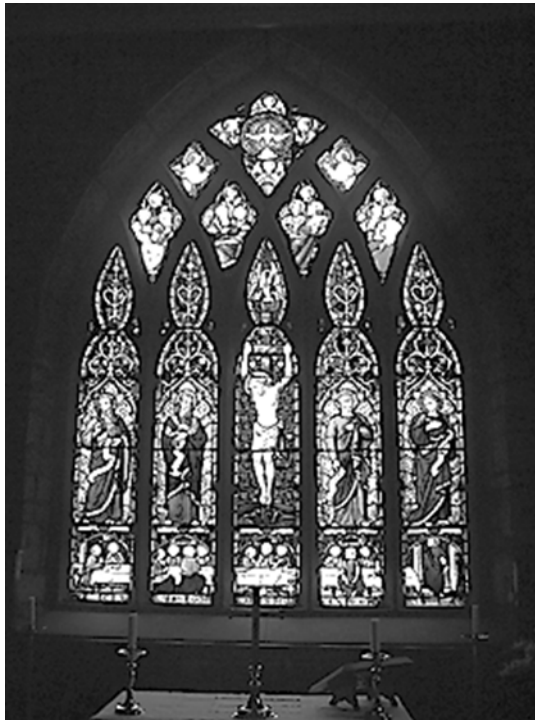


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Easter Greetings

March 2013



This Month:

**Holy Week; Miracles; Pledges;
Reordering; Hunger and Healing.**

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.

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

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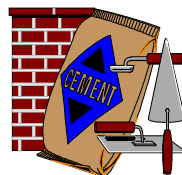
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Have a look at
the **Daily Newspaper** on
the website:



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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers. You'd be most welcome to join us for worship. Service times are on the back page. We look forward to seeing you soon. Meanwhile may God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £9 a year to cover magazine costs, post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far. Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site & Twitter

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at:

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Copies of the magazine can be downloaded from the web site.

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

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

Just ask.

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What have you missed?

Reverend Amanda invites us to lift the veil...

A few days ago, someone said to me:

“I see you have just got a car park!”

It was the first time they had noticed the area on the opposite side of the road from the church, marked out as the church car park.

“We have had that car park for years” I replied. “Perhaps your eye was drawn to it because of the Mosaics which have just been placed in front?” They were shocked to discover that, despite having visited the church regularly, and driven past it even more frequently, they had never been aware of its existence before.

We miss so much of what is to be seen around us. It was T.S. Eliot who said, “Humankind cannot cope with very much reality.” We filter out information all the time. We are bombarded with unsolicited messages, and mail. We cannot cope with everything which is there to be taken in. We bring the vastness of reality down to a manageable size, and blinker ourselves to the rest of it.

It has ever been so. It was another Eliot – George Eliot – who voiced that same truth in her novel ‘Middlemarch’:

“If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel’s heartbeat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence. As it is, the quickest of us walk about well wadded with stupidity.”

If we are honest, it is easier to leave it that way. The wadding (to use that phrase) cushions us and makes life less fearsome. The little bit of reality we are familiar with is quite enough.

Having our blinkers removed, seeing things we are unfamiliar with, and having no frame of reference to understand, is profoundly unsettling. But life sometimes forces that experience upon us.

My trip to Tanzania brought me face to face with people whose view of reality was significantly different to mine. I had the choice – do I retreat into my familiar view of things, or do I allow my thinking to be expanded? The second option is the harder one. But it is the one we are challenged to pursue.

March is the month of a journey which, this year, will end at an empty tomb. It is a journey which should enlarge our thinking. Easter Day, on 31st, is a joyous, even riotous, celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, but at the time it was a profoundly unsettling event.

Read the Gospels and you will see how baffled and disturbed the grieving disciples are at first. They must have thought they were going mad – all that they thought they knew about life and death had come toppling down around them like a house of cards.

They had a choice. Either retreat into the familiar view of reality, and reject the glorious truth presented to them, or allow it to expand their understanding.

“Humankind cannot cope with very much reality.”

Sometimes the things which disturb and unsettle us the most are God’s way of enlarging our vision of things.

He will allow some of our ‘wadding’ to be removed so that we are enlarged and enriched. It’s not an easy process, but it should be a life-long one.

What do we filter out? What do we miss, which is right under our noses? May our journey through March make us aware of a reality greater and more glorious than we can readily imagine.

Rev. Amanda

That was the Holy Week that was.

In our ‘Pick and Mix’ culture it’s easy to select and support the things we enjoy and avoid the difficult aspects of life. That is often reflected in the way we tread the path through Holy Week.

We want the excitement of Palm Sunday (24th March this year) as we share the expectation of the crowds when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the donkey.

We want the joy of Easter morning (31st March) with its joyful conviction that death is not the end of the story for Jesus and because of him for us.

We want the celebration, but if we can get to the celebration without the painful bits in between that is the easy option to take.

The truth is, the light that bursts from the empty tomb seems all the more radiant because we have walked the dark valley. The joy of Easter morning is a more intense and vibrant one because of the pain of Good Friday.

Even if work or other commitments prevent us from sharing in services through the week, I encourage you to share the path of pain which leads to the cross by taking time to read the story again in your Bible.

Rev. Amanda

Here are the Holy Week highlights for this year:

Sunday 24th March 10.30am Palm Sunday.

We begin our service in the Parish Centre, where we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The palm branches the crowds waved are remembered as crosses made from palm leaves are blessed and given to each person present. Many like to take one to relatives, neighbours or friends. They are kept in the home as a focal point for prayer. They serve as a reminder that the praises sung as the branches were waved that day quickly turned to shouts calling for Jesus' crucifixion. Processing into church during our first hymn, the service ends with an extended reading of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus – as there will be some present who will not be in church until the following Sunday's Easter celebrations.

Monday 25th March & Tuesday 26th: 7:00 pm.

Compline. This quiet, short service is one used by Monastic communities at the end of the day, as an opportunity to reflect on the events it has contained. It helps us to slow down, and to sustain the Monastic pattern of worship which formed St. Mary's in its early years.

Wednesday 27th March: 10:00 am Communion.

As the shadow of the cross looms ever larger, we ponder the events in the Upper Room as Jesus prepares his disciples for the horrors which will unfold.

**Thursday 28th March: 7.30pm Holy Communion
& Foot-washing on Maundy Thursday.**

As a reminder of the act of Jesus in washing the feet of his disciples, the leader washes the feet of 12 members of the congregation. It is a call to all of us to be willing to follow the example of Jesus in serving others.

If the Son of God can perform the action of a slave, every Christian should be willing to do the most menial of tasks to help others. At the end of this service, the church is stripped of all finery and precious items as a reminder that Jesus was stripped of all he had as he faced the cross.

Because Jesus left the Upper Room where he had shared his Last Supper and made his way to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, inviting his friends to support him in that time, people are offered the opportunity to do the same.

A small 'garden scene' becomes a focal point and in silence and subdued light each person spends quiet time reflecting on the inner turmoil Jesus experienced.

Friday 29th March: 2pm-3pm

At the foot of the cross. Unlike previous years, we will spend the final hour of Jesus' time on the cross focussing on the events of Good Friday. Why is such a terrible day called Good? It was accomplished for our good, and won forgiveness from God so that in his eyes we are regarded as good. During this reflective time, we will burn papers which contain words we have written asking for forgiveness. This will happen at the foot of the cross, in the gardens behind the church.

Saturday 30th March: 8:30pm.

Reflective Easter Eve service. This is an Ancient Tradition which sets the events of Holy Week in the bigger picture of God's works throughout history. What happened at the death and resurrection of Jesus is seen as the pivot around which history turns, its grand climactic event. The service happens once the sun has gone down and recognises that God's actions often happen when we're all asleep. It helps us to realise we're not indispensable! Candles are lit, the church building is transformed from the bare, dark Good Friday setting to a theatre of resurrection. Everyone is invited to renew the promises of their baptism. A very special service!

Sunday 31st Mar. 10:30am: All-Age Communion for Easter.

A celebration of new life, of renewed hope, of joyful singing. The water of baptism is splashed around, denoting a fresh start, and together we share in the feast at God's table – a victory feast! If you're not inside the building, you'll hear us if you're in the area!! Children search for hidden eggs just as the disciples searched for the body of Jesus. They didn't find what they were looking for – but the children will find plenty of symbols of new life!

The whole journey is a powerful and symbolic path which leads from fear to joy, from darkness to light, from oppression to victory. In a world where fear, darkness and oppression infect all our lives in different ways, this journey speaks into our own life's journey and sheds its light and hope into our being. It's not just an old story from long ago – it has a power which resonates with our life today. If you need to find that power for yourself, come along and let the journey carry you with it.

Rev'd Amanda

A welcoming Church is always remembered.

Dave Wass on the joys of a warm welcome from afar....

As many of you will know, Pat and I take around seven or eight trips a year in our touring caravan, including Christmas.

Whilst reading in the January issue about Kath and Martin's struggle to find a Church I was reminded about an experience we had over the Christmas and New Year period.

The site was on the outskirts of Ellesmere Port, close to Chester and the nearest Church was St Lawrence, a beautiful old church in the small village of Stoak. Our first visit was on the Sunday before Christmas when we received the most remarkable welcome.

We arrived at the Church as two strangers and, with no hesitation, we were gathered into the midst of their Church family like old friends. Everyone came over to greet us and we were invited to the carol service that evening. Pat said that the experience made her think of the Posada figures being taken lovingly into households.

In all we visited the Church for worship on four occasions. On our last visit, the Minister announced it was our last day with them and presented us with a book about the history of St. Lawrence Church.

After the service everyone came to wish us well. We felt as though we had been worshipping there for years. If ever the real spirit of Christmas could be seen it was in the good folk at St Lawrence's.

We returned to the comfort and familiarity of St. Mary's early in the new year, knowing that our own Church Family also offers a warm Christian welcome to all, whether new, old or returning members.

Keep up the good work it makes such a difference.

Dave.

Our Charity of Choice..

In January, you may remember, we asked if you could think of a charity whom we, as a Church, could support by giving one penny for every pound donated to a worthwhile cause. (Restricted funds are not included). The Charity selected for this donation is The Myositis Support Group, requested by Pat Wass.

The Support Group helps people and their families affected by Dermatomyositis, Polymyositis, Inclusion Body Myositis, and Juvenile Dermatomyositis. The Support Group became a registered charity in 1987 and is still run from the dining room of the co-founders, Les and Irene Oakley. Currently there is no cure for this illness.

David

Healing Wounded History.

On a cold February morning in Gildersome, Reverend Russ Parker challenges us to look at our wounds – both our own personal wounds and those of our Churches and communities - and start the healing process.

How? Who is wounded? What are the wounds? Who will heal them?

They can be in all forms, explained Revd. Russ, from physical or mental illness of individuals, to the hurt of whole communities or congregations. Sometimes these wounds can date back many years – sometimes hundreds of years. When a community feels ‘wronged’ it can be perpetrated down through the generations.

An example is of one Church in a group of Churches which never took part in group events. When Russ probed for reasons, it dated back to a Viking invasion. They were the only Church not to be warned of the attack. Even over this length of time the mistrust had continued because it had never been addressed. By understanding what has caused the pain, and praying for healing, it can start the process back to a healthy community.

A powerful example of healing comes from Warren Point in Northern Ireland, scene of an IRA bombing. Revd. Russ was involved in a multi faith healing Eucharist on the site which has helped to change the perception of the place in the community. Healing is not just about healing ourselves, but also our places and our communities.

Revd. Russ explains: ‘There are ‘common feelings’ in communities – both good and ill – and these must be taken seriously, even if they may seem ridiculous to an outsider (a Viking invasion still causing pain today). It’s important to take ownership. It’s about God forgiving US not them. There are no fall guys or scape goats – we are one community. Prayers of accusation are never endorsed by God.’

In other words, drop the ‘Holier than thou’ attitude because we are in this together. OK so we have some unhealed wounds, they are ‘our’ wounds, not ‘theirs’. What happens next?

Revd. Russ continues: ‘To heal the wounds, first you have to find out the story and the story behind the story. When the problems are known and understood, they can be addressed with prayer and even an apology. Prayers are inclusive, using ‘we’, ‘us’ and ‘ours’ and sins are confessed as if we ourselves are also the perpetrators.’

It's not all about confessing and apologising though. It is also important to celebrate the good things about our communities and our Church, but the most important message, Revd. Russ says, is to listen. 'Listen, Locate and Connect' and celebrate the positive legacy of prayer in our Church. Revd. Russ Parker is recognised as one of the leading UK exponents of Pastoral Care and Christian Healing. If you want to know more, his book 'Healing Wounded History' is available from Amazon and other leading bookshops.

Ash Wednesday: Healing at Work.

The symbolism of this special Service gives a platform for forgiveness and healing, both in ourselves and also with others. No other organisation; not businesses nor councils, not sports grounds nor libraries, not pubs and clubs and not even hospitals and surgeries can offer spiritual healing and forgiveness. St. Mary's provides that support in our community:

We came together in the stillness of St. Mary's, with welcome guests from St. Michael's East Ardsley to begin our journey through lent. We considered our short-comings and Revd. Amanda invited us to write down a particular weakness we would like to offer to God.

Dramatically, we burnt our written prayers in sight of the Altar, until they had turned to Ash. We prayed:

**Lord, lead us today to a greater awareness,
to a firmer grasp of reality, to a wider vision.
To a deeper sensitivity, to a response to wonder,
and to a constant love for you. Amen.**

Revd. Amanda spoke to us about the 'Prodigal Son' who had squandered his life but had returned home to his Father's love. In the shadows, the elder son, faithful, hardworking and unassuming had also squandered his own life in a different way. He had not embraced his Father's love, but had become estranged.

Being 'prodigal' (recklessly wasteful says the dictionary) is about where the heart is, not the body. So the son left at home can also be 'prodigal' if his heart is elsewhere. The Father's ache in his heart is for both sons – not just for the one who left.

'Are you close to God (the Father)?' asked Revd. Amanda, 'can you embrace him, or are you just there from force of habit or from duty?' She challenges us to ask: 'When have I squandered God's love?'

Ash Wednesday is the day when you can receive the love of God, through a small Ash cross, made from your own prayers, marked on the forehead - a kiss from heaven.

Let the Healing and Forgiveness begin.

David

Your church needs you.

Is Revd Amanda looking for you?

A church is not so much its building as its people, and each one has a part to play. It is vital that the decisions that are made are formulated carefully and with prayerful consideration. That's why it's important that the Church Council (PCC) has representation from the wide variety of people who belong to St. Mary's. We are fortunate to have people of all ages, with a wide variety of points of view, who are part of church life. It makes sense to ensure that that rich diversity is reflected on the Church Council.

Look around you next time you sit in your pew. Who would you like to see as part of that body of people who represent the decision-making body of the church? Why not approach them and ask them if they've ever considered standing for the PCC? There are three places for the new PCC which will need filling. Maybe you, or someone else, is the right person?

The term of office is 3 years, and any individual can complete 2 terms before being required to take a year off in order to ensure that there is always 'fresh blood' on the council. After that year out, they are able to stand again. Meetings are monthly, and we discuss a range of things, from the development and repair of the building, churchyard maintenance, and developing effective mission in the parish.

There are also two vacancies for the Deanery Synod. This is a gathering of representatives of all the churches in the Deanery area (which covers Cleckheaton, Gomersal, Drighlington and Morley amongst others). They are responsible for voting on issues which affect the wider church. Some Deanery Synod members also represent the Diocese.

It is because we have failed to fill all our places, and other churches have done the same, that the Laity on General Synod no longer accurately represents the views of the majority of lay people in the church. That's why it's so important we ensure our places are filled. Deanery Synod representatives are also PCC members and so they can voice the concerns of the local congregation at a higher level.

Any questions? Ask me, Amanda, or one of the wardens. And if you'd like to find out more, why not come and sit in on the PCC meeting (as an observer) on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm to get a feel for what you might be letting yourself in for. A warm cuppa will await you and usually a chocolate biscuit! Pictures of all the PCC members are on the board in the porch – if you want to get the insider view, ask one of them about it.

Anyone who is on the Electoral Roll of the church is entitled to stand. There will be sign-up sheets from early April in the porch, and each person nominated will need a proposer and seconder. Please give it your consideration! Your church needs you!

Yes, I belong !

A new Electoral Roll is about to be created - sign up!

Whether it's the gym or the library, or a slimming club, many of us have organisations we belong to. My purse is full of cards – Nectar, Tesco Clubcard, AA Membership, and all the rest, which shows the organisations which have my name of their database. I am a member. I belong with them. I may not use the card regularly, (hopefully not with the AA membership!) but I am glad I have it. I value the belonging the card delivers.

So, how might that belonging to St. Mary's be expressed? Every Church of England has an Electoral Roll (which is different from the Register of Electors held by the council). It is the way in which adults 'sign up' as a member of their local church, or the church they attend.

Anyone over the age of 16 who is baptised and lives in the parish or who worships regularly in the church is eligible to be included on the Electoral Roll. It is the church's membership list and shows that you belong – even if you are not able to attend church regularly.

Every 6 years, the existing Electoral roll is completely renewed. The old one becomes obsolete and everyone who wishes to remain to the Electoral Roll can only do so by completing a short form. This means that the list remains current and 'live', and doesn't include those who have moved away or are no longer around.

If you belong to St. Mary's, even if you are unable to attend church regularly, I hope you value the belonging and will complete a form to show that you belong. Forms are available from church and the Parish Centre. Completed forms must be returned before Sunday 24th March, so that the new Electoral Roll can be published in time for the Annual General Meeting on 21st April.

All whose names appear on the new Electoral Roll have voting rights at the AGM, and are eligible to be elected to the Church Council and Deanery Synod.

Revd. Amanda

Seven Billion and Counting..

Following the Horse meat scandal, our southern correspondent Martin Randall asks - was it just profiteering or is there a bigger problem?

To us it's the simplest, most natural of acts, like breathing and walking upright on two legs. We sit down at the dinner table, pick up our knife and fork, and take a juicy bite, oblivious to the double helping of global ramifications on our plate. Modern society has relieved us of the burden of hunting, gathering, growing, harvesting, or even preparing our daily bread, in exchange for the burden of simply paying for it. Only when prices rise abnormally do we take the slightest notice.

Over recent years though the constantly skyrocketing cost of food should have been a wakeup call for the whole planet. Last year was particularly bad, but from 2005 and the summer of 2008 the signs were there. Over that period the price of wheat and corn tripled, and the price of rice went up five fold. That triggered food riots in nearly two dozen countries and pushed 75 million more people into poverty.

Unlike previous price rise shocks which had been driven by short-term food shortages caused by bad harvests, this price hike came in a year when the world's farmers reaped a record grain crop, and since then prices have never gone back down again have they?

This time, the high prices are a symptom of a much larger problem tugging ferociously at the strands of our world-wide food supply web. A problem that is not going to go away anytime soon.

For most of the last decade the world has been consuming more food than it has been producing, and after years of using up stocks, the world now has only a few weeks remaining - the second lowest level on record. The reason is that agricultural growth is only one to two percent each year. This is nowhere near the increase required to keep pace with population growth.

In any market economy, constantly rising prices are always the signal that demand is outstripping supply. Rises in food prices always hit the poorest people on the planet the hardest.

Ever since our ancestors gave up hunting and gathering for ploughing and planting about 12,000 years ago, our numbers have marched in step with our agricultural prowess. Each advance, like the domestication of animals, or the development of irrigation, has led to a corresponding jump in human population. This happened particularly with the increase that mechanisation brought to farming. Every time food supplies levelled off, population reached a plateau.

Early Arab and Chinese writers noted the relationship between

population and food resources, but it wasn't until the end of the eighteenth century that an Englishman tried to explain the exact mechanism linking the two.

His name was Thomas Robert Malthus, he was a mild mannered mathematician and a clergyman. He observed that human population increases at a geometric rate if unchecked by wars or plague, whilst agricultural production increases arithmetically, as we've seen. At present it's increasing by 1% to 2% each year. So in 25 years agricultural production would rise between 25 and 50 percent, but population would have risen 100 percent. We don't need to be mathematicians to see this leads to an inevitable shortfall, unless the rate of agricultural growth could be at least doubled.

Trouble is, we do not have double the amount of land or water available to double food production. Malthus wrote in a book called "Essay on the Principle of Population": 'The power of population (to increase) is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man, this implies a strong and constantly operating check on the (level of) population from the difficulty of subsistence.' In other words, population grows faster than food supply, so food supply will always limit population. Earth's population has increased seven-fold since that was written.

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division, world population is expected to grow from 6 billion in the year 2000 to 9 billion by 2050. Yes that's an increase of 50% - or 3 billion. That's more people than there were on the planet in 1950, it's an average yearly increase of 57 million. To put it into perspective, it means that over those 50 years the world population will grow, on average, every year by about as many people as now live in Italy. We are already at 7 billion, but despite the wonderful job that has been done since the last war to put food on our tables, hunger, famine, and malnutrition are with us still, just as Malthus said they would be.

The Chinese word "population" is written by using two characters - one is the character for a person and the other is the character for an open mouth - that just about says it all. This notion we have that world population can continue to grow forever is ridiculous. It has always been known that resources limit population, and the world is a finite resource. If we are unable voluntarily to balance world population with world resources then I'm afraid nature will do the job for us.

Oh, I forgot to tell you, Malthus published his book in 1798 - yes that really does say 1798. He is currently deep in the crypt of Bath Abbey, no doubt wagging a bony finger and saying: "Told you so."

Martin

How can we preserve, enhance and maintain our Church?

Last month Revd. Amanda and the PCC asked if you could make a financial 'Pledge' towards the Church re-ordering project. What will those 'Pledges' be used for and why do we need to know in advance? Here is a summary of what's happening at St. Mary's:-

Regular Church goers will know that there is a long term plan to make significant improvements to the space at the back of the Church. This will be achieved by adding toilets, with dis-abled access, a small kitchen area with a sink and electrical power, and an improved seating arrangement to allow it to have additional uses for small groups and meetings. (see the artists impression for a real 'feel' of how it will look on page 24).

Currently a piece of board is thrown across two pews to make a table and the back vestry has a cold tap but no sink (literally the water would fall on the floor if no receptacle is placed beneath it), plus the Parish Centre toilet is a good two minute walk away for a fit and healthy person.

In addition to this project, the main East window is leaking badly and a recent inspection by an Architect has shown that the glasswork is in desperate need of re-leading and the stone work needs to be re-pointed.

How can all this be done when it is already quite difficult to pay the day to day bills?

The Heritage Lottery Fund can be used for both repair and improvement projects as well as helping with our Heritage. This is what they say:-

'Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) gives grants to sustain and transform our heritage. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage.'

The PCC are in the process of applying for a grant, but HLF also require a contribution to the project from us. They describe this as 'partnership funding'.

So in order to meet the criteria we have to show that we can raise some of the money ourselves. In other words we need to show that we 'buy in' to the project and we are not just looking for a hand-out. Our total project is estimated to be between £150,000 and £200,000.

By making a Pledge it makes it possible to see how much money would be available if we can secure the remainder from the Heritage Lottery Fund (and others). Once all the pieces are in place, we can start the project with confidence that it can be completed.

So it's not too late to 'Make a Pledge' and help to enhance both the worship and the profile of St. Mary's, helping to make a visit to our Church richly rewarding for everyone – whether coming for one of the services or visiting to learn more of the Heritage and role of the Church in the wider community .

You can make your Pledge by filling in the form available at the back of Church or in the pews, to Gary Mortimer, the Treasurer (please don't send any money yet) or fill in the form below, cut it out and send it to Gary, care of: St. Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road, Woodkirk WF12 7JL. Many thanks.

David

My Pledge:

I/We commit my/our selves to give £.....

To the re-development project at St. Mary's.

I am / am not able to Gift Aid this pledge*

I understand that I will not be required to honour this pledge and fulfil this Gift until the project is about to start.

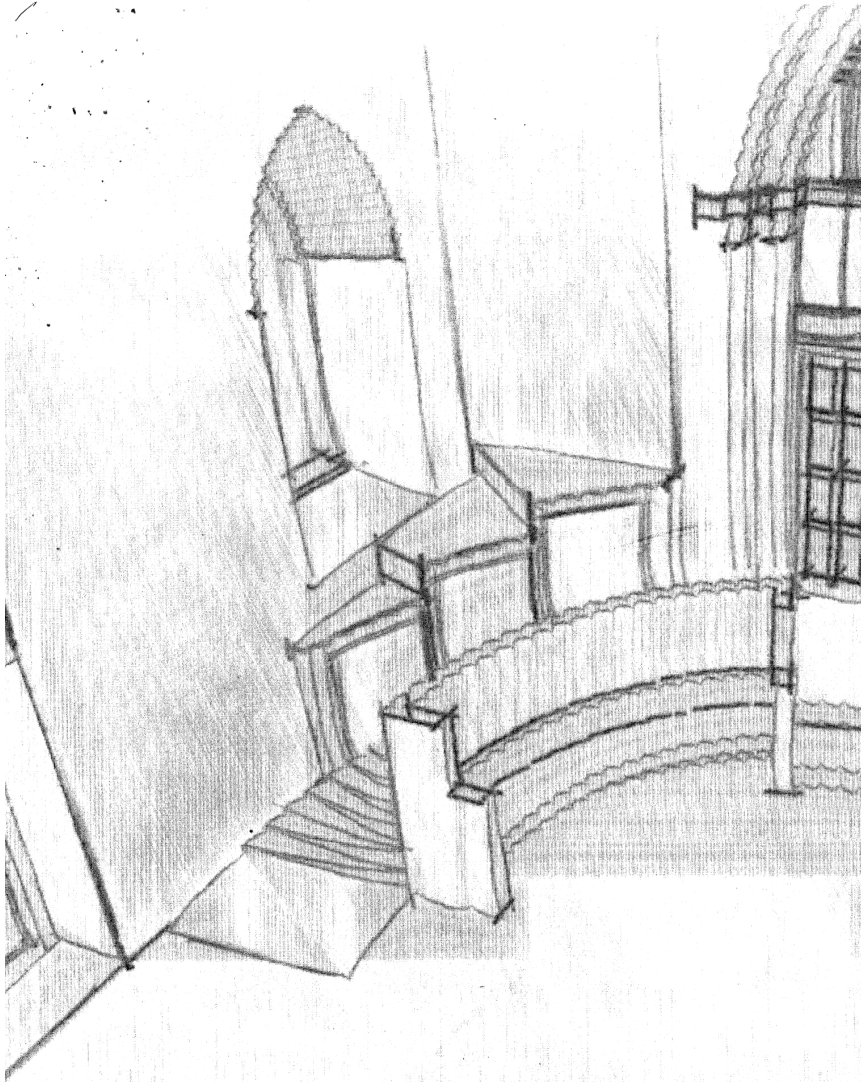
(* Delete as appropriate)

Name

Address
.....
.....

Signed

St. Mary's:



Church Re-Ordering—an Elegant Solution.

Curved pews hide a kitchen area to the right and dis-abled ramp to the left, leading to the rear Tower Vestry enclosing new toilet block. Additionally a partition or screen will be used to enable the rear section to be separated when necessary.

The Vision



Our Heritage: We aim to add pictures and texts celebrating St. Mary's history and heritage to provide a warm and engaging welcome to both church goers and visitors alike.

Celebrating Our Heritage: The Black Canons and the Miracle Plays.



Following on from last month's article about the Heritage of St.Mary's, this month we look at the history of the Mystery or 'Miracle' Plays as they are known.

Henry I (who succeeded William II in the year 1100) had granted two fairs to be held at Woodkirk 'on or before the feast days of the Assumption and the Nativity of St. Mary'. These fairs still survive today as Lee Fair.

The Mystery plays or Miracle plays were performed at such Fairs dating right back to medieval times. These Mystery Plays developed into a series of plays dealing with all the major events in the Christian calendar, from Creation to the Day of Judgment. By the end of the 15th century, the practice of acting these plays in 'Cycles' on festival days was established in several parts of Europe.

There are only four of these collections of Plays surviving in Britain: Chester, Coventry, and the Townley Series, as well as York.

Sometimes, each play was performed on a decorated cart called a 'Pageant' allowing different crowds to watch each play. The entire Cycle (32 Plays in the Townley Cycle) could take up to twenty hours to perform and could be spread over a number of days. The plays were performed by a combination of professionals and amateurs and were written in highly elaborate stanza forms.

They were often marked by the extravagance of the sets and 'special effects', but could also be simple and intimate. Very often these were originally written in Latin, with a Narrator or Crier summarising each act in the local dialect. Later the whole Play was performed in the local dialect and the Townley Cycle (also known as the 'Wakefield Pageants') are clearly in the Yorkshire dialect.

It is this Townley Cycle which is of greatest interest to us. These are named after the family in Lancashire who acquired them, although the original manuscripts are now held in the Huntingdon Library, San Marino, California.

It is thought that these plays were written from the 12th century onwards, but by whom?

Scrutiny of the Plays has given rise to the conclusion that they were all written by a cleric, not least because religious folk were able to read and write. However, it was thought unlikely to be a 'cloistered Friar' as they would not possess the worldly understanding necessary to write such 'Pageants of the People'.

Another clue comes from a term also associated with the Townley Cycle: these plays are frequently called the 'Widkirk', belonging to the Abbey of Widkirk, near Wakefield. Checks of the records of the time show that there is no place called Widkirk, nor an Abbey so called, situated in or around Wakefield, or, in fact, anywhere else in Britain.

There was however, a cell of Black Canons, annexed to the Monastery at Nostell Priory, called Woodkirk. These Canons or Augustinian Monks were not the 'cloistered' type, having both land and fishponds and were like little 'universities' of their time, holding knowledge on a wide range of skills. The Abbey at Rievaulx (near Helmsley in North Yorks) for example, had a blast furnace used for making Cast Iron two hundred years before the industrial revolution.

One further clue comes from the rights to perform these plays. There are very few places holding the rights to make such public performances, but St. Mary's is one of them.

It is not unreasonable, in fact highly likely, therefore, to assume that at least some of the Miracle Plays known as the 'Townley Cycle' were originally written by one or more of the Black Canons residing at St. Mary's Woodkirk. (Typically two or three were in residence).

This is a quite remarkable piece of our Heritage and demonstrates the significance and reliance on the Church and its knowledge in the locale of the time.

As Reverend Russ Parker suggests, (see P16), something to really celebrate in our history.

David

Write Less, Say More....

The Ten Commandments	179 words
Gettysburg Address	286 words
U.S. Declaration of Independence	1,300 words
U.S. Constitution (with all 27 amendments)	7,818 words
EU regulations on the sale of cabbage	26,911 words
Simplicity is Genius	

Harry

St Mary's Playgroup Update...

Lisa says goodbye..

This will be my last update for the Parish News as Playgroup Supervisor as I've resigned from the post to go back to my teaching. I'm currently supply teaching at Holy Trinity Church of England School in Ossett and will be there until Easter.

I have really enjoyed my time at St Mary's Playgroup, working with a friendly, dedicated and supportive team of staff. I have encountered some great children, families, volunteers and committee members in my time at playgroup.

St Mary's playgroup has an exceptional reputation and is an asset to the church, community and families that it serves. Children's lives are shaped so much by their first few years and it is always a privilege to be a part of this important time in a child's development. I will hopefully continue to teach in early years, as this is my preferred age group.

The children will be returning after half term to a spring topic of 'Growing' so there will be lots of exciting activities on offer. Playgroup is currently full on Mondays and Thursdays, with just a few places available on a Tuesday, at the moment. There are 46 children on the roll.

Lisa.

A Lead Weight is lifted...

The Church of England has warmly welcomed the passing of the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill, which recently received Royal Assent.

This two year campaign, led by the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Council will now become law. The Act, introduced to the House of Commons as a Private Members Bill by Richard Ottaway MP, will introduce effective regulation of the Scrap Metal Trade and finally end anonymous access to cash for scrap metal.

As we have lost lead from various parts of the Church and Parish Centre over the years, this is really good news for everyone at St. Mary's.

David



Crafts, games and fun for Easter!

Easter Activity Morning

Sat 23rd March 2013

10am-1pm

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Suitable for children ages 4-11.

£3 per child

To book your place

ring Amanda on 01924 472375

or e-mail vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

Malcolm's Ramblings

As the Dewsbury Ramblers prepare to celebrate their centenary, our very own Malcolm Haigh explores the delights of the countryside..

Walking is supposed to be good for people of all ages. The benefits are there for youngsters who can burn off energy while learning about the countryside and all the way through various age groups to pensioners like myself who can keep their limbs more supple by the gentle exercise of a walk.

As I've discovered over the past 12 years or so, these benefits can be re-enforced with a remarkable social calendar for those who become members of an active walking group. I can say this with confidence as I am the current president of the Dewsbury and District Ramblers Group, which is about to celebrate its centenary this year.

Demands on my time from other sources mean that I don't do as much walking as I would like but the choice of routes is remarkable. Every month club members provide eight or nine walks with a third of them covering between five to seven miles - considered very easy and suitable for young children and older members.

Another third cover eight or so miles - considered to be 'easy-going and with ample time to cover the distance'. The remainder, for the really hardy walkers, cover between 10 and 13 miles or more in hilly or rough country. But the walks range over some contrasting scenery ranging from local walks to those in the Hole of Horcum, Skipton, Penyghent, the Calder Navigation canal, Cockersdale, Saltaire, Nidderdale, Garforth and many, many more.

These are only a small selection from the current diary but to these are added the special walks which see club members set out on coaches to such places as Barnard Castle, Clitheroe, Ripon, Scarborough and Ilfracombe which, this year, is the place where a coachfull of ramblers will be going for a week's holiday.

The ramblers really enjoy their social occasions whether it be Christmas parties, New Year socials, coffee mornings, fish and chip suppers or the president's Fun Night.

This year the Dewsbury Ramblers are aiming to achieve something really special which will benefit people from near and far. The aim is to celebrate our centenary by creating a Centenary Walk.

The walk will be a 28 mile circular walk which will start and finish in Dewsbury but contain a route which will travel through Thornhill, Brierfield, Whitley, Mirfield, Hartshead, Gomersal, Birstall, Howden Clough, Howley, Hanging Heaton, Caulms Wood and back to Dewsbury.

The route is split into six sections and the starts and ends of each section are serviced by local buses.

We are currently working on the guide to the walks which will give interesting historical facts, stories and photographs about the places being visited and all being well, these guides will be made available – free of charge – to the public from civic centres, libraries and other council offices.

It is quite a venture but we are hoping that the Centenary Walk will be well used not only by local people but, hopefully, by people from other parts of the country and, who knows, other parts of the world who might be intrigued to find out about delights which the Heavy Woollen District, Mirfield and the Spen Valley might offer.

Obviously you don't have to be a member of the Dewsbury club to wander along the centenary walk but should you wish to take advantage of the other delights – the socials, friendship and holidays - you can become a member for as little as £3 a year or just 50p for juniors.

The programme of planned walks is updated regularly on the website www.Kirklees.gov.uk but a full programme and syllabus is given to those who become members. If you are interested get in touch with me on 01924 479824 or use the e-mail address:

m.haigh229@btinternet.com

You could be letting yourselves into years of marvellous delights to come. I know I did. For when I went on my first walk with Dewsbury Ramblers I was quite attracted to the woman who was leading it. We quickly made contact and I've been "walking out", as it were, with Barbara ever since.

Malcolm

Annual report for Woodkirk AGM (Year 2012):

A year in the life of the MU:

Our first meeting in **January** was a service in Church, followed by our AGM in the Parish Centre. The service was conducted by Revd. Amanda. This was also the last time Kath Randall would attend before going to live in Bedfordshire.

On **February** 20th Mrs. Angela Coggins, wife of Glenn Coggins, Vicar of East Ardsley gave a most interesting talk about her life and work.

March 19th was a quiet day in Church led by Church Warden Gail Townsend.

On **April** 16th our friend Annette Smith gave us a lovely talk entitled 'Pebbles and Rocks, Streams and Rivers.' This was a prayerful afternoon and gave us food for thought.

May 21st was our 'Fashion Show'. Once again there were lots of lovely outfits, modelled by some of our ladies and children and lots to be tried on and bought and we also enjoyed a glass of wine...

The annual outing was to Scarborough on **June** 18th followed by a meal at the Star Hotel, Flamborough. Once again we were favoured by the weather and a good time was had by all.

July 16th was our 'Beetle Drive' – a great evenings' entertainment. **August** is our break month.

On **September** 17th our speaker was Wyn Kidger, the deputy Mayor of Morley. She spoke about 'Morley in Bloom' and showed us lots of pictures. She was also very informative about things going on in the area, especially the 'Standing Stones' opposite the Parish Centre (a display of Woodkirk heritage) which until then had been something of a mystery to us.

On **October** 15th our friend and fellow member Averille Milburn showed us how to make lovely flower arrangements, making several displays herself in the process, which we later raffled.

November 19th almost brought disaster as our speaker Malcolm Rennison couldn't come for his talk about the Holy Land. Luckily Malcolm Haigh stepped in at the last minute and gave a very engaging talk on 'Notable women of Batley'.

Finally on **December** 19th we had our Christmas lunch at Heath Cottage. A lovely meal with friends and a great atmosphere.

There have also been special services in the deanery:
The 'Lady Day' service in spring at St. James Heckmonwike;
Festival Service at St. Mary's Gomersal;
Daffodil Rally at Batley Methodist Church.

Brenda Dixon and Betty Aveyard also attended the Diocesan Council Meetings at both Batley and Dewsbury Town Halls.

MU also were very pleased to welcome two new members:
Barbara Tate and Pat Wass.

Margaret Hampshire

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

Things should be on the go now. Plenty to do in the potting shed (I should be so lucky!) I pot up in the greenhouse or I sit outside if it's warm enough. Oh! for a garden large enough for a greenhouse AND a potting shed!

Here are some jobs to be getting on with this month:-

Sandra's Top Tip: Put grow bags and sacks/bags of compost in the greenhouse or conservatory, so they have time to warm up before being put to good use.

1. Try growing on plug plants in your greenhouse. They are a cheaper alternative to larger plants and there will be more of them!!
2. Plant some more onion sets and also some shallots.
3. Plant first early potatoes if it is mild and if your soil is workable.
4. Sow some sweet peas to grow alongside your runner beans.
5. Spring prune fruit trees like peaches and nectarines.
6. Cover prepared seedbeds with fleece, cloches or clear plastic sheeting to help warm up the soil in readiness for spring sowings.
7. Prepare trenches for planting soon. Celery requires good water retention and drainage so incorporate plenty of well rotted manure or compost.
8. Sow peas in guttering or old toilet roll holders at two week intervals.
9. Now is the time to make sowings of broad beans, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, spinach, leeks, herbs, basil, coriander, summer cabbage and cauliflower either in the coldframe or greenhouse.
10. Mice can be a problem at this time so place controls near crops in the ground, new sowings and near to any stored vegetables.

Sandra.



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

This Month: Pancakes, Pantos, Ten Pin and Winter Hikes....

The Beavers (Age 6 to 8) & Cubs (Age 8 to 10 ½)

The Cubs and Beavers made Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, even though it was Friday. The pancake tossing race was mayhem and was achieved with varying degrees of success – although no pancakes were still stuck to the ceiling when they left. A manic game of cricket burnt off any excess energy generated by all that treacle, sugar and lemon, chocolate spread, toffee and strawberry syrup!

Cubs Trip to the Pantomime:

*Daisy aged 9, reports on the comings and the goings..
(oh yes she did!)*

The 15th Morley Cub (and Beaver) Pack paid a visit to the pantomime in Morley town centre. The performance was named Babes in the Wood and all the cubs had a great time! Some adults came to watch the pantomime as well. The play was about Robin Hood and the Sheriff but with a twist.

These are the characters: Jack, Jill, Nanny, 10 Merry Men, Baker, Robin Hood, Lady Marion and lots more!

All the cubs met at around 6.45pm to watch the pantomime that started at approximately 7.30pm so we had to be in our seats by 7.00pm.

The pantomime was good fun. Everyone booed at the Sheriff and cheered at Robin Hood. The costumes were great, Robin Hood was dressed in Lincoln green and the Sheriff was dressed in black.

The show had lots of good songs.

In the end all the characters came together. They split the theatre to hold a singing competition. They had a huge board which had the words on of a special song about Robin Hood. They taught us the song and then we had a competition see which side could sing it best. The left side won – my side!

There was another competition to see where Robin Hood was hiding and one of our Beavers (Jamie Curran) came in 3rd place.

The pantomime finished at approximately 9.30pm when our families came to pick us up and take us home.

Daisy Calvert, 15th Morley Cub

The Scouts (10½ to 14½)

Sam bowls ‘em over...

Last month the Scouts entered the district Ten Pin Bowling competition and managed to finish a very creditable Second out of seven teams. However Sam Hyde won the individual event, with the highest overall score out of all 46 competitors. Congratulations to Sam.

5-a-side football followed quickly and the team made it to the semi-finals, but were denied a place in the final. They won the play off though, meaning they finished Third overall. Also in February, several Scouts were awarded their Expedition Badge, this followed a 2 day, 1 night hike covering 20 miles and other work including wild flower identification. Well done to Bethany Elliot, Dominic Irwin, Lewis Jones, and Jack & Ella Woodhead.

Also in February most of the Scouts have now completed their Photography and Information Computer Technology badges. They are now working towards their ‘Communicators’ Badge.

A big test looms for the Scouts as the District Swimming Gala is in March and they are the current champions and District Shield holders. Result next month...

Meerkat Explorers (14 ½ to 18)

Winter Camp – only minus 5 Degrees...

In January, ten hardy Meerkats plus four leaders headed off to Kielder Water in Northumberland for a 4 day winter camp. It was cold, but it didn't snow – not until the last day, just as they were packing up to leave.

On site at Hawkhurst camp there are plenty of things to keep everyone occupied, including an Abseil tower, Climbing Wall, Laser Target shooting, Dodgems, Quad biking, Argo Kat driving (me neither), and a 100 metre zip wire. The camp was very boggy in places, and the Meerkats ended up camping in a small clearing in the trees to avoid the worst of the mud.

Meanwhile they are looking to go abroad in 2014 or 2015 for a 10 day 100 mile hike along with the Gildersome Mongoose Explorer Scout Unit. Still to be organised – watch this space!

With thanks to Trevor, Gail, Chris, Jonathan & Joanne.

Its all Go !!!!

Do you know Thornfield Terrace?

Michael Kellet is wondering about his home's connections to St. Mary's..

Bit of a shot in the dark but here goes:

We are researching the history of our house and believe it to be associated (once) with St Mary's. It is on Rein Road and was built in 1886. The stone says 'Thornfield Terrace'. We were just wondering if you or anyone may have any information ?

kind regards

Michael Kellett.

If you do think of something - get in touch with me and I'll pass it on!

Editor

Sorry, must press on....

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.
Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful folk with talent.
Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.
Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.
Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.
Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)
30th President of the United States.



This St. Gargoyles cartoon is reproduced with permission.

Easter Eggs about Easter? Whatever next?

Of the 80 Million chocolate eggs expected to be sold in the UK, the Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade Egg to explain the meaning of Easter on and in the box. Now in its third year, the Real Easter Egg 2013 has a free activity pack in the box which includes the Easter story, activity poster, free i-video download and a sticker set.

With each sale of The Real Easter Egg a donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange to support some of the poorest farmers in the world. More than £40,000 has been donated so far. For information on where to buy your Real Easter Egg go to www.realeasteregg.co.uk

David

Poetry Corner.

This month Audrey Bourne spotted this Anonymous offering about the infamous Mr. Nobody, who she says, was responsible for many things in her house too.

Mr. Nobody

I know a funny little man,
As quiet as a mouse
Who does the mischief that is done
In everybody's house!
There's no one ever sees his face,
And yet we all agree
That every plate we break was cracked
By Mr. Nobody!

'Tis he who always tears out books
Who leaves the door ajar
He pulls the buttons from our shirts
And scatters pins afar;
That squeaking door will always squeak
For prithee don't you see,
We leave the oiling to be done
By Mr. Nobody.

The finger marks upon the door
By none of us are made
We never leave the blinds unclosed
To let the curtains fade
The ink we never spill
The boots that lying round you see
Are not our boots - they all belong
To Mr. Nobody.

Anon.

Do you have a poem or verse you have written? Why not send it in.
Your public awaits...

Albert's March Quiz:

1. The infant son of which famous aviator was kidnapped on 1st March 1932.
2. Which British political parties merged on the 1st March 1988?
3. In a US speech on 5 March 1946 Winston Churchill introduced which phrase?
4. Which Russian leader died on the 5th March 1953?
5. On the 6th March 1987 which ferry disaster occurred off Zeebrugge?
6. On 7th March 1912 France's Henri Seimet first made which non-stop flight?
7. In which country was the French Foreign Legion formed on 9th March 1931?
8. Which member of the Royal Family was born on the 10th March 1964?
9. What ceased to be legal tender in the UK on the 11th March 1988?
10. Which famous Dutch diarist died on the 12th March 1945?
11. Who did Paul McCartney marry on the 12th March 1969?
12. Which planet did William Herschel discover on the 13th March 1781?
13. On the 13 March 1938, which country was invaded by Germany?
14. Which famous Roman was assassinated on the 11th March in 44BC?
15. Which sporting event first began in Melbourne, Australia on the 15th March 1877?
16. Which sporting event first took place at Kennington Oval on the 16th March 1872?
17. On the 18th March 1965 which Russian was the first man to walk in space?
18. Which English monarch died on the 24th March 1603?
19. What scandalous practice was abolished in Britain on the 25th March 1807?
20. Which country held its first democratic parliamentary election on the 27th March 1989?

Answers on page 43

Albert Shaw

Diary for March 2013

Tues 5th	2-3.30pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ': Session 3 In the Vicarage (all sessions)
	7.30-9pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ': Session 3 At Gail's House (all sessions)
Wed 6th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Thurs 7th	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
Sun 10th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 11th	12 noon	'First Steps' Toddler Service – in Parish Centre Henry Learns to Share
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting in Parish Centre
Tues 12th	2-3.30pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ' Session 4
	7.30-9pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ' Session 4
Wed 13th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
Fri 15th	1pm	Wedding
Sun 17th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Mon 18th	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting – Parish Centre
Tues 19th	2-3.30pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ' Session 5
	7.30-9pm	Lent Group 'Growing in Christ' Session 5
Wed 20th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
Thurs 21st	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sat 23rd	10am-1pm	'Feaster your eyes..' Activity Morning – see P29
HOLY WEEK BEGINS WITH PALM SUNDAY:		
Sun 24th	10.30am	Holy Communion (Service commences in the Parish Centre)
Mon 25th	12 noon	'First Steps' Toddler Service – in Church
	7pm	Compline – short reflective service
Tues 26th	7pm	Compline – short reflective service
Wed 27th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thurs 28th	9.45am	Hill Top School Easter service
	10.30am	Chrism Eucharist in Wakefield Cathedral
	7.30pm	Holy communion with foot-washing
Fri 29th	2-3pm	GOOD FRIDAY: An hour at the Cross
Sat 30th	8.30pm	Easter Eve Reflective service
Sun 31st	10.30am	All-Age Easter Communion

Diary for early April 2013

Wed 3rd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Thurs 4th	2pm	Holy Communion at Soothill Manor
Sat 6th	9.30-12	Church & churchyard clean-up
	1pm	Wedding
Sun 7th	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism service
Mon 8th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting in Parish Centre
Wed 10th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Morning Prayer service – NO COMMUNION
Sun 14th	10.30am	All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion



Kids: Don't forget Jam Club !

Sunday Morning 10.30 - 11.30

Jesus - And - Me

Learning & Doing in Faith.

What's your Story?

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

Church Organisations:

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

Thankyou

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

The Editor.

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

Registers for MARCH:-

On the 3rd February we welcomed 3 new members to our church in Baptism.

Harry Christopher Cartlidge son of Paul and Victoria from Sowerby Bridge.

Frankie Jai Beverley and his brother Taylor Jake Beverley sons of Warren and Emma from Tingley.

Funerals:-

Irene Cowles beloved Mother and Grandmother from Tingley.

Cyril Hayward beloved Brother from Tingley.

Lucy Rotherforth beloved Mother from Gildersome.

Carol May Peterson beloved Mother and Grandmother from Tingley.

Also remembered:

Ronnie Bourne, died Good Friday (April 6th) 2007.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Charles Lindbergh. 2. Liberal & Social Democratic. 3. The Iron Curtain. 4. Josef Stalin. 5. Herald of Free Enterprise. 6. Paris to London. 7. Algeria. 8. Prince Edward. 9. £1 note. 10. Anne Frank. 11. Linda Eastman. 12. Uranus. 13. Austria. 14. Julius Caesar. 15. Cricket Test Match, Australia v England. 16. FA Cup Final. 17. Alexei Leonev. 18. Elizabeth I. 19. The slave trade. 20. Russia.

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