

# **Parish News**

**St Mary's, Woodkirk**

**Let it Snow, let it Snow...**

**January 2013**



**This Month:**

**The Organist; New Money;  
The Wiseman;  
The Jesuit; Burns Night.**

[www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)

## Who's who at Woodkirk

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### **Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:**

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

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

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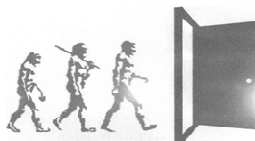
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## **Welcome!**

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](http://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](https://twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk)

## **Wheelchair Access**

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

## Look Up! Look Out!

Whether walking the streets locally, or through a shopping centre, people are so often looking down, watching the ground beneath their feet, hunched over on themselves. I probably do the same. But how much we miss when we walk watching the ground! How might the world be seen differently if we looked up and looked out.

As I write this, the entire world has turned its gaze to South Africa upon the death of Nelson Mandela. His life has been inspirational. His ability to forgive, refusing to harbour bitterness or self-pity for the treatment he had received, is a mark of his true greatness. He showed that in forgiveness is the means to live freely. Had he chosen the path of bitterness, nursing the wounds inflicted, focussing on his hardships, he would have turned in on himself, bound himself in his own self-pity.

Forgiveness freed him to turn his attention away from himself and give his energies to something far bigger than himself – the cause of anti-apartheid. That, it seems to me, is the reason for his greatness. He never sought greatness, he simply worked for a great cause. He was a man who looked up and looked out.

The dawn of New Year encourages us to do the same as we ponder the visit of the Wise Men to the young Jesus. They were the ones in their community who looked up and looked out, and caught a glimpse of something beyond themselves, something which took them on a journey of discovery.

Others, presumably, were so caught up in what was immediately around them, they missed the guiding star. As we embark on a New Year, it will be in looking up and looking out that we move forward on our life's journey. To give our energies to something beyond ourselves, something bigger, something which will make a difference to others. To embark on journeys of discovery.

How might we look up and look out this year? The launch of a local food-bank in Morley will give people a chance to look beyond themselves and bring hope to others – maybe not the gifts of 'gold, frankincense and myrrh' of the Wise Men, but gifts whose message is one of good news nonetheless.

There are plenty of volunteering opportunities, and training will be on offer throughout January for any who wish to offer their services to this worthwhile cause. If you can't volunteer, you may be able to offer goods to stock the shelves. Perhaps that is one way you might 'look up and look out' at the start of a New Year. See the article in this month's edition of the magazine to find out more.

2014 will see me going on a 'journey of discovery', as I plan to undertake a research project during a three month period of sabbatical leave I have been granted. I will be 'out of commission' between May and July in order to fulfil this. More details will follow in future magazines, both explaining what my sabbatical leave will involve for me, and what it will involve for you.

These times are rich with potential for new people to 'stretch their wings', grow into new positions of responsibility and try things they haven't done before. So the journey of discovery will not be just mine, but that of all of us, with God's grace.

It will be a year which will, we can say with some excitement, be historic in the life of St. Mary's. We anticipate that by the end of the year the work will finally be under way to redevelop the rear of the church, adding in the long-awaited toilets, ramp and kitchen, and removing enough pews to create a flexible community space.

Major funding has been awarded (see article) which means we need to have the first phase of the project complete within less than two years. This is great news, and long-awaited, but it will create some challenges along the way. We will have to step out with confidence and faith, trusting God and intent on pulling together. We will need to be a church who Look Up and Look Out.

So, let's embrace the future with hope and courage, knowing that God is with us.

Revd. Amanda

## **Children's Society Update...**

Thank you for helping vulnerable children. With your help we have raised £876.50 from collection boxes in 2013. We have 31 box holders at present. If you would like a box please let Susan Walshaw know on 01924 479380. Thank you for your continued support.

Susan.

### **What your Money helps to do:**

£5 a month pays for a hot meal for a neglected child when a project worker meets with them.

£10 a month pays for a phone card for a young runaway to contact our project workers when they're in danger.

£20 a month pays for a mediation session to resolve conflict between a runaway child and their parents.

£50 a month helps a project worker give intensive one-to-one support to an abused child.

## **Sad farewell to John.**

It was just a few months ago, in October, that our organist, John Hardcastle, was diagnosed with lung cancer. His optimistic spirit and positive response to the news were inspirational – his strong faith in God shone through. He has continued to drive from Horsforth week by week to play the organ for us, and tells me it was that which has kept him going. It has been clear to everyone, however, that John's deterioration has been rapid, and he has often been gasping for breath as he arrived on a Sunday.

Nonetheless, John intended to keep going through the Christmas period, until he was forced to reconsider in the middle of December. John and Adrienne live in a first floor flat with no lift, and he found, following a hospital appointment, that simply climbing the steps to the flat had become too much for him. He reluctantly decided at that point that he would have to stop driving too. Playing the organ has had to be relinquished, with considerable heartbreak. He and Adrienne are struggling to accept that the chemotherapy has not had the desired effect, and that this will be John's last Christmas, barring a miracle. He will be sadly missed at St. Mary's.

John asked to come and see me some 5 years ago, following the decision of our previous organist, Richard Quarmby, to take an organist's post nearer to home. It has to be said that at that point, what we offered by way of an instrument to play was not St. Mary's greatest selling point! Our failing pipe organ was not one likely to attract an aspiring musician (unless they liked a challenge!). But John, despite living in Horsforth, felt a call from God, and as soon as he walked into the church building, he tells me, "I knew this was it!" Fortunately he had made his decision before he ever saw the organ – and it wasn't enough to deter him!

When John arrived, he made it his mission to assist the church to explore the acquisition of a new organ, and after a number of Sunday afternoon visits to other churches with recently installed organs, a decision was reached. A fortnight trial, and a lot of swift fundraising, spurred on by the anonymous pledge to double the amount raised in the fortnight, led to the arrival of our organ early in 2010. Every organist who has played it since tells me it has been a sheer joy to play, and we

all know how much richer the sound is compared to the wheezing noises of its predecessor. The vision for that has been down to John, and without his energies, we might be wheezing still!

But John has been 'a cut above' your average organist, because he was not just an organist for the church. He was a member of the church who also happened to be the organist. He threw his energies into churchyard clean-ups, helping to erect fencing, used the Horsforth community mini-bus to deliver Harvest goods to the other side of Leeds, and even came over to take schoolchildren from Hill-Top School to Crag House Farm to deliver their Harvest goods too. He put himself out for the sake of St. Mary's.

Few who went could forget the minibus trips he organised to help raise funds for the redevelopment. Ilkley, Bury, Blackpool, John took us all over, and knew routes around Leeds which most of us wouldn't begin to grasp. The trips were enriching and fun – just like the man who provided them.

On top of all that, John has served on the PCC, and on the Fabric Committee, and most recently, Deanery Synod. I have no idea how many miles he clocked up in travelling between his flat in Horsforth and St. Mary's, and he has done it in some pretty atrocious weather conditions which few of us would travel more than a few miles in.

John has been far more than a musician at St. Mary's. He has been a worshipper – his heart was in the music, not for its own sake, but for the sake of the Lord he loves. Not only was his heart in the music, but the music was in his heart. And he expressed his worship in his service of the church and of his local community. Some may not realise that, more locally, John ran the Horsforth community mini-bus, and was responsible for the acquisition of a new vehicle, which he regularly drove to take elderly folk to the shops or out for trips. He was also a local councillor. His faith inspired him to make a difference to others.

You don't get many church organists who give as much as John gave to us. We are going to miss him, and not just for the organ playing. Please hold John and Adrienne in your thoughts and prayers as they struggle to come to terms with the challenges of the coming months.

Rev'd. Amanda

## **A Personal message from John.**

I spoke with our Organist, John after Christmas. He wanted me to pass on his sincere warmth, gratitude and thanks to you - the people who make up the congregation of St. Mary's, the regulars, the 'occasionals' and the only 'oncours'. John has played for us all with the same skill, dexterity and love on each and every occasion.

He is disappointed that he can't say goodbye personally to us all, by way of a visit, but he is unable to leave his home. John is thankful to Godfrey, the local Methodist Minister, who brings him the Eucharist and wants both Godfrey and Amanda to take part in his funeral. He is grateful to everyone who has shown both himself and Adrienne hospitality and welcome during his time at St. Mary's.

John says he knows that death is part of life and he says he is waiting for God now, but he is ready to accept the next step - and is planning to book an organist to play him out in style.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John and Adrienne. From all at St. Mary's we send our love to them both.

David.



*Our Organist and friend: John Hardcastle with Judith Elliot at the Organ Dedication Service*

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

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](mailto: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

## Just Call Me Lopez

*Gail tells the story of Saint Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits.*

On October 19th 2013 Derek (Barraclough) and I were lucky to be able to attend a course at the Mirfield centre called Ignatian Spirituality. The speaker was Margaret Silf. We did not really know what to expect but it turned out to be a wonderful day. I would like to share some of it with you.

The talk was about a Saint called Ignatius of Loyola, (who was known as Lopez). I was so intrigued listening about this man, I had to know more - and by chance Margaret had written a book about Ignatius which tells the story in an up-to-date manner.

It starts in this, the twenty first century, when a woman called Rachel is knocked off her bike and Lopez comes to her aid. Both are transformed by this unlikely friendship and the thought-provoking conversations they share together. They come to realize that this chance accident is actually an act of God that has brought them together. Over time Lopez tells Rachel all about his life.

Lopez was born in 1491 and named Ignacio Lopez de Loyola. He went by the name Ignatius when living in Rome years later. In 1509 Ignatius becomes a soldier for the Viceroy of Navarre. It had always been Ignatius' dream to become a soldier and fight in wars and, in 1521 while fighting a battle against the French at the fortress of Pamplona, Ignatius is severely injured by a cannon ball.

The French carry him, on a rough two week journey, back to his family castle to recover. Thought to be on his death bed, Ignatius receives the last rites. For the next several months he recovers from his injuries while reading about Jesus Christ and the Saints.

In 1522 He leaves the Castle on a mule and heads for the mountain Abbey of the Benedictines. There Ignatius goes to the shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, where he makes confession, gives his clothing to the poor, leaves his sword and dagger at the altar, and spends the night in prayer. In the same year, Ignatius meets Inez Pascual who shows him a cave near the river Cardoner in which he can stay and pray. He stays there several months and begins taking notes that will become the Spiritual Exercises.

In 1523 He embarks on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He arrives at Jerusalem but due to the political situation at the time, he stays not quite a month before returning to Spain. From 1524-1527 Ignatius studies in Barcelona, then at the University of Salamanca, and, in 1528 he moves on to Paris to study. By 1534 Ignatius and his companions



decide to go to the crypt of the church of Our Lady Martyrs. Each of the Companions vows poverty, chastity, and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, if a pilgrimage is not possible, they will offer their service to the Pope.

In 1537 Ignatius is ordained in Venice. During this time he had a vision in a small rundown church in La Storta. In the vision, God instructs Jesus to take Ignatius as his servant. In 1539 Ignatius and his companions form the Society of Jesus (known as the Society of Jesuits). In 1540 the Society of Jesus is approved by Pope Paul III. In 1541 Ignatius is elected as General of the Society of Jesus and by 1548 The Spiritual Exercises are approved by Pope Paul III.

From 1553-1555 Ignatius dictates his autobiography to his secretary Fr. Goncalves da Camara. In 1556 Ignatius dies of Roman fever - a type of malaria. At his death the Society of Jesus was just sixteen years old but included a thousand men with Jesuit houses in one hundred locations.

Ignatius was beatified by Pope Paul V in 1609 and in 1622 he was canonized by Pope Gregory XV. Some 300 years later, in 1922, Ignatius is declared patron of all spiritual retreats by Pope Pius XI.

By reading this book 'Just Call Me Lopez', I was taken in by the love and fellowship that developed between Rachel and Lopez. It must have been wonderful to listen to this man re-tell his journey and the ups and downs of his life, not only how he held on to his very strong faith, but also the way it helped Rachel in her journey. I wish I could have met this wonderful man.

I did not want to tell the complete story of Rachel and Lopez, how he pops in and out of her life and how he makes himself at home in her home, and fits in so well with the twenty-first century. So I just kept to the facts about his life, as I want as many of you that can, to read this wonderful book. It helped me to realize that our human faults and imperfect behaviour do not prevent us from receiving God's grace; rather knowing our weakness and giving ourselves over to the Holy Spirit can reveal the God within us and the path before us.

Gail



*St. Ignatius, by Rubens*

## Archbishop appoints interim Area Bishops

April 20th, Easter Day 2014, will be the day on which we become the Diocese of Leeds, to be known as West Yorkshire and the Dales – and Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York has nominated three interim bishops to run the five Episcopal Areas from that day until permanent appointments are made:-

**Bishop James Bell**, currently Bishop of Knaresborough will become the Area Bishop for the Ripon Episcopal Area but also interim Area Bishop for Leeds.

**Bishop Tony Robinson**, the Bishop of Pontefract will become the Area Bishop for Wakefield and also take on the role as interim Area Bishop of Huddersfield and Halifax.

**Bishop Tom Butler**, the former Bishop of Southwark, who has taken on the role of Mentor Bishop during the transformation process, will become the interim Area Bishop of Bradford. The Archbishop has also appointed Bishop Tom as the Chair of the Shadow Board of Finance for the new Diocese.

Permanent appointments for the Bradford and Huddersfield areas will be made by the new Diocesan Bishop of Leeds once he has taken up his role.

### Steps towards a new diocese:

January 9/10th: Meeting of the Crown Nominations Commission to choose the Bishop of Leeds – announcement expected February.

Lent 2014: Prayer-focussed events in Lent within each deanery to encourage thought and ideas about the shape and nature of the new diocese.

### April 20th Easter Day:

Appointed day on which the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales is created and the present dioceses dissolved. A new Diocesan Board of Finance comes into being and the new diocese is 'operational, viable and legal'.

April 28th: The College of Canons for the three Cathedrals formally elects the Bishop of Leeds.

June 8th: Pentecost. Celebration for the new diocese at York Minster, 4pm, with the Inauguration and Confirmation of Election of the Diocesan Bishop.

June/ July: Enthronement services in the three Cathedrals for the new Bishop of Leeds.

With thanks to Malcolm Haigh

## **Redevelopment of our Church - It's ON !**

At the end of November a letter dropped through my letter-box, marked from WREN. We had been awaiting a response to a second application made to them for assistance in creating community space at the rear of the church building. Since July, when the bid had been made, we had waited, perhaps not too optimistically, having been turned down by them the year before.

The envelope was thin – that didn't bode well. I had steeled myself for further rejection, but that thin piece of paper advised that the Board of Directors had allocated a grant of £50,000 towards the eligible costs of the project. That project is the first phase of the redevelopment of the rear of the church, and, in order to ensure we get the grant, the work will have to be completed in the next two years.

### **What does the first phase entail?**

The removal and disposal of the redundant organ, the construction of drainage channels and addition of two toilets (one disabled) in the tower base, the construction of a ramp into the tower base behind a screened semi-circular pew, the provision of a kitchenette, and the removal of some 11 pews, and adjustments in a few others to accommodate the repositioning of the font.

The grant of £50,000 means we have less than £20,000 left to find to enable this first phase to proceed, assuming that the pledges made by congregation and community members are all honoured. We are in the process of contacting other funders who invited us to go back to them once most of the funding was in place to see whether they may be able to assist us.

The reality is that, of the £105,000 price tag phase 1 involves, £17,500 is VAT, which we will be able to reclaim as long as we do so before the next General Election. Virtually all the money we now need is money we should be able to get back – which will assist us in the delivery of phase 2.

We are both excited at the prospect of finally being able to make a start on this project, but there is much yet to be done, and the project will have to be timed to minimise disruption as we continue to offer ministry in this community. The church building will be much better able to be the community resource it deserves to be once the work is done. That is good news indeed!

Revd. Amanda

## **Holy Communion at Christmas**

*We gathered at 11:30pm on a cold Christmas Eve night for our First Communion of Christmas.*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

“You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

In her Christmas message, Amanda asked us to consider why we came to church? Many people, she said, admitted they came for the music, especially at Christmas. The Carols we sing remind us of a time when we sang them in our childhood. Nostalgia in an uncertain world. It helps us to clear away the clutter of our lives. The Christmas Carol ‘Silent Night’ was written because the local Organ broke down. The Carol could be accompanied by a guitar with equal effect. Something good had come out of a crisis. Good things can come from troubled times. The Carol emits a sense of well-being amongst the chaos of the childbirth and stable.

A hundred years ago, amidst the turmoil of the Russian Revolution, a Ukrainian family of ten, lived in constant fear and danger. The Krauss family struggled for survival in a lawless world, the constant threat of violence hung in the air day by day. As Christmas approached, the family drew on God’s peace. They had obtained a mechanical Christmas tree stand. As it rotated, it played ‘Silent Night’. The family gathered around as the Carol played softly.

Just then a gang of attackers burst in, brandishing arms. Everyone froze for a moment. Silent Night played its Christmas message without pause. The gang also stopped when they heard the music playing. They lowered their weapons and quietly withdrew, leaving the Krauss family in peace. Later, the family were able to flee to Latvia - taking the mechanical tree stand with them.

God came to us in our hour of need bringing hope to us all.  
Silent purpose in troubled times.

David.

## The Ardsley Boys: Ernie Wise.

*In this first part of three, we look at the young men of Ardsley who went on to find fame and fortune.*

Ernest Wiseman was born in 1925 and went to East Ardsley Boys School. Still only a boy, he started in Music Hall in the thirties, singing alongside his Father. Soon he started singing, dancing and telling jokes as a solo artist, until he was talent spotted. He met Eric Morecambe (then Eric Bartholomew) in 1940 and they forged a friendship that was to last a lifetime.

They made their debut together as 'Batholomew and Wise' in 1941. After further discussion about what to call themselves, they changed to their respective home towns 'Morecombe and Leeds', but this, they felt sounded more like a cheap day return than a stage name. So at last 'Morecambe and Wise' was born. They were separated by the outbreak of war, with Ernie going into the Merchant Navy whilst Eric worked down a mine in Bevin.

After the war, they started working on the radio and it was not until 1954 that they first appeared on television, but their first series 'Running Wild' did not go down well and it was not until 1961 that they were given their own series on ATV which was far more successful.

Ernie played the straight man to Eric's jokes, but his role was enhanced by writer Eddie Braben, making him more gullible and a little pompous, including making him an amateur writer. The partnership went from strength to strength, with the public loving their on-screen relationship in which both often appeared together sat up in bed - a situation which seemed perfectly normal. As well as Television Series and Christmas Specials, Eric and Ernie also made four films together, three in the 60's and the last in 1984 in the same year Eric died. Ernie continued after Eric's death, finally retiring at the age of 70 in 1995. He died in 1999 from heart failure and a statue was erected in Morley town centre to commemorate his life.

David.



# St.Mary's Christmas Fair - in pictures



Santa and friends.



The wonderful k



Above: The Scouts and helpers  
Right: Francis the Specky Seamstress



The Fair raised just under £1,400 - a great result for everyone who worked so hard to put on this great event.



kitchen Staff



Above: Derek and his amazing Book Stall  
Left: The Chocolate and Pickles Ladies  
Below: Shoppers and browsers enjoying the Fair



*With thanks to Brian for the Pictures*

## Prayerful Thought ...Part IV.

*Dawn Tattersfield continues her prayer journey with us.*

What do Strictly Come Dancing and prayer have in common? The more you practice, the better you get (only with prayer there aren't so many sequins!)

I rarely watch a series of anything on television as my days seem to be filled with lots of other things, but over the last few years, Strictly has become a must. I don't get embroiled in all the backstage gossip and additional programmes, but if I cannot sit down and watch it as it is broadcast, then I record it and watch it later. So what's this got to do with prayer you may ask.....well....

If you saw my first article, I recalled an episode of Porridge when Godber said his prayers and Fletcher likened it to a request on the Jimmy Young show, and I also in my last article referred to my prayers not being "elegant or particularly profound", well just like Abby Clancy this years Strictly champion with her dancing, I have found that daily prayer, practising if you like, has not made me perfect, but is certainly helping me improve.

When I first sat quietly, and yes, for those of you who know me, I did actually, really, sit quietly!, I couldn't think of what to say, and I was more than mindful of not just coming out with a big list of people to pray for like a radio station request, in fact sitting there quietly my mind would automatically think of that programme and it would make me smile.

But as the weeks have gone on, I know my prayers have developed. In the first instance, whilst I do still sit quietly before starting my prayers, it will come as no surprise to some of you, that I am no longer stuck for something to say to God, in fact it has come as a bit of a surprise to me how much I find to pray for, and it is not a long list of names, but has covered many different things.

A lot of what I pray for does involve people, but it is not just names, but situations as well. I have prayed for those involved in tragedies like the helicopter crash in Glasgow, and the 25th Anniversary of the Lockerbie bombing, but I have also been able to pray to God and thank him for happier things, like a successful activity morning and the love of Jesus shared amongst the 25 children who joined us that day, and also the wonderful news of a successful grant application which means that those bequests and pledges we have made, will be added to, and work will be able to begin on the redevelopment at the back of our Church.



Now I don't for a moment think that my prayers have made a huge difference to these matters, but I am pretty sure that there have been others within our church and community who have been praying for these things too, and what was it I said in my last article about the power of prayer?

It's a funny old thing isn't it, how things develop? Most of my colleagues at work are aware that I am a Christian and quite involved in Church, whilst I am mindful not to 'spout' about it, if asked, I have spoken about my faith. Now since I started my daily prayers, a couple of people have spoken to me about faith, but my most moving incident was when someone actually came to me and asked me if I would pray for someone known to them, which of course I said I would, and indeed did do so. It was a very significant thing for me, as it again made prayer real for me. Someone trusted me to speak to God about their situation, and whether that person will see the outcome they hope for, as a result of my prayer or not, I was glad that I was able to respond to that person and pray for them and their situation.

I will also tell you that, during advent, with everything else I was doing, there was one day where I just didn't seem to have a moment, and didn't actually spend my time with God, and do you know, I had a really bad day! Nothing seemed to go right, I was frustrated and seemed to have less time than usual to get things done.

So if you haven't yet had chance to sit down and have your quiet time with God, perhaps now is as good a time as any, here we are at the start of a new year. But I don't want you to think of starting a quiet time with God as something of a new year's resolution, as I think that just adds more pressures to our daily lives, and if you're anything like me, you can start off quite positively but will you still be going by mid February, which is usually when my new year resolutions would fizzle out.

I think it would be a much nicer thing to think of this as a treat you are giving yourself this year, then it's not a chore, but something to look forward to.

God may not be able to give us glittery costumes and sequins (but you never know!!) but what we get at the finish will be our reward for hard work and perseverance just like Abby and Aljaz's victory on Saturday.

Dawn

## Henry Bear's Party.

Calling all those youngsters between around 2 and 6! Henry Bear is having a party to celebrate his Baptism! It's going to be fun, so why not come along?

Perhaps you have been baptised ('Christened') at St. Mary's, or at another church. Perhaps you have come to Playgroup over the last 3 years and are familiar with Henry Bear. Perhaps you'd like to join with him to remember your baptism, what it was all about, and why it is worth celebrating.

Henry invites all his friends, old and new, to join him at St. Mary's on Sunday 2nd February at 2.30pm for his baptism party. Bring a grown-up to help you with the cutting and sticking time, and if you have a special teddy who you would like to bring with you to meet Henry, don't forget to bring him too!

It's going to be fun, and there's sure to be some of Henry's favourite biscuits ("What's Henry's Favourite biscuits?" did I hear you say??? Why not come along to find out?). Drinks will also be provided. Put it in your diary! (Or get Mum or Dad to!)

## United we stand!

A united service on 19th January at 6pm marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It celebrates the significant moves towards unity which have already been made, and prays for that growing sense of belonging to one another to deepen. It is largely accidents of history which leave us divided, and history should not be allowed to limit the possibilities of the future, simply to teach us lessons which will enrich the future.

With three young adult children all involved in churches, it is clear to me that the upcoming generation of young Christian people have little affiliation to a denomination and a high sense of belonging to Jesus. The history of the past does not bind them. This holds out great hope for the future of Christian faith in our culture.

Don't believe all the media tells you about the demise of Christian faith. It's simply not the whole story – and it's not the story my children would tell you!

So let's celebrate the shared faith we have, and be encouraged by sharing that celebration with other local Christians. Put the date in your diary – **Sunday 19th January 2012 at 6pm at St. Michael's East Ardsley.**

Revd. Amanda



# **Burns Night Quiz**

**Saturday 25th January 2014**

**St Mary's Woodkirk Parish Centre**

**At 7:00 pm**

**Adults: £6.00 Children Under 12: £4.00**

**Hot Supper Included**

**Tickets from Brian Gledhill**



**Or Telephone 01924 405790**



# **Christingle Children's Services 24<sup>th</sup> December**

*Gail re-lives the joy of Christmas with the kids...*

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December a jolly band of helpers came to make Christingles. If you have never made them you do not know what you have missed! It is great fun cutting oranges, placing candles in the middle, putting red tape around them and stringing sweets on sticks and sticking them in the oranges.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 3:00pm we held our first Christingle service which was aimed at the children aged 7 and under. It was a wonderful service with lots of singing, we then handed out the Oranges and Amanda told the story of what the Christingle Orange means. We lit the candles and turned down the lights - what a wonderful sight, a St. Mary's lit by candles and full of parents and children. At this first service everyone went away with the great feeling of Christmas.

At 5:00pm we opened our doors once more for the Christingle Service for children aged 7 and over. The Service was full of joy and hope for the future, it was lovely seeing the children take part in the Service and Naomi Barraclough (yes you guessed Amanda's daughter-in-Law who is in her second year of training to become a vicar) hid some things around the church and we had to guess what were associated with them, what we would use them for and what we expected from them.

The children enjoyed finding the things and also the message Naomi passed on to us all - the best thing of all at Christmas was the gift of the baby Jesus and for us to open up our hearts and let him in - not only at Christmas but through our whole lives.

We enjoyed the story of the orange and lighting the candles and seeing them give light in the darkness - a light we hope they will remember that will lead them to God. I for one found it very moving to have so many children in St. Mary's. Children are our future. To see so many parents and children fill St Mary's at these two wonderful services just goes to prove what a great job Amanda is doing for St. Mary's both in the Schools and the Parish.

Gail

## **A Carol Service with a difference.**

*At the 4 o'clock Carol service on Sunday 21st December, the story of the Nativity was told through the eyes of an Angel...*

I, Oriel, am an archangel of the Most High God. Some time ago, my Boss gathered us in his office to unveil his plan to rescue the Universe and revive that tarnished jewel in his crown, the human race. We angels have a central plan to play in this campaign and I am to be in charge of overseeing it all.

Why in all Heaven does he want to help those flabby little wretches? Oh, I didn't ask him to his face - one doesn't. The humans have been nothing but trouble since shortly after they emerged. It seems crazy such a dangerous plan should be undertaken for the benefit of anything so fleeting. I can't help feeling that my boss loves the human race more than he loves us angels. I know what he would say, "Oriel, can you be loved more than completely?"

Oriel takes us through the weeks leading up to the birth of baby Jesus - following Mary and Joseph's progress, trying to reach Bethlehem with a lame donkey, and once there, with Mary's contractions starting, trying to find somewhere for the delivery. Oriel becomes increasingly frantic as he perceives himself as 'in charge of operations' and therefore to blame for the debacle unfolding before him. Oriel returns to heaven and has to go to the 'office' to explain himself...

I spent much of the day with my Boss. I told him, in precise detail, everything that happened last night. He knew it already, of course, but he likes to hear his creatures telling their own stories. It was only when I had reached the very end of the drama that he looked at me and said, "Well?" "I'm sorry" I began, and started to recite the short speech I had carefully planned for this moment. "It was an awful mess and it was my fault. I should have planned it more carefully." He said nothing.

As always happens to me in such silences, I could not bear it for long and spoke again. "Have I completely messed up the plan?" My Boss smiled. Not a frustrated smile, nor an amused smile; it was a huge beaming smile of the kind that only he and his Son can give. In the light of that smile, the scattered pieces of my story fell into place. The struggle, the distress, the humiliation, the awfulness and the sheer panic of the past few days took shape in my mind. For a moment I saw them from my Boss's perspective. The human tragedy I had witnessed - that was the plan!

David



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

### **15th Morley Beavers**

The Beavers have been busy during December gluing and sticking for Christmas. We spent a lot of time making Christmas decorations, and had lots of fun getting ready for Christmas. We had a wonderful Christmas Party - another fun evening with games. A big thank-you must go to Jonathan, Janet and Mary for the hard work they put in buying and preparing the food, and Jonathan for all the games. They all went home very happy with gifts from Father Christmas and badges they had earned over the last few Months.

Soon the Panto season will be upon us - we always have a great time at Morley Town Hall. This year the Pantomime is Cinderella, performed by the Morley Amateur Operatic Society. We are going to the performance on Friday 7th February at 7:15pm. If you would like tickets please contact me, Gail – details on inside back cover. Tickets are the same price as last year £6 for everyone - Adults, Children and the older (but wiser) generation.

Gail and Joanne

Life is an Adventure - LIVE IT!

## Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

January is a month for taking stock, preparing for Spring and trying to keep warm! It won't be long before spring is here and things start to take off. This is the time to check that your tools are in good order, that your soil is as well prepared as possible and to check your supply of seeds. Here are a few suggestions for this month.

Tip of the month: Make sure you pick up plenty of pots, trays, labels, pens and most importantly - seed compost and seeds at the garden centre. Mid winter could possibly be the best time to wash out old pots and trays. Use warm soapy water and rinse with a solution of diluted disinfectant.

If planning on growing potatoes then save egg boxes as they will come in handy to help chit your potatoes in the next few months. If you grow tomatoes in your greenhouse border then this is a good time to change the soil to avoid pest and disease problems. Trim back sage to give it a new lease of life.

If not already done and the ground is not too hard, dig in some manure into your beds.

Harvest root vegetables such as leeks, parsnips, turnips and celeriac. Also harvest Brussels sprouts and any other crops remaining.

Feeding wildlife? Fat balls for robins and great and blue tits. No milk or bread for hedgehogs – please buy specialist food. Watch out for foxes. Ensure your bin bags and lids are secure.

Sow early carrots and garlic in situ under cloches.

Did you dig a trench for runner beans? If so, keep adding kitchen waste.

Happy New year!

Sandra



## **Christmas School Services at St. Mary's**

On December 19th at 7:00pm, **Westerton Primary School** came to St. Mary's for their Christmas Service. This was attended by parents, Grandparents and carers.

The Service consisted of Readings and Carols.

The Orchestra started us off with Personent Hodie from Piaae Cantiones 1582. It was wonderful to hear such beautiful music played by the children. We all sang the Carol Once in Royal David's City, followed by two poems:

'December' read by Angela Booth and 'Sir Winter' read by Jeremy. Year 4 choir then sang 'Sleep Quietly' and 'Sans Day' Carol, and two more poems: 'Ghost Story' read by Mr Rook and 'The Thorn' read by Mill Pratt.

The Woodwind group then played Rejoice and be Merry.

Two more poems followed 'Shepherds' Carol read by Michael Grange and 'The Ox-and-the Ass' story read by Susan Rook.

Amanda then told us a wonderful story about a Fox who went to visit baby Jesus.

We all then sang the carol 'Away in a Manger' followed by the recorder Group and Year 6 Choir playing and singing Coventry Carol, and Year 6 Choir sang Etoile de Noel.

Three more poems followed: 'How far to Bethlehem' read by Elly Finn, 'The Christmas Tree' read by Daniel Sykes and 'Christmas Pudding' read by Steve Warwick.

The Orchestra finished off with Merry Medley and Deck the Halls. Everyone was then invited by Stephanie Making to the Parish Centre for Mince Pies, Teas and Coffee. Thank you Westerton Primary School.

**Hill Top Primary School** came to St. Mary's for their Carol Service and Nativity on the 20th December at 9:45am . This was also attended by parents, Grandparents and carers. The Head Mr. Duncan Grant welcomed everyone to the service.

We started the Service with the Carol O Christmas Tree, as April Thompson told us about the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, the children acted it out, then we sang You will find a Baby, then, as Moria Wright spoke to us about Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, the children acted out the scene for us. We sang He is Born.

The children are now at the stable and Jesus is born. Charlie Cavinder read us the story, and we sang Mary had a Baby. Along came the Shepherds and Georgia Graystock told the story, we sang Do you



hear what I hear? Along came the Wise Men, Hollie Dando told us this story, and we sang 'We three Kings' after which Abi Mulligan Read God was the Word.

Amanda told us more about the fox how he wanted to eat the baby lamb, but was so curious, instead he followed the Shepherds to Bethlehem and saw the Shepherd give the baby lamb to Jesus. Mr Grant thanked everyone for coming.

Thank you Hill Top Primary School for a wonderful Carol Service. If ever you get the chance to attend either of the School services - I highly recommend them. It really starts the Christmas celebrations off, hearing the children and the lovely music and seeing the church full to over-flowing  
God Bless

Happy New Year Gail.

## Church Mouse Tales...

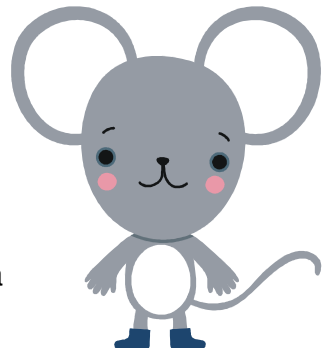
*Misha the church mouse on the new developments...*

Stern warnings from my friend Hubert the Black canon - he says the new food bank supplies are NOT FOR ME. They are for the needy in the parish! OK, OK I promise I won't go near those lovely food items...

More trouble is brewing as I hear a Wren has given us lots of money - and now the talk is of clearing the old Organ out of the Tower! I mean, where is a mouse to live? It's exceedingly comfortable in the B flat pipe on the second tier - I hope suitable alternative arrangements will be discussed at the PCC...

Anyway what is a Wren doing with all that money? Dear oh dear. In his usual placatory tone, Hubert did mention a new kitchen - now that's more like it!

Misha



## Albert's ABC Quiz:

(This is quite a testing quiz, designed to get your brains back in action after the demands and excesses of the Christmas Season. So, good luck to you all)

1. In 1903 Columbia declared its independence from which country? Was it Argentina, Bolivia- or Colombia?
2. Are Brechou, Lihou and Jethou in the Azores, Balearic or Channel Islands?
3. In ancient times what was made from potin? Was it Armour, Boots or Coins?
4. In 1934 what did Time Magazine say was a phenomenon as well as a state? Was it Alaska, Bahamas or California?
5. Who would wear a chimere, an Admiral, a Bishop or a Clockmaker?
6. Is a coal mouse an animal, a bird or a collier?
7. If you achieved a capot, would you be an Archer, a Bowler or a Card Player?
8. Which English King followed Edmund Ironside, Alfred, Baudouin or Canute?
9. Which sport featured in the film 'Golden Boy': Athletics, Boxing or Cricket?
10. Does Seaby's Standard Catalogue deal with Antiques, Books or Coins?
11. Which comedian played the title role in TV's 'Deacon Brodie? Was it Arthur Askey, Michael Bentine or Billy Connolly?
12. At which venue is the Albert Cup competed for, Atlanta, Bisley or Chepstow?
13. Who might wear an MB waistcoat: an Astronaut, a Butler or a Clergyman?
14. Standing fishes, Wife Hater, Sting and Goose were all forms of what - Axe, Bible or Chariot?
15. In which capital city was Andre Previn born, Algiers, Berlin or Copenhagen?
16. Which country did Kipling refer to as 'Our Lady of the Snows': was it Austria, Bangladesh or Canada?
17. Is a foliot a part of an Abacus, Barometer or Clock?
18. Which fruit can precede Cart, Dumpling and Jack: Apple, Banana or Cherry?
19. The followers of which philosopher were called peripatetics: Aristotle, Bacon or Confucius?
20. Rimini is on the coast of which sea, Adriatic, Black or Caspian?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

## Poetry Corner.

*Santa makes his rounds as usual, until...*

'I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures, of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
a sobering thought, came through my mind.  
For this house was different, it was dark it was grey,  
T'was the home of a soldier, not a child out to play.  
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor, in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in disorder,  
Not how I pictured, a true British soldier.  
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?  
curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?  
I realised the families, that I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers, who were willing to fight.  
I couldn't help wonder, how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas eve, in a land far from home.  
The very thought, brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees, and started to cry.  
The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice,  
"santa don't cry, this life is my choice;  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is my god, my country, my corps.."  
The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
and we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.  
I did not want to leave, on that cold, dark, night,  
This guardian of honour so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "carry on Santa, all is secure."

Unknown Soldier

## Diary for January 2014.

Sat 4th 9.30-12 noon Church & churchyard clean-up

### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

**Sun 5th**     **8am**            **Holy Communion (said)**  
                  **10.30am**       **Holy Communion (sung)**  
                  **12.30pm**       **Baptism Service**

Wed 8th 9.15am Church open for prayer  
                  10am Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments

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

Mon 13th 12 noon 'First Steps' Service – Parish Centre  
                                  – 'Henry follows a star'  
                                  7.30pm PCC meeting in Parish Centre

Wed 15th 9.15am Church open for prayer  
                  10am Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments

Thurs 16th 11am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

**Sun 19th**   **10.30am**   **Holy Communion (sung)**  
                  **6pm**            **Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer**  
                                  **for Christian Unity.**  
                                  **- St. Michael's East Ardsley.**

Mon 20th 2pm Mothers' Union meeting – Parish Centre

Wed 22nd 9.15am Church open for prayer  
                  10am Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)  
                                  & refreshments

Sat 25th 7pm Burns Night Quiz with supper –  
                                  (see advert on P27)

**Sun 26th**   **10.30am**   **Holy Communion (sung)**

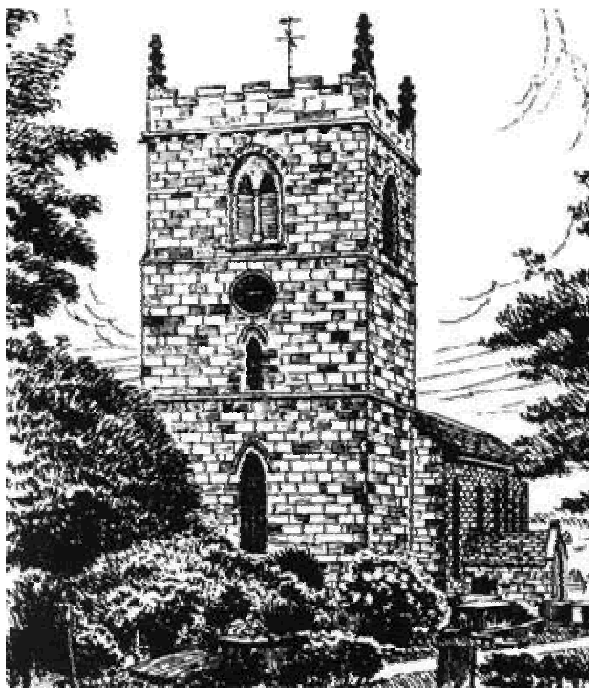
Wed 29th 9.15am Church open for prayer  
                  10am Holy Communion (One World setting)  
                                  & refreshments

## Early February 2014

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

### **CANDLEMAS**

<b>Sun 2nd</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (said)</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (sung)</b>
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Baptism service</b>
	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Henry Bear's Baptism Anniversary party</b>
		<b>(see article on P26)</b>
<b>Wed 5th</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Church open for prayer</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Common Worship)</b>
		<b>&amp; refreshments</b>
<b>Sun 9th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All-Age Worship</b>
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>



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

In December we welcomed 3 new members to our church in Baptism.

Zachary Elliott Cain, Son of Mark and Kirsty from Tingley,  
Ella Grace James, Daughter of John and Gillian from Tingley,  
Lilly Lola Mayhew, Daughter of Lawrence and Kelly from Tingley

Renewal of Wedding Vow's:-

On the 14th December 2013, Les and Sandra Linfoot from Tingley stood before God and each other to renew their promises made to each other at their Wedding. It was a wonderful time. Congratulations from St. Mary's Church Family.

**QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. Columbia. 2. Channel Islands. 3. Coins. 4. California. 5. Bishop 6. Bird 7. Card player 8. Canute 9. Boxing. 10. Coins 11. Billy Connolly. 12. Bisley. 13. Clergyman. 14. Bible. 15. Berlin. 16. Canada. 17. Clock. 18. Apple. 19 Aristotle 20. Adriatic

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  
Centre  
Monday's 7.30pm**

**New Slimming World group  
opening on the 30<sup>th</sup> December  
2013 ...Come along to find  
out how to lose weight without  
being hungry !  
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Louise 07882 229133**

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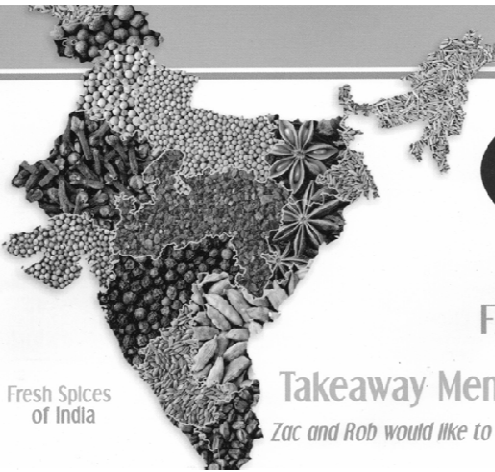
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Tel: 0113 238 1193

*Zac and Rob would like to thank all our patrons for many years of support*

**At Balti House, we don't do fast food, we do good food as fast as we can.  
Open 7 days a week. Lowry Road, Tingley, Wakefield WF3 1TW**

- *Dog Walking*
- *Pop in Service*
- *Small Animal care*

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Lead*

**A Friendly, family run business  
taking care of all your beloved pets.**

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*t* 01924 828 514  
*m* 07527 783 291  
*e* raceytracey30@yahoo.co.uk

# BENNETT OF MORLEY

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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***Tel 0113 2525374***

An independent family business,  
the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Marshall  
family who were established in  
1891. The family pride themselves  
on their caring and understanding  
of the bereaved and offer a complete  
funeral service including a pre-paid  
funeral 'plan'.

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### CONSULTANTS

**CHRISTINE BENNETT**  
**RACHEL STONES**

RESIDENCE  
3 HOLLY COURT  
TINGLEY

## **What's on**

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

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

Townsend on 0113 2528710 Email: [weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org)