

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

February 2014



This Month:

**Goths, Vandals and Thieves;
Burning Trucks; Lenten Paths
The Sabbatical.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Elizabeth Aveyard, Derek Barraclough, Brian Gledhill, 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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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 including 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.

Sad farewell to John

As many of you know, John Hardcastle, our Organist, passed away on 20th January. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in Autumn and the disease rapidly overtook him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Rest in Peace John.



Awaiting the big announcement.

February dawns, and with it the anticipation in the local church of the announcement of the new Bishop of the new Diocese. There have been senior staff in conclave, discussing names, and seeking wisdom to discern the right person for the new post. It's an important moment, and an even more vital decision. The plan to merge three dioceses, which have each operated largely independently, each with a different emphasis on ministry. In today's church, the new Bishop will have to be a focus of unity, and have to listen and lead and envision. He will need all the prayer we can offer.

The world in which we live places almost Messianic expectations on leaders. You only have to watch *The Apprentice* to see that! We expect people being interviewed for key positions to sell themselves, and it is easy to look for that person who is 'the answer to all our prayers', who claims to be able to single-handedly turn around the fortunes of an ailing company. Then they embark on the job and we quickly realise that they are not the 'Messiah' we supposed them to be. They're just ordinary mortals like us, with flaws and failings. So often, as with football managers, we give them their marching orders and start again to find our elusive Mr or Mrs Perfect.

We so easily impose impossible expectations on others, and we often impose them on ourselves too. By now most of those New Year resolutions which were made a month ago have been abandoned. Why? Because we aspire to goals which prove to be unattainable. We impose unrealistic expectations on ourselves. Most of the change which happens in our lives is small, incremental steps rather than huge life-changing leaps on 1st January. I know that in my own experience. We have to know our limitations and, instead of attempting to airbrush them away, work within them. It's about humility – a much maligned quality in our culture, but one which, when genuine, is attractive.

I find it interesting that 2013 saw two key appointments in the Christian church. Both have been individuals who I consider to be marked out by that quality of humility. Justin Welby, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and Pope Francis, have, in their own unique ways, modelled a leadership which is different from what leadership so often looks like in secular life. Personable, accessible, and open to receiving wisdom as well as offering it. No leader can do it all, can be 'the answer to all our prayers'. They need to work with the team around them, to allow each one to flourish.

I cannot be the answer to all St. Mary's challenges – but after almost 10 years of me being the vicar, you'll know that by now. My forthcoming sabbatical will allow the team of folk who make up the hub of

church life to work together to continue to move forward as God's people. Please pray for them. And pray too for our new Bishop, whoever he may be, that he will work with us and we with him as we journey on towards the future.

Revd. Amanda

Churchyard Theft...

I am often questioned by the newly bereaved about why the regulations I am explaining to them don't seem to be adhered to by others when it comes to items on graves. They express a desire that people would follow the guidelines – because without them the churchyard becomes a place full of personal effects and items which can spoil the area for others. Not only that, they make the area very difficult to maintain.

We had already attempted to approach individuals whose graves contained items the regulations of Wakefield Diocese forbid. This had little effect. So the church council created three notices which were positioned around the current burial area of the churchyard. Within days I had positive feedback from a family whose recent loss is still very raw, thanking us for encouraging people to consider the rules as being there to help maintain a tranquil, peaceful environment. They were glad to see the notices, and expressed a hope that others would heed them.

But few people ever got chance to see them. Because within a week of them being placed around the area, someone removed them. They weren't just dumped nearby. They were taken away. Although it may salve someone's conscience not to be reminded of the regulations when they visit a loved one's grave, others are disappointed that people choose to ignore them. The notices looked like this:

The following are not permitted on graves.

- Pebbles, chippings, stones
- Ornaments, figurines or garden decorations
- Solar lights
- Personal memorabilia or any breakables.

Please remove all such items.

As this is the area where new burials regularly happen, the newly bereaved find it distressing that the regulations asked of them are not being adhered to by others.

Where items have not been removed within a month of being seen, your family grave will be marked as contravening guidelines.

Further action may be taken.



Fairtrade Fortnight

24 February to 9 March 2014

Once again we are holding a Fairtrade Coffee Morning at St Mary's, from 10.30am to 1.30pm, not only to raise awareness of Fair traded goods, but to try and raise some money to enable us to purchase some amazing gifts too.

Last year you responded so generously, we raised £136 and were able to send a little goat (no kidding!) to South Uganda and an Ox plough to a community in Uganda. Perhaps this year we could beat that, could you help me raise £135 to buy a cow for a village or even £156 which would enable us to buy two donkeys. The farmyards the limit!!!

So come along on the morning of 1st March (A 2 for 1 event as it is our monthly church clean up morning too from 9.30 am) So come along and lend a hand, then reward yourself with a lovely cup of fair trade tea or coffee and some homemade goodies. There will also be a Fair trade stall selling all your fair trade favourites; Stem Ginger Cookies, chocolate bars etc. there will also be a raffle for a hamper of fair trade goodies.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Dawn

Market Stall News!

The next market stall at Dewsbury is confirmed for **Friday 21st February**. So if you are having a spring clean, emptying the loft or garage and wonder what to do with those unwanted items, remember St Mary's and help us to raise funds to keep the church in good repair. Large items or small items can be collected.

Many thanks to those that have already contributed and given time on the stall. It is much appreciated.

Contact details: Derek Barraclough. 01924 472375. Thank you.

How light do you travel?

Travel essentials for Life's journey. An introduction to our Lenten path.

When you are travelling, are you someone who takes everything, including the kitchen sink? This year our Lenten journey, which begins on 5th March (Ash Wednesday) will encourage us to ponder a different kind of travel essential. Expeditions that involve trekking into the unknown require more 'essential' essentials than make-up. They require a map or compass, food, a torch, some kind of shelter, and water. Real life has so many factors beyond our control that it is more like an expedition into the unknown than a hotel stay. The author of the five week course we are intrepidly embarking on reflects, "Sometimes the sun is shining in our world, the weather is balmy and we have no real worries about our life's journey. At other times, storm clouds gather, the temperature drops and our destination is foggy. At these times, we need our spiritual 'travel essentials'."

A compass: Where are we going in life? How do we know where we should be going on life's journey? What is life all about?

Bread: What nourishes me and keeps me going? What really feeds me?

Light/a torch or lamp: Where do I get my insights about my everyday life? What shines light into my life and gives clarity?

Shelter: Where do I find true security? What makes me feel safe?

Water: Where do I get refreshment? How do I avoid getting burned out?

On each of the five Tuesdays of Lent (starting on 11th March) we will be exploring each of these spiritual travel essentials in small Lent group meetings. There will be an afternoon session running from 2-3.30pm at the Vicarage, and an evening session from 7.30-9.00pm at a venue to be announced in due course. All are welcome, whether you want to just sit quietly at soak it all up, or play an active role in discussion. If you can't come to all five sessions, don't worry – just come when you are able. If you can sometimes make an evening, but other times an afternoon, that's fine too.

This short course, like others we have experienced, is a great opportunity to get to know others better, to discuss differing perspectives, and to help us to reflect on what's really important in our lives. We are often so busy holding many demands together, we can so quickly overlook what's really important because we are so consumed with what shouts loudest. God doesn't shout loudest, and so often gets forgotten. Let's give ourselves opportunity to listen to that still small voice this Lent.

Revd. Amanda

Speed Cameras to be introduced at St. Mary's...

Following an outbreak of speeding down the church aisle, the PCC are considering introducing speed cameras to try and curb the practise. A couple of the youths (below) were recently caught on a mobile phone by a vigilant parishioner who just had time to take this picture before they sped past and were gone.

If you see a couple of suspicious characters please let Gail, the churchwarden, know and she will deal with them in a suitable fashion.



Morley Food-bank to open. How can you help?

Re-run from last month as a reminder... hunger is all year round.

In an ideal world, food-banks would not be necessary. But we don't live in an ideal world, and many people are struggling to put food on the table – and some of these are working people who simply are not being given enough hours of work to provide for their family as they would wish.

We are glad that our Christmas food-collection from St. Mary's was able to assist those in our local area who are struggling. But the struggle goes on week by week, and the launch of this food-bank will help many people.

Be a Volunteer...

There are many opportunities for volunteering – some posts will be more demanding and involve more skills than others, but training will be offered to all those who need it in January prior to the launch of the food-bank by the end of February 2014.

The food-bank will be run under the well-organised auspices of The Trussell Trust, who have a national network of such provision. This will ensure that the food is given to those in genuine need of it.

What volunteers are needed?

Fundraising co-ordinators, communications/PR, administration, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Food Donor Co-ordinator, Voucher system co-ordinator, warehouse manager, and warehouse helpers, food collectors (drivers required) and distribution centre co-ordinators.

You may be wondering what these roles entail, and what training would be offered. You can find out more by contacting Keith Milner of 0113 253 7260, or contacting high_james@hotmail.com.

We at St. Mary's are exploring becoming a distribution point, where those who have been issued with a voucher can be sent to collect a bag of food. These bags will be brought to us from the warehouse. We are waiting to find out more.

Collecting food.

Local churches will have a box at the back for people to leave gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs which will be taken to the warehouse for sorting and bagging. Please help in whatever way you are able!

Revd. Amanda

Sabbatical Leave – What? Why? When? How?

What is a sabbatical?

The word 'sabbatical' comes from the same word as Sabbath – it is intended to be a time of rest, a fallow time which allows the land to replenish itself, heal itself and prepare for the next phase. For clergy, it is intended to be a period for re-creation, rest, and refreshment from a role which can be all-consuming and emotionally demanding.

It is not a holiday, however, nor is it doing the same thing in another place. It is an opportunity to explore an aspect of ministry from a new perspective, but it is not intended to be 'study leave' either. There will be an element of study, but in a fairly unpressured and stress-free way.

Why take a sabbatical?

Having been in the parish for almost 10 years, I was encouraged to consider taking a sabbatical for my own refreshment and personal development. My annual review last year meant that I was no longer able to avoid the call to take a sabbatical which I have resisted until now. The other advantage is that it creates an opportunity for the congregation to take responsibility for carrying things which the vicar is usually around to carry. Everyone gets an opportunity to grow. The range of different clergy to whom the church will be exposed will also be a positive factor – we all need variety! Different voices and perspectives will be enriching for St. Mary's.

When?

Amanda will be on sabbatical from 1st May to 31st July 2014. She will frequently be away, and will be out of contact. Derek will, by and large, be around at the Vicarage, but will be sometimes attending other churches on Sundays. Please don't expect him to be a channel of information between the church and the vicar! Treat the time as if it were an interregnum, an opportunity to take greater ownership of the church and to grow your own ministries. There will be nearby clergy to whom queries can be made if matters arise which need guidance, and visiting clergy on Sundays and alternate Wednesdays means that there will be people to approach if help should be required.

How?

Given that this is happening this year, it is imperative that this year two churchwardens are appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 6th April. No church should really operate with one churchwarden anyway, and it is vital one is trained up in preparation for the following year when Gail will be required to stand down after six years. She more than deserves it, after all!

Churchwardens and the PCC will be responsible for overseeing the provision of services (cover has been organised for all Sundays, and alternate Wednesdays – every other Wednesday will be a lay-led Morning Prayer). The Core Group and PCC will be responsible for ensuring the church continues to press forward to serve the community. One strand of this will be the ongoing movement towards the redevelopment. There will be the additional challenge of securing organist support, assuming we have been unable to appoint an organist before May.

I am sure my return in August will bring some encouragements for me as I see how you have all pulled together and grown in the process. At the moment I feel very much like I did leaving my children at University to fend for themselves, wondering how they'll get on and hoping I have given them all the tools to cope without me. So if I express some 'parental angst' at the impending separation, forgive me!! It's only because I care!

More to follow in future editions about the sabbatical.

Revd Amanda

Hope Coffee Morning

Last month Glyn ran a coffee morning at his home, using the £10 given by the church. I went along with Gail and it was a full house and more arriving all the time. I can personally vouch for the Ginger Cake, which was heavenly!

David.

Glyn explains:

Thanks to all who supported my coffee morning on Saturday 18th January. It was a huge success raising £166 in total, with £137 from the donations for coffee and cakes and £29 on the raffle – won by Malcolm Haigh (a splendid box of chocolates).

Thanks once again. Glyn.

Are we Descended from Goths & Vandals?

In 1800's the Antiquarian, Norrison Scatcherd accused the people who tore down the plasterwork at St. Mary's of being 'Goths and Vandals'. Now 180 years on, David & Vicky Furness exercise their right to reply...

For several years we have been proud of our Furness connections with St. Mary's Woodkirk. William Furness (1748-1825) of Outwood, Wakefield has two grand gravestones near the church, and his son, Francis and family, have a chest tomb near the road (he is our 3 times great Grandfather). There are several more Furness memorials. William Stott Banks in his book 'Walks about Wakefield 1871', quotes Joseph Furness (1813-1886) saying that his family did the stonework in the re-building of the church after the Nave and Chancel fell.

When the Chantrell watercolour became available we had to have a copy, but then we obtained the September 2013 Parish Magazine and read that when Norrison Scatcherd realised the wall paintings had disappeared, he labelled the perpetrators 'Goths and Vandals'. We would agree - but who removed them? Was it our family?

With excitement and trepidation, we set off for Wakefield Archives where the account book 1798-1870 awaited our perusal. These findings are our interpretation of the information we read. Our main purpose was to find the Furness name.

Over the years, the annual accounts were recorded in differing amounts of detail. Some items have specific dates; other blocks cover several months. For 'Work Done' we might read the full name, surname or the job - and, if lucky, all. The items were fairly consistent over the years: Paying the Sexton, the (Bell) Ringers and visitation expenses, clearing the churchyard, buying wine for the sacrament, and hedgehogs and sparrows at 1/2d each!

Most generations of Furness' back to William of Outwood have been builders and stonemasons, and from 1822 onwards we found references to the family being paid for work at St. Mary's. Firstly we found William (1781-1847) - an older Son of William above. His bills seem like small amounts: around £2 and £3. There is one for 'pointing etc.' on 6th November 1830 which was £7.1s.0d. William was Churchwarden from 1824 to 1827 and seemed to receive payments for his services. The total disbursements each year ranged between £20 and £60.

The major event of part of the Church collapsing is not mentioned in the accounts. According to Banks (1871) it happened in February

1831. The 'Annals of Leeds, York and District' quotes Norrison Scatcherd on 12th July 1831, David, in the Parish Magazine mentions 1832 and the Chantrell painting is dated 1834.

The Account Book was updated on 7th June 1831, and before 22nd October the following bills were paid:

Bricks for the Belfry Wall:	5s.0d
The Plaisterer's (sic) Bill:	£18.7s.11d
Thos. Verity & William Furness Bill:	£100.10s.6d
Wm Fozzard Bill:	£12.2s.9d
John Fozzard's Bill:	£53.0s7d

There was obviously some major work happening. The total disbursements for this year were £240.16s.1 1/2d. (compared to £20 to £60 normally).

Checking the baptism indexes for St. Mary's , prepared by Morley Family History Group, Thomas Verity was also a Mason and William and John Fozzard were both Joiners.

In 1833, after the Pew owners were consulted at a cost of £2, the Church was re-pewed by John Bywater. His estimate was £65.17s.8d and extras were £9.8s.6d. Also that year the Earl of Cardigan made a gift of £100 to the Church. Then J.Scott Perkin was paid for 'painting the pews, white washing the Church etc.'

William Furness' son, George (1804-1867) continued to work at the Church, while his brother, Joseph, quoted above, became Churchwarden, assistant overseer and collector of rents and rates. The Church paid 5 shillings for each rate book.

We are uncertain as to whether we have answered our question. We haven't got all the details from nearly 200 years ago, but it is fortunate that some records still exist. Those who retained them were not 'Goths and Vandals!'

David and Vicky Furness.

I would like to thank David & Vicky for this in depth article. What is clear is that several members of their family were deeply involved with St. Mary's and obviously were very fond of it. We don't know the state of the plasterwork - it may have been beyond repair or beyond economical repair - just like the Organ, when it was replaced with a modern equivalent only a few years ago, some were horrified that the original was not saved. It's easy, from the outside, to point a finger and then walk away. It's not so easy to deal with the problem.

Editor.

A Penny for your thoughts ...2014

Last year we elected to support a Charity by giving one penny out of each pound donated to the church. It was decided to give this donation to the Myositis Support Group.

This year we are doing the same again - so do you have a charity in mind -local, national or international who would benefit directly from our donation? If you do, please let Revd. Amanda or one of the PCC know. Alternatively you can e-mail me directly using the address on the inside front page. Once we have some feedback we can make an informed choice. We will, of course, announce the final decision in a later edition.

So much of our giving ends up paying the bills or mending a leaky roof, we forget that there are many out there much less fortunate than ourselves, who would benefit directly from our help. It is, as Revd. Amanda explained, part of what a Christian church is all about.

Over the course of the year we would hope to raise about £500 once more to donate to a charity of our choice. The question is which one? There are many worthy causes out there but small charities which would really feel the difference from our donation would be particularly favoured by the PCC as they discuss this next month.

David

Budget skills for you....

Did you promise yourself you'd get on top of your money in 2014? Not done anything about that resolution? Don't know where to start? Then keep reading....

A three session course, CAP Money, is being run as a venture between the local churches beginning on Wed 26th February at 7.30pm at West Ardsley Methodist church (Haigh Moor Road). The three session will be held fortnightly (so 12th & 26th March will be the other two).

It is not a course designed for those whose debts have reached a critical level, but for those who just want to manage their money better to avoid problems for the future. The course has been run several times, and those who have experienced it have found it to have had real benefit for them. Maybe you would too??

Revd Amanda

Church Re-Ordering - The Story so far...

The grant of £50,000 from WREN has given us the opportunity to complete 'Phase 1' of the Church re-ordering - adding a kitchen and toilets to the back of church. Something we have wanted for a long time. Some more money is still needed however to fund the costs completely. Other grants are being pursued now to fill in the boxes we need (overleaf) to be able to complete the work. The plan is though, to start the work this year - so who knows, by Christmas we might have toilets in Church?

Who are WREN? Waste Recycling Environmental Limited was established in 1997. WREN is a company limited by guarantee and a non-profit making Environmental Body (EB) registered to fund projects which are eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund.

David

Showing our appreciation - the Big Thank You

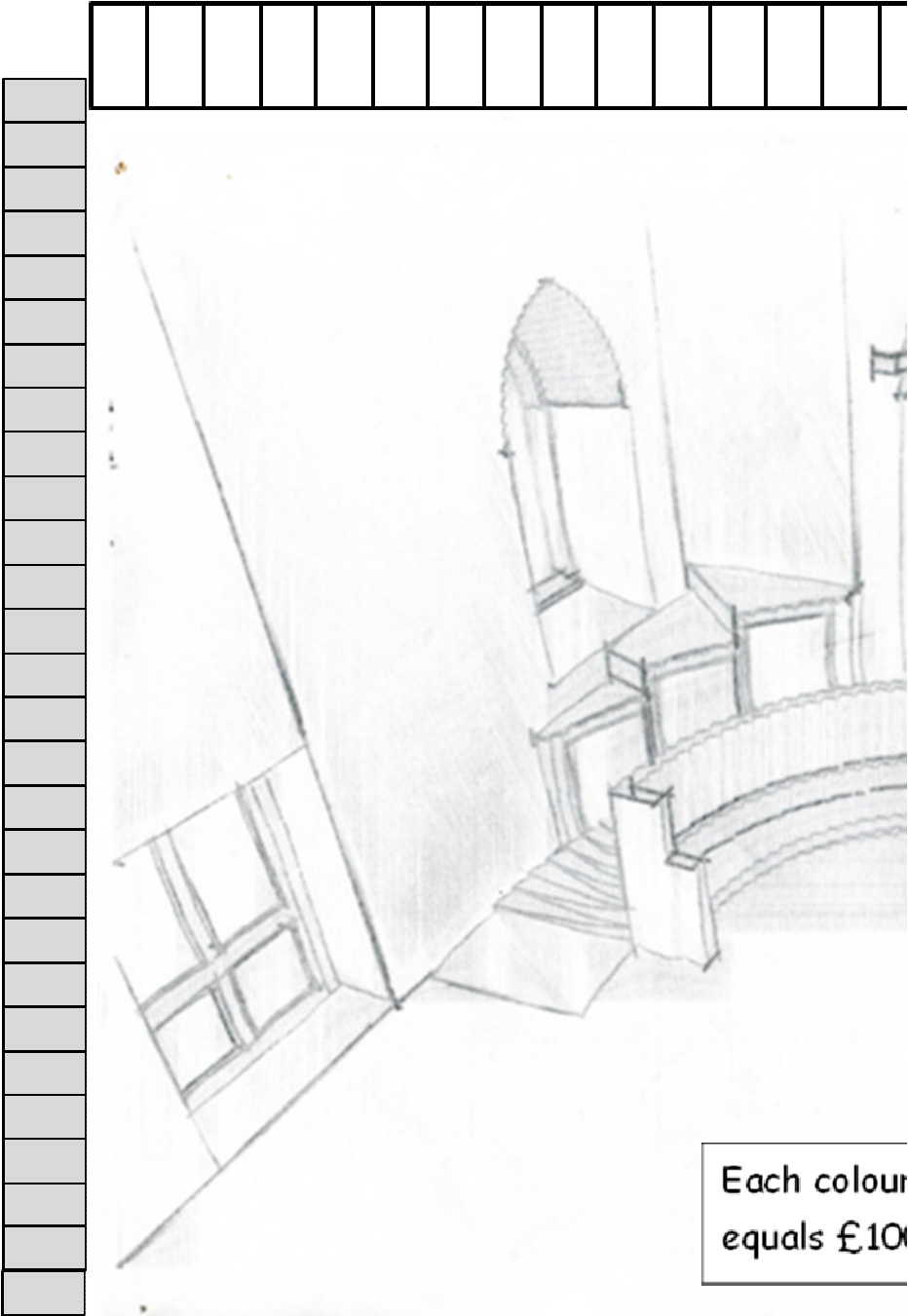
There are many people who work quietly and without recognition behind the scenes around the churchyard and the Parish Centre, to make life better for everyone. Some do a little bit every week. There are others who, with a few days of work and nothing else to fill their time, come and tackle an overgrown area. There are those who do it as part of an organised community project or initiative, others simply because they are community spirited. And we want to be able to say "Thank You" to them.

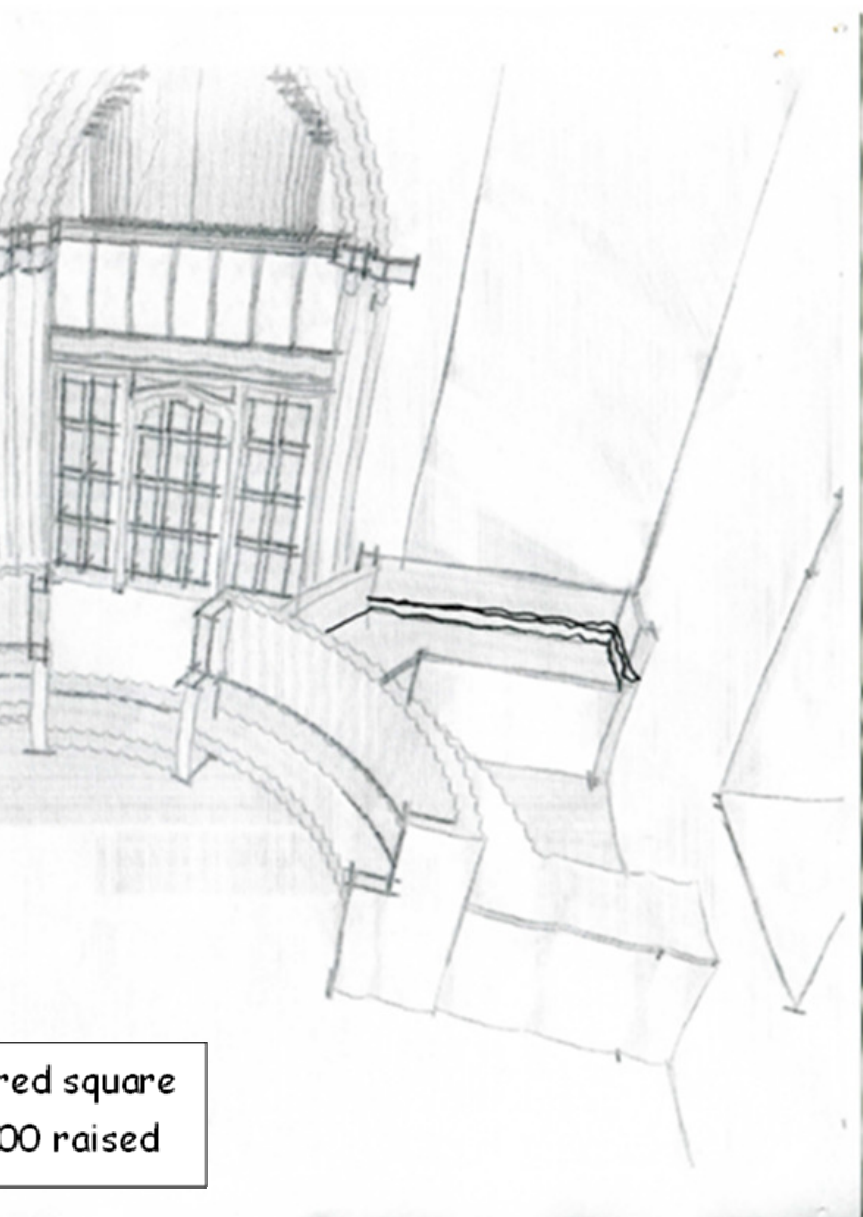
Many of these folk would rarely (if ever) darken the church door on a Sunday morning – that doesn't matter – they are important to us. The thing is, I suspect there are people I know nothing about who do things so quietly they have slipped under my radar. Do YOU know who has done something for the church, above and beyond the call of duty, who should be thanked? The person who empties the bins, or who clears snow from the church path before the vicar has arrived on a Sunday morning? Who cuts away brambles and clears paths? If you can let me know of people we should make a particular point of inviting, so that we can send a special invitation their way.

The Big Thank You, with opportunity to show our gratitude with cups of tea and cakes and scones, will be on **Saturday 15th March** at 4pm in church. If you want to be around to express your thanks, and to sing the praises of some of our local unsung heroes, put the date in your diary. Let's show people they are appreciated.

Revd. Amanda

Back of Church - What we have raised so far...



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00 raised

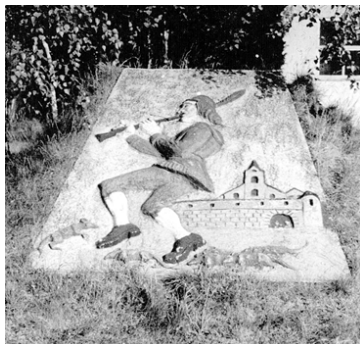
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The Pied Piper and the Burning Truck...

Glyn Jennings remembers some strange goings on in Hamelin.

Back in the late 50's, National Service was coming to an end, but Glyn was still 'caught' and had to do his 2 years in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). They were (and still are) the group that has responsibility for the maintenance, servicing and inspection of almost every electrical and mechanical piece of equipment within the British Army from battle tanks and helicopters to dental tools and cooking equipment. Glyn was one of the Electricians sent overseas to Hamelin in Germany at the tender age of 21. They went out on manoeuvres with the Royal Artillery (2-4 Medium regiment) to deal with any equipment problems encountered whilst in the field.

They were camped outside the pretty village of Hamelin in the Truan Forest. As you may know, the Pied Piper of Hamelin is the mythical figure who came to the village 1284. The village had a plague of Rats and the piper enchanted the rats with 'magical' flute, leading them away from the village, ridding it of this terrible scourge. If the Pied Piper thought that this huge service would be richly rewarded, he was sadly mistaken. Even though the people of Hamelin had agreed to pay, when that day arrived, they decided they had made their promise rashly and refused to honour the debt. The Piper left, but his mood became so black, he returned with his magical flute and this time, instead of Rats, he charmed the children of the village and lead them away – some say to Transylvania. They were not found.



Meanwhile, back in the Army camp, Glyn's friend Jock had taken a 1 Ton Humber truck out for a 'test run'. These trucks were used as mobile Radio trucks and had two large electrical terminals sticking out the back of the cab to enable radio equipment to be connected once in position. Jock Smith was a 'bit of a lad', having already been caught pinching beer glasses from the local hostelry by passing them out of the window after he had drunk



The Hapless Jock Smith

the contents. Of course, giving his name as 'John Smith' (which it was) only served to get him into more trouble.

So Jock bumped along in his Army truck, but didn't realise that a Jerry Can of fuel in the back of the truck, had touched against the exposed Radio terminals and a fire had broken out. Eventually though, Jock did realise something was very wrong. Instead of stopping, though, Jock decided the best course of action was to drive the flaming vehicle back to camp as quickly as possible. Unknown to Jock, a bystander had seen the Truck, flames billowing, rush by at high speed and called the (German) fire brigade.



The Humber Truck fully ablaze

When the truck eventually careered into camp, fully ablaze at the back, it was being chased by a German Fire Engine. Jock now standing on the outside running board, was steering with one hand, and waving the other whilst frantically shouting 'fire' at the top of his voice. Luckily the fire was quickly extinguished but the blackened edifice that was once a truck could not be so easily fixed. It was a rule at the time that broken, lost or damaged goods had to be paid for – not only the item itself, but also the replacement issued from the stores had to be bought. Glyn reckons Jock may well be still paying for the Truck...

Of course how the fire had actually started is still a bit of a mystery – but nothing to do with a grumpy Pied Piper, obviously...



German Fire Engine in attendance

Many thanks to Glyn for the story and pictures – which are the actual ones taken by Glyn as the drama unfolded.

David

Prayerful Thought ...Part V

Well here we are in February (although I am writing this in mid January – I wonder if the weather forecasters got it right and we didn't have any snow?). I always feel a bit sorry for January and February really, they are quite often just months we want to get through before we start hoping for signs of Spring! The weather can be dull, very cold, foggy, snowy, well just about anything really, but then if you do get a crisp day with some blue sky and sunshine then it is a real bonus and works wonders for giving you a bit of a boost.

These months can also be quite difficult if we have set ourselves any resolutions or the latest thing seems to be what some people refer to as a 'Bucket List' (referring to a film from 2008 about two men who are diagnosed with terminal cancer and start a list of things to do before they 'kick the bucket') and you can be a bit fed up if you haven't stuck to your resolutions or haven't managed to accomplish anything from your 'bucket list'.

Well even my daily prayers and bible readings were not immune to this 'new year, new start' scenario.

New Year's eve was an interesting one and referred to looking back and learning from the past, but not dwelling on it and said 'if you drive looking in the rear view mirror, you'll end up in a ditch'!

Then for the first couple of weeks of January, the themes were looking forward, then depending on God's word, learning to wait for things of value and a spiritual check up, all of which I have found quite interesting. It's funny as well, as I have said before, is it coincidence, or is it God at work in my life, that some of these daily devotions have been especially pertinent to me.

Some of you will know that I started studying Theology back in September with a view perhaps to using this to become a Lay Reader at some point in future, well I must tell you, that whilst I have found the first term really interesting, we studied the Old Testament, I also found it quite challenging when it came to writing essays. But what my writing showed me was that I need to focus, something that I have only just recognised, I don't always do. I am involved in so many things, and whilst I am happy spending my time doing them, I have recognised that on occasions I do need to focus more to accomplish something.

Now I don't know if you are a fan of the BBC series Sherlock? Well I am, and if there's one thing Sherlock can do, and with amazing

results, is focus. My apologies if you have not watched Sherlock, but hopefully you will be aware of the detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The BBC have brought the detective right up to date with a high tech fast paced Sherlock played brilliantly by Benedict Cumberbatch with Martin Freeman playing his friend Dr Watson.

There are only 3 episodes per series of 1½hour programmes, and they tend to leave you on a bit of a cliffhanger. But for my article this month I wanted really to refer to the second one of this latest three when Dr Watson got married and Sherlock was his best man.

There are many twists and turns in the programme, but the main reason for me referring to it, is that if you look closely and 'focus' there are a number of occasions when Dr Watson tries to get through to Sherlock that he is Dr Watson's best friend, it is referred to a number of times, and takes a while for Sherlock to actually comprehend, but towards the end of the programme, after the speech is over and the victim saved, and the villain arrested, if you are watchful, you will see a look on Sherlock's face that I would describe as animated, when he truly absorbs the fact that he is someone's best friend. He has focussed on what Dr Watson has said and it has sunk in.

Were you focussed at the start of the new year? Did you make any resolutions? Did you start a 'bucket list'? maybe you did and things are going well, if so, then well done, but if you didn't (or did but have not managed to keep up with your targets) then don't despair, all is not lost.

Don't worry about resolutions, but think about focussing on something, and if I might be so bold as to make a suggestion, then my suggestion would be to focus outwardly. You don't have to focus on God if you don't want to, although I like to think that our faces would be as animated as Sherlock's when we do let it sink in that He wants to be, and is our best friend! But perhaps you can focus on a situation that needs your help, or a friend who would welcome your support.

Now I appreciate some of us may be in a difficult place ourselves at the moment, but perhaps focussing on something else may help us too. We can all sit in the dark and cold months of January and February wishing we were somewhere else, or wishing we had more money, or a better car or house, but we can focus on other situations, on positives like Spring WILL come and the sun WILL shine.

You will know that we have been collecting food to support the new foodbank being set up in Morley and focussing outwardly could

be as simple as buying an extra tin or packet of something non perishable when you do your weekly shop and passing it to church where collection bags are available, or could you look up and smile at people you meet when out walking or shopping? you might be the only person who has smiled at them all day.

Focussing outward opens up new horizons and possibilities but you may not recognise this straight away. Don't wish away this time before Spring arrives, as Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 1 says "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." Learn to enjoy where you are, while waiting to get to where you want to be, and if you can focus outward and do something for others then your focus will achieve such a lot, whether you realise it or not.

Dawn Tattersfield

New Ministry Experience Scheme.

Young people are being given a taste of life behind the dog collar with the launch of the Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme (CEMES), run by the Ministry Division. The scheme, which began with a pilot phase this September in four dioceses, is a one year programme of theological teaching, practical experience and personal development for young people aged 18-30 who are considering future ministry in the church.

The scheme was set up to encourage more young people to consider being involved in ministry and focus on the nine criteria used in the selection of clergy.

It is currently is being run in the dioceses of Sodor and Man, Newcastle, Peterborough and London. Ministry Division are working with 15 more dioceses interested in the scheme, with a view to provide a CEMES programme in every diocese.

The Bishop of Sheffield, Rt Revd Steven Croft, who is Chair of Ministry Division said: "The Church of England has a fresh vision and commitment to see people in their teens and twenties exploring God's call to ministry. The Ministry Experience scheme will help many young people explore that call in the years to come"

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

It's not too late to look through seed catalogues and order seeds. Here are a few jobs you can do in February.

Sandra's Top Tip: You have a few weeks left before things start to get going. Tidying the shed/greenhouse now will save time later on.

Keep filling your bean trench with kitchen waste.

Chit your potatoes. Put them in a light, frost free place and watch them sprout!

Plant a few onion sets – leave some for early spring though!

Wrap up & go out with a bin bag to pick up any leaves and litter.

This will save time in the growing months.

Fancy some garlic? Plant some now. (In pots if you like)

Tomatoes can be started off in a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill, ready for later growing on in the greenhouse or outside.

Prepare a seed bed if you have room.

Place gladioli corms in seed trays and place them in a light, warm spot. This helps to create an earlier display.

Ensure light levels are adequate for house plants.

Do we have a plan of action for the coming seasons? If not, draw one up now.

Sandra



The trouble with Computers...

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend to Husband and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend.

In addition, Husband uninstalled many other valuable programmes, such as Romance and Personal Attention and then installed undesirable programs such as Cricket, Football, Golfing and Continuous TV. Conversation no longer runs, and Housecleaning simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed, Desperate

.....

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend is an Entertainment Package, while Husband is an Operating System. Please enter the command: 'http: I Thought You Loved Me.html' and try to download Tears.

Don't forget to install the Guilt update. If that application works as designed, Husband should then automatically run the applications Jewellery and Flowers, but remember... over-use of the above application can cause Husband to default to Grumpy Silence, Garden Shed or Beer. Beer is a very bad program that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother-in-law (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources). Also, do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband.

In summary, Husband is a great system, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. It also tends to work better running one task at a time. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Food and Hot Lingerie.

Good Luck,
Tech Support

Brian.



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

15th Morley Beavers

In January we welcomed 3 new beavers in to our colony, and said a sad farewell to 5 Beavers who have now joined our Cub Pack. We have had a packed programme over the month, a Bowling Games Night, which was great fun, tasting Chocolate and finding out which was the Fair Trade one. A lot of chocolate was eaten by everyone - there was even some left to take home. The Beavers were very good at spotting the Fair Trade Chocolate and most said it tasted better! They also tried World Foods and even Haggis! (which was surprisingly tasty). We even had time to start learning the Country Code. Phew!

We are now looking forward to our Panto visit on the 7th February, where we will be joined by the Cubs and Scouts.

Gail and Joanne

Christmas Cub Camp by Ellie and Maddie.

We all really enjoyed the Christmas Cub Camp. The food was lovely every night and day. We arrived on the Friday night, unpacked our bags and then went for a night walk. Next we played some card games and dominoes. After we went downstairs to make Christmas decorations, followed by hot dogs for supper which Chris cooked. We went to bed then we woke up on Saturday morning and had a wash. We had breakfast and and got ready to go to the fabulous Gibson Mill. The best bit was dressing up. Next we went on the Climbing Wall and Obstacle Course, afterwards we had a bit to eat and then went to bed.

Sunday we were not happy because we had to leave, but Akela had made us lovely Party Bags. We announced the winners of the competition and then it was time to go home. Loved it and would love to go again. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Ellie and Maddie.

How Christingle Changes Lives

Our two Christingle Services on Christmas Eve raised £334 for the Children's Society. This amount includes £98 from the collecting candles that some people filled and brought along to the service. Thankyou to everyone who came along to help make the 300 Christingle Oranges. They don't just look pretty and taste delicious – they turn lives around too. Money raised for the Children's Society can protect vulnerable children and help families living in poverty.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the pupils and staff of Westerton School for their kind donation of £87.40 to the Children's Society from their Christmas Concert. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Susan Walshaw

Half a Million pounds for Cathedrals.

Thirteen cathedrals have been awarded grants totalling nearly half a million pounds to help repair and enhance their buildings for the future. £350,000 will be awarded from the Cathedral Fabric Repair Fund, a partnership between the Wolfson Foundation, the Pilgrim Trust and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE), all organisations with long records of supporting England's historic church buildings and their contents. A further £149,500 of cathedral grant funding is being awarded under the Cathedral Amenities Fund, a Church of England fund which makes grants for improvements to the setting of ancient cathedrals and greater churches.

The Rt Hon Frank Field MP, Chair of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE), added: "This is a unique and much needed fund, the only grant source targeted at critical repairs to England's historic cathedrals. Over its four years of operation we are pleased to have been able to help a number of cathedrals for which fund-raising is less easy, and also to support innovative solutions to problems posed by 20th century construction and changing weather patterns". This year's 10 successful applicants were Birmingham, Coventry, Exeter, Liverpool, Norwich, Peterborough, Salisbury, Southwark and St Albans cathedrals and York Minster.

St Mary's Playgroup Update...

This will be my last update for the parish news as Playgroup Supervisor as I've resigned from the post to work with nursery and reception children in a local school in Morley. The school is currently being rebuilt and as I currently work there running their 'before and after' school club, it seems an ideal opportunity.

I have really enjoyed my time at St Mary's Playgroup, working with a friendly, dedicated and supportive team of staff. I have encountered some great children, families, volunteers and committee members in my time at playgroup. St Mary's playgroup has an exceptional reputation and is an asset to the church, community and families that it serves. Children's lives are shaped so much by their first few years and it is always a privilege to be a part of this important time in a child's development.

The children have been learning about the weather, making snowmen and experimenting with ice. Playgroup is currently full on Mondays and Thursdays, with places available on a Tuesday, at the moment. Please call in if you require more information.

Debbie

Church Mouse Tales...

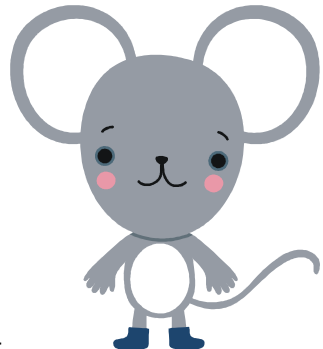
Misha the church mouse is easily confused...

Sometimes its difficult, as a mouse, to work out which month it is and what the time might be. As a church mouse though, there are some extra clues around. The church clock helps - although it sometimes runs a bit slow, and of course the Sunday service. My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, suggested using the church magazine to find out the month and year. Imagine my horror and confusion when I checked last month's magazine and it said 2013! A whole year gone missing? Deary deary me.

My head was in a spin. I distinctly remember 2013 - the summer was the best for a while as I recall. Hubert said not to panic - it was probably just a typo.

What a relief! Anyway this recent speeding epidemic has given me something else to worry about. I'm thinking of a dayglo jacket...

Misha



Albert's 'Worldy Knowledge' Quiz

(Sorry about the typing error in last month's quiz, hopefully my checking will be better for the rest of the year).

1. In the musical 'The King and I' which country did the King rule?
2. What is the most abundant gas in the earth's atmosphere?
3. In which country did the Boxer Rebellion take place?
4. In which European Country would you find the Prado Art Gallery?
5. In the 1930's Orson Welles' broadcast of which story caused panic in the USA?
6. In 1971, in which country did Idi Amin lead a successful military coup?
7. The cherry blossom is the national flower of which country?
8. According to her 1971 hit-record, where was Bonnie Taylor lost?
9. For 2013, Forbes magazine named who as the world's most powerful woman?
10. Ouzo is the national drink of which country?
11. Julie Gillard was the first woman Prime Minister of which country?
12. In which country did Punch and Judy shows first appear?
13. Popular in Europe in the late 80s, where did the lambada dance originate?
14. In World War II the Chindits fought behind enemy lines in which country?
15. The Atacama is the world's driest desert, in which country is it?
16. Which country was the first to win football's World Cup competition?
17. In the USA the 'World Series' is a competition in which sport?
18. The 335 metres Rogun Tajikistan is the world's highest what?
19. Which country was the first to give votes to women?
20. In which country might you eat a trifle- called a 'whim wham'?
21. Which pop group had hits with 'World of our Own' & 'The Carnival is Over'?
22. Which is South America's only country whose national language is English?
23. Which of the world's rivers contains the most water?
24. The mazurka is the national dance of which country?
25. Which country has a symbol called-'the Sun of May' at its centre?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

Poetry Corner.

Nancy Stephenson's Step-mum, Vicki, wrote these song lyrics as well as others and gives us a little glimpse of spring as we plod through wintry February.....

Thank God for the Springtime.

To thank God for the Springtime
The singing of the birds
The budding of the glorious flowers
Is far beyond all words.

The lovely world he's given us
And the beauty of his days
As the seasons show their splendor
Fills all our hearts with praise.

For the wonders of the moonlight
And the dawn when days begin
We can only let him see our hearts
And the thankfulness therein

For the glory of the sunset
And the gift of eyes to see
Oh God we offer up our praise
And greatest thanks to thee.

Irene V. Scate

Nancy had a good relationship with her Step-mum after her own Mum died young. She explains:

Irene was known as Vicki, and was part of the Vicki Levis Trio (she was drummer) on the Isle of Man where she met Daddy. How can you not like a step mum who, on your Wedding day, announces to the whole assembly of guests: 'I am the bride's wicked Step Ma - where shall I sit?' She composed a few pieces of music, one particularly called 'Ten minutes to twelve' which I sang many moons ago!

Nancy

Diary for February 2014.

CANDLEMAS

Sun 2nd	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism service
	2.30pm	Henry Bear's Baptism Anniversary party
 Wed 5th	 9.15am	 Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
 Sun 9th	 10.30am	 All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion
 Mon 10th	 12 noon	 First Steps Toddler service .
		'Henry cares for others' – in church
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Church
 Wed 12th	 9.15am	 Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
 Sun 16th	 10.30am	 Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
 Mon 17th	 2pm	 Mothers' Union in Centre
 Wed 19th	 9.15am	 Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
 Thurs 20th	 11am	 Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
 Sun 23rd	 10.30am	 Holy Communion (sung)
 Wed 26th	 9.15am	 Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments
	7.30pm	CAP Money course begins – Session 1 of 3 – West Ardsley Methodist

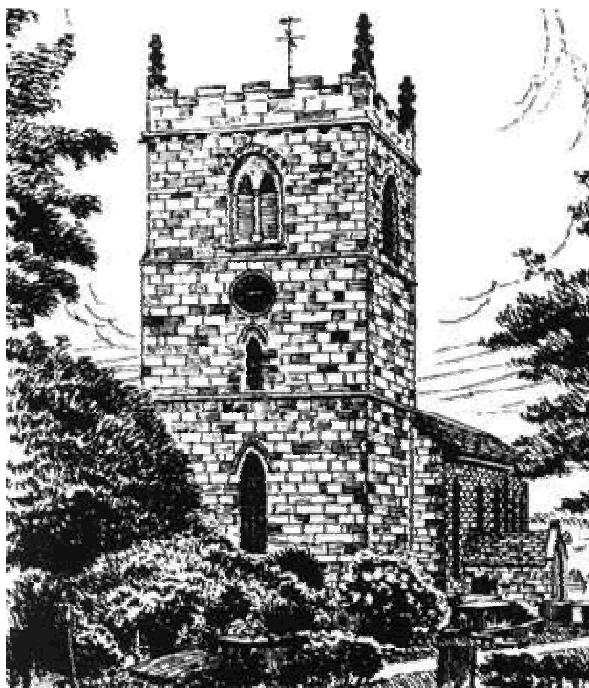
Early March 2014

Sat 1st 9.30-12 noon Church & churchyard clean-up

Sun 2nd 8am Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Holy Communion (sung)
12.30pm Baptism service

Wed 5th 7.30pm Ash Wednesday joint service
at St. Michael's East Ardsley
NO 10AM COMMUNION AT ST. MARY'S

Sun 9th 10.30am All-Age Service
12 noon Holy Communion



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

On the 29th December we welcomed Thomas Charles Pinder-Packard Son of Neal and Anne from Tingley into our church family at his Baptism, he is now becoming quite a regular member at the Sunday morning services.

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

Emily Maegan Pool, and her sister Ruby Elizabeth, daughters of Tristan and Alyson from Durkar, Wakefield.

Funerals:-

June Stephenson, from Dewsbury beloved mother of Nigel and Jonathan, and grandmother.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Siam. 2. Nitrogen. 3. China. 4. Spain. 5. The 'War of the Worlds'. 6. Uganda. 7. Japan. 8. In France. 9. Angela Merkel. 10. Greece. 11. Australia. 12. Italy. 13. Brazil. 14. Burma. 15. Chile. 16. Uruguay. 17. Baseball. 18. Dam. 19. New Zealand. 20: Scotland. 21. The Seekers. 22. Belize. 23. Amazon. 24. Poland. 25. Argentina.

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.

Editor.



**Woodkirk Parish
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Monday's 7.30pm**

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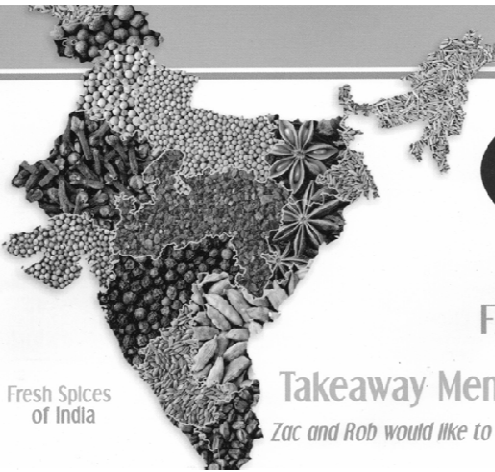
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am to 12:15pm Debbie Nelson 07896 536188
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Rainbows	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 689992
Brownies	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
Keep Fit Class	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
Young at Heart	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Beavers	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
Cubs	Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm Marianne Ingham 07778 542302
Scouts	Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
Explorer Scouts	Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm Chris Ingham 07816 517838

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