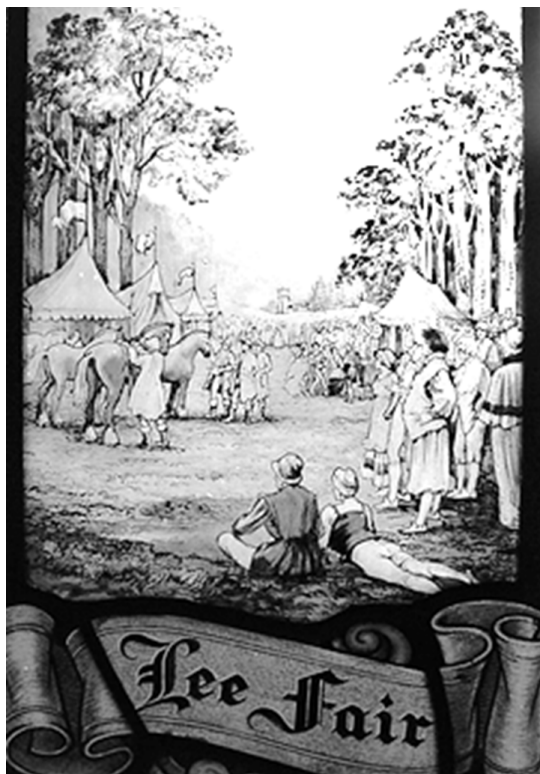


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

September 2013



This Month:

**Harvey Nichols;
Harvest; Lee Fair; Joshua;
Soothill; New Diocese;
Goths & Vandals**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.
Mobile: 07745 301746
Contributions for the Weekly Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

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

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

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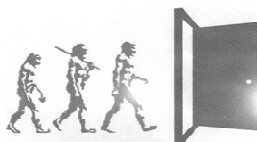
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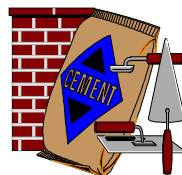
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Have a look at
the **Daily Newspaper** on
the website:



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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.

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

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How the other half live.

August is usually relatively quiet in the Vicarage. The calm before September. It has allowed me time to enjoy time with family members, children returning home for a bit of “R & R” before September demands press upon them. They are intent on catching up with friends and grandparents, wanting to make the most of the precious time, and of course, grandparents want to treat them.

So it was that I found myself, along with our daughter Hannah and my mum, sat on the balcony restaurant of Harvey Nichols in Leeds, enjoying a rather plush and extended lunch. It was “Granny’s treat”. Granny clearly feels very much at ease in that environment. She’s a regular. She stops for an extended chat with the doorman (yes, a doorman – top hat and all!) who she knows well enough to be able to tell me all sorts of snippets of information about.

Personally I have never passed the threshold of Harvey Nichols before – it’s another world to me. How the other half live. So we sit on the balcony in the sunshine, looking down upon Briggate.

“It looks so different from up here, doesn’t it?” Hannah comments. “When you’re down there it feels busy and bustling, but from up here it seems quiet.”

We watch the silvered ‘living statue’ trying to raise money – he couldn’t stay still long enough to be a very convincing statue. You notice different things from up above, things you would miss at ground level. I’m sure there’s a sermon in that, though I’ll leave you to work on it! Yes, when you’re sat up there, you’re imbibing more than food and drink. You’re imbibing a subliminal message that life is all about enjoyment, and that the more you have the more you can enjoy your life.

It is a message we are being constantly fed, through the media and our culture, but it jarred on me that day. Why? Immediately before we met to be genteelly ushered through the door of Harvey Nichols by the top-hatted doorman I had found myself captivated by a book I picked up just round the corner in Waterstone’s. It referred to the much-publicised bus advert supplied by the Secular Society: “There’s probably no God: now get on and enjoy your life.” Which word, it asked, should set alarm bells ringing? Probably? No. ENJOY.

What does it feel like to read that when you’ve lost your job, your relationship’s in tatters, or you don’t know what you’ll be faced with when you get home? For so many people, life is a melee of responsibilities and problems, fractured or challenging relationships, sorrows and joys. There are bursts of enjoyment, yes, but there are many many other emotions which make up real life. Life is not one long sunny day of unbroken

enjoyment. But we are, as a society, in danger of airbrushing out the other bits as an aberration from how life 'ought to be'. We are being sold a Harvey Nichols dream and it excludes the vast majority of people.

My ministry brings me into contact with real life – its complex mixture of grief and joy, of loneliness and friendship, sacrifice and gratitude, boredom and time-poverty. I have the privilege of meeting people in their homes, in hospital beds, in hospices, and there are riches to be found there which makes Harvey Nichols seem tawdry and cheap. There is reality there which makes Harvey Nichols seem artificial.

Don't believe the hype that life is all about enjoyment. When we imbibe that, we impose expectations on others to meet our need for something to enjoy. Too many relationships fail under the strain of that.

August is seen as a month of holiday, of enjoyment, before resigning ourselves to the routine of September, and working to save for the next holiday where we can enjoy ourselves all over again.

Real life is far richer than that. When Jesus said he came to bring "Life in all its fullness" (John 10:10) he meant a lot more than a life of unending enjoyment – the consumerist dream. He meant a life of purpose, fulfillment – a life that counts, that makes a difference. Let's embrace that truth as September dawns.

Revd. Amanda

Market Stall News.

We have two more dates for market stalls at Dewsbury market. They are: October 4th and December 6th so that we can sell Christmas related items from the Christmas fair at the later one. Help to staff the stall on one or both of these dates would be gratefully appreciated. It can be quite fraught at the beginning as many people try to see and buy before you have even unloaded!

If you can only help for an hour or so that would be great. Many thanks for those of you who have given generously of items for the stall and online auction. It is greatly appreciated and helps St Mary's finances. If you are having a summer clear out we are always looking for new stock.

Items that have sold well recently were vinyl records, old tools, toys, stereos in working order and old wooden orange type boxes are sought after! So if you have items for the stall, let me know and I will collect them. Many thanks.

Derek Barraclough.

“We’ll get it all sorted after the holidays!”

For a lot of people, money is tight these days. And getting our heads around ‘cutting our cloth’ is not something a lot of people really want to do with a holiday coming up. It’s easier to make a promise to ourselves to “get it all sorted after the holidays”. Sometimes, it has been the holiday spending money that has been the final straw and left us newly aware that things are in ‘a bit of a pickle’ financially.

So, now September has dawned, and it’s time to address that looming issue. It’s not going to go away! You’ve made yourself a promise to budget better, to try to manage your money better. But HOW?

If you can relate to this, it sounds like you could benefit from **CAP Money!** And it’s right on your doorstep (well, almost!). Three evenings to help you find strategies to budget better.

CAP stands for ‘Christians Against Poverty’ and its money course is designed to help people who are not at the point of needing personal debt counselling, but are wanting to find ways to control their spending more effectively. Maybe they want to be able to find ways to set money aside for Christmas, or for next year’s holiday.

The course was piloted earlier this summer by a small group who found that, although they felt their finances were OK when they started, have found ways to save unnecessary spending. For example, one found they were still paying by Direct Debit for a serviceplan on a computer they no longer owned! How many of us could save a bit by looking more closely at our outgoings and learning a few strategies?

The three week course will begin on **Wednesday 18th September at West Ardsley Methodist Church on Haigh Moor Road, at 7.30pm.** And it’s free! What have you got to lose? More importantly, what might you gain? **To book your place, ring Catherine on 0113 238 0631.**

Rev. Amanda

Annual Songs of Praise Celebration.

It was wonderful to share in a gathered evening 'Songs of Praise' a year ago, and to hear the reasons why some of those marvellous hymns we all love were chosen.

There was a wonderful blend of the old and the new, and each person's input was as unique as they are. The hymns have new power and meaning when they 'strike a chord' with us, and when we share those reasons with others it brings new life into their worship too. We learn more about each other and the experiences which make us the people we are too. It seems to be becoming one of the most well-supported ecumenical services we share in, and so, by popular demand, it's back again!

Why not join us for another celebration on **Sunday 15th September at 6pm** at Tingley Methodist Church? We will join the congregations of other local churches and share in some wonderful hymns chosen by folk from each place.

This time, our own representatives, who will be sharing their favourite hymn, will be Margaret Hampshire and Gail Townsend. Afterwards there will be refreshments and time to enjoy each other's company. It will set you up for the week ahead – not a bad way to finish the weekend before launching into another Monday morning!

Revd. Amanda

Growing in the Scriptures – we did...

Reverend Amanda's ambitious programme to take us on a whirlwind tour through the Bible from Abraham and Moses; into Egypt and across the Red Sea; into the promised land and King Solomon and the twelve tribes; to Babylon and the walls of Jerusalem; from the Temple to John the Baptist; onto Jesus and the early church; the apostles and finally Revelations was an exciting – and sometimes breath taking journey through the pages of the best-selling book of all time. After five weekly sessions we had travelled thousands of miles, across many centuries and we were the wiser for it.

David.

Barbara Tate continues: Not knowing quite what to expect, I signed up, I really had not studied the Bible since I was at school, and that was a long time ago. For those of you who thought about it and decided against it I say, we prayed, we sang, we read, we discussed and we laughed and we learned more about the Bible, ourselves and each other. If Amanda decides to do another course, I shall be there. I have had a renewed interest in the Bible and have signed up for daily readings by e mail. My grateful thanks to Amanda and also Derek for the tea and 'bikkies'.

The August Talks: Joshua

In the first of five talks on figures from the Old Testament, Neil Pinder-Packard looks at the life of Joshua and how we might engage with his faith.

As a number of you will know, I like going to the opera – not something that I grew up with in particular apart from the ‘Three Tenors’ at the World Cup, but I started going to the opera regularly about 5 years ago and have since attended virtually every one at The Grand in Leeds since, and absolutely love it.

It's funny how things pan out when you least expect it – as is often said, God works in mysterious ways! We had discussed looking into an Old Testament character at Core Group and had been tasked to go away and consider! To be truthful I hadn't a clue who to pick, and it's not particularly from lack of choice, I really didn't feel I knew enough about anybody. As I was thinking, it just happened to be time for the next Opera, and low and behold, it just happened to be about an Old Testament character; Joshua.

Joshua was written by Handel and was first performed in 1748 at the Covent Garden Theatre in London. Its military themes struck an immediate chord with a public in a triumphalist mood following the defeat of the Jacobite uprising in 1746, quickly turning the piece into one of the most successful of Handel's later oratorios.

Joshua isn't perhaps Handel's most famous oratorio now-a-days. It's pretty certain that the yearly outing choice of Messiah for Christmas is the most famous, and has the most memorable tunes. In fact the setting we usually see Messiah in is what an oratorio – which is in effect a religious opera – would have looked like; the orchestra, chorus and soloists all arranged neatly at the front of a church or concert hall.

Where Joshua differs is in two ways; firstly musically there is just one really famous tune compared to loads in Messiah and I'll come to that later, but the second is that the story of Joshua is totally operatic!! It has danger, suffering, a love story, family events, happiness, war, and great triumph. This is why it works so well in a set. The stage at the Grand Theatre is pretty massive but normally you only get to see a bit of it – however for Joshua the entire stage right back to the brick outer wall and the huge door where the big articulated lorries back up to unload sets for travelling shows was used. There was very little set apart from a few rocks and a travelling storage unit for the 10 Commandments, so it looked purposely bare and sparse.

The story of Joshua is pretty long and covers a good chunk of the Old Testament from Exodus, into Numbers, through Deuteronomy and

obviously into Joshua. It goes over many years and who knows how many miles of travel. The opera mainly touches on the arrival in the Promised Land, and various conquests and relationships between key characters in the party.

So, I started to read into Joshua a little more, and the reading we heard earlier really stood out. Let's remind ourselves of a few of the phrases from it:

“Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go.”

“... your soldiers, armed for battle, will cross over ahead of their fellow -Israelites in order to help them.”

“We will do everything you have told us and will go wherever you send us. We will obey you, just as we always obeyed Moses, and may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses! “

Pretty heavy instructions and statements! These phrases are pretty scary for Joshua, but in different ways. God has given Joshua an instruction, which let's face it, if that happened to us we'd not think twice before saying 'yes'. When God speaks to us it's more gradual, but in the end it is an overwhelming voice, which is what Joshua must have heard. With Joshua as is often the case with us, the message from God is sometimes uncomfortable and takes us out of what we now refer to as our 'comfort zone'.

A few weeks ago I delivered an assembly to our Year 11's who were just about to embark on their examinations. The idea was to inspire them to “go for it” in the home straight of their school lives. Amongst quite a lot of images were two real crackers. The first says: “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone”. The second is a great image of somebody looking over a massive crevice. The side with the person on was labelled 'What we are' and the other side 'what we want to be' – the gap in the middle is labelled a 'leap of faith'.

A leap of faith is a very well-used phrase, which usually means that we don't really, deep inside, think that something can be done, but are willing to trust in God to give us the means to do it. Now Joshua wasn't just worrying about standing up in the front of church and delivering a sermon! He'd been told to go and conquer a people and take back the Promised Land, but Joshua had his faith, not necessarily the equipment and knowledge he needed. But his message to his people was that God would be with them.

The second scary part, was that his people trusted him! This

may seem an odd thing to say, wouldn't it be great if anybody following us had the same trust to do what we told them. That in itself creates immense pressure. Joshua was in effect the successor to Moses and hence had a Divine mission sent from God. He was in the shoes, or sandals, of Moses and people viewed him in the same vein. I'm sure that if I was Joshua, I think I might have stayed in bed that day!

But think of the rewards from acting with faith. Think of all the people throughout history, from Joshua in the Old Testament thousands of years ago, to the people of today. Those who have stared a really difficult situation in the face and entered into it with faith. However it is rare that somebody hits these pressures on their own. When thinking of staring into adversity I am reminded of Churchill in the second world war. At the start of his premiership and the seemingly inevitable invasion with Germany running riot through Europe, he kept the faith that things were going to work. However even though he was the leader of the country, he had his family, friends, work colleagues, even the King and Queen to discuss matters with. God didn't tell Joshua to do these things on his own, he took a lot of people with him. The rewards for Joshua and his people were immense . . .

Joshua became a hero, one of the absolute great heroes in history, because he led his people with faith. The name Joshua actually means "God is salvation", and 'salvation' means being saved from harm or delivered from a difficult situation. The name Jesus is the Greek variant of Joshua, meaning 'God saves' and so Jesus was named directly from Joshua.

Talking of conquering heroes, the famous tune I mentioned from the oratorio Joshua is Hail the Conquering Hero. Sung towards the end of the work firstly by a children's choir, then gradually by the whole Company. It was so popular he wrote it into a work he had already published, Judas Maccabeus, and the lyrics still about conquering but about a 'risen, conquering Son', the tune of 'Thine be the Glory'.

Faith is not something which we can hold in our hands or articulate very well sometimes, and the very short parable Jesus told in our Gospel this morning highlights that faith can be very small but helps us move mountains. There can be no doubt that our Lord means, a thriving and increasing faith; which like the grain of mustard seed, from being the tiniest of seeds, becomes the

greatest of all herbs; even a tree in whose branches birds of the air take shelter.

Since being about 5 years old, a symbol of faith to me has been the anchor. I have been a member and officer in the Boys' Brigade for 33 years now. The symbol of the anchor, our motto of 'Sure and Steadfast' from Hebrews chapter 6 verse 19: "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul". The anchor is a constant reminder that our lives and decisions we make should be made with the confidence that we are not alone. In whatever we embark upon, faith is the key and essential anchor point for us all. No matter how powerful a ship's engines, it's no good without the firm grounding of the anchor. As we will sing for the offertory in a short while, "grounded firm and deep in the saviour's love."

I have a leap of faith coming up in September – our firstborn, though I am concerned about the paparazzi and TV camera crews which will be camping outside the hospital – it'll probably just consist of my mother. But between you and me, I haven't the slightest idea of how to look after a baby! So Anne presented me with two items which are pretty important for a baby. One very essential, and one important but not classed as an essential, and here they are!

So, we have one teddy bear and one nappy! The imaginatively named Ted Bear is around 36 years old, and we've been through a lot together, though nothing quite as strange as when Anne presented me with said nappy and Ted Bear and told me to put the nappy on him! Ted Bear is about one and a half years younger than me, and so wasn't an essential in the first few months of my life. But the nappy was totally essential, and could not be lived without. Joshua had his essential – faith. Not something which he could have done without. If Joshua or any of us embark on something difficult, then faith is the number one item we have to take with us, otherwise our human minds would soon crack.

As I finish, I'd like us to reflect on how we have needed faith at various parts of our lives, how it helped us to bridge the gap where we didn't know what was going on, and the reward at the end.

Neil

Harvest Celebrations of many sorts...

The weekend of 12-13th October promises to be a rich variety of good things – a fitting harvest celebration – a veritable smorgasbord of delight! There should be something for everyone, and it will finish with the Mayor's Civic Service, which has been moved from its earlier date. So, what's on the cards??

Woodkirk Academy Art Exhibition in church...

We are excited by this initiative, which will allow the community to enjoy some of the work of Yr.11 GCSE students inspired by our building. Following the acquisition of the 1834 watercolour by Robert Chantrell, the Head of Art at Woodkirk Academy expressed an interest in using our building, which inspired Chantrell, to continue to inspire young artists of today.

So, as a celebration of gifts and talents, and a gathering together of their labours, we will be displaying their work in the church over this weekend for everyone to enjoy in situ. That is a fitting harvest theme, as these young people have their work celebrated, and we enjoy feasting our eyes on the fruits of their labours.

It also provides an opportunity for the wider community to enjoy the home-coming of the Chantrell watercolour, seeing it for themselves in its original setting. It is hoped to have a special opening event to which parents and staff will be invited, with wine and nibbles, and for the church to welcome the community throughout the weekend. Watch this space for further details!

Harvest Barn Dance...

Sat 12th October 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Yes, another extravaganza of fun and laughter for our Harvest weekend. Come and enjoy 'swinging your partner by the hand' and doing the 'doh see doh' – no expertise required – full instructions will be given. Whether we manage to follow said instructions is anyone's guess!!

Tickets available from church or by ringing Betty on 0113 253 4960.

All-Age Harvest Service.

Sun 13th October 10.30am

We will celebrate the abundance of God's gifts to us as we gather together. Harvest gifts will be brought forward which will be sent to a local charity called 'Caring for Life', based in Cookridge.

These food donations enable the charity to supply food parcels to those on the margins of society, and to feed up to 80 people a day in their refectory – people who have survived childhood trauma, rejection and circumstances we can only imagine.

There will also be opportunity to consider harvest with a wider, more global focus, and to give to a Christian Aid project which supports those eking out a living in a developing country. *(For further details of Caring for Life, and the sort of foodstuffs they would most value, see article below)*

Harvest Communion service.

Sun 13th October 12 noon.

A celebration of God's provision for us, focussing on the fruits of the earth and of human labour represented in bread and wine.

Mayor's Civic Service

Sunday 13th October 6pm.

The date of this service has been moved to allow it to be part of this very special Harvest weekend. It is hoped that local schoolchildren will be able to join us, as we reflect on the gifts and skills we all have which are not given to be hoarded for ourselves, but to be shared for the enrichment and blessing of all.

The Chantrell watercolour, which has inspired the weekend's Art Exhibition, will be celebrated and dedicated to God, and the collection taken at this service will assist towards the cost of acquiring it. We really will feel like responding, "Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices!"

Extracts from a letter from 'Caring For Life'

Greetings from everyone at 'Caring for Life'! This summer, at Crag House Farm, we have been so thankful to our Heavenly Father for supplying us with such amazing weather, allowing us to gather in our hay harvest in record time!

In our 26th year, the need for our ministry; to feed the hungry, provide homes for those living on the streets or in dangerous circumstances and provide Christ-like, compassionate care to the most vulnerable in society; is greater than ever. We are giving our more food parcels than ever before. The Government welfare reforms have left some people in dreadful situations, and many more people are coming to us for help and support; people who have often known little or no love in their lives and with whom we have the opportunity to share the wonderful love of Jesus. Some have survived dreadful trauma in childhood, but literally have no-one except us to love and care for them now as vulnerable adults.

As we approach Autumn and the season for harvest thanksgiving services, we would ask you to consider donating your harvest produce to Caring For Life. The guidance list below shows you what would be especially valuable to us. Your food donations will enable us to provide up to 80 people a day with breakfast and lunch in our refectory and between 20-60 people a week with food parcels.

Harvest Gifts we would especially value:

Drinks: Tea bags, instant coffee, instant chocolate, squash, long-life fruit juices.

Jars: Ketchup & brown sauce, Salad cream, Tomato puree, Stock cubes, cook in sauces, Golden syrup, honey (No jam please!)

Tins: Vegetables, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, soup, ready meals, spaghetti, ravioli, rice pudding, custard, stewed steak, curry meals, meatballs, mince, tinned meat and fish – ham, tuna, fruit and fruit jelly; condensed milk.

Dried: Cereal, oats, muesli, Plain and SR Flour, Long grain and pudding rice, pasta and noodles, sugar (all kinds), ready meals, dried apricots and sultanas, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda.

Treats: Biscuits and chocolate

Misc: Washing up liquid, washing powder, sponge scourers.

Harvest Activity Morning...

Our Harvest weekend is so overflowing with an abundance of events, that we have scheduled our Activity morning for the weekend before..... See next page for details.

Revd. Amanda

Crop CRAZY CRAFTS



Harvest Activity morning

Crafts, games, fun and refreshments

with a harvest theme

Saturday 5th October 2013

10am-1pm

St. Mary's Parish Centre.

Suitable for children aged 4-11.

Cost: Only £3 per child.

Ring Amanda on 01924 472375

***e-mail:* vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org**



BARN DANCE

**Woodkirk
Church Parish
Centre Saturday
12th October at
7.00 pm**

Tickets: £6 Adults

Goths and Vandals...

Along with the Chantrell painting (see August magazine) we also received some other documents giving us a rare glimpse into the discovery of the medieval murals at St. Mary's and the efforts by Chantrell, Scatcherd as well as Lord Cardigan to save them. The original note attached to the Painting read as follows:

"The Choir of the Augustine Monks, Nostell Priory at West Ardsley, as it appeared on the removal of the plaster screen in September 1834. It has since been taken down and rebuilt. The Choir was built previous to the year 1300, and the original painting discovered on breaking off the plaster was on the stone .

The foundation of the East End must have given way, the length having been reduced by 5 feet, and rebuilt in the reign of Henry VIII, and the paintings exhibited on the drawing executed after the Protestant Reformation, with the Panels containing the texts of Scripture

The original Choir, of which the Eastern foundation was discovered at the time the paintings were copied, consisted of three cubes in length, and the pillar near the South East corner, forming a portion of the Sacrament which appeared on breaking off the plaster, warrants the conclusion that the recess for the Holy Water, Pyx etc. was no longer used evidently determined the date of the painting, a portion of these being actually upon this part of the plaster.

Subsequently, when all paintings in Churches were ordered to be defaced and removed the wall had plugs of wood let in, (several of which remain), and battening or light timber was nailed to them and plastered over, no doubt with the expectation that the horror which commanded this measure would not long exist and that the expense of the painting would be saved by the removal of the plaster screen, hence we are enabled to form an idea of the ancient ecclesiastical decoration."

Signed R DENNIS CHANTRELL.

Norrison Scatcherd, the Morley Antiquary also visited the scene, soon after the collapse of the roof in 1832 and wrote to the 'Leeds Intelligencer', anxious that these rare paintings be preserved. 'It would appear that the whole of these walls (or nearly so) have been beautifully painted and gilded having on them roses, white and red tulips, anemones or poppies and other flowers; the colours of which are even yet delightful.'

He engaged 'that very able and elegant architect' Mr. Chantrell and appealed to Lord Cardigan to save the artwork. Sadly his plans were in vain; in a later letter he wrote: 'all of it was doomed to destruction by the Goths and Vandals of the Nineteenth century'.

David

Sunday School of Yesteryear...

Albert Shaw looks back to the beginnings of his time in charge of the Sunday School at St Mary's. Can you recognise anyone?

Back in the late Seventies, the Lady running Sunday School moved away. A replacement was needed, but Julie Stephenson, who had been helping, was a bit too young to take it on herself. The PCC deliberated about what to do, and it was agreed that PCC members would take it in turns to run Sunday School classes. With this in mind, Albert volunteered to do the 'first couple of months'. Thirty years later Albert was still doing the job. No-one else ever did their 'stint'.



Sunday School 1978/79 :

Back Row: Albert Shaw with his daughter Susan (left) and Julie and Ian Stephenson (right). In front of Julie is Andrew Wilcock. To his right is Paul Davies. Front row, the 2 girls in the same coats are sisters Amanda and Joanne Whitfield, between them is Simon. The 2 boys immediately behind Simon are Jonathan and Mark Whitehead. The boy on the end in glasses is David McHugh and his sister Sharon is wearing the hat on the back row. Behind Amanda is Janine Sykes. Know anyone else?

Thank you, National Citizen Service Volunteers!

Many people commented on the progress made on tidying up the churchyard during early August. Some will have seen a group of hard-working teenagers focussed on cutting back undergrowth and tackling some areas which have been difficult to reach. These were a group of National Citizen Service volunteers.

When I took the phone call asking if they could help in the churchyard I decided to find out more about NCS, as I'd never heard of it before. I discovered it is a scheme for 16 and 17 year olds to help them build up skills for life, meet new people and identify social action projects in their local community to help with. The overgrown churchyard at St. Mary's was their identified social action project, and they threw themselves into it with energy, sometimes in some adverse weather conditions.

So a big thank you to Catherine, James, Warrick, Helena, Paul, Matthew, Robin, Megan, Homer and Albert. You're all stars, and a credit to teenagers who too often get a bad press. That's why we want to give you some good press. We appreciate all that you have done in our churchyard.

...and Thank you, Paul!

Following a conversation with a PCC member in the churchyard, one very community minded gentleman went off in search of a ride-on mower with which to assist in maintaining the pathways. He has since invested in a rather elderly but serviceable ride-on mower and plans to use it regularly in the churchyard.

Thank you, Paul, for your initiative and commitment to help in the task. It is deeply appreciated.

Revd. Amanda

Soothill Manor remembered...

Barbara Tate goes back to better times at Soothill.

I was saddened to hear of the fire at the Manor and have fond memories of the place when I was a girl attending Gregory Street School. Old Mrs Burrows lived there then, she was the mother of the Burrows brothers who had mills throughout Birstall and Batley. One Saturday a year she handed over the field in front of the house and some of the outbuildings to the Soothill Independents Association for their Annual Gala.

Soothill Independents were headed by Councillor Mrs Fitzpatrick (a formidable woman). She was married to Dr Fitzpatrick and lived in the big house at the bottom of Soothill.

A 'Miss Soothill' and one attendant were chosen from the top class of Gregory St School and one attendant from Mill Lane School. They assembled at the Fitzpatrick residence resplendent in long frocks and carrying flowers, they were loaded on to the back of a decorated lorry and started to slow journey up to the Manor. The rest of us met in the school playground, mostly in fancy dress and followed on processing up Soothill, it seemed to be an awful long way back then. We were given different coloured ribbons on pins so that we could be called for our tea.

There was a parade and judging of the fancy dress (usually won by Christine Shepherd and Wendy Gilson). My poor mum tried all sorts to get me a prize but we never succeeded. I have a memory of being 'Miss Salad', a dress made from crepe paper (good job it didn't rain). Mum spent hours steaming labels off things and sticking onto my outfit - she made a paper lettuce for my head. There was a crowning of Miss Soothill and speeches and displays and races, and raffles. I mention the raffles because my Mum, who never won anything in her life, once won a huge basket of fruit, she and I struggled to carry it home.

I think the last Gala was in 1954, when Pat Marsden was Miss Soothill and her attendants were Kathleen Goodhall and Jennifer Oldroyd. Hope this brings back some memories for others.

Barbara



Barbara as 'Miss Salad'

Exploring our Heritage:

This month we look at Lee Fair.

Tom Leadley has spent a long time researching the history of Lee Fair and has kindly allowed us to re-print the story right from the beginning of the twelfth century....

Lee Fair is held in the Parish of Woodkirk, otherwise known as the Township of West Ardsley. Woodkirk, the parish church, is dedicated to St. Mary and was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, when West Ardsley was part of the Manor of Wakefield. Between 1121 and 1127, the church was given by the Lord of the Manor, the second Earl of Warren, to Nostell Priory, about 9 miles away on the far side of Wakefield. It became a small monastery with a few resident canons. Before his death in 1135, King Henry I had given the Priory a Royal Charter for fairs at Woodkirk, though some may have been held earlier.

West Ardsley was also in the Wapentake of Morley, originally a Danish local government division established in Viking times, which stretched from Rothwell westwards to the Lancashire border, and from Haworth and Idle in the north to Rishworth and Mirfield in the south. Wapentake meetings were held out of doors in open country, to stop them being unduly influenced by the owners of any particular building or people of any one town. It is generally believed that the Wapentake of Morley met at Tingley, which means "parliament hill", a few yards south of the present Tingley Roundabout, M62 junction 28, and only half a mile from today's fair fields.

Quite likely, people who had come from such a wide area would take part in trading and dealing, as well as the formal Wapentake meetings, so King Henry's charter may have given Royal permission for trading which was already taking place, or replaced an earlier charter of which there is now no record.

King Henry left his crown to his daughter Matilda, but it was seized by his nephew, Stephen, whose coronation was held on 22nd December 1135. Next Easter, early in April 1136, Stephen held a meeting of leading nobles and churchmen at Oxford, to draw up a Charter of Liberties which set out the terms of his reign and sought to strengthen his hold on the kingdom.

King Stephen's Royal Charter

Between his coronation and the dismissal of his first chancellor, Roger le Poer, on the 24th June 1139, King Stephen issued a replacement or confirmation of Henry's charter for Woodkirk Fair, as Lee Fair was then known. Stephen's fair charter was witnessed by two of the witnesses of his Charter of Liberties, and was also issued at Oxford, so it too may date from April 1136.

Henry's charter is now lost, and it is that of Stephen which has allowed the fair to be held continuously for over 850 years. It is genuine and still valid, but does not tie the fair to any particular piece of land, except that it must be held in the parish of Woodkirk or township of West Ardsley. In fact the fair is known to have moved several times in the past, though only within West Ardsley. A printed copy of Stephen's charter for Woodkirk Fair was published in the original Latin in 1913 by William Farrer, the leading authority on early Yorkshire charters. A translation is provided below.

"From Stephen, by the Grace of God King of the English and Duke of the Normans, to Thurstan, Archbishop of York, Ilbert de Lacy, the Sheriff, every one of his Barons and loyal subjects, French and English, in Yorkshire, greetings.

Let it be known that I allow the canons of St. Oswald to hold a fair at Woodkirk on the two days before the Feast of the Assumption of Mary and the feast day itself, and on the two days before the Feast of the Nativity of Mary and the feast day itself; let it be held with goodwill and in peace, calm and honour, with all those customs which are appropriate and due at a fair, such as the best they held in the time of King Henry, such as were commanded by his charter.

And let everyone come to the fair and go from it, with all their goods, secure in my peace, and let nothing disturb them, nor any insult or injury be done to them; those who commit any of the above will forfeit ten pounds.

Witnesses, the Bishop of Carlisle and Roger the Chancellor, at Oxford".

As can be seen, Stephen's Royal Charter is actually for two three-day fairs, to be held on August 13th; 14th and 15th, and September 6th, 7th and 8th (see P31 for how the dates have changed). There is a tradition that Woodkirk Fair lasted for 'three weeks and three days' during the middle ages, but the charter does not allow for this, and the total span of the dates is in fact three weeks and five days.

However, it may be that many who had travelled great distances on foot or on horseback stayed over from one three-day fair to the next, and unofficially made a continuous event lasting more than three weeks.

Dissolution Of Nostell Priory

During the 1530's, King Henry VIII found himself in dispute with the Pope, and short of cash, so he decided to take over the monasteries and their lands, which were then quickly sold to raise money. It was rather like nationalisation followed immediately by privatisation, and, as in modern times, those responsible for organising the privatisation did rather well out of it.

Henry VIII appointed Commissioners to visit and value every monastery. Dr. Thomas Lee is said to have been the fattest and most pompous of all the Commissioners, and it was he who valued Nostell Priory. Not long after Nostell was dissolved, on the 20th November 1540, Dr. Lee bought it and most of its assets from the King for £1126 13s 4d. His purchase included several hundred acres in East and West Ardsley and the charter rights to Woodkirk Fair, which entitled him to levy tolls on all the goods and animals sold there.

Woodkirk Fair becomes Lee Fair

After these changes the monks left Woodkirk, and it became just the parish church of West Ardsley and no longer controlled the fair. Until 1540, Woodkirk Fair had probably been centred on fields between the church and the beck to the south, but these became glebe lands owned by the new Vicar of Woodkirk, so Dr. Lee had to move the fair to the Baghill side of the beck, onto common land, and enclosed fields which were part of the Nostell lands in Ardsley which he had bought. Because of this, Woodkirk Fair became Lee Fair, named after Dr. Thomas Lee.

Dr. Lee soon sold his lands in Ardsley, and the rights to the fair, to a branch of the Savile family, who built a new Howley Hall between 1585 and 1590. This enormous mansion was actually in Morley Township, though only one mile west of Woodkirk. The Saviles of Howley became Earls of Sussex, but the male line died out in 1671 and the estate passed by marriage to the Brudenell family, Earls of Cardigan.

Since 1821, the Brudenell-Bruce family, as it now is, has held the title of Marquess of Ailesbury, the heir to the senior tide being known as the Earl of Cardigan. Even now, Brudenell Estates own some land in Ardsley, though much has been sold. Houses being built by McLeans at Ardsley Fall, south of Wood Street, are on some of the remaining Brudenell land, which probably belonged to Nostell until 1540.

The Earls of Cardigan hardly ever used Howley Hall, and it was demolished in 1730, but the charter rights to Lee Fair are probably still held in theory either by Brudenell Estates or personally by members of the family, though they seem to have taken no part in the organisation of the fair, nor have they levied any tolls, since the 19th century or even earlier.

The End of the Cloth Trade

For some time after the change of name, Lee Fair carried on much as before, with large quantities of woollen cloth being sold as well as livestock and general merchandise, but on 9th March 1616, by Act of Privy Council, Wakefield was licensed as a wool staple town. Soon, thriving weekly cloth markets there destroyed Lee Fair's traditional trade.

In 1640, the citizens of Barnsley petitioned Parliament, asking that the cloth markets at Wakefield should be suppressed, and that woollen cloth sales in Yorkshire should be allowed only at 15 charter fairs, including those at Barnsley, Pontefract, Ripon and Lee Fair, but nothing was done.

In 1656, a number of people in West Ardsley petitioned the Justices of the Peace of the West Riding to have Lee Fair itself suppressed, and the petition came before Parliament on the 23rd July. Lord Thomas Savile of Howley, who then owned the charter rights, said he would not stand in the way of abolition if it was really necessary, but the charter was not cancelled, and the fair has continued ever since. With spelling modernised, the petition was worded as follows:

'There is a certain fair commonly called Lee Fair yearly kept at Baghill in the said Parish upon two several days within less than a month of each, in the time of harvests, which fair formerly stood in woollen cloth. But since the cloth market has been settled at Wakefield, there has not for these many years been any cloth brought to the said fair. So that it is now utterly decayed and become a tumultuous meeting of the idle and the loose persons of the country,

where there is much revelling and drunkenness and has been noted these many years to be a meeting where there is usually more or less bloodshed and some lives lost, and also most labourers and servants hereabouts take occasion thereby to neglect the harvest. And as for commodities brought thither, they are, except for some poor horses, only a few peddling trifles, of which the country may much better, and with as much conveniency, be supplied every market day at Leeds or Wakefield".

This petition was presented towards the end of the Puritan period, when there was a tendency to ban everything that was frivolous, from maypoles to stained glass windows in churches. It confirms that the fair was already being held at Baghill in 1656, and that it was already down to two days; 'several' in the 17th century meant 'separate', rather than its modern meaning of 'a small number'.

How the Fair dates changed

As can be gathered from King Stephen's charter, there were originally two three-day fairs at Woodkirk, on the 13th, 14th and 15th August and 6th, 7th and 8th September. Almost certainly, the two days still kept in 1656 were the 13th August and 6th September, the first days of each of the original fairs.

In 1752, England adopted the modern calendar used in Catholic Europe since 1582. By then, England was 11 days behind most of Europe, so Parliament decided that the 2nd September 1752 should be followed immediately by 14th September, 11 days having been 'taken out' to balance up. There was rioting in London, where some people believed the Pope had cheated them out of 11 days of their lives.

Many traditional events were moved forward in the new calendar by 11 days, to keep to the exact anniversaries of the old calendar. This would have been particularly necessary at Lee Fair, because the change from one calendar to the other took place between First and Latter fairs, and there was no 6th September in England in 1752. Since 1752, First of Lee has been held on 24th August, 11 days forward from the 13th, and Latter Lee on 17th September, 11 days forward from the 6th. If either date falls on a Sunday, the fair is held back a day until Monday.

Tom Leadley

Very many thanks to Tom for allowing re-print of this marvellous historical record of the Fair and its association with St.Mary's. Editor.



In 2012 Mothers' Union helped 2,721 people to get **Away From It All** by providing AFIA holidays and away days. The scheme, run by Mothers' Union members across the UK, is hoping to increase this number in 2013 to enable even more families, who wouldn't otherwise be able, to get a break from their difficult lives.

Away From It All (AFIA) breaks take many forms, they can be either weeks away with many families, led by a group of Mothers' Union volunteers, or holidays in mobile homes or caravans owned by the local Mothers' Union. Day trips or weekend breaks are also offered for families who could not manage a full week away. The holidays are offered to families who are experiencing stressful times, or simply need a break; this could be for any number of reasons.

AFIA breaks give people an opportunity to step away from their stressful lives and reconnect as a family. One family who had experienced domestic abuse found their trip away was an opportunity to not only have fun and play but to finally be themselves again and feel safe.

This summer AFIA (Away From It All) will be re-branding to have a more distinctive look that will help people value and promote the work Mothers' Union members so selflessly do through the AFIA project. The new logos and sublogos will be used centrally and locally by Mothers' Union groups to grow support of the project and increase the numbers of those who benefit from it.

Many Mothers' Union dioceses across the UK & Ireland have an AFIA fund and team in place and run annual events trips for those who need it most. Families who are facing challenging times can apply for a break by contacting central Mothers' Union who will put them in touch with their local team. It is also possible to nominate families who might not think to put themselves forwards.

"Without your members we would not have been able to have this holiday, thank you so much for making this possible." AFIA recipient from Coventry

The application process is simple and not only do the families hugely benefit but so do those who help the holidays take place. You can support the project through nominating a family, donating to the project or by praying for those families experiencing stress and the Mothers' Union members who enable them to have this welcome rest.

Please email outreach@themothersunion.org for more information.

David

VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT

THIS IS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WHO CANNOT GET TO CHURCH BY OTHER MEANS. A ROUTE IS PLANNED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEIR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

MR WILLIAMS

MUST HAVE A WINDOW SEAT. LIKES TO SPEND A MINUTE OR SO GREETING EVERY OTHER OCCUPANT

MRS SMITH

MUST BE PICKED UP FIRST AND SIT IN THE FRONT. DOESN'T GET ON WITH MRS DAVIES OR MR TAYLOR

MRS DAVIES

NEEDS THE TOILET EVERY TEN MINUTES. CAN'T ABIDE THE RADIO BEING ON

MRS THOMAS

REQUIRES A 'TEN MINUTE WARNING' TELEPHONE CALL BEFORE PICKUP. MUST SIT NEXT TO MRS WILSON

MR JOHNSON

MUST BE PICKED UP FIRST. DETESTS SINGING, OPEN WINDOWS AND LATENESS

MR TAYLOR

MUST SIT IN THE FRONT. LIKES WINDOW OPEN AND FOOTBALL ON THE RADIO

MISS JONES

MUST SIT NEXT TO MRS WILSON AND IN THE FRONT. REACTS BADLY TO FOOTBALL COMMENTARY

MRS WILSON

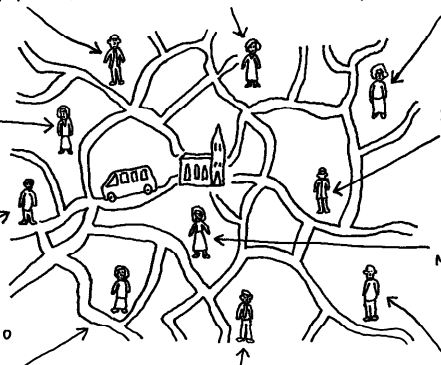
MUST BE PICKED UP FIRST. LIKES TO SING WHILST TRAVELLING AND ARRIVE EARLY

MR BROWN

LIKES THE RADIO TO PLAY CLASSICAL MUSIC. WILL NOT SIT NEXT TO MRS WILSON. POOR ON TIMEKEEPING

MR EVANS

ALWAYS RUNNING LATE. DOESN'T LIKE TO TRAVEL WITH OTHERS



CartoonChurch.com

This Cartoon Church Cartoon is reproduced with permission

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and that your garden was in good shape on your return. You may get some late sweetcorn to harvest and the odd apple that is ready for eating. Here are some jobs for this month.

1. Onion sets may be planted now for overwintering and harvest early next summer. Choose a hardy variety such as 'Radar'
2. Plant strawberry plants to increase your stock. Aim to replace plants after their third year.
3. Earth up celery and leeks.
4. Plant spring cabbage. Cover with fleece to stop pigeons shredding them.
5. Lift main crop potatoes. Check they are ready by rubbing the skin. If it doesn't come off easily they are ready.
6. Plant tulips for next year.
7. Day lengths are now reduced and house plants slowing down so you need to water them less. It is important to make sure they do not dry out though. Lift a pot and judge whether it feels heavy (and therefore wet) or light (dry)
8. Start to clear away some of the crops that have gone over (ended) like runner beans and sweet peas.
9. Pull up outdoor tomato plants and hang them upside down in the greenhouse to increase their chances of ripening.
10. Division of perennials can begin. Start with those varieties that are overcrowded, or the first to die down for the year..

Sandra.



Poetry Corner Bonus: Aftermath...

Alice found this little gem, from an unknown author:

If after church you wait a while
Someone will greet you with a smile
But if you quickly rise and flee
We'll all seem cold and stiff maybe
The one beside you in the chair
Is perhaps a stranger there.
All here, like you,
Have fears and cares,
All in need of other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet
With us, around God's mercy seat
Anon.

The Children's Society

It's that time of year again. Would all Box holders please let me have their boxes for emptying. If anyone would like a collecting box for next year please see me in Church or ring 01924 479380.

Thank you

Susan Walshaw

What your money is for:

The most disadvantaged children rarely suffer on just one front. The Children's Society work with these children to ensure that they are loved, valued and listened to. With them they fight childhood poverty, harm and neglect.

The network of programmes includes drop-in services for runaways, children's centres and support for young carers. They support children who are refugees from violence, and give those in care a voice. They transform children's lives by pressurising central and local government to protect them, and they challenge attitudes that perpetuate harm and injustice. In hard times, children are among the hardest hit. The Children's Society don't just help children survive - they help them flourish.

Albert's September Quiz:

1. On 1 September 1939 Germany's invasion of which country prompted World War II?
2. Which disaster began in London on 2 September 1666?
3. Which English ruler died on 3 September 1658?
4. Where did Britain's first free lending library open on 6 September 1852?
5. On 7 September 1838 who saved survivors of the wrecked SS Forfarshire?
6. In which sport were the 'Marquis of Queensbury Rules' used for the first time on 7 September 1892?
7. Which sport competition began on 8 September 1888?
8. Which female tennis star defected to the west on 9 September 1975?
9. On 10 September 1894 for what crime was George Smith the first to be convicted in Britain?
10. What road safety requirement was introduced in the UK on 12 September 1960?
11. Which golfing first was achieved by Tom Morris on 14 September 1868?
12. On the 15 September 1830 Liverpool MP William Huskisson became the first to be killed by what engineering innovation?
13. Which banks first opened in Britain on the 16 September 1861 ?
14. The two-tier postal system was introduced in the UK on 16 September 1968. How much were first and second-class stamps?
15. What was seen at Blackpool for the first time on the 18 September 1879?
16. On 19 September 1893 which was the first country to grant women the vote?
17. On the 22 September of what year was commercial TV first transmitted in Britain? Was it 1955, 1958 or 1960?
18. Britain's first motorbus service began on 25 September 1897 in which city?
19. On the 30 September 1938 which Prime Minister made his famous 'Peace in our time' speech?
20. On the 30 September 1955 which iconic film actor was killed in a car crash?

Answers on page 42

Albert Shaw

Poetry Corner.

Do you have a poem or verse? Why not send it in, if it's your own work, or if its someone you know just get their permission to print. Many thanks to Harry for this anonymous offering.

My little Friend...

I have a little SatNav
It sits there in my car
A SatNav is a driver's friend
It tells you where you are.
I have a little SatNav
I've had it all my Life
It's better than the normal ones
My SatNav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions
Especially how to drive
'It's thirty miles per hour
And you're doing forty-five'.
It tells me when to stop and start
And when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever
Safe to overtake.

I'm sure no other driver
Has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car
It still gives its advice.
It fills me up with counseling
Each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it
And get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house
Makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things
And keeps me warm in bed.
Despite all these advantages
And my tendency to scoff
I do wish that now and then
I could turn the damned thing off!

Anon. (*Probably too scared to admit it - Editor*)

Diary for September 2013.

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30am	Baptism Service
Wed 4th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship setting) & refreshments
Sat 7th	9.30am-12.30pm	Church and churchyard clean-up
	3pm	Wedding
Sun 8th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 9th	7.30pm	PCC meeting in church
Wed 11th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Morning Praise service - lay led.
		NO MIDWEEK COMMUNION TODAY.
Sun 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		– service conducted by Revd. Stuart Millington
	6pm	Ecumenical ‘Songs of Praise’ at Tingley Methodist Church
Mon 16th	2pm	Mothers’ Union – Parish Centre
Wed 18th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
		- service conducted by Revd. Glenn Coggins
	7.30pm	CAP Money 3 week course begins
		– West Ardsley Methodist Church
Thurs 19th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		– service conducted by Revd. Stuart Millington
Wed 25th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)
		& refreshments
Sun 29th	10.30am	All-Age Communion with baptism

Early October

Wed 2nd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Sat 5th	9.30am-12.30pm	Church & churchyard clean-up
Sun 6th	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Wed 9th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
HARVEST WEEKEND – CELEBRATION OF GIFTS – INCLUDING WOODKIRK HIGH ACADEMY YR 11 ART EXHIBITION IN CHURCH. See article on page 18.		
Sat 12th	7.30pm	Harvest Hoe-Down Social with supper - see article
Sun 13th	10.30am	All-Age Harvest Service
HARVEST	12 noon	Holy Communion
FESTIVAL	6pm	Mayor's Civic Service



Kids: Don't forget Jam Club !

Sunday Morning 10.30 - 11.30

Jesus - And - Me

Learning & Doing in Faith.

Archbishop outlines roadmap for new diocese

The Archbishop of York has laid out plans to take us into the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales (Leeds). The Archbishop's "roadmap" gives a detailed visual account of what to expect as we move towards the formation of the new diocese including key appointments and key dates.

It is expected that the new Diocesan bishop will be nominated in February next year with the Appointed Day at Easter 2014. This date is when the three dioceses of Wakefield, Ripon and Leeds and Bradford will be dissolved and the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales (Leeds) finally created.

John Tuckett, has been appointed Acting Diocesan Secretary of new diocese. The Archbishop said 'This is quite a tight timescale, but if we can achieve it, this will mean that the plans for the setting up of the administration of the new Diocese will be realized with as little interruption as possible'.

Bishop Stephen (Wakefield) said: "The publication of these documents gives welcome clarity to the planning for the new diocese, and will enable parishes, individuals and organisations to better understand the process. By concentrating our efforts on the efficient handover of responsibilities we can all ensure that the new Diocese is given the best possible start.

Bishop Nick (Bradford) says, "It is good to have a clear road map for all that has to happen between now and the creation of the new diocese. I am confident that this gives the existing dioceses time to prepare properly, but also that there is a clear process for setting up this new and exciting venture. We will need to be both diligent and patient as we now proceed in the months ahead. Be assured of my continuing prayers for all those involved and especially for those affected by these changes, and for the successful beginning to the new diocese."

Marking the End of the Diocese of Wakefield.

Plans are underway for wide-reaching diocesan celebrations to mark the end of the Diocese of Wakefield. These will take place over Lent and Holy Week next year and more details will be announced soon.

David

Playgroup Update

Well it is so nice being back at playgroup after the long summer holidays and meeting our new intake of children. It is very exciting getting to know them and their parents. This term we will spend lots of time settling the children in and making relationships with each other.

We do still have a few vacancies on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning so if you are interested in a place for your child, please get in touch. 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! (See P47 for contact information).

Debbie. Playgroup Supervisor

Note to Advertisers:

The advertising revenue really helps keep the magazine going. If you are in receipt of an invoice for payment would you please make sure this is paid before September 15th. Regrettably Advertisers who have not paid will have to have their adverts removed. Many thanks to all who do advertise within these pages, we have a wide local readership as well as an internet copy of the magazine.

Postal Magazine - next year's 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.

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

Baptisms:-

Layla Eastwood, Daughter of Bradley & Amy from Morley,
Melissa Ava Gair, Daughter of Barry & Lisa from Tingley,
Joshua Richard Dedman, Son of Richard & Kerry from Dewsbury,
Lewis James Barker, Son of Kevin & Dawn from Tingley.
St. Mary's welcome Layla, Melissa, Joshua and Lewis and their families to our Church Family

Weddings:

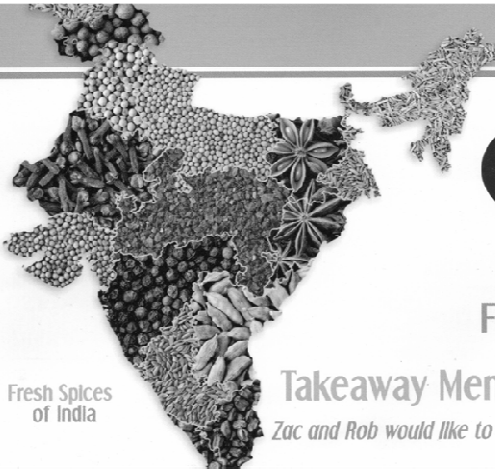
In August we celebrated the marriage of two couples:
Samantha Greenwood and Gareth Taylor, from Beeston, 3rd Aug.
Zöe Wright and Ian Elms, from East Ardsley, 24th August.
Congratulations to both couples from the Church Family

Funerals:-

Linda Thompson, West Ardsley, beloved wife of Philip & mother.
Mary Turner, from Tingley, beloved Mother, Grandmother.
Ian Appleyard, from Tingley, beloved Father, Son and Brother.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Poland. 2. The Great Fire. 3. Oliver Cromwell. 4. Manchester. 5. Grace Darling. 6. Boxing. 7. The Football League. 8. Martina Navratilova. 9. Drunken driving. 10. MOT vehicle tests. 11. First recorded hole in one. 12. Steam locomotive. 13. Post Office Savings Banks. 14. 5d and 4d. 15. The Illuminations. 16. New Zealand. 17. 1955. 18. Bradford. 19. Neville Chamberlain. 20. James Dean.

Albert.



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What's on

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

Services

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

10:30am Parish Communion & Jam Club

Additional Services:

1st Sunday of the month:

8:00am Holy Communion

12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age (Family) Service

12:00 Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

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

12:30pm Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion

1st Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Soothill Manor

Monday to Friday:

8:45am Morning Prayer

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

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

Tel: 01924 472375

Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

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

Townsend on 0113 2528710 Email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org