leaving. We currently have spaces on Tuesday and Thursday- pop into see us for more info.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Debbie Playgroup Supervisor

The Nativity – a Stable story for an Unstable World.

All-Age Nativity Service 10.30am 8th December.

Things may be a little different this year! The problem with stables, and with churches like St. Mary's, is the limited space. It's just as well the whole of Bethlehem didn't turn up to welcome Jesus, because they wouldn't have got in. Sometimes it can feel as if the whole of Tingley turns up to the Nativity, and we have had to do some rethinking.

So what we do this year will be different- it's the way we try out different things to see if we've come up with a solution which works for everyone.

The Playgroup children will be having their own short services, where Henry Bear retells the Christmas story with glove puppets, so the children can join in as it is told. These will happen at the end of each Playgroup session during the week beginning Monday 9th December, at 12 noon in the Parish Centre.

Their parents, grandparents and carers will come along and share in the fun, as these little ones hear the Christmas story for perhaps the very first time – a magical moment! Other children can be brought along to these events, so if you have a toddler who doesn't belong to St. Mary's Playgroup, come along to the Parish Centre for 12 noon on Monday 9th, Tues 10th or Thurs 12th December to join us.

This does not mean that our Playgroup families are not welcome at the All-Age Nativity on Sunday 8th December! It would be lovely to see as many there as wish to come. It simply means this will not be the Playgroup Christmas 'party-piece' event this year as it has been in the past. I'm not sure how positive an experience a 2 year old finds it being hemmed into a very full church and an over-full pew in an angel costume, and then have to make their way to the front to sing. Very cute it undoubtedly is – but the sheer size of our growing Playgroup means we have become victims of our own success.

We are changing things this year as a trial as we explore the best possible way to use the space we have. So we would value your feedback after the event, and any ideas you may have to make sure everyone gets to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas in a way which is best for them.

Rev'd. Amanda

Feed the Hungry this Christmas.

We are all experiencing the rising costs of living, but we know that many people are really struggling to put food on the table. There are an estimated half a million in Britain who now need food assistance. As Christians we cannot stand by while there is food poverty in our communities, and that's why we're getting involved in Premier Christian Media's "Feed the Hungry" collection scheme this Christmas.

During December we will have available special bags supplied by the charity, with guidance on what sort of items to include (non-perishable stuff). We will even be sent a DVD of Premier presenter Pam Rhodes (formerly on Songs of Praise) explaining the initiative so we catch the vision. We will have enough bags so that members of the community as well as the congregation can take part and make a difference to others. So if you're not often around on Sundays, pop along to the Vicarage during December and ask for one of the special bags to get on board with the project.

We will be gathering the foodstuffs on Christmas Eve, during our services then, and the bags will be taken in early January to the nearest food bank we can locate. It is in January, after the Christmas food is gone, and the bills are heavy, that more families will struggle to feed themselves than at any other.

One bishop said this, "We all know how our current economic climate impacts ordinary families, and poverty hits children hardest. Feed the Hungry with Premier will help churches respond positively and realistically to our neighbours. It will draw churches and people together in a very special way that brings us back to the heart of what the season is all about – the Lord Jesus, who was rich beyond our imagining, became poor for our sake so that we might be raised to glory with him. I hope Christians all over the UK will catch the vision of this project and get involved."

Rev. Amanda



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 coldframe if you have any plants in there. 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.

1. Get on with your winter digging if the ground is not frozen or too water logged. Test the ph of your soil and apply lime if necessary. DO NOT apply manure at the same time. (see No.2)
2. Get hold of some well rotted manure and dig it in. Don't add lime at the same time. Do however remove weeds.
3. Earth up spring cabbages and winter brassicas.
4. Some of the spring cabbages that were planted out in the autumn can be used as winter greens. Cut them before they have a chance to form hearts.
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.

Sandra.

Archbishop of York calls for the "re-evangelisation" of England.

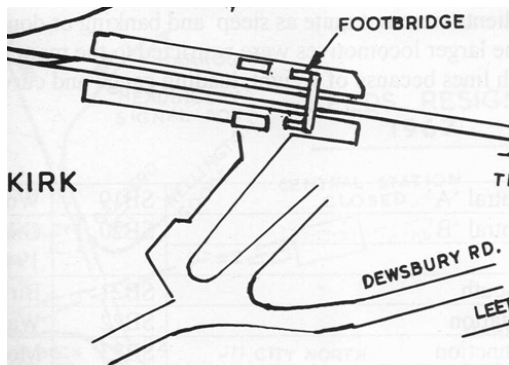
The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu called on Synod to put evangelism at the top of its agenda, saying: "next to worship, witness is the primary and urgent task of the Church."

"Compared with evangelism everything else is like re-arranging furniture when the house is on fire," he said.

Synod voted to support a call to every PCC, diocese and deanery Synod to allocate more time to initiatives for making new disciples. "We need to be intentional in our evangelism in this next period of our life as the Church of England" he said.

When Woodkirk had a Railway.

In the past, Woodkirk used to have a railway station, which closed to passengers around 1939 right at the very start of World War II. The line continued a further 25 years serving the quarry, until final closure in 1964 (a certain Dr. Beeching helping with that). The Station brought people to the popular Woodkirk Gardens - now also gone.



Plan showing original position of the Station.

Dewsbury Road has also now been moved and straightened.



View looking East. Note building in background to the right.

View of Station today



Platform

The former station site at Woodkirk is across the road from the Church, where the platform can be picked out as well as the route of the old line. Here you can see the old platform and the rooftop of the building on the right is the same as the original picture (left).

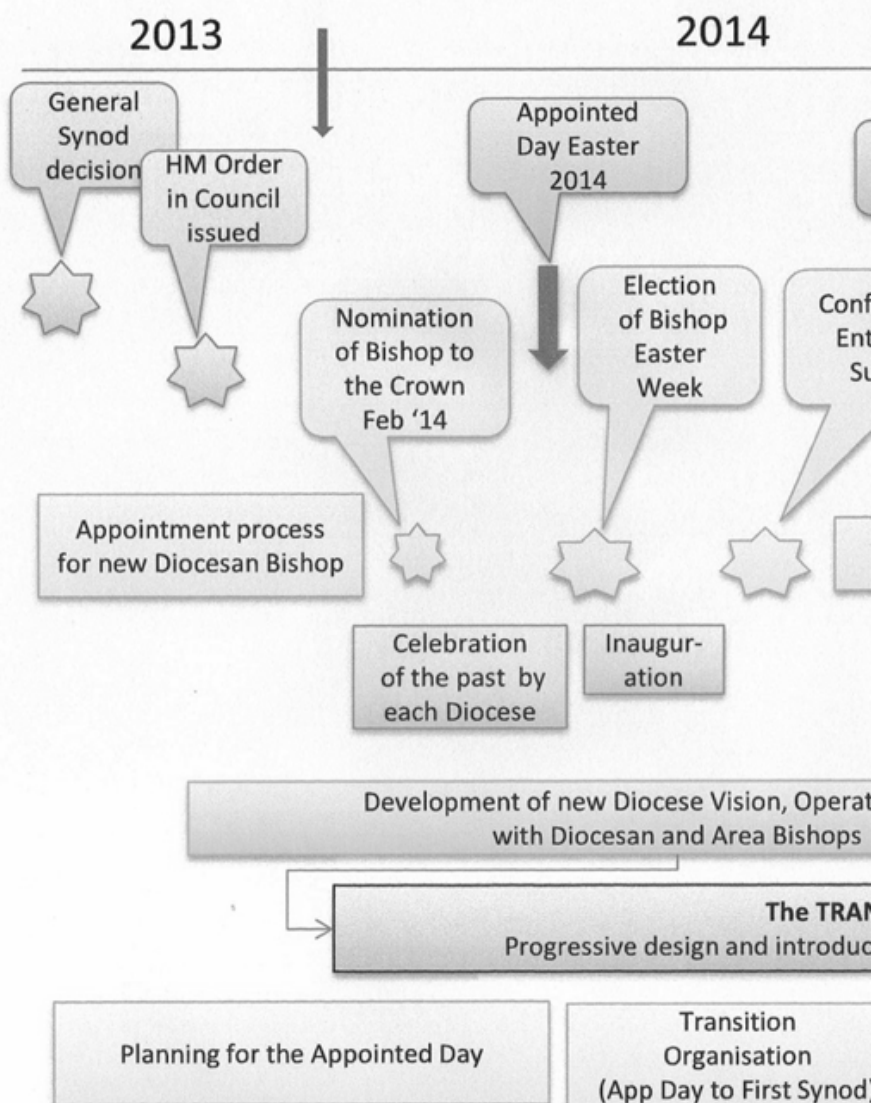


View looking West. It leads to the disused Soothill Tunnel.

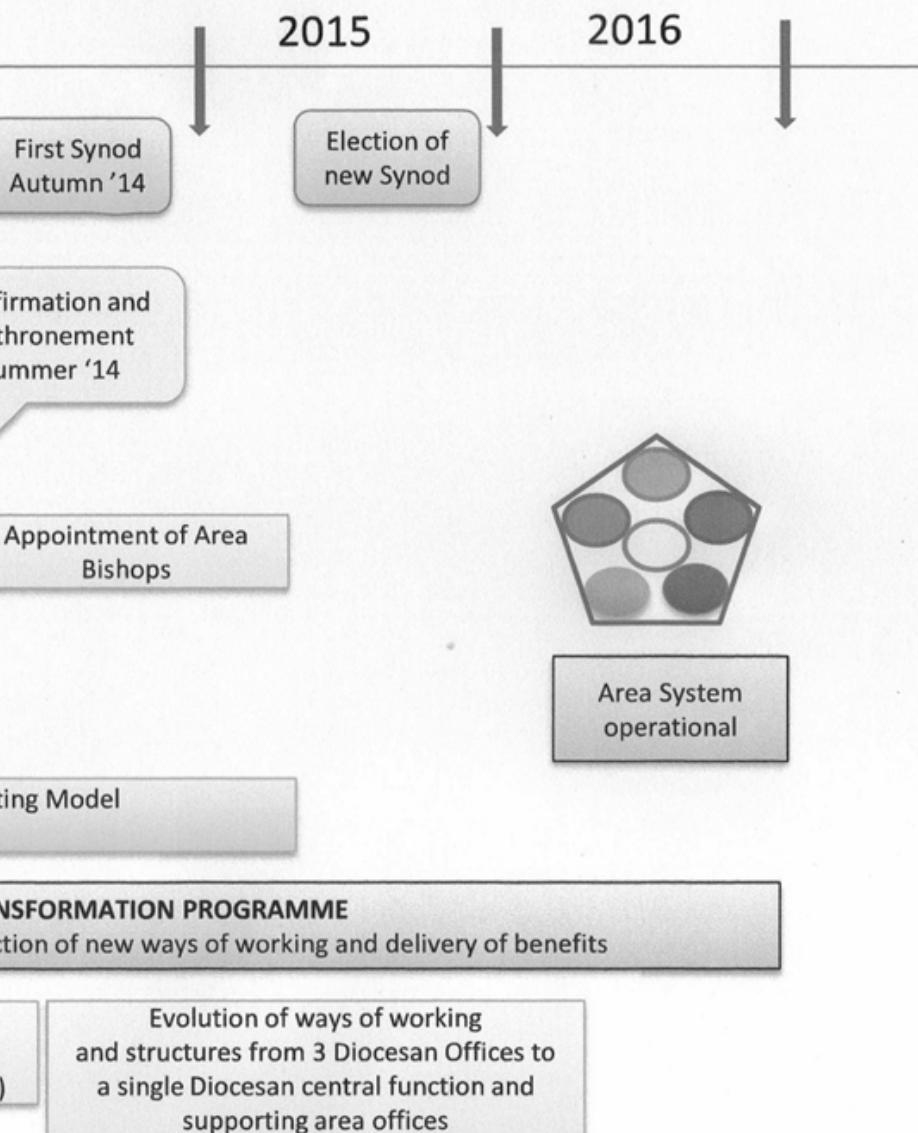
Could the Station ever be brought back to life? Do you know a Steam Train Group or Society who would be interested?

David

ROADMAP TO THE NEW DIOCESE OF V



WEST YORKSHIRE AND THE DALES: LEEDS



Spreading some Christmas cheer in our Community...

We have been invited by Country Baskets to sing Christmas carols in the area where people enter the shop (near the reception desk). Churches in the area will be singing on Saturday 30th November and Saturday 7th December between 11am and 2pm. St. Mary's are taking particular responsibility for the singing on 7th December, as we are going to be a little preoccupied on 30th November with our Christmas Fair. Clearly no-one can sing for 3 hours solid, so we are encouraging folk to join us for an hour or so to share a bit of Christmas cheer with folk out buying their decorations. Let's remind them what it's all about!

Then, on Wednesday 11th December we will be sharing some more Christmas cheer with the residents of Lydgate Lodge Care Home between 6-7pm. Why not come and join in the fun? The residents are so appreciative of these times, and it really does brighten up their festive season.

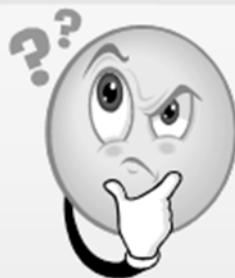
A fresh retelling of a familiar story.

Carols by candlelight Sunday 22nd December 4pm.

When sunset is past, and night is setting in, St. Mary's church has a very special atmosphere. We remarked that just last week following the Remembrance and Memorial service. The Carols by Candlelight service on 22nd December is a wonderful way of discovering that for yourself!

That may not be all you discover! We enjoy retelling the very familiar story in fresh ways, which allows us to engage with it more deeply each year. There will be much that is familiar, but some things which will add a new twist and allow a new experience of the wonder of the Christmas message. It is always one of the highlights of the year, and one not to be missed. And with mince pies and coffee/tea to follow, a lovely way to soak in the truth of Christmas. So why not escape from the other demands which Christmas places on you for one special evening at St. Mary's?

Revd. Amanda



Burns Night Quiz

Saturday 25th January 2014

St Mary's Woodkirk Parish Centre

At 7:00 pm

Adults: £6.00 Children Under 12: £4.00

Hot Supper Included

Tickets from Brian Gledhill

And Betty Aveyard

Or Telephone 01924 405790



Prayerful Thought ...Part III.

Dawn Tattersfield shares a personal experience...

Well here we are, another Advent season. A time of preparation as well as all the other preparations; writing cards, buying and wrapping gifts, baking cakes and mince pies, meeting up with friends, attending Christmas events. I'm sure that you could add a few things to my list!

My preparation has only just got started in Christmas terms, but if you have been following my previous articles, you will know that I have been trying to get into the habit of daily prayer.

Well amazingly, after much procrastination and delay, I am delighted to say, that since the end of October, I have taken a few minutes out of my day to have a quiet time with God.

There was no bolt of lightning, voices from a burning bush or the sky, but a very special time on a Christian retreat in Derbyshire that finally helped me. I was away on this retreat from Thursday teatime to Sunday evening, with about 40 fellow Christians (only two of whom I knew before I went) but by Sunday evening I had made 38 new friends!

The theme of the weekend was Discipleship and about equipping us to be disciples in today's world. We had lots of presentations with themes to help us, and some of them were extremely pertinent to me, such as Prioritising, Growth through Study, and many about God's grace. It could have been mere coincidence! Or it could have been God's grace in helping me, but through every 'presentation' there was always prayer at the centre of every message. It was like a drip of water hollowing out a stone, a message being repeated until it finally sunk in!

That was one of the aspects of the weekend that affected me, but the other one which sort of sneaked up on me throughout the weekend was how strong prayer can be. Throughout the weekend, there was an emphasis on prayer. I had been told in communication before I went that people were praying for me. People were praying for us.

Now I don't know about you, but if someone says "I'll pray for you", then you probably (well hopefully!) think 'oh that's nice, thank you very much', but whilst I was on this retreat, the more experience you had of knowing that people were praying for you, you were so 'immersed' in it (but not in a bad way, very much in a positive way), for example, before each 'presentation' we said a prayer and sang a meditation.

As we learned more over the weekend, I began to 'feel' those prayers, I felt supported and encouraged, I felt re-energized, and the love that I felt, not only from those around me, but the message of God's grace and love for me, became tangible, I could feel it.

All this helped me, on my return to home and routine, to take on board the message from the very first presentation. I prioritised God, and now spend a few minutes each morning in a quiet time of contemplation and prayer. I'm sure my prayers are not elegant or particularly profound, but God doesn't seem to mind.

For those of you who like statistics (and I am told that some people do!!) if you were to spend 5 minutes per day in quiet reflection or prayer, in a year you would have spent 30 hours with God. How good does that sound? Taking it to the next level our electoral roll at the last count was about 120 people, so using our calculation, if JUST the electoral roll people spent that 5 minutes per day with God for a whole year, that 30 hours of prayer becomes an amazing 150 DAYS!

St Paul in his letter to the Romans Chapter 12 talks about being a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God and goes on to say.." we have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a person's gift is prophesying, let them use it in proportion to their faith. If it is serving, let them serve, if it is teaching, let them teach, if it is encouraging, let them encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let them give generously; if it is leadership, let them govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let them do it cheerfully".

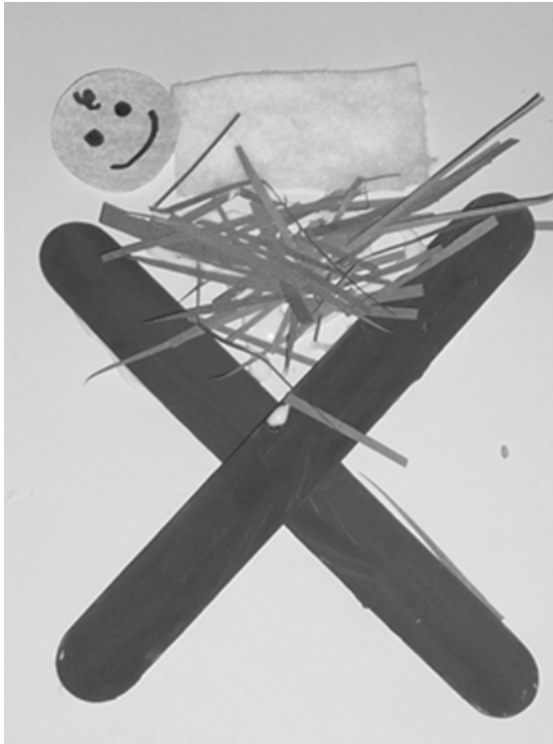
You may be one of those people who support our church and community, or you may be unable because of work, family or other pressures, but hopefully, what this article will encourage you to do, is spend 5 minutes per day with God, because there are many more people than on our electoral roll, so my estimate of 120 is much more, so that 150 days of prayer per year is a minimum really!!

Now that sounds good to me, and just think, how much that prayer would feel to Amanda? If I could feel the power of prayer amongst a group of 40 people over a weekend, think how tangible our prayers would feel to Amanda if there were more than 150 DAYS of prayer in a year, and not only Amanda, but the church wardens, core group, PCC, all the community and church groups who use the parish centre, how much of a difference your 5 minutes could make in our community and in the world!

Don't ever think you cannot do anything for God, 5 minutes a day would be delightful for him, and certainly from my recent experience, it has been delightful for me.

I have considered my priorities and put God at the top of my list, well it's a tie for first place with my first cup of tea of the day! 5 minutes with my God and a cup of tea, you can't say fairer than that!

Dawn



Christmas Activity Morning
Glitter, Glue and Baby Goo..

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Saturday 14th December 2013.

10am-1pm

Suitable for children aged 4-11

£3 per child.

To book places, ring Amanda on 01924 472375

Yorkshire Cancer Centre Fund Raising Appeal

- unwanted currency.

Trevor (Skip) Holdsworth explains the Scouts Foreign Currency Appeal..

Dear all,

Quite a few community/scout group friends/ parishioners and family are aware that for some three years now my wife Moira has come through six cancer operations and a course of chemotherapy treatment to arrest the spread of the disease.

We have come to realise that many families have had some relatives diagnosed with the disease and indeed we all seem to know some friends or someone who has developed cancer. We have been, and are all, fortunate that Leeds has a state of the art Oncology Unit at St James Hospital, Bexley Wing.

We are deeply indebted to the staff and consultants there that have looked after Moira with their unfailing care, compassion and dedication.

It is with this in mind that we would like to give something back to help further the search for a cure to the variety of cancers that exist.

The Yorkshire Cancer Centre, also based at the Oncology Unit, is set up to promote fundraising for research. One simple method is to donate unwanted currency that they can convert into sterling.

Have you been abroad on holiday in the past and that unwanted foreign currency is still in the drawer?

We have a number of foreign coins from over the years that we are unlikely to ever use again.

Do you have any that you would be able to donate?

If so please could you bring it in to the Friday night scout section meetings or to Gail at the Church and we will collect over the next few months to hand in to the Yorkshire Cancer Centre Fund Raising Office on behalf of the Scout Group and St Mary's Woodkirk.

Many thanks for your support
Moira and Trevor



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

Cubs on Tour...

During November, thirteen Cubs went to Hebden Hey Scout Campsite near Hebden Bridge for an indoor 'Christmas themed' weekend. On Saturday morning we went to Gibson's Mill at Hardcastle Craggs. The Cubs were given a tour of this National Trust property, learning how it started as a Cotton Mill in the 1800's, then a holiday camp for the first 50 years of the 1900's and now a self-sustainable enterprise.

The top floor of the Mill is set out as it was in the 1920's as a restaurant. The Cubs were able to dress up in period costumes, make and decorate ginger bread reindeer, nativity tree decorations, Christmas crackers, Christmas place mats and sun catchers. Back at camp, the Cubs all attempted the obstacle course and bouldering wall with varying degrees of success. On Sunday morning they toasted marshmallows over a fire to round off a busy but fun weekend.

Jonathan

Beavers in a Mess...

In November the Beavers have had a very busy time: We have now completed our fitness badge and healthy eating. We have also made some bird feeders which we all enjoyed making even though we got very messy. We hope the birds enjoyed the effort we all made. We also made a poster remembering all the good and bad things we could eat, and what we can do to keep fit.

We are now getting ready to make our Christmas goodies and that will mean doing a lot of sticking and colouring! We are looking forward to taking part in the Nativity at Church Parade on the 8th December, and our Christmas party on the 13th.

We also welcomed 4 new members to our group, so we are now up to capacity, but if you wish your child to come and join us, it is best if you get your child's name down early as we do have a waiting list. Beavers meet between 5.30pm and 6.15pm. From the 15th Morley Beavers we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

Gail and Joanne

Scouts

Last month we reported the Scouts successfully defended their Cooking and First Aid challenges at the Camper Craft competition, but there's more...

The Scouts also won the Entertainment Shield by performing a short Play and went on to be overall Campercraft Champions, winning the John White 1947 Flag! Many congratulations to all of them. They now have an additional Flag which they will keep for a year and parade down the aisle at every All Age Service - so watch out for the new flag when you are at the Service. The December service is on the 8th, including Nativity and Toy Sunday.

The Scouts also took part in the 'Jamboree on the Internet' or 'JOTI' as it was called. The Scouts connected to the internet and spoke to other Scout groups from around the world - speaking to about 15 countries in total, including Australia, America and Russia. It means they now have their 'JOTI' badge to wear as well.

On the first weekend in November the Scouts took part in a camp at Bramhope Park, aptly named 'Silly Chilly'. There were about 400 scouts from around the district, facing high winds and hailstones, they battled on through the stormy weekend. There was drama when Gareth Luby's tent was blown away and had to be rescued and secured with a large wooden pallet. So if you want a bit of adventure - look no further! Contact the Scouts on the number on the inside back cover.

The Scouts Christmas Party is on the 13th December with competitions for table tennis, table football and table Pool.

The Christmas treat is a trip to Barnsley Bowl, date to be fixed, but will be either 16th, 17th, or 18th December. There will be a district Bowling competition in the new year so this is a chance to practise!

Life is an Adventure - LIVE IT!

Skip, Gareth, Jason, Helen.

Women Bishops: Synod votes to approve next step

The General Synod of the Church of England has approved a package of measures as the next steps to enable women to become bishops in the Church of England.

In the debate, Synod welcomed the package of proposals outlined in the report of the Steering Committee for the Draft Legislation of Women in the Episcopate. The Steering Committee's package of proposals follows the mandate set by the Synod in July and includes the first draft of a House of Bishops declaration and a disputes resolution procedure. This debate invited Synod to welcome the proposals and the five guiding principles, already agreed by the House of Bishops, which underpin them.

The motion was carried with 378 votes for, eight against and 25 abstentions.

In its afternoon session, the Synod also voted to progress the legislation to its next stage of revision at its next meeting. As a result of the votes carried, Synod agreed to dispense with the normal Revision Committee process and move straight to revision in full Synod which meets in February 2014, thereby clearing the way for a possible vote on final approval later next year.

Buy a Meaningful Gift this Christmas...

There's a new way to show your support for Mothers' Union - by buying an ethical gift. Celebrate with us and give a gift that will keep on giving long after the excitement of Christmas has passed. Buying an ethical gift means that you will be supporting the work of Mothers' Union across the world. With every gift purchased we'll send you a card and bookmark for you to give to a special friend or loved one. Give a gift that will transform a life and make a real difference this Christmas.

Baby Love

Help bring a new life safely into the world. In isolated communities where there is no maternity care, Mothers' Union trains local members in midwifery skills. Your gift brings health and well-being to new mums for just £20.

Give them a Voice

Your gift can equip marginalised women with a voice for justice. Helping us resource, train and support members as they speak out on issues ranging from gender-based violence to awareness of women's right to vote. Only £15.

Brownie Leader Hannah's new arrival.

Congratulations to Hannah Tombling on the birth of her son.

She writes: 'Arthur Wilfred 'Arty' born November 12th 9.59am 6lb 4oz. We are both doing well and Will and Ned are fantastic big brothers'.
Hannah x



One year on.. Thank you Dave!

This month's edition of the magazine marks the first anniversary of Dave's 'reign' as editor. I was worried, in those early months, that Dave's energy, vision and enthusiasm would be more than he could sustain for the longer term. But he has proved me wrong. The magazine goes from strength to strength, and from the moment he has pressed the 'send' button to submit one month's magazine, he is on the case with the following month's material. Well done, Dave, and thank you for all your hard work. Here's to the next year!

Revd. Amanda

Albert's December Quiz:

1. What cosmetic aid was launched by King Camp Gillette on 2 December 1901?
2. Who performed the first human heart transplant on 3 Dec 1967?
3. First issued on 4 Dec 1791, what is the UK's oldest Sunday newspaper?
4. Which unmanned ship was found drifting near the Azores on 5 December 1872?
5. Opened on the 5 December 1958, what was Britain's first motorway section?
6. On 6 Dec 1877 what was Thomas Edison the first person to record?
7. Who became Prime Minister of a UK coalition government on 7 December 1916?
8. Who murdered John Lennon in New York on 8 December 1980?
9. When did William Gladstone first become Prime Minister? 1868, 1869 or 1870?
10. On 9 December of which year was Coronation Street first televised?
11. Which prestigious awards were first presented on 10 December 1901?
12. On 11 December 1894, where was the world's first motor show held?
13. What appeared in Britain for the first time at Holborn Viaduct, London on the 13 December 1878?
14. On the 14 December 1911 who was the first man to reach the South Pole?
15. On the 14 December of which year did British women first vote in a General Election? Was it 1918, 1919 or 1920?
16. In that election, who was the first woman elected to be an MP?
17. On 16 December 1944 which musician disappeared when flying across the English Channel?
18. On 17 Dec 1903 who achieved the first powered aeroplane flight?
19. On 21 Dec 1913 the New York World published the first what?
20. On 25 December 1932 which monarch broadcasted the first Christmas message?
21. Who became the first black world heavyweight champion boxer on 26 December 1908?
22. Who was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral on the 29 Dec 1170?
23. Which radio service began broadcasting on the 29 Dec 1930?
24. Which coin ceased to be legal tender at midnight on 31 Dec 1960?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

Poetry Corner.

'Twas the night of Jesus' birth,

1. 'Twas the night of Jesus' birth,
when all through the town
not a creature was stirring
not even a cow.

The animals were munching
in their stable where
They hoped that the Saviour
would soon be there.

2. The sheep were all nestled
down for the night
While the shepherds made sure
that all was just right
Everyone thought that
it was just the same
as every other boring Bethlehem
day.

3. When out in the sky
there arose such a light
The shepherds couldn't look
'cause it was so bright
There was a beautiful angel
up in the sky
The shepherds just could not
understand why.

4. The shepherds were scared
and they covered their eyes
The angel told them
in a manger there lies
a Baby – the Saviour-
was born tonight
in the town of David
which was nearby.

5. The shepherds went off
to where the baby lay
They knew they would see
the Saviour this day.
More rapid than eagles
they ran so fast
to see the Saviour-
they didn't want to be last

6. They saw his mother
sitting by his bed
with Joseph softly rubbing
his sweet head.
Their hearts were both
filled with great joy
of the birth of
this very special boy.

7. His eyes...how they twinkled!
His dimples...how merry!
His cheeks were like roses,
His nose like a cherry!
On his mouth there developed
a smile
As though he wanted them to
stay awhile.
He had a sweet face and a little
round tummy
he kept looking up in the face of
his mummy.

8. It was truly a Silent Night
in that stable,
And they laughed to themselves,
whoever was able.
Each couldn't believe where he
was.
This was so much better
than meeting Santa Claus.
Merry Christmas to all,
and to all a Good Life!

Diary for December 2013.

ADVENT 1

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12 noon	Baptism Service

START OF TOY COLLECTION – NEW, UNWRAPPED GIFTS PLEASE
START OF POSADA

Wed 4th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments

Sat 7th	9.30-12.30am	Church & churchyard clean-up
	11am-2pm	Carol Singing at Country Baskets

ADVENT 2

Sun 8th	10.30am	All-Age Nativity Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion

TOY COLLECTION ENDS TODAY.

Mon 9th	12 noon	First Steps Toddler Service
		'Henry Bear's Christmas' – Parish Centre
	7.30pm	P.C.C. Meeting in Parish Centre
Tues 10th	12 noon	First Steps Toddler Service
		'Henry Bear's Christmas' – Parish Centre
Wed 11th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
	6pm	Carol singing at Lydgate Lodge
Thurs 12th	12 noon	First Steps Toddler Service
		'Henry Bear's Christmas' – Parish Centre
Sat 14th	10am-1pm	'Glitter, glue and baby goo'
		Christmas Activity morning' Parish Centre
	4pm	Renewal of marriage vows

ADVENT 3

Sun 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Mon 16th		Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch
Wed 18th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
Thurs 19th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge Care Home
	7pm	Westerton Road School Carol Service
Fri 20th	9.45am	Hill Top School Carol Service

ADVENT 4

Sun 22nd 10.30am Holy Communion (sung)
4pm Carols by Candlelight

Mon 23rd 10.30am Christingle making in church

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tues 24th 3pm Christingle Service aimed at younger children (under 7s)

5pm Christingle Service aimed at older children (7+)

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wed 25th 10.30am Christmas Day All-Age Communion

**Sun 29th 10.30am All-Age Communion with baptism
& blessing of marriage.**

Early January 2014

NO MIDWEEK COMMUNION ON 1ST JANUARY.

Sat 4th 9.30 Church & churchyard clean-up
-12 noon

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Sun 5th 8am Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Holy Communion (sung)
12.30pm Baptism Service

Wed 8th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (Iona setting) & **refreshments**

Sun 12th 10.30am All-Age Service
12 noon Holy Communion

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

Weddings:

Kelly Crawford and Tom Langstaff from Tingley were married at St. Mary's on 30th November.
Congratulations from the Church Family.

Baptisms:-

In November we welcomed 2 new members to our church in Baptism.

Jack Oliver Astin, Son of Mark and Kirsty from Tingley,
Charlotte Victoria Stones, Daughter of Alan and Rachel from Tingley.

Funerals:-

Gail Fox, East Ardsley, Beloved Mother, sadly missed

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Safety Razor. 2. Christian Barnard. 3. The Observer. 4. Marie Celeste. 5. The Preston Bypass. 6. A human voice. 7. David Lloyd-George. 8. Mark Chapman. 9. 1868. 10. 1960. 11. Nobel Prizes. 12. Paris. 13. Street Lighting (Gas). 14. Roald Amundsen. 15. 1918. 16. Countess Markievicz. 17. Glenn Miller. 18. The Wright Brothers. 19. Crossword. 20. George V. 21. Jack Johnson. 22. Thomas a' Becket. 23. Radio Luxembourg. 24. Farthing.

Albert.

'I want a word with you...'

Just over a year ago, as I walked into the Parish Centre for the PCC meeting, those were the words Julie Hyde spoke to me. Wondering what I might have done to get me into trouble I walked over towards her. 'Would you be prepared to take over the magazine?' she asked.

So here we are, a year later. It's been great to find out so many things about the Church, its history and, most importantly - you - the people who make it what it is. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to a marvellously diverse range of material, both light hearted and serious over the last 12 months. It's been a great pleasure to receive articles big and small. So if you have a story - why not get in touch? Have a very happy Christmas and new Year.

Editor.



**Woodkirk Parish
Centre
Monday's 7.30pm**

**New Slimming World group
opening on the 30th December
2013 ...Come along to find
out how to lose weight without
being hungry !
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Louise 07882 229133**

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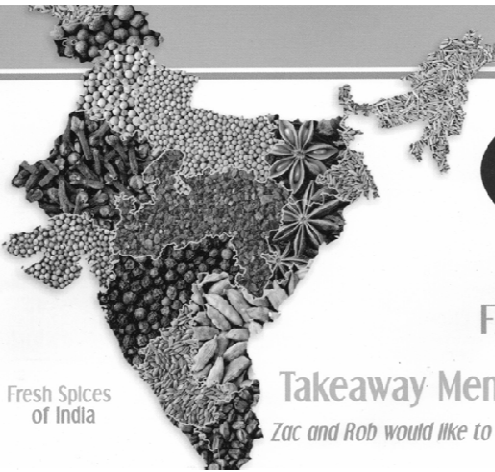
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am to 12:15pm Debbie Nelson 07896 536188
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 Marianne Ingham 07816 517838
Scouts	Friday 7:45pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
Explorer Scouts	Friday 7:45pm Chris Ingham 07816 517838
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 All Age (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 Tel: 01924 472375

Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

To **book weddings** please contact the Wedding Coordinator, Gail

Townsend on 0113 2528710 Email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org