

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Valentine's

February 2013



This Month:

**Confirmed Christians! Our Heritage;
Greenbelt Sale? Gay Rights; Help
Uganda! Your Vision Realised.**

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 Tel: 01924 472375 Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
Lay Pastoral Ministers:	Derek Barraclough 01924 472375 Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
Churchwardens:	Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001 Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
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 252 8935
Social Chairman:	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
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
Health & Safety Officer	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Electoral Roll Officer:	Dave Townsend 0113 2528710
Data Protection Officer:	Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 2524001
Magazine Editor & Weekly News Sheet.	David Townsend 0113 2528710 Email: dave2408.townsend@gmail.com Magazine Articles by the 15th of the month. Mobile: 07745 301746 Contributions for the Weekly Sheet by Thursday evening please.
Deanery Synod rep:	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

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.

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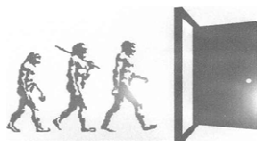
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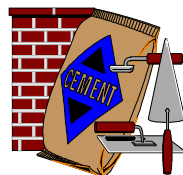
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on

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the **Daily Newspaper** on
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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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Developing St. Mary's as a Heritage base.

One of the wonderful things about exploring the planned redevelopment of the rear of the church has been the new possibilities which open up. Things we have not considered seem to present themselves, and new avenues of thinking emerge.

Having been in on-going contact with local historian and archivist, Peter Aldred, we have developed ideas of a wall of photos of the church and community down the ages as a permanent display in the area. Peter is keen to find a new home for his collection, one where others can appreciate the rich archive he has spent years accumulating and is now keen to pass on to others.

If St. Mary's can be at least part of the answer to that need, it would allow the building (which epitomises the history of the area) to display its heritage. That would allow the many folk, who currently come to research family history through the burial records of the church, to see and appreciate something of what the community in which their ancestors lived looked like.

There is much history which is contained in the stones of the Church, its windows and its graveyard which could be made much more accessible to the local schools, history groups and the community. We want to explore developing educational packs and guides for a variety of educational Key Stages, and the tools to allow visitors to easily appreciate the historical significance of St. Mary's.

Those of us who know St. Mary's are aware of its role in the development of the community since its monastic foundations – but many don't – and we believe it's a heritage worth celebrating and making more of!

If you have ideas which might add to the development of a heritage base, please speak to either Amanda or Neal. If you have resources or information which might further enrich the materials we seek to produce, let us know.

Revd. Amanda

Epiphany Confirmations Start the New Year with a Bang!

On Epiphany Sunday, we were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Wakefield to St Mary's to lead our Baptism and Confirmation service. Four candidates were being confirmed, Paul Martin, Hannah Tombling, Laura Wiesiolek and Gareth Twohey. Gareth was also being Baptised. It was great to welcome them and their sponsors.

The first part of the service was Gareth's Baptism, with the Bishop reminding us all of our Baptisms by liberally sprinkling holy water over the whole congregation! However, Gareth received his fair share of the water as well – it was dripping off him for most of the service. Then we moved onto the confirmations. It was nice to hear from all the candidates about why they have chosen to be confirmed. They made their promises to confirm their Baptism.

These are some of the wonderful comments from group members. Paul said being confirmed was 'a great experience, part of an amazing day.' He has been euphoric about the whole day ever since. The course has been interesting, emotional, enlightening and thought provoking. Hannah said: 'When Amanda announced she would be running the course I felt that it was something I was ready to do. It has been a great journey and the Confirmation Service was brilliant. I must admit I was very nervous standing up to introduce myself and doing the reading. (As a teacher I am quite happy facing 400+ children in assembly, however grown-ups are another matter!) As I went up to read I said a little prayer and while I was reading I felt supported. "That's the Holy Spirit" Amanda told me'.

She continues: 'It was very important to me to get Confirmed at St Mary's, although I don't live in Woodkirk, I have been coming to the family service ever since I started volunteering at Brownies in 2002. Dean and I were married here in 2006 and both of my boys Will and Ned have been Christened here. They also join me at Family Services with the Brownies. Thank you to everyone who joined us that day, it was fantastic to feel so supported by the congregation and to have so many good wishes.'

Gareth was also Baptised. He said there were 3 reasons for making the commitment, firstly he became Godfather to children of some friends, and he decided then to follow up by being baptised and confirmed

Secondly after their engagement Gareth and Laura wanted a church wedding, not because of the setting, but because they wanted to make their vows to God. Thirdly, they wanted to bring their future children up with Christian values, and to do that they needed to know more about the Christian faith. Gareth said 'It was great to see so many people from St. Mary's at the Service, it made it a very special day.' Gareth also praised the course and Revd Amanda's passion and knowledge really came across, bringing the Christian message alive. Gareth and Laura are to be married on 26th May and Gareth would like as many folk as possible from St. Mary's to be there.

Revd. Amanda added: It was a wonderful way to begin the New Year at St. Mary's. Four young(ish!) adults sharing with the congregation their intent to grow their faith as they were confirmed.

For me, it felt a poignant and significant moment. Since mid-October, week by week we have met together, these four and I, with differing levels of knowledge, and different backgrounds and life experiences.

We have been using a new course, called 'Beyond Ourselves' which has helped the group to explore what Christian faith might mean for them today. Not just about understanding the tenets of Christian belief, it has been about experiencing the love and the presence of God personally. To be part of that, to see emotions touched and healed, to see eyes opened to new truth, has been one of the greatest joys of my ministry.

After communion, the newly confirmed received their candles which they will keep. Following the Blessing at the end of the service, the Bishop led the newly confirmed up the aisle to the back of church. We shared a faith lunch, which traditionally at St Mary's are always well supported!

Overall this was a terrific way for the church family of St Mary's to start 2013 and move us forward into the new year, a lot of people were heard to say how much they'd enjoyed the service and having lunch in church rather than going round to the Parish Centre was really nice too!

Anyone thinking of Confirmation should speak to Revd. Amanda, who will be delighted to give guidance and details about what is best for you.

Neal and Revd. Amanda



Above, pictured around the font at the end of the service is, left to right: Rev Amanda Barraclough (Vicar of St Mary's), Paul Martin, Hannah Tombling, Bishop of Wakefield, Gareth Twohey, Laura Wiesiolek.

Do you want to grow??

Lent offers all of us the opportunity to experience small group learning and growing over a 5 week period. We will be using materials prepared by the Diocese, which will be available to everyone. 'Growing in Christ' is a Lent course using images from across the Diocese to inspire discussion, reflection and questioning. It will focus on the life and ministry of Jesus and how that inspires the life and ministry of the church of today.

Just because you "never go to these things" please don't write off this invitation! Please give it your consideration, and ask yourself, "What have I got to lose?" More importantly, "What might I gain?" and "What might I miss out on?" If it 'does what it says on the tin' you will have the opportunity to grow- and that doesn't happen every day.

Lent Groups will run on Tuesdays (afternoons at the Vicarage and evening sessions at Gail's House.) from 19th Feb-19th March. See the diary on P40 for further details.

Revd Amanda

Confirmation down the ages...

In contrast to the January Confirmation Service, Barbara Tate remembers her own Confirmation from the late 1950's:

When I heard the news that a baptism, confirmation and communion will all take place on January 6th, it started me thinking about my own confirmation. It was at St Mary's, although at the time I attended St Luke's in Soothill. It was a joint service with the Bishop of Pontefract presiding.

My confirmation was on Friday 21st March 1958 (can't believe it was 55 years ago) I was about 14. My confirmation classes were conducted by Rev R A Maddocks at St Paul's Vicarage, Hanging Heaton. Rev Maddocks was a great bear of a man with a beard. He scared the living day lights out of me. At the time I attended St Luke's Church, Soothill which was part of the parish of Hanging Heaton. We joined with St Mary's for the confirmation service. I remember I had a white dress and jacket. It had been made for me by a neighbour for the church pantomime where I had been playing the principle girl, in Aladdin.

We met in the parish centre and I wore a white veil with a cross on it. My godmother had bought me my white sandals and my grandma had bought me an ivory backed prayer book (it would be frowned upon now). Although I remember little of the service, I know the act of confirmation had a profound effect on me.

How times have changed, I really enjoyed the service of Baptism and Confirmation on 6th January; it was so different to how I remember my own. Back in 1958 it was very formal: I remember the boys being told not to put Brylcream on their hair so the Bishop's hands didn't get messy. No such problem for the girls, as we had to wear a veil. I remember going up in two's to kneel in front of the bishop. I think that there were about 20 candidates, mostly about my age but there were some adults. I don't remember having a sponsor though. There were refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre, a bit like the faith lunch we had, although I don't remember taking any food with us.

I preferred the 2013 Confirmation service, it was much more friendly and informal and it was nice being a part of it by it being in the Communion service. I still have my prayer book though, and also the one given to my mother on her confirmation. I wonder if the service has brought back memories for the rest of the congregation?

Barbara

What's happening with our Greenbelt?

As you may know, the Greenbelt land at Chidswell is planned for development, including 500 houses and 35 hectares of industrial land. A group known as the 'Chidswell Action Group' are very much against this, as well as local people who are concerned about increased traffic, pollution and extra strain on the local infrastructure, notwithstanding the questionable use of designated Greenbelt land for housing and industrial units. You may have seen the 'Save Our Greenbelt' signs in many front gardens along Dewsbury Road and associated side streets.

The complication from St. Mary's point of view is that the land is largely owned by the Church Commissioners, who are set to profit from the land sale. In the middle of all this is Revd. Amanda who has had no say in the decisions made by the Church Commissioners to buy or sell the land. She finds herself being blamed by some parties, just for being the nearest Vicar. In fact Revd. Amanda went to the first public protest meeting, last year and has spoken about her concerns, most recently on BBC Radio Leeds breakfast program on the 10th January. She recognises the validity of arguments from both sides of the debate, and is trying to do everything possible to ensure that full and frank dialogue happens. That way, if Kirklees do proceed with the plans, at least local folk will have some voice in how they unfold.

Ultimately the decision to use the land rests with Kirklees Council and it is they who have the power to refuse planning permission. There will be a Protest rally and march on Saturday 3rd March at 11:00am, starting from Huddersfield Railway Station, St. George's Square. The rally and march will be attended by groups from across Kirklees opposed to Kirklees Council decisions. The Council are expected to ratify their plans for development at a council meeting on March 6th.

One further possible ray of hope comes from Robert Light (no pun intended), the Kirklees Conservative Group Leader who has stated that if they have a majority following the local elections in May, they will scrap the plans and replace them with a local plan which reflects the views of the public of Kirklees.

David.

After 125 years, the end of Wakefield Diocese?

At the beginning of March, the Diocesan Synod will be making its final vote about whether we are, as a Diocese, in favour of the transition from three Yorkshire Diocese to one. The plan is to amalgamate Ripon and Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford Dioceses into one. There would be five 'area bishops', one of whom would be the Diocesan Bishop, and the whole diocese would be divided into five areas, each under the oversight of its own bishop. It is likely to be known as the Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales). Each of the three Synods in each of the three existing Dioceses, will meet and vote on the same date, 2nd March.

What difference would it make to us?

Because we are in the Leeds City Council area, instead of looking to Wakefield, we would be under the Bishop of Leeds and would look to Leeds. A new Bishop would be appointed. Leeds Parish Church would probably be the focal point of our Diocesan gatherings.

We are currently in the Deanery of Birstall, and deanery gatherings at the moment include Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton, Birstall, Morley and Drighlington, amongst others. If the plan is implemented, we will be in a new deanery which will mean that we work alongside other Leeds parishes south of the city centre, but including Morley, Gildersome, Drighlington & East Ardsley. In terms of weekly worship there would be no obvious changes.

Why is this being considered?

If the church boundaries are more consistent with the boundaries recognised by local authorities and communities, it makes mission and engagement within them easier. It is expected that in the longer term there will be a saving in costs, and systems will be in place to enable the stronger parishes to support those who struggle more effectively. Expertise and skills can also be shared more easily.

How can I find out more, and ask questions?

There will be a series of open meetings across the Diocese over the next month. The closest of these is at St. Catherine's, Agbrigg, Wakefield on Thursday 7th February at 7pm. I am on the Diocesan Synod and will be attending on 2nd March to cast my vote. If you want to tell me how you feel about this plan, it will help me to vote in a way which represents the views of the widest possible cross-section of people.

Revd. Amanda

They are making Bags of Difference - can you help?

Ed and Chris Mitchell tell their remarkable story about how they started their 'Bags of Difference' Charity in South West Uganda.

"Bags Of Difference" was established to help the staff and their families of Kisiizi Hospital and primary school in South West Uganda supplement their incomes, mainly to help with education fees. Education is extremely important to Ugandan families, and costs a lot of money. All pupils must have uniform in order to attend school, and have to provide their own stationery. Government schools may have up to 100 children in a class. Private schools often have classes of 30, but pupils need to pay tuition fees.

Chris writes:

I first became involved in 2008 having visited as a school teacher and Ed as a chaplain with our friend Dr Helen Smith. The staff at the hospital were very keen to send their children to school, but just couldn't afford it. The hospital is so rural, there are no jobs around to supplement income, and the danger is that people move away to try and earn more money, then their skills are lost to the hospital and surrounding area.

We first went out there together in 2008. I worked towards getting the project going in 2009, and that's when I started to sell the bags, on return. So in 2009 I taught them how to make patchwork bags using the local fabrics. Each time I went back (2010, 2011) I brought a new idea, e.g. aprons, oven gloves, waistcoats, table mats, wallets. Some of their efforts were really rough to begin with, but they were very keen to learn, and helped each other to improve. The Westerners at the hospital also helped to say what was acceptable and what people in the UK would prefer. We also tried some embroidery to make some things different, and so stand out.

Ed and I moved house in October 2011 and it has taken me a while to get the project known up here in North Yorkshire, so I didn't do many talks last year, but things have picked up now and I have several talks booked for the future. The furthest I have travelled is across to the west coast - 140 miles round trip, but that was a one off. Mostly it is local groups - perhaps a 20 mile radius on average.

I don't have another trip (to Uganda) planned at the moment. They are doing very well making bags - I just need to keep selling them! Besides, it costs me about £1000 a time to go and I could usefully spend that money helping in other ways. The project is not a charity as such because the members work very hard for their money, along the lines of "Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you will feed him for life" So it's a hand-up, not a hand-out.

(What Chris doesn't mention is the service they provide travelling far and wide to sell the bags at Christmas Fairs and the like with no cost to the people of Uganda who receive all the funds from the sales. David).

The hospital itself is run by charitable donations, buildings, wages, equipment etc, although patients are supposed to pay for their medicines, but often they don't have any money. Some people even sell off a piece of land which should be helping to feed their families, so there is a fund to pay for medicine in some cases.

From 2009 when I started to sell bags until now, we've sent over £16,000 back to Uganda. I have stories about children attending school and universities that would not have happened, and one family now has the rent for a little shop, selling chips to the student nurses - this mum of 2 used to earn £15 a month as a house girl.

By making bags from locally sourced materials that are sold in the UK at western prices, members of our co-operative can hope to significantly supplement their income, in addition to enhancing their motivation and sense of self-esteem. Many of the local people will be caring not only for their own children but orphaned children from their extended family, with over 200 children supported by the 70+ members of our co-operative. 95% of the sale price of the bags, aprons, oven gloves, waistcoats, table mats and wallets will go directly back to the person who made it at Kisiizi and the remaining 5% goes into the co-operative to buy new materials.

How can you help? There are 2 ways:

If you have a group that would appreciate a talk with lots of photographs, stories and bags, aprons, oven gloves, waistcoats, table mats and wallets etc for sale then contact Chris on 01535 631837 (e-mail: christexart@btinternet.com). Or speak to Revd. Amanda.

Buy a Bag! Revd. Amanda has a selection of bags and other items for sale.

David.

A Message from the Heart

Averille Milburn describes her special connection with flowers.

This month it will be a year since I had the pleasure of taking over the floral responsibilities from Kath - I know, I can't believe it's a year either.

I would like to thank everyone who has either donated to the flower fund or paid for floral tributes to be placed in the sanctuary. The generous donations have been very gratefully accepted.

For those who don't know briefly, I've been involved with flowers for just over twenty years and taught Floral Art & Design, Floristry & Flower Arranging (as well as Art & Crafts) at college for 10 of those years but although it has always been a passion sadly when Les, my husband, died, my passion for flowers died with him - as I always believed that my ability with flowers was a gift from God this was an even harder thing to bear.

When Kath, said she had sold her house and was moving (quite quickly), I honestly wasn't sure I was equal to the task, but spending the last year quietly in church and often alone creating the floral displays has not only brought back the passion I thought lost forever but I have felt God's arms around me as I have worked. So my 'thank you' to my church family is not just for your generous donations but also for having faith in my abilities, and giving me the opportunity to regain not only my 'passion' for flowers but my love for God too.

I hope you will give me the honour and privilege to continue with my 'passion' for many years to come.

Averille

The Children's Society

On Christmas Eve we held our two Christingle Services, raising £253. This amount included £79 from the 'Collecting Candles' (a money box in the shape of a candle) brought along to the service by some of the congregation. The money you have raised has helped the Children's Society to have a positive impact across many areas of children's lives in the last year. Your support this year will help brighten the future for more children.

Thank you to everyone who came along to help make the 300 Christingles. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the pupils and staff of Westerton School who kindly donated £87.40 to the Children's Society from their Carol Service.

Susan Walshaw

Give a "Mug a Hug" Big Brew Coffee Morning.

Saturday 2nd March 11.00 am to 1.00pm.

Once again we are holding a "Big Brew" event at St Mary's, not only to raise awareness of Fair traded goods, but to try and raise some money to enable us to purchase some World Vision gifts too. Last year you responded fantastically. We set ourselves a target of £25 to buy birthing kits and you raised over £100 so we were able to buy lots of other good stuff too.

So come along on the morning of 2nd March (It's a '2 for 1' event as it is our monthly church clean up morning too from 9.00 am) So come along and lend a hand, then reward yourself with a lovely cup of fair trade Tea or Coffee (or maybe even a hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows!!) and some homemade goodies. There will also be a Fair Trade stall selling all your fair trade favourites; Stem Ginger Cookies, chocolate bars etc. there will also be a raffle for a hamper of fair trade goodies.

You can also knit a "hug for your mug" cup cover. Pattern available from Dawn (see poster in the porch). Let's have a "hug" display and see how creative you can be! (They don't have to be knitted but can be made out of felt etc too). We look forward to seeing you there.

Dawn



February is Pledge Month.

To support the 'Back of Church Re-ordering' project, this month you can make a pledge of financial commitment. The idea is you can write down an amount you would like to give towards this project, but there will be no expectation of payment until we are ready to start the work. Please consider prayerfully how much you might be able to contribute to this exciting project. Envelopes and response slips are available in Church during February.

Rev'd. Amanda

Lisa moves on from the Playgroup....

We were sad to be given the news that Lisa Fyffe, our Playgroup Supervisor, has decided to move on to make herself more readily available for supply work in a school setting. She told parents and staff that it was a decision she had not reached lightly, and she was sorry to leave a setting she had enjoyed so thoroughly.

Lisa, a trained teacher, has recently had increasing opportunities to provide supply cover in a nearby school, and feels that now is the time to make herself more fully available for that. When she was appointed to the post at St. Mary's Playgroup 2 years ago, she made it clear that her longer-term plans would be to return to the classroom when the family had grown a bit more. The last 2 years have seen her build on the work of our previous supervisor, Julie Hyde, to put her own stamp on the Playgroup, and consolidate the successes of the past. As a result, the Playgroup remains as popular as ever, and continues to have a strong reputation in the area. So thank you, Lisa, for all that you have done for St. Mary's Playgroup. We wish you every success and God's blessing upon you as you move back into a more formal education setting.

Playgroup Supervisor required!

As a result of Lisa's impending departure, St. Mary's Playgroup are looking to appoint a Supervisor to commence, if possible, after Easter, on 8th April 2013. A minimum of NVQ Level 3 would be required. The hours are 10.5 per week, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Hours are currently paid at £9.03 p/h.

Application forms are available from Amanda, and the closing date for all applications will be Friday 15th February 2013.

Revd. Amanda

What is the All Age Service about Anyway?

Never been to an All Age Service? Thought about going but not sure what to expect?

Here is your own secret guide to what goes on every second Sunday of the Month: On Sunday 13th January Revd. Amanda started by asking us what we found refreshing? Walking up and down the centre aisle, several folk offered her a comment, some said: A lay-in in the morning; Water! A Shower! A sunny morning! Whilst a more unexpected answer was 'A win for Batley Bulldogs!'

Revd. Amanda agreed with these and pointed out that ASDA also has the same 'Refreshing' theme! A practical way of refreshing ourselves is to wash, and so Revd. Amanda invited us to wash a stone as a symbolic way of God making us clean. Volunteers took a stone and washed it in a bowl of water. We sang 'Wash me clean in that cool river' as the volunteers each cleaned their stone.

So having been washed clean, we were now ready, suggested Revd. Amanda, for a fresh start. A bit like a New Year's resolution. What were, she asked us, the top ten New Year's resolutions? For a bit of fun, she invited us to write down as many as we could think of. Have a try yourself. Then she told us what they were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Read more Books. | 6. Travel more |
| 2. Save Money | 7. Sell stuff I don't need |
| 3. Loose Weight | 8. Buy a Tablet (computer) |
| 4. Re-decorate | 9. Organise my photos |
| 5. Take better photos | 10. Do something for charity. |

Surprising stuff. The way that Jesus made a fresh start was with Baptism. Our troupe of Amateur Actors now took centre stage, with Brian playing John the Baptist, he managed to symbolically baptise (no-one got wet) Gill, Julie, and 2 young Beavers. Then when Derek (Jesus) stepped forward, the heavenly voice of God (Sandra) spoke as he was baptised.

Revd. Amanda explained that baptism gives us a blank canvas and new equipment – the Holy Spirit – to help us make a new start and a better life.

more..

Dawn told us the true story of Fred Lemon, a habitual criminal driven by anger. One night in his prison cell, he saw 3 men standing at the end of the bed. One said 'this is Jesus, listen to him.' Jesus told Fred about his crimes, but also about the good things he had done. Jesus told him to get rid of the hate and nastiness to be a good Christian.

Even after his vision, Fred did not change immediately, but later as he waited to go to the prison Carol Service, he realised the true meaning of Christmas – forgiveness. Fred changed his ways and told others of his faith and hope.

Our Cubs and Beavers prayed for the world and for all of us and finally we celebrated everyone's birthday in January. The service is always punctuated with hymns and songs and each month there is a different theme. Church is one place you can go without a reason. You don't need to book in advance - just turn up and feel welcomed. See the world in a different way, in a dramatic, 900 year old setting. Every second Sunday of the month – all welcome.

David

Welcome Pack ready!

One of the needs we identified in developing our Transformational Plan in 2008 was the creation of a Welcome Pack. We know what a great place this is to live, but for those who move into the area from elsewhere, it's not always easy to find out information about local amenities and services. There is no obvious 'gathering place' or high street, community centre or library in the parish. How do you find all this stuff out?

The Core Group have been busy working on the content, and Dave Townsend has kindly been printing off the first run of the pack. These will be available to offer to those who move into new homes near you. If you see a removal van unloading, why not make a point of making sure a St. Mary's Welcome Pack is offered to that household? It offers information about Schools, local businesses, amenities (sports centres, bowling alleys, petrol stations, libraries etc) as well as listing what happens here at St. Mary's.

It includes a short Prayer of Blessing on a New Home, and we hope that those who are given it will feel it is a worthwhile folder of information to turn to as they settle in. That way the Church is being Good News to those who are seeking to make the area their home. You could even take round a 'New Home' card, or a bunch of flowers, so that you are being a good neighbour to those who move in nearby!

Revd Amanda

Inspirational Christians.

In this, our fifth and last in the Series, Dawn writes about an inspirational Dutch woman.

Part 5: Cornelia who?

I bet quite a lot of you will have heard of Anne Frank, the young girl who kept a diary during the 2nd World War, and I bet if we asked anyone in Morley, they would have heard of her too.

But I want to tell you about someone who I would guess if we asked, there would not be many people in Morley who had heard of, her name is Cornelia ten Boom.

Cornelia, known as Corrie was the daughter of a watchmaker and repairer who lived in Haarlem, Holland. She lived in a small house with nooks and crannies and uneven floors and little did the ten Boom's realise it, but it would be this quiriness that would enable them to provide refuge during the dark days of occupation during the Second World War. In 1940 the Netherlands were invaded by Germany.

The ten Boom's had always shown their Christian values of caring and providing for others, but during the occupation, this led Corrie and her family to become a major part in helping Jewish refugees. Corrie and her family provided rest and food to Jews passing through during their escape from persecution, and over the following months, taking advantage of the strange design of the house, a secret room was built, in which people could hide from the German raids. It was a tiny room, about two and a half feet wide, but it became vital for the protection of the "visitors" to the little watch shop in Haarlem. Corrie was just an ordinary person, and in her book "The Hiding Place" she says,

"I knew I was not clever, or subtle, or sophisticated, if our house was becoming a meeting place for need and supply, it was through some strategy far higher than mine".

Corrie tells that she was always very nervous when she had to make initial contact with people in positions that could help. It was always slightly tricky as you couldn't know what the political views of all these people were. However, when she thought about it Corrie recognised that she didn't need to, as God did! and He would point her in the right direction, all Corrie had to do was to follow his leading, one step at a time, holding every decision up to him in prayer. When Corrie was taken to meet other likeminded people, she says

"I was embarrassed to hear myself referred to as "the head of an operation here in the city". She knew that she had a hollow space under the stairs where she kept ration cards, and some haphazard friendships, she didn't see these as an operation, she felt the others were competent, disciplined, and professional.

These activities went on for about a year and a half, but in February 1944 the little watch shop was raided. There were 6 hiding in the secret room when Corrie, her sister Betsie and her father were arrested, unfortunately, several more friends were captured who turned up to give them news of other captured friends.

They were all taken to the Hague where the Gestapo HQ was and from there they were taken to a Dutch Prison. It surprised me when I read her book, that throughout her time in prison Corrie doesn't pray for release or for death to her captors, but prays for guidance.

What I found most surprising thing was that Corrie and her sister managed to stay together throughout their time in prison. However, the more you read of Corrie's book you recognise that her sister Betsie's faith gave Corrie the strength to get through.

They were moved from Holland to a concentration camp in Germany called Ravensbruck where they tried to rest, in bunks of many people all crammed together. Corrie complained about the fleas, but Betsie in her calm way prayed to God to show them how to live in such a place. Taking up her bible she read in first Thessalonians

"Comfort the frightened, help the weak, be patient with everyone, see that none of you repays evil for evil but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus".

Corrie did not agree with her sister's calm acceptance, however, some months later they recognised that the guards never entered their dormitory because of the fleas. This was how they had been able to share morning and evening prayers and bible readings with their fellow prisoners every day without being caught.

Corrie's father was in the same prison camp but sadly passed away within about 10 days of their arrival. It was many months later when Corrie was in isolation in prison that she discovers this, but her heart is gladdened by the fact that her father was spared a lot of suffering and would have been at peace.

Corrie says in her book *Tramp for the Lord* "Looking back across the years of my life, I can see the working of a divine pattern which I recognise as the way of God. When I was in a prison camp in Holland during the war I often prayed, Lord never let the enemy put me in a German concentration camp, but God answered no to that prayer. Yet in that German camp with all its horror I found many prisoners who had never heard of Jesus. Many died or were killed, but many died with the name of Jesus on their lips".

Sadly Corrie's sister Betsie was taken ill and passed away on December 16th 1944 an event all the more poignant as Corrie was actually released from prison on the 28th December 1944.

After the end of the War Corrie Ten Boom travelled around the world sharing her story. She has enjoyed hospitality from places as diverse as America to Borneo sharing the love of God, and she marvelled that after all that time, in her case into her 80's, there was still enough of God's love to go around.

In the later years of her life Corrie lived in California and passed away on her 91st birthday in April 1983.

Whilst, hopefully all of us here will never have to go through hardships and troubles of a level that Corrie Ten Boom and her family did all those years ago, we still have modern day troubles:-

- the economic climate,
- the employment situation,
- soldiers fighting in areas of the world,
- family illness etc,

May the example of Corrie Ten Boom remind us that through making Jesus a part of our lives, through prayer and reflection, we may find the skills within ourselves to help others find the knowledge and love of God.

Dawn.

You can be Gay and a Bishop—but not a Woman.

Following a vote in the general synod to prevent women becoming Bishops, the Church of England has dropped its prohibition on gay clergy in civil partnerships becoming bishops. The announcement, from the Church's House of Bishops, would allow (male) gay clergy to become bishops, if they promise to be celibate.

Conservative evangelical Anglicans say they will fight the move in the Church's ruling general synod. The issue has split the church since 2003 amid a row over gay cleric Jeffrey John becoming Bishop of Reading. The Very Revd. John, now Dean of St Albans, was forced to withdraw from the role shortly after having initially accepted it, following protests from traditionalists.

The Church of England has already agreed to allow people in civil partnerships to become clergy, provided they promise they will remain celibate, and repent for active homosexuality in the past. In July last year, the House of Bishops said it would review this decision, made in 2005, to decide whether it could also relate to bishops. In the list of decisions at its latest meeting in December, it has now confirmed that those conditions could now extend to bishops.

The Rt. Rev Graham James, Bishop of Norwich, said on behalf of the House of Bishops that it would be "unjust" to exclude anyone for consideration for the role of bishop who was "seeking to live fully in conformity with the Church's teaching on sexual ethics or other areas of personal life and discipline".

The Reverend Rod Thomas, chairman of the evangelical group Reform, said the idea of appointing people in civil partnerships as bishops had not been agreed or debated by the wider Church. Conservative evangelicals have warned they would be willing to bring in bishops from overseas to avoid serving under a gay bishop.

The Rev Colin Coward is director of the Changing Attitude group, which campaigns for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the Church. He said: "It is good that this is being extended to bishops. "I'm not sure that I trust it and I think the requirement, for example, that somebody needs to repent past homosexual activity is absolutely absurd. I think the Church has issued a statement which will be laughed at by the majority in this country. I think it is unenforceable and I think it is totally inappropriate."

Worldwide, anger over the appointment of actively gay men

and women as bishops, especially in the US, has stimulated the conservative Gafcon movement, through which conservative Anglican provinces in Africa and elsewhere have begun to function independently of the official Anglican Communion.

Gay marriage in the Church

The Church of England has said it was not properly consulted on a plan to ban it from conducting gay marriages. A C of E spokesman accused the government of making up the policy "on the hoof" which he said was "absurd".

Government officials had not disclosed details of their plans when they met Church officials, the spokesman said. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport said it had been "quite specific" on planned protections for religious groups opposed to gay marriage. The Church of England and Roman Catholics, among other denominations, have voiced opposition to same-sex marriage and are expected to oppose the government bill allowing it, even with the protections included in it.

In a statement to the House of Commons on Tuesday, Culture Secretary Maria Miller announced a "quadruple lock" of measures to protect religious freedom, including an explicit ban on the Church of England and Church in Wales performing same-sex marriage ceremonies.

On the previous Friday, Prime Minister David Cameron had announced that he wanted gay people to be able to marry, but that no organisation opposed to the move would be forced to conduct the ceremonies. A C of E spokesman said: "There is this sense of the government slightly making it up on the hoof. This is an important and serious issue and a complex area of law. Doing all this on the hoof is absurd."

Meanwhile the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said he thought the ban was a "step too far". "I'm not saying that the Church in Wales is ready to conduct gay marriages, but it ought to be in a position to decide that for itself," he told BBC Radio 4's World at One.

The government's thinking was probably that it needed to protect the established Church with a law prohibiting gay marriages to avoid possible legal challenges, he said. "But all that was done without any consultation at all - it came as a total shock to us.

"I think some of us would want to argue that there's got to be a way round this legally, without making it a criminal act to hold such marriages in church if we so wish."



This Mothering Sunday March 10th , as you remember your mother, Mothers' Union are asking you to do something a little different. Help to change the lives of people all over the world by buying a 'Make a Mother's Day' gift. Each gift is an example of the programmes we aim to fund to enable families to create stable, sustainable futures. Your support will mean these goals can be achieved.

Go to www.makeamothersday.org to have a special card to give to your mother. Alternatively you can give a gift in memory of your mother, as a tribute to a life-time of caring. Please help MU raise over £150,000 which is needed to fund vital projects in the UK and around the world.

Mothers' Union works through a grassroots membership of over 4 million people around the world supporting families and communities. The aim is to empower people by sharing the skills they need to create a better life for themselves and their families. With your help MU aim to inspire their beneficiaries, give them the opportunity to learn to read and write, to grow fruit and vegetables and work within their families and communities to support each other and build a better life for generations to come. A gift, however small, can make a real difference to a mother's life.

IMPORTANT: This year Mothering Sunday is on Sunday 10th March 2013 so please ensure you place your orders by Friday 1st March 2013 so we can send you the card in time.

You will be sent a confirmation email which will include a link to your downloadable card. This can be printed and folded and once you complete your personal message it can be given to your mother.

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

Brrrrr.... Nothing like a bit of a cold snap to remind us it's still winter!! It's not too late to look through seed catalogues and order seeds. Here are a few jobs you can do in February.

Sandra's Top Tip: February is the last month in which you can take hardwood cuttings from ornamental shrubs such as cornus, salix, roses & ribes; otherwise, wait until November.

1. If you have not already done so, dig a trench for runner beans and fill it with rotted compost or kitchen waste.
2. Chit your potatoes. Put them in a light, frost free place and watch them sprout!
3. Plant a few onion sets – leave some for early spring though!
4. This is the time to plant fruit trees. Dig a nice big hole and put plenty of organic matter at the bottom.
5. Fancy some garlic? Plant some now. (In pots if you like).
6. Tomatoes can be started off in a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill now, ready for later growing in the greenhouse.
7. Whilst it is too early to feed fruit in general, make an exception for strawberries. Apply a tomato feed to encourage spring flowering.
8. Place gladioli corms in seed trays and place them in a light, warm spot. This helps to create an earlier display.
9. Ensure light levels are adequate for house plants.
10. Do we have a plan of action for the coming seasons? If not, draw one up now.

Sandra.



Making a lasting difference to St. Mary's.

Do you have a vision for the future of St. Mary's? Would you like to feel happy in the knowledge that you have been able to contribute towards that vision? Leaving St. Mary's a gift in your Will allows you to make that happen. Revd. Amanda explains the thinking:

'We were discussing Legacy after we had the giving campaign 'Giving in Grace' last year – so that we weren't just thinking about the immediate financial issues facing us, but how as Christians, we think about what God has entrusted to us. We often think "What difference can I make?" A Legacy means a gift can be used for something specific which will really make a difference.'

The PCC and Revd. Amanda have put together a handy booklet explaining just what needs to be done. You can pick up a copy of the leaflet called '**Making a lasting difference to St. Mary's**', from the back of Church or contact Revd. Amanda or myself (editor) for a copy.

David

Sell, Sell, Sell....

Last year we were able to have a stall on Dewsbury market on three occasions, selling bric-a-brac, household items and collectables, to raise funds for St Mary's. We raised over £300. We also raised over £400 through items generously donated and sold via an on-line auction site. We would like to continue this year and do even better.

So if you are having a spring clean and find otherwise good items that you would like to dispose of, perhaps we could help and raise further "cash" to maintain and support the ministry of St Mary's? If you can help then please contact me Derek Barraclough at the vicarage or phone 01924 472375.

Throughout the year I will give updates and requests for specific items that we find are good sellers, Thanks and God bless.

Derek

My Mum has Dementia...

Recently I went to visit my parents in Lincoln. We go there three or four times a year and my brother had told me Mum's memory was getting worse. Mum asked if we wanted a drink. I asked for Orange Juice, but she came back with Apple. I thought this was a bit odd but didn't say anything.

Dad told me Mum's memory wasn't what it used to be. Mum noticed Dad had scratched his arm on a shrub. 'You'll need to get that cleaned up.' She advised. Dad said it would be OK and turned his arm away so that it was out of sight. About a minute or so later, he turned his arm again – purely by accident, exposing the wound once again. 'You'll need to get that cleaned up', advised Mum in exactly the same way as the first time. It was clear she hadn't remembered the scratch or her own comment about it.

I was quite shocked by this, but further discussion with other family members revealed other similar incidents. Something was (and is) definitely wrong. Her short term memory has deteriorated rapidly and this is a sign of the onset of dementia.

I know my Mum is not the only one out there with this illness, but what can we do about it? There is currently no absolute cure. There are drugs available which help, but these do not offer a cure. We are encouraged to make sure our loved one sees a Doctor, but this can also be fruitless with only one in three cases being sent for the proper evaluation tests country-wide. The disease seems to carry a stigma like Cancer did in the 60's, where it isn't discussed and we try to pretend it isn't there.

The Government has launched an initiative called 'Dementia friends'. By taking a short training course, members of the public learn how best to help someone with Dementia. This is an idea taken from Japan, who have been dealing with Dementia as well as an aging society for much longer. The trend is that more people will be afflicted with this problem, and the Government expects that there will be over 1 million people in the UK with one or other type of Dementia by the year 2020.

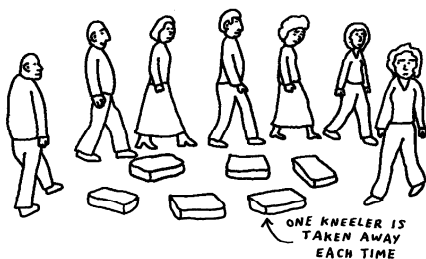
If you would like to be a 'Dementia Friend' or just need to know more, the Alzheimer's Society Website contains a lot of useful information. Meanwhile we can only offer our support, prayers and help for our loved ones and hope that one day an answer will emerge to this debilitating illness.

David.

GAMES

SUITABLE FOR CHURCH PARTIES

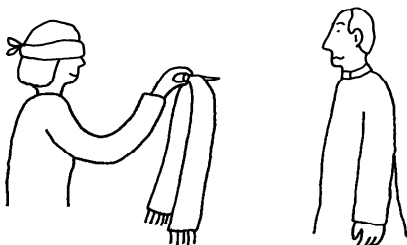
MUSICAL PRAYERS



PASS THE COLLECTION PLATE



PIN THE STOLE ON THE VICAR



THAT ONE WHERE YOU DRESS UP IN A CASSOCK AND BIRETTA (AND EAT CHOCOLATE WITH A KNIFE AND FORK)



CartoonChurch.com

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Parish Centre Cleaner required.

The PCC have agreed that the Parish Centre needs a paid cleaner to keep it up to scratch. Are you that person? It would need to be cleaned once a week and is estimated to be about 2 to 3 hours work. Ideally the work would be done over the weekend, to leave it clean and ready for Monday morning.

The pay would be in line with Government guidelines regarding minimum pay scales (currently £6.19 /hour). If you are interested, please see Revd. Amanda or give her a call on 01924 472375.

David



Brownie News

The Brownies have been very busy planning their spring program; we will be starting our Artist Badge this week. The girls are also looking forward to the Pantomime in February and helping the Rainbows celebrate their 25th Birthday! Last term the Brownies completed the 'Friend to Animals' badge which included adopting a dolphin! We had a great Christmas Craft Night with the Rainbows and had a very special visit from Santa.

Join Us!

If you or your daughter would like any further information about Girlguiding you need to go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or call 0800 1 69 59 01. From here you can add girls to waiting lists and find out about volunteering. Or call Hannah or Ruth on the numbers on page 47.

More facts about Girlguiding UK:

Girlguiding UK is the largest youth organisation for girls in the UK today.

More than 14 per cent of six year olds are in Rainbows.

Adult volunteers give on average 120 hours a year.

Girlguiding UK has half a million young members aged four to 25.

One in seven of all six-year-old girls in the UK are Rainbows.

Around a quarter of all eight-year-old girls in the UK are Brownies.

One in ten of all 11-year-old girls in the UK are Guides.

Members today can take part in a wide range of activities from abseiling to party planning and from circus skills to survival.

Girlguiding UK is a founder member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the largest youth organisation for girls in the world with more than ten million members in 144 countries.

Celebrity former members include Cat Deeley, Glenda Jackson, Lorraine Kelly, Mo Mowlan, Anita Roddick, Helen Sharman (the first British woman in space), Tanni Grey-Thompson, Zoe Ball, Emma Thompson, Gail Porter, Carole Vorderman, Carol Smillie, Davina McCall and Cherie Booth.

Hannah, Brown Owl

Poetry Corner.

Poetry Corner this month features Nancy Stephenson. Did you know she was the first Yorkshire woman to appear on 'Sale of the Century' with Nicolas Parsons? She ended up winning £40, a bicycle and the proverbial Cuddly Toy. Didn't she do well? Her Great Grandfather was also a Methodist Minister, who corresponded with a certain Charles Dickens. To celebrate Valentine's Day, Nancy sent me this little gem. She wrote it back in the Eighties when she used to do 'Pam Ayres' impressions. This poem is written in the 'Pam Ayres' style and if you read it with a West Country accent, it makes it all the more fun.

A Valentine's Day Lament.

Oh woe is me, alas and alack, you all will 'ear me cry,
To get meself a Valentine I'd like – but 'ow to try?
I dream at nights me prince will come, and sweep me off me feet,
I laugh and joke with other folk, but I'll never 'ave that treat.
I 'aven't much to offer 'im, but p'raps me faults 'e'll overlook,
Which are a lot I might admit – BUT I like to read a book!
You remember Eric Morecombe;
well I'm a bit like 'im, with wearing of me glasses,
I grope myopically around, so men never make me passes!
Me legs resemble Ernie Wise, short, 'n' fat, 'n' hairy
I'd never get booked in Pantomime to be a pretty Fairy.
Me 'air 'as 'elp from Boots you know, it colours up real nice,
But when I've 'ad me beauty sleep, it's like a nest of mice.
Me Dentist says me teeth are good, the few that I've got left,
'e matches up me others with an 'and that is so deft.
Me figure should be hour glass shaped, but resembles more a pear,
Still, it's nice to 'ave a big behind, for sittin' on a chair.
So what 'ave I to offer 'im, this lover of me dreams?
I cover up me blemishes, so all is not what it seems.
I'll just 'ave to 'ope 'e loves me, and 'as the biggest of big 'earts,
Cos I'm more like a Curate's Egg, not bad, but good in parts!

Nancy

Albert's February Quiz:

1. On 1st February 1979 to which country did Ayatollah Khomeini return after 14 years exile in France?
 2. Which political body first met on the 3 February 1919 (in Paris)?
 3. Which US heiress was kidnapped on 5 February 1974?
 4. On 6 February 1918 votes for women were authorised in the UK for the first time, but only from which age?
 5. What other requirement was necessary to qualify for this privilege?
 6. Which English King died on the 5 February 1952?
 7. Which football club was devastated by an air disaster at Munich on the 6 February 1958?
 8. On the 8 February 1965 what was banned on British television?
 9. Which Derby winner was kidnapped on the 8 February 1983?
 10. Where was England's first recorded horseracing meeting held? (9th Feb 1540).
 11. For what record did Glen Miller receive the first official gold disc on the 10 February 1942?
 12. On the 14 February 1779 which famous sea captain was murdered in Hawaii?
 13. On the 15 February 1971, which major financial change was introduced in the UK?
 14. Which peace organisation was founded on 17 February 1958?
 15. Who wrote 'Pilgrim's Progress, first published on the 18 Feb 1678?
 16. Which planet did Clyde Tombaugh discover on the 18 Feb 1930?
 17. Who was the last Viceroy of India, appointed on the 20th Feb 1947?
 18. On the 20 Feb 1962 who was the first American to orbit the earth?
 19. The first branch of which chain store opened in New York State on the 22 February 1879?
 20. On 24 February 1920 who was the first woman MP to make a speech in the House of Commons?
- Answers on Page 43.

Albert Shaw



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

This Month: Christmas Parties, Safety and Cup Winners...

The Beavers (Age 6 to 8) As you may remember the Beavers have been saving up to sponsor a Beaver in Scotland. They have now reached their target of £15, and Joanne is sending off the money. Meanwhile they made a collage of the Babes in the Wood Panto poster and both Cubs and Beavers had a fire drill towards their Safety badge. Next they will be doing Home Safety and Road Safety. There's lots to do!

The Cubs (Age 8 to 10 ½) This Month Rebecca tells us about the Christmas Party:

Cubs Christmas Party By Rebecca Mayson aged 9.

As people were arriving for the party we had a game of cricket but once everyone had arrived we could start the proper party games. The first game we played was a biscuit eating game where biscuits were hung from a stick and we were supposed to get them without using our hands! Almost everyone got a biscuit but lots ended up on the floor!

The next game we played was a kind of hurdle type game. We were supposed to jump over chairs and turn around and jump back over them again. To win, the team had to be sat in a straight line after all the people of their team had had their turn. Luckily no one tripped up over the chairs.

Then we played the sweet eating game where the leaders laid out three trays with sweets on them. Then they poured water on one tray, coco on another and sugar on the last one. We were supposed to get the sweets without using our hands! It was really really tricky but everyone got a sweet!! Once everyone had finished we all had coco and sugar all over our faces!

After we had finished playing our games we were filled up with party food like crisps, sandwiches, carrot sticks, cucumber sticks, sausages and pizza, yummy!

After we had eaten, Santa Claus appeared ringing a bell. He handed out lots of presents, Putty for the boys and secret dairies for the girls. He also gave some presents to the leaders although I am not sure if they had been good enough this year to receive them.

At the end of the party we all did the Hoaky- Coaky, the parents had to join in with this as well.

Finally the name the bear winner was announced, unfortunately it was not me. We all had a great party. It was really fun.

Rebecca

The Scouts (10½ to 14½)

Currently the Scouts are holders of 5 different regional trophies: Cooking, Swimming (both the individual and team events) First Aid and Ten Pin Bowling. This year they are defending champions for all of them. It's going to be a tough year...

Meerkat Explorers (14½ to 18)

The Meerkats have been on a January camp—rather than me. Tune in next month to see how they fared.

With thanks to Jonathan, Joanne, Skip, Rebecca, Chris and Gail.

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

Diary for February

Fri 1st	7pm	'New Wine' Worship celebration: Gildersome
Sat 2nd	9.30am-1pm	Church and churchyard clean-up
	10am-	Training Day with Russ Parker – Gildersome
	3.30pm	'Healing Wounded History'
Sun 3rd	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Wed 6th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Thurs 7th	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
	7pm	Open meeting re merging of Yorkshire dioceses – St. Catherine's, Agbrigg, Wakefield
Sun 10th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 11th	12 noon	'First Steps' Toddler Service in church – Henry makes a discovery
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in the Parish Centre
Wed 13th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion service.
	NO 10am	COMMUNION SERVICE TODAY.
Sun 17th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Mon 18th	2pm	Mothers' Union – Parish Centre
Tues 19th	2-3.30pm	Lent Group Session 1 – Vicarage
	7.30-9pm	Lent Group Session 1 – at Gail's House.
Wed 20th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
Thurs 21st	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 24th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Tues 26th	2-3.30pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ' Session 2 – at the Vicarage.
	7.30-9pm	Lent Group Session 2 – at Gail's House.
Wed 27th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments

Diary for early March 2013

Sat 2nd	9.30-1pm	Church and churchyard clean-up
Sun 3rd	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30am	Baptism Service
Tues 5th	2-3.30pm	Lent Group Session 3 – Vicarage
	7.30-9pm	Lent Group Session 3 – at Gail's House.
Wed 6th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Thurs 7th	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
Sun 10th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion MOTHERING SUNDAY

Ash Wednesday 2013

The beginning of Lent, some 40 days before Easter Sunday (31st March 2013) is on **Wednesday 13th February**. This year we will be hosting the service at St. Mary's at 7.30pm, and we are inviting those at St. Michael's East Ardsley and other local congregations to join us.

There will be no 10am service on this particular Wednesday. The service will include the traditional 'ashing' on the forehead and communion. It is a helpful start to this season of preparation for the Easter celebration. Join us if you can!



Kids: Don't forget Jam Club !

Sunday Morning 10.30 - 11.30

Jesus - And - Me

Learning & Doing in Faith.

It's thank you from Julie...

Just a short note to thank you all for the kind words written in the card and the flowers that were given to me at PCC in December. It has been a pleasure working on the magazine for the last 5 years. Gathering the content and arranging it has been a challenge but seeing the end result was always a sense of achievement for me. The magazine is a very important part of St Mary's. It links everyone in the church family to their community. Keep writing your anecdotes and editorial pieces and let the whole community know what goes on at St Mary's.

Julie Hyde, PCC Secretary (and former magazine editor).

...and it's thank you from me.

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 6th January we were privileged to welcome Bishop Stephen to St. Mary's where he conducted 1 Baptism and 4 Confirmations:-

Gareth Jon Towhey was Baptised and also confirmed with his fiancée Laura Michelle Wiesiolek. They are to be married at St. Mary's in May. Also being confirmed were Hannah Louise Tombling and Gerard Paul Martin.

Weddings:-

On January 12th we celebrated the marriage of Kristy Johnson and Jonathan Staple

Funerals:-

William Brown, beloved Husband of Olive from Woodkirk.

Rosa Padgett, beloved Mother of Louise, Celia and Anita originally from Haybeck Lane, but recently residing at the Orchards, Birkenshaw.

Philip Kendall, beloved Son of Pat from Woodkirk

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Iran. 2. The League of Nations. 3. Patti Hearst. 4. 30 years. 5. Marriage. 6. George VI. 7. Manchester United. 8. Cigarette Advertising. 9. Shergar. 10. Chester. 11. Chatanooga. 12. James Cook. 13. Decimalisation. 14. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. 15. John Bunyan. 16. Pluto. 17. Lord Louis Mountbatten. 18. John Glenn. 19. Woolworths. 20. Lady Astor.

Albert Shaw

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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 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 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