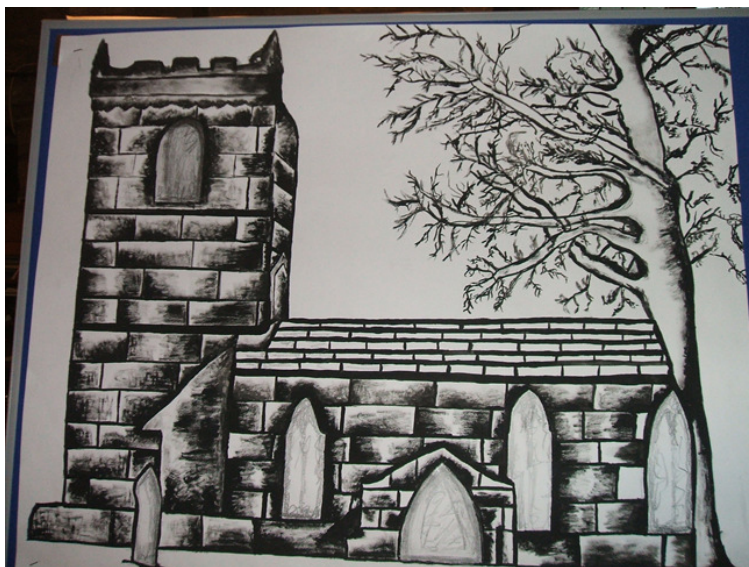


November 2013

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Church Art on Show



St. Mary's by Holly McMahon

This Month:

**Silent Hero; Academy Art;
The Posada; Donkeys;
Imponderables.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Weekly News Sheet. Email: dave2408.townsend@gmail.com
Magazine Articles by the 20th 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, Barbara Tate.

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

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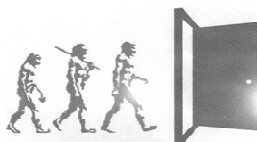
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on

St Mary's website.

Have a look at
the **Daily Newspaper** on the website:
www.stmarywoodkirk.org



Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers.

Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. May God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by Post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £12 a year to cover magazine costs (see Page 35). Post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Call Margaret on 01924 473064. It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far. Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site & Twitter

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

Copies of the magazine can be downloaded from the web site from the middle of the month of publication.

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

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

Meaningful Chocolate launch

The UK's only Fairtrade charity Advent calendar with a free copy of the Christmas story in the box on sale in Tesco stores across Britain and is set to raise £25,000 for the Children's Society.

The Real Advent calendar has a window for each day of December, behind which is a Belgian chocolate star and a line from the Christmas story. "When you open the final, oversized window, a chocolate star and a beautifully-illustrated, 24-page copy of the Nativity story is revealed," explains David Marshall, founder of the Meaningful Chocolate Company which makes the calendar.

Getting the timing right.

It's almost become a national obsession. I'm regularly asked, "Do you watch 'Strictly Come Dancing'?" The answer is, I enjoy it when I can but I'm not glued to it. I know those who are, for whom the weekend routine has this one sacrosanct element between now and Christmas, and it's not Sunday's church service. What is it which makes the programme so captivating? I think it's watching individuals fulfilling their potential, beginning the series as virtual novices, people we can relate to, but being slowly coached to near perfection. It inspires us to see that, by investing enough of themselves in the learning experience, goals can be reached. These individuals can become what they aspire to be. And if they can, then so can we. If we are prepared to give ourselves to the experience.

Of course, becoming what we have the potential to be can take a lifetime. Real life is not like Strictly Come Dancing – a three month intensive course of transformation. The key is in the timing. Getting the timing right is essential in Strictly Come Dancing. It's no less essential in life. As I watch, I can always tell those who are trying too hard, driving themselves, driving the dance; they don't tend to stay around very long. There may be technical accuracy but it's something they *do* more than something they *feel*. Those who are around to the end are the ones who, though they work hard at it, are letting the music and the flow of it carry them, who embed themselves in the music and 'inhabit it' in dance, rather than driving it. They've got inside the dance and the dance has got inside them. The timing of the music guides them, rather than them driving themselves. They inhabit each moment rather than pushing on to the end. It seems effortless, and it is clearly energising.

Maybe it's a lesson worth taking on board. In a world which constantly seem to drive us on, learning to inhabit each moment rather than pushing on to some fixed point ahead of us may be important. Children are very good at doing that – maybe that's one of the ways we need to become more like children.

November is a good month to remind ourselves of this. It can be a dark, grim month – a sort of opposite to the glitz and brightness of December, with its Christmas festivities awaiting us. Shopping Centres want us to 'shop away' the November blues in a sense of the anticipation of the impending party season. November might as well be re-named Pre-December. It has lost its own identity. We try to drive our way through the darkness of November by focussing on the joys which lie ahead, and we can miss the important things we can find in the dark

times. There are treasures to be found in times of darkness. Dark places in our lives are painful to live through – unemployment, illness, bereavement, loss in many guises. It is tempting to see them as having no positive value for us. To ‘grit our teeth and forge a way through’ to a better, lighter place.

It is the way we live through life’s challenges that will shape our futures more powerfully than the times of ease. You only have to look at those who lived through the hardships and challenges of war to see how those events have shaped the values many of them have today.

The people they are today have been moulded by those experiences. Perhaps it’s no coincidence that it’s those very times of challenge and darkness, where we feel overwhelmed, that drive us closer to God. He invites us to find the treasure in the dark places of our lives. Often they’re only treasures we recognise with hindsight. This year, I’m going to try to not rush through November with my sights set on Christmas glitz. I want to get the timing right – to inhabit the flow of this season. I hope you feel the same.

Revd. Amanda

Remembering loved ones.

We will be holding a special Memorial Service at 6pm on Sunday 10th November at which our loved ones can be remembered by name, and we can light candles in their memory. All those who have experienced a loss over the last year have been personally invited, but we are very aware that the pain of bereavement lasts much longer than a year. This service has importance for many of us in the journey through grief.

If you would like to join us for this service, the name of the one you have come to remember will be added to the list at your arrival at church. You will be invited, should you wish to do so, to come forward during the service, and light your candle in their memory as their name is read out.

Many who have come in previous years have found this a moving and healing service for them. Grief can be a lonely place – it’s reassuring that you do not walk the path alone. I always find it a great joy to see again families with whom I had the privilege of supporting at the time of the funeral and hear how they have coped.

During this evening service we will also be joined by the British Legion, as we remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country, and those who continue to do so.

Revd. Amanda

Silent Hero.

Clifford Broadhead is just one of the names on the Memorial Board in St. Mary's Church, but who was he? David Broadhead was Clifford's nephew and here he tells the story:

Clifford was just a boy of 18 years when he was called up to serve his country in late 1917. He lived on Baghill and started as a miner at the old Shaw Cross pit when only 13 or 14 years of age. His knowledge of mining singled him out as a tunneller on the French front line, serving as Private 49325 in the 2nd Lincolnshire Regiment.

The practise of digging tunnels across 'no man's land' from the trenches on the allied side to the enemy lines, was by then well established. When the tunnel was complete, explosives were placed under the enemy lines or gun positions. The Germans, however had also adopted the same principle, digging their own tunnels. These tunnels, therefore, criss-crossed under the battle fields above - sometimes meeting accidentally, when vicious hand to hand fighting would take place in dark, damp, claustrophobic conditions. Both sides would use soldiers to listen for the sounds of excavation, and then, when the sounds were close enough, use explosives to kill or bury alive the digging crew.

On the 22nd March 1918, just 9 months before the war ended, Clifford was killed whilst underground. How we do not know. We can only hope it was quick and painless. He has no grave that we can visit, we can only look at his name on the Pozieres Memorial and wonder how and why.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we will remember them.

David.



Clifford Broadhead

The Mayor's Civic Service. Eee..It were grand...

The Grand Finale to our Harvest Celebrations

The final event of our Harvest Weekend had a truly local feel, as the church was full to bursting. In addition to a 'standing room only' congregation, we had choir stalls occupied with the brass band of the Salvation Army; display boards bearing a variety of artistic depictions of the church from the Year 11 Art Exhibition; window bottoms laden with harvest goods for delivery to a local charity; even the pew-end umbrella holders were decorated with corn, sunflowers and other harvest symbols. The whole building seemed bursting with gifts – harvest foodstuffs, musical gifts, artistic gifts and floral gifts. It seemed the theme, the gifts of creation, was perfect.

The Mayor of Morley, Councillor Tom Leadley, having lived all his life in the area, knows much of its history. Excerpts from his booklet on the history of Lee Fair have been published in earlier editions of our magazine, and he spoke of the long history of St. Mary's in serving this community at the beginning of the service. The rousing Lee Fair anthem was sung by Nancy Finnigan; and in a very different style, the 35 voice choir of Hill Top school treated us to four harvest themed songs, bringing their usual freshness and enthusiasm to the event.

All of it was enriched by the stirring brass band of the Salvation Army, and we were enormously grateful to Peter Siney, organist of St. Peter's in Morley, for standing in at short notice when we discovered our own John Hardcastle was ill. (Get well soon John).

A tub of miniature Heroes served as a great reminder that we are all heroes, all have gifts – that when we look in the mirror each morning we should remember that we are looking at the gift-wrap on one of God's gifts to the world. Although the young Hill Top student who unwrapped the tub of chocolates looked a little crestfallen that they were not all for him, everyone loves to leave a service with a chocolate to eat! Many made their way to the Parish Centre for tea, coffee and cakes and biscuits. It was the icing on the cake of a great weekend. St. Mary's really was a church for the whole community this weekend – long may it continue!

Rev'd. Amanda

The August Talks: Balak & Balaam

In the fourth of five talks on figures from the Old Testament, Derek explains the role of the Donkey in biblical times.

What is Carol Vorderman's and mathematicians favourite book of the bible? Numbers!

In 1975 I attended a Christian Arts Festival called Greenbelt. At that event I went to see an animated film called The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, anyone heard of it? Well up to then I hadn't. Shame on me. I was blown away with the story. So much so that I went to the onsite bookshop and bought a copy. I can't say that I read it; I devoured it, reading continuously from cover to cover.

At the end of the book I found that there were six more in the series, a Heptalogy, or Septology, Septet. So on my next day off I went to Scripture union bookshop and bought another of the series. I must say that my favourite of the seven is the Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

My least favourite is The Last battle. Perhaps it is because it is the last book, or perhaps it is because a stupid donkey is persuaded to wear an old lion skin and pretend to be Aslan. The book for me has a depressing feel to it.

Here in the passage read today by Albert, we also have a donkey playing a key role. Let us look at the main characters in this event:

Balak was the king of Moab. He had heard that the Israelites were on their way. They had left Egypt and were heading for the Promised Land. He thought that they were next for the invasion. The Israelites had just defeated the Amorites. The Moabites were sick with dread, with this hoard camped just north of their territory. Fearing the Israelite army devouring all the food, defeating his army and taking his kingdom Balak sent a message to Balaam, to buy some insurance.

Balaam was a false prophet, an occultist who worshipped many heathen Gods, but he was also aware of Yahweh the God of the Israelites. He was not a Jew but kept his options open. He treated gods like pets, he gave them offerings, said the right words and sang the right songs, then they would do his bidding. In this he had been successful.

He had built up a reputation that whatever he cursed was cursed and whatever he blessed was blessed. So Balak sends a delegation to Balaam with the message "Come out and curse the Israelite army". Balaam realises this could be very profitable, and asks the God of the Israelites "Shall I go out and curse the Israelite army?" God says "No" so he goes and informs the officials and they leave to relay this rebuff to the king. But the king was not going to take this lying down. He sends a

second larger, more senior group of officials to ask the same question.

Balaam again asks God the same question, with the same No! He should have said, "These people are blessed and I cannot go" but he doesn't, he says the equivalent of "my dad says that I can't come out to play, but if you hang on, I'll ask again and see what he says".

So the story unfolds. God eventually does say "Yes you can go. But only say what I put in your mouth". Now I don't know about you but at this point I would have second thoughts, but Balaam goes on his trusty donkey.

The donkey. These were very important animals in the bible, the people carrier of the day. The law required that a man's Donkey HAD to rest on Sabbath Day. (Exodus 23:12). If it was stolen, the thief was required to pay back twice the donkey's value (Exodus. 22:4)

Exodus 23:5 specifically commanded that "If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it." AND the donkey was one of only two animals mentioned in the 10 commandments

Exodus 20:17 said "You shall not covet your neighbour's... ox OR donkey..." Then we have the donkey in the Gospel accounts, the journey to Bethlehem and Palm Sunday.

So Balaam is riding on his donkey with the leaders of Moab. "And the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as an adversary against him."

When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his drawn sword, the donkey turned off into a field. Balaam struck the donkey to turn her. Three times this happened. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord and got out of the way, fast. Finally she just laid down in the middle of the road, with the Moabite officials on their camels and horses backing up.

The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey "What have I done to you, that you have hit me three times" and Balaam is so shocked that he answers him back! "Because you have made a fool of me" Then God opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and he say's "Why have you beaten your donkey, if she hadn't stopped I would have parted your hair with my sword". So this time Balaam goes with the entourage and instead of cursing the Israelites, Balaam blesses them as commanded by God and Moab falls.

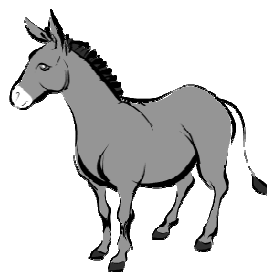
There is so much in this story that I could talk about, disobedience, greed, but I would like to make this point. Balaam

treated gods like pets.

Let me tell you now, today the God that we serve is not a pet God, one that we can keep in a box that does our bidding. He will not dance to our tune. No! He is The creator of all things, ruler of all things, he was, he is and is still to come.

Balaam followed many gods and treated them like pets. To be a disciple of Jesus is very different. We serve the one true God, the mystery that is Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A disciple of bible times would observe and imitate the Rabbi. He would learn to apply the written and verbal law to situations; He would walk in the rabbi's footsteps and be covered by the dust from his feet.

We are called to be Disciples of Christ, to follow him, imitate him, Do as he says and trust him. A true disciple wants to be part of God's plan. Because of this plan he has given us individual gifts so we can play our part in it. If he even had a plan for a donkey there's hope for us all.



Derek

Christenings on the rise...

Prince George was christened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby on the 23rd October in a private ceremony at St. James' Palace. There are more than 2000 christenings a week in the Church of England. In interviews carried out for the Church of England website, parents, godparents and clergy talk about why baptism still has a place in the 21st century and how it is open to all.

Vicars and parents talk about how baptism is a joyous occasion to be celebrated, while godparents talk about how social media has an impact on their relationship with godchildren. "Christenings are more popular than ever with families. In 2011 baptisms in the Church of England increased by almost 5% to nearly 130,000 that year. Two thirds of Christenings are for babies under one year, but there is a growing number of toddler and older children being baptised.

Everyone is welcome to talk to their local vicar about having their child christened. It's great to give thanks for new life, to be part of the worldwide church in a local community and to know God's blessing,"

Ponder this - God's Word...

During a question and answer session at a recent speaking engagement, a university student asked: "Why do you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God?"

In answering this student's question, the tutor encouraged him to consider the following facts about the Bible:

First, the Bible is not just one single book. It is actually a collection of 66 books which is called the canon of scriptures. These 66 books contain a variety of genres; history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom, literature, letters, and apocalyptic, just to name a few.

Second, these 66 books were written by 40 different authors. These authors came from a variety of backgrounds; shepherds, fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, and others, and most of these authors never knew one another personally.

Third, these 66 books were written over a period of 1,500 years. Yet again, this is another reminder that many of these authors never knew or collaborated with one another in writing these books.

Fourth, the 66 books of the Bible were written in 3 different languages: In the ancient languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.

Finally, these 66 books were written on 3 different continents; Africa, Asia and Europe. Once again, this is a testament to the varied historical and cultural circumstances of God's people.

This collection of books shares a common storyline: the creation, fall and redemption of God's people; a common theme: God's universal love for all of humanity; and a common message: salvation is available to all. God's word truly is an amazing collection of writings!

After he had shared the above facts with this student, the tutor offered him the following challenge: "If you do not believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, then I challenge you to a test. Go to any library in the world, and find 66 books written by 40 different authors over 1,500 years in 3 different languages written on 3 different continents. However, they must share a common storyline, a common theme, and a common message with no historical errors or contradictions."

The student replied "But that's impossible!"

The next time you encounter someone who asks you why you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, try sharing this challenge with them.

In God we trust.

Brian

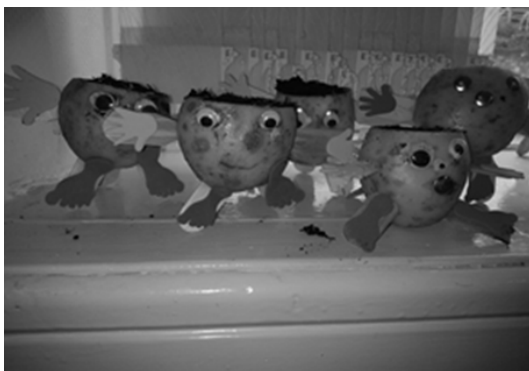
Harvest Activity Day

Over 20 children came along for the Harvest Activity Day to make crafts and play games and challenges. Charlie and Alice showed up for a puppet show, Derek and Albert helped the children make a giant banner for church, Dave and Kate watched carefully as they made windmills from plaster and card, Brian and Gail looked on with trepidation as they made Mr. Potato Men, Sally and Sandra helped with the scarecrows and Susan and Margaret helped the children make delicious fruit kebabs.



Above: The Children
& Fruit

Right: Mr. Potato Men



Below: Scarecrows



Above: Charlie & Alice



Below: The Church Banner



Above: Windmills



The Posada Adventure comes to Woodkirk!

No, it's not a misprint. Not Poseidon – Posada! Some families, bringing down that box of Christmas decorations from the loft this year, will find a little woollen sheep in amongst the tinsel and baubles. It may stir a memory of a visit made to your home last Christmas by the Posada figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey, as they travelled through our community in search of shelter. You may even remember the challenge to give your sheep a name. Can you remember what it was?? Well, Mary and Joseph and the donkey will be back – coming to visit the sheep they left with you, perhaps. Or to bring something else?? Who knows.....

Last year, Madeline Reece began the first stage of Mary and Joseph's marathon by hosting them on Advent Sunday. She even took them into school the following day and explained in assembly what a Posada was. Maybe you're wondering yourself...

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph used to travel from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph into a crib scene.

Today, in Britain, things are done slightly differently! Small Nativity figures of Mary and Joseph and the donkey are prayed over, that the homes they visit will be blessed with the presence of the Christ Child, during a Sunday service. They are then entrusted to the care of a member of the congregation, who 'hosts' Mary and Joseph (and the donkey) for the first night. (Don't worry, they don't eat much!!).

A Journey Rota will be displayed at the back of church, and you simply add your name on a night which suits you, to 'host' the nativity figures. The folk who hosted them the night before will arrange to bring them to your house, and will say a simple prayer with you, which comes with the Posada set, as you take them in. The next day, you will take Mary and Joseph to the next home on the Journey Rota, and so on.

We aim to have a map up in the porch detailing their journey that week, the route they have taken, and with the aid of a disposable camera, build up pictures of the families or individuals who have given Mary and Joseph room for the night. The journey goes on throughout the four weeks of Advent. On Christmas Eve, Mary and Joseph will be brought by the final host into church for the Christingle celebrations. Last year, the photos of the families who had hosted the Posada were displayed in church after Christmas and proved quite a focus of attention. Why not get your photo there this time round?

Posada is a great way to consciously make room in our homes for the presence of the Christ- child. It's something which can involve the youngest families with children – how exciting, to have Mary and Joseph to stay with you overnight! But it also has much value and comfort to the oldest members of the congregation. Those who took part last year commented on the pleasure they found welcoming the bearers of the set, sharing a coffee and mince pie as well as the whole experience. It is a great way to build community and get to know other church members better. I particularly enjoyed the time I spent handing over the figures, and making time to talk and share a simple prayer in their homes.

Watch out for the rota, and consider signing up. You won't regret it!

Revd. Amanda

A Personal View of Posada *by Dave Wass*

Well November is here. All over the country Guy Fawkes is awaiting his fate. By the time you are reading this he may already have been despatched. November is the time when we start to think about the joyful season of Christmas. At St. Mary's the taking of the Posada figures from home to home is well established. This symbolises taking Jesus into our homes and our hearts.

Pat and I had always avoided getting involved with this event. Our reasons, we were too busy, we were going on holiday, were really just excuses, so last year we took the plunge. We were second in line and so were able to meet the people who would be passing on the figures to us. A delightful family, whose daughter attended one of the Church's uniformed groups.

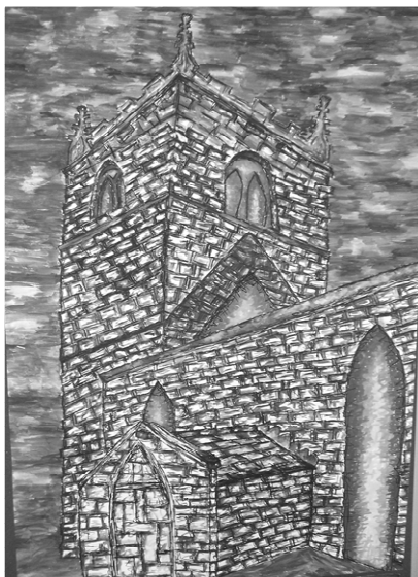
They arrived in the evening with not only the figures but a small gift for us. This was a family we did not know but who were part of the Church life. We settled the figures into a warm corner where they spent a restful night.

Next evening it was our turn to hand over the figures to Vicky the Guide Leader. As it was their regular night for meeting the whole guide troop where able to get involved. Although my photographic skills were sadly lacking and the photo of the group did not turn out I think we all enjoyed the event. The whole experience was warm and friendly and I realised that it has opened a new door. We had made new friends and learned that the Church Family is much bigger than our regular Sunday friends and that although they may not be in church every Sunday they play their part in the life of St Mary's. I suppose you could say that "in giving we had received."

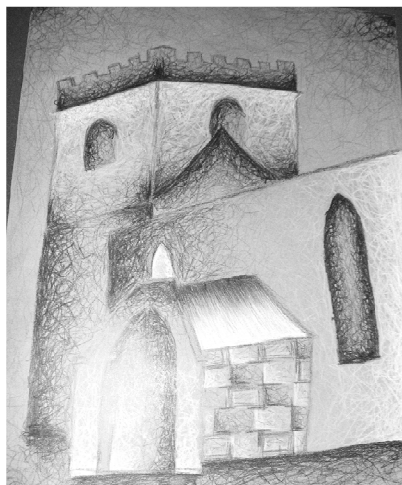
So if you are considering taking the figures this year GO ON HAVE A GO !

Woodkirk Academy Art Exhibition

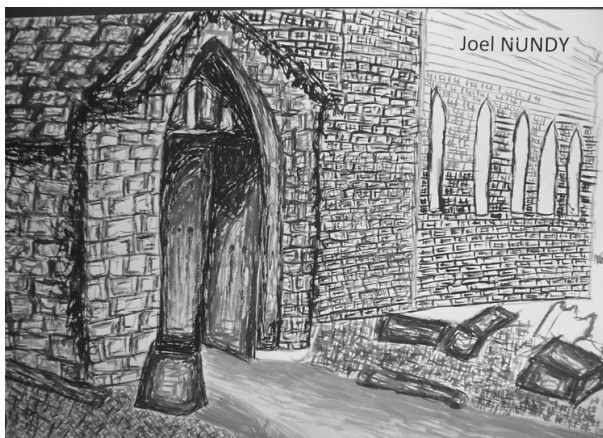
If you missed the wonderful Art Exhibition in Church on the 12th and 13th of October, here are just a few of the marvellous examples produced by the pupils at the Academy. Unfortunately we cant do them justice as we are black and white only. If you want to see the full colour versions, take a look on our website: www.stmarywoodkirk.org. The church was bustling with people all day on Saturday coming to see these marvellous designs. The front cover is another fine example of the Artwork from some very talented students.



Charlotte Woodhead



Elizabeth Lloyd



Joel Nundy



Elizabeth Durkin

Leah Culpan



James Donohoe

Prayerful Thought ...Part II.

Dawn Tattersfield takes us with her on her Theological adventure...

I love Autumn. There is usually still some mild weather to be had, the children go back to school and students go off to university. It is a time of starting again.

I always feel re-energised and ready to crack on with tasks I kept putting off! It can be a time of uncertainty for young children starting school, or for those children changing schools.

A few months ago I wrote an article about prayer and that it was my wish to spend more time with God, and this time of year seemed like a good opportunity to update you on my 'progress'!

Well.....I'm sorry to say I have not really made much progress at all. I did attend the summer bible study group at the vicarage which took us through the bible from Genesis to Revelations in 5 weeks!! It was fun and really interesting, and has set me up nicely for the first module of my exploratory year in Theological Studies which I started in September. However, I still haven't managed to get into a daily prayer routine.

In the final session at the vicarage Amanda asked some of us to talk about our approach to prayer. One of the group explained that they sat with a cup of tea every morning and followed a daily reading plan in their bible. I envied their quiet and calm approach to every day, and can understand now, why they are such a calm and organised individual. It was interesting that when I shared my approach to prayer it really reflected my rushed and busy approach to each day. It was like comparing a calm and serene swan with a fidgety duck!

I started my studies into Theological Studies on the first Sunday in September and came away with a head bursting with theology and a bag full of heavy books!! Since then I have wondered if I am doing the right thing, as we all are prone to do when we begin something new, we doubt ourselves. But God doesn't doubt us, and if I needed any encouragement, it came.

I decided it was time to get into a habit of daily prayer, and guess what? I looked back at the previous few days devotions and their titles were; Take Control of Your Life; Growing in Faith; God's claims on your life; learn to be led by God's Spirit and Confidence. Now some would say that this was coincidence, but perhaps it is

God's way of saying 'Come along, its Autumn, make a new start and make me a part of it, and I will be with you on your journey'.

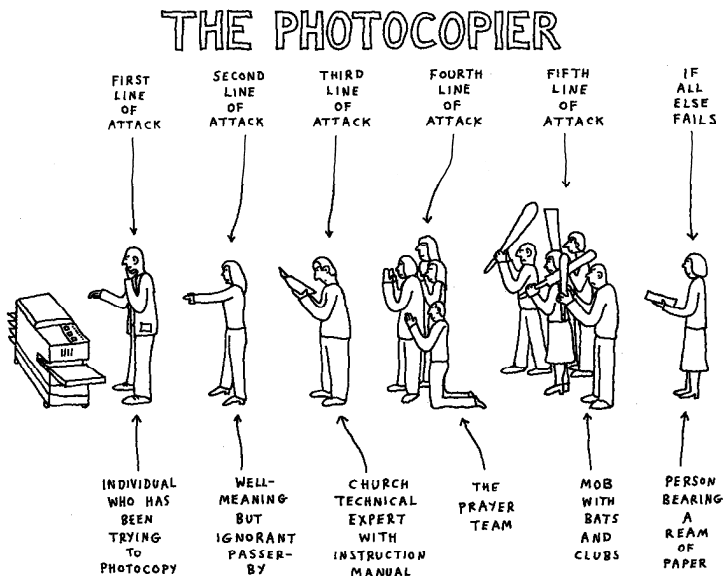
We have so many faults, but God isn't looking for perfection, he is looking for willingness.

For some unfathomable reason, God has chosen me to start on this path even though I am already doubting myself, but I am trusting that God will open the doors, make connections, and provide the resources for me to progress with my studies, learn more about him, and show me how to use this opportunity he has given me.

Don't keep thinking, oh I'll not bother with a daily bible reading plan now, I'll start next month, or I'll start next year, God doesn't worry that you haven't found that bit of time in your day yet to take 5 minutes time out to be with him, he accepts you as you are, with all your faults and foibles. Just see if you can squeeze in 5 minutes tomorrow and build from that, you never know, he may help you find a few more minutes of opportunity to sit and be still with him.

Dawn

Hopefully we'll hear more from Dawn as she progresses on her journey towards God...Editor.



CartoonChurch.com

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Malcolm's BEM Presentation

It was in the Queen's birthday honours list when Malcolm Haigh heard of his award. In September he went to the presentation ceremony at Bowcliffe Hall. Malcolm is a well established member of St. Mary's as well as serving as Churchwarden and Magazine Editor in his time.

Malcolm was presented with his British Empire Medal (BEM) by Dr Ingrid Roscoe, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire on the 23rd September 2013.

There were hundreds of nominations for the BEM, but only nine individuals from West Yorkshire were chosen. Malcolm went along to the historic Bowcliffe Hall, north-east of Leeds not far from Bramham Park to receive his award. He took with him his partner, Barbara as well as son Andrew and daughter Beverley. They listened to the achievements of all the recipients before enjoying a light lunch followed by photographs both inside and outside the Hall.

The recipients of the British Empire Medal were:

Sheila Bamford for her dedication and effective leadership of Morton Housing services and her work with the homeless people of Bradford, Kirklees and Calderdale;

Malcolm Haigh for his dedication and service to the town of Batley;

Eunice Hemingway, for her unstinting support for those unable to properly represent themselves and for her contribution as a member of Wakefield Samaritans;

Winifred McLaughlin for a lifetime of dedicated service to the community and residents of Glasshoughton;

Roger Parkinson for his volunteering work with the Woodland Trust;

Mary Seal for over 50 years of outstanding and consistent contribution within the Bingley district;

Heiki Soova, for his huge influence on the sporting lives of thousands of youngsters in the Bradford and wider Yorkshire area;

Reverend Paul Wilcock, for his performance as the role of Director of Student Services with the University of Huddersfield and as the Chaplain for West Yorkshire Police;

Frank Wright for raising thousands of pounds for local charities and organisations including the Holly Bank School at Mirfield for severely disabled children.

The BEM is awarded for civil or military service worthy of recognition by the crown. All of the nine have sacrificed their time and offered their expertise to those who need it and each has made a significant impact in their communities.

The Lord Lieutenant said of the ceremony and its recipients:

"Nothing gives me as much pleasure as this particular ceremony - not only do I get to read about all the remarkable things that the recipients have done, but I also have the joy of meeting them and talking about their experiences."

Malcolm spoke of his amazement in receiving an award of such prestige: "I never imagined I would receive an award like this. I am so thrilled." he said. Malcolm has worked tirelessly on many different fronts, but he says it has all been done to promote the town of Batley. His hope is that the good townsfolk are as proud of Batley as he is.

David

PS: Malcolm was also very pleased to see that the Church Clock is once again telling the right time! Editor.



The BEM: Malcolm's name is inscribed around the edge of the medal.

Christmas Services 2013.

Sunday 1st December Advent 1.

8am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am Holy Communion (sung)

12.30pm Baptism Service

START OF TOY COLLECTION – UNWRAPPED, NEW ITEMS

POSADA STARTS TODAY (see article on P20)

Saturday 7th December

11am-2pm Carol Singing at Country Baskets

Sunday 8th December Advent 2.

10.30am All-Age Service with Nativity.

12.00 noon Holy Communion

END OF TOY COLLECTION.

Monday 9th December

12 noon ‘First Steps’ toddler service in church

“Henry’s Christmas Party”

Saturday 14th December

10am-1pm ‘Glitter, glue and baby goo!’ Activity morning
(see article on P28)

Sunday 15th December Advent 3.

10.30am Holy Communion

Thurs 19th December

7pm Westerton School Carol Service

Friday 20th December

9.45am Hill-Top Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December Advent 4.

10.30am Holy Communion

4pm Carol Service by candlelight

Tuesday 24th December

3pm Christingle (aimed at younger children)

5pm Christingle (aimed at older children)

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Holy Communion (all-age)

Sunday 29th December

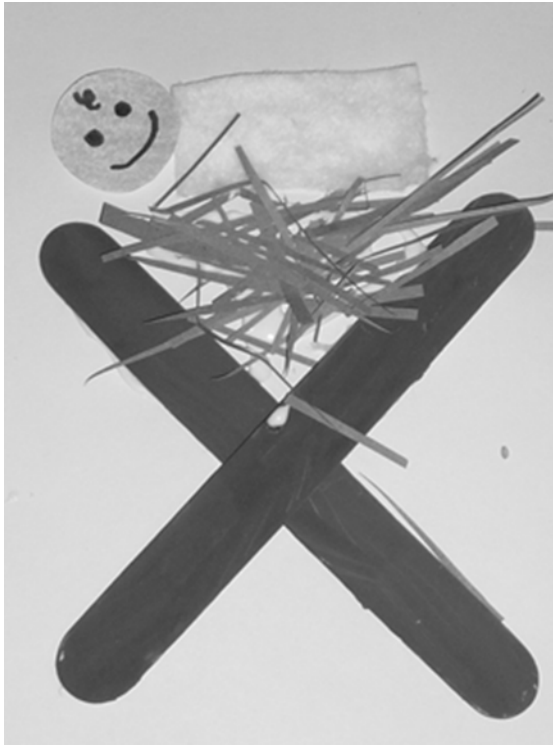
10.30am All-Age Communion with baptism.



The All New Pinder-Packard.

Congratulations to long time Churchwarden, PCC member and computer whiz Neal and his wife, Anne on the arrival of their son, Thomas Charles, born 28th September and weighing in at 6 pounds 3 ounces. Rumours of a Sheffield Wednesday Shirt are as yet unconfirmed...





Christmas Activity Morning

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Saturday 14th December 2013.

10am-1pm

Suitable for children aged 4-11

£3 per child.

To book places, ring Amanda on 01924 472375

Playgroup Update

It has been a very busy few weeks in playgroup, getting to know all our new children and their parents and carers.

This term we will be concentrating on celebrations, such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and of course, Christmas. We have a very busy and exciting few weeks ahead of us as we start our Christmas countdown. As we are a charity, we are always looking at ways of fundraising so if you have any ideas, please get in touch.

We do still have a few vacancies on Tuesday and Thursday morning so if you are interested in a place for your child, please let me know. (see back page for contact details).

If you have an hour or so free, we are always grateful of an extra pair of hands so again, please feel free to get in touch! We would really appreciate them at our Thursday session!

Debbie

Playgroup Supervisor

Parish Centre Users Meeting

On Monday 25th November at 7:30pm we wish to hold a Parish Centre Users Meeting.

This is to discuss any question or problems that have arisen over the last few months, including the cleaning of the Parish Centre. We now have a cleaner who comes in once a week, but it is also up to us users to help keep the Centre and its floor clean and tidy.

It is hoped we will see all users at this meeting on the 25th. It is important that we can all meet together to discuss any problems arising.

Cellar and Sexton's Hut.

Also on Saturday 23rd November starting at 9:30am we are looking for volunteers to help clean out the Cellar in the Parish Centre and the Sexton's Hut which is at the side of the Parish Centre. Please come and show your support, if we get enough volunteers this should only take a couple of hours.

Gail Townsend and Derek Barraclough



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

District Cub Unihock Competition Report

The District Cub unihock competition was held at St Andrews Church on Sunday 20 October 2013.

We entered one team made up of James Newell, Thomas Rutledge, Madeline Reece, Ella Chadwick, Jacob Clancy-Wood and Owen from Drighlington. Owen was the only Cub from Drighlington who had attended the event. He was drafted into our team when one of our team members was late in arriving at the event.

10 teams entered the event. They were split into 2 groups of 5 teams and therefore played 4 matches each in a league format. Our team played the very first match of the competition and drew 1-1, a good start. In the league we then won a match, lost a match and won the final match. We finished with 5 points and were 2nd in our group.

We played the winner of the other group, Guildersome in the semi final and beat them 1-0.

The team had therefore qualified for the final and played Rothwell A who had beaten us in our group matches. The first half did not go well. We conceded 3 quick goals but straight after half time scored ourselves and looked like making a comeback. Unfortunately things did not work out and the team eventually went down 5-1.

The Cubs did brilliantly to qualify for the final and at all times were a credit to the Pack.

Well done James, Thomas, Madeline, Ella and Jacob.

Jonathan

Beavers

On the 11th October our Beavers welcomed Mr Harry Gough who told us all about his experience in World War 2 as a rear gunner. He brought in some picture tea towels and his medals to show us. The Beavers loved asking questions about his flying experience. Questions like: Could he eat and drink in the aircraft? Did he shoot down any planes? How often did he fly? As well as quite a few gory ones. We really appreciated Harry's time with us. It is good at this time for the children to remember the sacrifices these men and women gave for our country to live in peace.

We are busy with our fitness badge and learning to work as teams. We also welcomed two new members to our colony (that is what the Beavers belong to) - Douglas and Kyran.

We have all now been given our new Badge celebrating our 30th anniversary as the 15th Morley Woodkirk St. Mary's Group; this had been designed by members of the 15th Morley Scouting Group. The Beavers meet between 5.30pm and 6.15pm. Gail

Scouts

Many congratulations to the Scouts who successfully defended their Cooking and First Aid challenges at the Camper Craft competition last month.

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

The season is not so much drawing to a close but rather it's starting. Now you can start to plant some crops for next season such as Garlic, Peas and Broadbeans. Garlic needs a period of cold so try and put some in the ground now in time for the first frosts.

1. Plant new fruit trees and prune existing wall-trained fruit.
2. Sow Broadbeans and Peas.
3. Dig heavy soils and leave in clumps for the frost to break down.
4. Wash pots and seed trays thoroughly in soapy water. Also clean and oil your tools.
5. Bring in the last of the dried beans such as Runner and French.
6. Harvest leeks when required. Heel some in horizontally, in a shallow trench by the back door allowing easy access when it's cold!
7. Plant patio containers for spring colour using hyacinths, daffodils, crocus and grape hyacinths as well as fritillary and Iris reticulata.
8. Stake any Brussels sprouts that look leggy. Pick off any yellowing leaves. If any are ready for harvesting, pick the largest from the bottom of the stalk.
9. Lift Chicory and Rhubarb for forcing. Rhubarb crowns should be at least three years old. Remove foliage from Chicory and place in a warm, dark place.
10. Take a moment to talk to gardening friends, relatives and neighbours to see if there is a way to save money. There are often bulk buying deals for fertilizers, composts and seeds.

Sandra.

Albert's November Quiz:

1. What savings scheme began in Britain on the 1 November 1956?
2. The first stretch of which motorway opened on the 2 November 1959?
3. On 3 November 1957 Russia sent the first dog into space. Can you name it?
4. The first UK store of which retailer opened in Liverpool on 5 November 1909?
5. In whose home was Sarah Rivett murdered on 7 November 1974?
6. On 8 November 1932 who was elected President of the USA?
7. From 9 November 1859 what was abolished in the British Army?
8. What major demolition job began on 10 November 1989?
9. In which year was Poppy Day first celebrated? Was it 1917, 1919 or 1921?
10. Which member of the Royal Family was born on 14 November 1948?
11. On 14 November 1952 which magazine first published music charts in the UK?
12. What was first transmitted on British TV on the 14 November 1969?
13. Which Royal Wedding took place on 14 November 1973?
14. Which international transport aid began operating on 16 November 1869?
15. What was first shown in cinemas on 18 November 1928?
16. Which British car company was founded on 20 November 1906?
17. On 22 November 1946, which aid to writers was first sold in the UK?
18. What item of street furniture came into use on 23 November 1852?
19. On 25 November 1953 which was the first country to beat England at soccer on home soil?
20. On 27 November 1914 two Grantham women were the first to work as what?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

Poetry Corner.

Lieutenant Colonel John Alexander McCrae, MD was a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during World War I, and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium. He was inspired to write the famous Poem 'In Flanders Field' on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer.

Its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict.

In Flanders Field

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

Diary for November 2013.

Sat 2nd 9.30am-12.30pm Church & churchyard clean-up

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sun 10th 10.30am All-Age Worship for Remembrance Sunday
12 noon Holy Communion
2.30pm Act of Remembrance at Tingley Memorial
6pm Memorial & Remembrance Service
with British Legion

Mon 11th 12 noon 'First Steps' Toddler service
– Henry says 'Thank you'
7.30pm PCC meeting in Parish Centre

Wed 13th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments

Sun 17th 10.30am Holy Communion (sung)

Mon 18th 2pm Mothers' Union meeting – Parish Centre

Wed 20th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments

Wed 21st 11am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

CHRIST THE KING

Sun 24th 10.30am Holy Communion (sung)

Wed 27th 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)
& refreshments

Sat 30th 10am-3pm CHRISTMAS FAIR in Parish Centre
4pm Wedding

Early December

ADVENT 1

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	START OF TOY COLLECTION – NEW, UNWRAPPED GIFTS PLEASE	
Wed 4th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Sat 7th	9.30-12.30am	Church & churchyard clean-up
	11am-2pm	Carol Singing at Country Baskets
	T B C	Playgroup Christmas Social event & Nativity
Sun 8th	10.30am	All-Age Nativity Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
	TOY COLLECTION ENDS TODAY.	



Kids: Don't forget Jam Club !

Sunday Morning 10.30 - 11.30

Jesus - And - Me

Learning & Doing in Faith.

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

Weddings:

Benjamin Jonathan Senior married Emma Nicole Vickers at Woodkirk Valley Country Club on Sat 14th September 2013. Congratulations from the Church Family.

Baptisms:-

On the 29th September we welcomed :-

Ava Isabel Fernando daughter of Mithra and Eve from London, into our church family at her Baptism.

In October we also welcomed 4 new members in Baptism:

Olly George Megurk, Son of David and Nicola from Tingley;

Erin Rose Middleton, Daughter of Gary and Nicola from Tingley;

Thea Alexandra Field, Daughter of Chris and Vanessa from Morley; and Steven Paul Eastwood, from Morley.

Funerals:-

Selina Powell, Ossett, beloved Mother, sadly missed.

Heather Skenfield, Tingley, sadly missed.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Premium Bonds. 2. M1. 3. Laika. 4. Woolworths. 5. Lord Lucan's. 6. Franklin D. Roosevelt. 7. Flogging. 8. The Berlin Wall. 9. 1921. 10. Prince Charles. 11. New Musical Express. 12. Colour Programs. 13. Princess Anne/Mark Phillips. 14. Suez Canal. 15. A sound cartoon. 16. Rolls Royce. 17. Ballpoint pen. 18. Pillar Box. 19. Hungary. 20. Constables,

Albert.

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.

Postal Magazine - new costs.

If you have received the magazine by post for some time, you will know that the price of £9 per year has been the same for many years. When we look at the costs - it is 50p to send by 2nd class post and the magazine itself is good value at 50p per copy, you can see that the annual cost to send the magazine is £12.

So in future we will be increasing the annual subscription to that amount. I hope you enjoy receiving the magazine each month and I would like to thank you for your continued support. Of course, some of you have donated larger sums already and we thank you for those. The e-mails, letters and phone calls from around the country have been a real joy to receive - keep them coming, the best stories in this magazine aren't mine - they are yours.

Editor.

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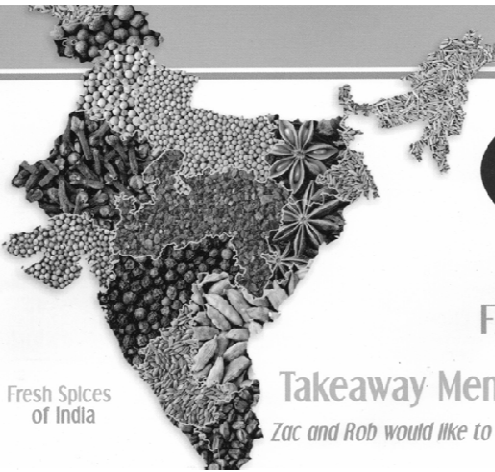
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TINGLEY

What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am to 12:15pm Debbie Nelson 07896 536188
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Rainbows	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 689992
Brownies	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
Keep Fit Class	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
Young at Heart	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Beavers	Friday 5:00pm Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
Cubs	Friday 6:30pm Marianne Ingham 07816 517838
Scouts	Friday 7:45pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
Explorer Scouts	Friday 7:45pm Chris Ingham 07816 517838
Jam Club	1st and 3rd Sunday of the month - 10.30am Derek Barraclough 01924 472375

Services

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

10:30am Parish Communion & Jam Club

Additional Services:

1st Sunday of the month:

8:00am Holy Communion

12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age (Family) Service

12:00 Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Gro-Zone interactive worship in the
Parish Centre

12:30pm Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion

1st Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Soothill Manor

Monday to Friday:

8:45am Morning Prayer

To arrange for **baptisms, confirmations, funerals, the reading of banns** or any general matter, please contact the vicar,;

Amanda Barraclough, St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road, Woodkirk,
WF12 7JL

Tel: 01924 472375

Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

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

Townsend on 0113 2528710 Email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org