

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

March 2014



This Month:

**Dredging; Young Mums; Heroes;
St. Oswald; Salt & Light;
Powerful Prayer.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's:	The Rev Amanda Barraclough, St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road, Woodkirk, WF12. 7JL Tel: 01924 472375 Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
Lay Pastoral Ministers:	Derek Barraclough 01924 472375 Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
Churchwarden:	Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
Deputy churchwardens:	Derek Barraclough 01924 472375 Glyn Jennings 01924 470272
Organist:	To be advised
PCC Secretary:	Julie Hyde 0113 2521339
PCC Treasurer	Gary Mortimer 0113 252 8935
Social Chairman:	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Parish Centre Hire:	Brian Walshaw 01924 479380
Parish Centre Manager:	Glyn Jennings 01924 470272
Parish Legacy Officer:	David Townsend
Child Protection Officer:	Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963
Health & Safety Officer	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Electoral Roll Officer:	Dave Townsend 0113 2528710
Data Protection Officer:	Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 2524001
Magazine Editor & Weekly News Sheet.	David Townsend 0113 2528710 Email: dave2408.townsend@gmail.com Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month. Mobile: 07745 301746 Contributions for the Weekly Sheet by Thursday evening please.
Deanery Synod rep:	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Elizabeth Aveyard, Derek Barraclough, Brian Gledhill, 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.

Dredging is important!

As I write, the news reports are full of the plight of communities in the Somerset levels and now around the Thames, coping with the problems as their homes, shops and businesses are flooded. Our hearts go out to them as we see the images of water damage, piled up furniture, ruined carpets. We can only imagine the pain and heartache they are experiencing at the moment.

Having recently been in the company of some friends who live in Somerset (though not in the flooded parts of it) I was encouraged to hear that the vicar of the village of Muchelney had challenged the congregation (much increased in size since the floods) to write on post-it notes the things which had been positive about the experience.

Given all the problems the media reports in that village, it's sometimes important to recognise and celebrate the good things. Otherwise we lose sight of them. And there were plenty of post-it notes on the large roll of paper laid out in the church that morning. We can only imagine what they might have said, but I guess that the growth of community spirit will have been one of the most significant.

Somerset is called Somerset because it was habitable only in the summer – that was the only time people could settle there because the rest of the time it was flooded. It was, I understand, only when the monastic communities settled around Glastonbury and began a programme of land reclamation and river management that it became habitable all year round. If left to its natural state, the same pattern and the same problems will inevitably return. This really is nothing new!

The reality is that the lessons of history have been lost. Maintenance and management are important – the natural state of things will re-establish itself without them.

It's now clear that some (though not perhaps all) of the problem is down to the financial cutbacks which mean dredging rivers has all but stopped. There are always more important, and more visible things, to spend money on when times are good and the sun is shining. We overlook the silt and debris which is hidden below the surface, but is nonetheless there. It really doesn't prove much of a problem until the storms hit. Then we are overwhelmed by something bigger than us.

It is a parable of life. In our lives, there is a build-up of silt and debris – hurts, habits which become harmful, addictions (even to things which seem harmless), the clutter of things which land in our lives, often through no fault of our own. They are there, buried beneath the surface of life. And we are so busy, and have such limited resources of

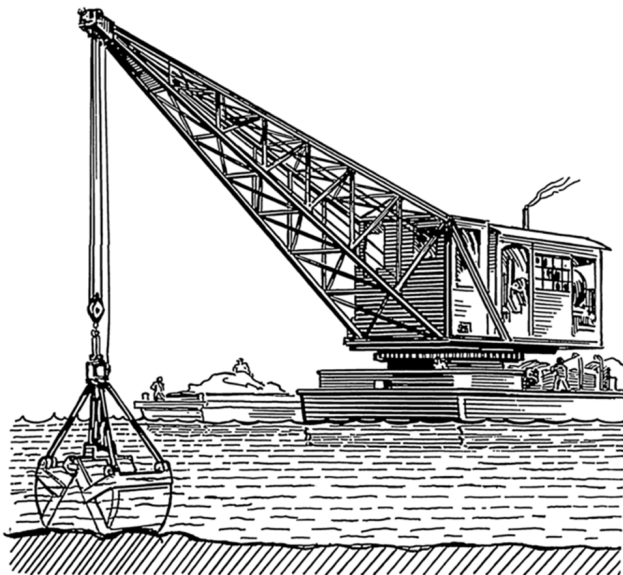
time and energy, there is always something more important, and more visible, to prioritise. It really isn't a problem – until the storms of life hit. Then we feel overwhelmed by something we don't quite know how to handle. It's only then that we realise that we have overlooked something we should have done. Dredging is important. It may be invisible, but it is vital.

As Lent begins on 5th March, we enter a period of 'looking beneath the surface' of our lives, recognising those things which need some attention, dredging out the silt and debris of our lives. We may not look any different on the surface when we reach the end of that 40 day journey, but when the storms of life hit, you should be able to tell the difference.

So much of life today is about image, branding, what is visible. We can forget that there is another dimension to us which needs attention too. Some of the villages worst affected by the flooding are 'picture postcard' places, quaint, characterful and very desirable. They are places of the affluent. But image clearly isn't enough at the moment. Nor is it at any time – it's just more obvious now that what's below the surface needs attention too.

I encourage you to take time this Lent to look beneath the surface! To help you reflect on what's important in life, you may wish to share the journey through Lent with others, as we consider what's really important in our lives. What not join one of the Lent groups – five afternoons or evenings to talk about what helps us on our journey? Details can be found in the diary of events through the month. You're very welcome to join us!

Revd. Amanda



Your Church Needs You!

On Sunday 6th April at 12 noon it will be our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at which new officers are elected to the Church Council.

It will be an important year and so the 'crew at the helm' is vital. It is likely the redevelopment will have commenced before the next APCM, and for 3 months there will be no Vicar around, so a firm hand on the tiller from the PCC is more important than ever.

It may be that you have PCC experience. Maybe you feel you've 'done your bit' and 'got the t-shirt'. Don't dismiss the possibility that you may have something more to offer with a new three year term. If people stand down and never stand back up again, we'd quickly run out of people and we'd be lacking in experience too. So just because you've done it in the past, don't write off the possibility of coming back on.

We will need 2 new Deanery Synod members and 6 PCC members, it would appear. So look around you, see who would be good to fill these posts and encourage them!

Rev'd Amanda

Mother's Union on Mother's Day...

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More than....



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Sabbatical Research Plans...

Exploring the experience of ordained young mums.

Being first to do something isn't always easy! When I was ordained 13 years ago, there were very few ordained young mums around. In my journey towards ordination, I was often asked how I would cope holding two vocations together – motherhood and ordination. There were times it felt there was a (not so hidden) assumption that if giving time to one, I would be stealing time from the other. I was not convinced. I had a hunch back then that what I brought to ordination would be affected positively by my skills as a mother. I undertook a Master's thesis, 'Motherhood and ministry', for which I interviewed all the ordained mums in the Diocese. The results bore out my hunch – motherhood has the potential to enrich ministry.

Well, life has moved on for me, and for the Church of England. My children have flown the nest. And our family is likely to achieve another first. Ben, who grew with a clergy mum, is married to Naomi, who grew with a clergy mum (and dad!) – and they are likely to be the first couple in that position whose children will have a clergy mum too! So the second generation of ministry mums is starting to emerge! And, having experienced life with a mum in ministry, they will have their own insights about how they want to raise their children and cope with parish ministry, learning from the mistakes and successes of the past.

Another thing has changed. The Church of England is actively encouraging younger vocations. When I was first exploring paid ministry in the church, I was told to go away and get 'a proper job in the real world' first. As a result I was only ordained 20 years later, when my children had been born and begun education. Now the church is realising that it is more possible to grow younger congregations with younger leaders, and that younger people should be encouraged to consider being ordained. Having a life-long career in the church will bring a wealth of experience in future years which I can't bring. That will mean that in due course there will be many more ordained young mums. So there seems some important questions – how well are they supported? Do Dioceses recognise that motherhood has the potential to enhance ministry and support those who hold both vocations? How does maternity leave work when you're living in a vicarage? If the

church gets this wrong, it may lose many gifted and able ministers because they are not encouraged to find ways to minister which work for them.

Hence my sabbatical research. I will be travelling not just around the diocese but around the country, listening to those who are living with these two vocations, and to those in training for ministry who anticipate that they will start their families early on in ministry. Then I will be writing up my findings – hopefully this will become material which will help dioceses to do things better. And, as you can see, I have something of a vested interest in this research. After all, it is likely that I will have grandchildren in the future who will be born to a clergy mum. I want to do what I can to support them, and others like them.

So now you know that I won't be holidaying till I drop between May and July! I probably won't be working as intensively as I do in the parish, admittedly – it is meant to be a time of refreshment, after all. But I'm excited to discover the things my research will uncover. I hope there will be plenty to share with you on my return!

Revd. Amanda

Yorkshire Medieval Festival...

Did you know there is a Medieval festival? Neither did I, but a couple of weeks ago Amanda invited me to get involved with the York Archaeological Trust which manages the Yorkshire Medieval Festival.

This festival runs annually and aims to make communities throughout Yorkshire more familiar with their built Heritage, especially with historic religious buildings. We can be involved as a Church and celebrate our Heritage by having an open day event in August which will be advertised across the county. Sounds great - so I have sent the application off to 'join up'.

Hopefully, if we are successful, (and I cant see why not) we should be able to have a day of celebration of our rich history from the Medieval era (defined as 1066 to 1485) which encompasses the Black Canons as well as Lee Fair, Nostell Priory, St. Oswald and the Mystery Plays. Historian Peter Aldred has already offered to help with story boards and information. Great news. Watch this space for more information.

David

All Age Service @ St. Mary's: Salt and Light.

In our All Age Service on February 9th, we explored two things essential to life. Matthew said: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.'

Gail tried a little experiment: Two volunteers (cubs) are asked to taste a Crisp – one from each bowl. Which one, asked Gail, tasted the best? Both cubs agreed on the same one. It was the Crisp with salt added.

Now Brian tested our knowledge of Salt with a quiz: Is it true or false:-

- Salt increases the boiling temperature of water?
- Ants will not cross a line of salt?
- Seasalt is healthier than table salt?
- A bad egg sinks in salty water?
- Celery salt and garlic salt don't count? (as salt)
- Only old people need to worry about how much salt they have?
- A bowl of cornflakes contains as much salt as a packet of crisps?
- Most of our salt intake is added in cooking and at the table?
- Shampoo and bubble bath contain salt?
- Women consume more salt than men?

The answers are: T.T.F.F.F.F.T.F.T.F

Gail and Neal try another experiment. Two bowls of water are on a table. This time Douglas, one of the Beavers, comes to help. He drops a wax crayon into the plain water and it sinks to the bottom. Now salt is added to one of the bowls and Douglas drops the crayon in once more. This time it floats on the surface. We need a little salt in our lives to help us float too. Just like a little salt – it doesn't take much to make a difference in our lives.

Now our focus changes to Light.

We hear the song 'This little light of mine, I'm gonna make it shine'. Sally shows us a torch, but when it is placed into a bag the light cannot be seen. We need to shine our own lights in the world, explains Sally, a hidden light helps no-one.

Matthew said: 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

We receive a glow stick each and hold them up to light the church. Even when we all hide our lights until only one is left, the one remaining light still shines in the darkness. One light makes a big difference, pushing back the darkness. At Baptism we are all given a candle as a symbol of our light shining in the world. Newly baptised Lily is welcomed into the church with her candle and bible.

I am the way, the truth and the light, says the Lord.

All Age Services are exactly that - for all ages! That means you too. Why not come along and see the world from a different perspective.

David.

Ruby Wedding for Pat and Dave...

We wanted to thank everyone for their warm congratulations and greeting cards on our 40th Wedding Anniversary. The day was very special to us and to be surrounded by our friends in faith at the moment of our blessing was very touching. We must thank Thomas for very graciously allowing us to intrude on the day he started his new faith life. The start of a new life in Christ, linked to our own established faith added to our day. Many thanks Thomas.

Our day continued with a family lunch. Our friend Chris cooked a magnificent meal and we sat at the dining table for about three hours, talking, eating, laughing, reminiscing and drinking wine. We will remember it as a very happy day. Thank you our dear friends.

Dave and Pat Wass

Women Bishops - A New Hope.

The General Synod of the Church of England voted to pave the way for the legislative process to enable Women to become Bishops to be completed this year. The Synod held four debates dealing with differing aspects relating to women in the episcopate:

The first synod discussion related to the House of Bishops draft Declaration and Disputes Resolution Procedure regulations. Both the proposed declaration and accompanying regulations were drawn up by the House of Bishops at the invitation of the last meeting of the Synod. The debate was opened by the Rt.Revd. James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester, Chair of the Steering Committee, who moved "That this Synod welcomes the draft House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests and the draft Resolution of Disputes Procedures Regulations"

The second debate dealt with the Draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and Draft Amending Canon No.33. At its meeting in November the General Synod voted to dispense with a Revision Committee Stage for the new legislation so that the Synod could conduct the Revision Stage in Full Synod. After debate the revision stage for both the measure and the canon were completed without any amendments being made.

The Synod then gave preliminary consideration to the draft Act of Synod to rescind the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993. The measure was accepted by Synod; and the amending Canon no.33 was passed by Synod by 304 votes to 33 with 45 abstentions.

The final debate on women in the episcopate in this session took the form of a procedural motion suspending Standing Order 90 (b) (iii) so that the reference of the draft Measure and draft Canon to the Dioceses under Article 8 of the Synod's Constitution can be concluded within 3 months rather than the 6 months stipulated under the standing order.

After debate the motion, requiring a 75% majority of the whole Synod, was approved by 358 votes to 39 with 9 abstentions. The legislation now goes to the dioceses for approval. Provided a majority approve it by the 22 May deadline the General Synod will be able to hold the final approval debate in July, less than 20 months after the failure of the earlier legislation to secure the necessary two-thirds majorities in November 2012. If passed the legislation would then go to Parliament for approval and could be in force before the end of the year.

Celebrating our unsung heroes...

The Big Thank You.

There are a number of people who support the work of the church in so many ways, and do so quietly and behind the scenes. People who turn up to help around the churchyard, both of the Churchyard Clean-up sessions, and in between. People who shovel snow; people who turn up at the end of events like the Garden Party just to help put the tables away; people who support the church in gathering information about our history. Some of these folk perhaps don't turn up Sunday by Sunday, so we often get little or no opportunity to express our gratitude. That's why we decided to invite them to The Big Thank You.

Merci

On **Saturday 15th March at 4pm**, we are inviting our unsung heroes to afternoon tea and cakes in the church. The event is not just for them, however, but for all those who are part of the worshipping life of the church Sunday by Sunday too, and do all sorts behind the scenes.

Running Mums and Tots, cleaning the Church or the Centre, doing the brasses and the flowers, serving teas and coffees, organising social events, delivering magazines, doing bits of DIY, decorating, maintaining websites, making pickles and cakes, the list goes on. This so for you too! It's just that it's much easier to let the congregation know about it by word of mouth – there are others who wouldn't know about the event unless they were sent an invitation.

So if you want to show your appreciation and thanks to others who work to make St. Mary's the great place it is to be, please come along to express your gratitude to them. You might just find you are not just on the giving end, but receiving thanks too. And everyone likes to feel appreciated, don't they? So put the date in your diary, and come and share in a gratitude gathering!



Rev'd. Amanda



St. Oswald - the inspiration behind St. Mary's?

In the time before the country was united, a King turned to Christianity..

Oswald was born around 604 AD, in a time when Britain was made up of several different kingdoms (see map). These kingdoms periodically fought for power and control over larger areas of the country. Oswald's father Aethelfrith was a successful Bernician ruler who, after some years in power in Bernicia, also became king of Deira, and thus was the first to rule both of the kingdoms which would eventually become Northumbria.

The warring continued and Aethelfrith was eventually killed in battle around 616 by Raedwald of East Anglia at the River Idle. This defeat meant that an exiled member of the Deiran royal line, Edwin returned to become king of Northumbria. Oswald and his brothers had to flee for their lives and headed north into Scotland. Oswald thus spent the remainder of his youth in the Scottish kingdom of Dál Riata in northern Britain.

He was converted to Christianity by the Monks from Iona Abbey. This is Oswald's first connection to Monks.

Cadwallon, the king of Gwynedd (Wales), in alliance with the pagan Penda of Mercia, killed Edwin of Deira in battle at Hatfield Chase in 633. Northumbria reverted to its constituent kingdoms of Bernicia and Deira and



Oswald's brother Eanfrith became king of Bernicia, but he was also killed by Cadwallon in 634 after only a year in power whilst attempting to negotiate peace.

Subsequently, Oswald, now 29 years of age, saw himself as the rightful ruler of Bernicia and raised a small army with the help of King Domnall Brecc of Dalriada and the Monks of Iona, in order to meet Cadwallon in battle at Heavenfield, near Hexham. Before the battle, Oswald had a wooden cross erected; he knelt down, holding the cross in position until enough earth had been thrown in the hole to make it stand firm. He then prayed and asked his army to join in.

Oswald had a vision of St. Columba the night before the battle, in which he was told 'Be strong and act manfully. Behold, I will be with thee. This coming night go out from your camp into battle, for the Lord has granted me that at this time your foes shall be put to flight and Cadwallon your enemy shall be delivered into your hands and you shall return victorious after battle and reign happily.'

Oswald described his vision to his council and all agreed that they would be baptised and accept Christianity after the battle. In the battle that followed, the Britons and Mercians were routed despite their superior numbers and Cadwallon himself was killed. Now that Oswald had regained the throne for his family, he sent for the Monks of Iona to help with his Christian message. They in turn brought St. Aidan, a bishop, from Ireland, who would set up the missionary at Lindisfarne.

One Easter-Tide, King Oswald of Northumbria sat in the banqueting-hall of Bamburgh Castle. The tables were laid for the feast, but no sooner had the blessing been pronounced than news came of the arrival of a group of starving beggars. The King lifted from his table the large silver dish heaped high with venison and wild boar's flesh, and gave it to the famished men. Bishop Aidan, impressed by this unselfish act, prayed that the arm which performed the deed might never decay.

But the vengeful King Penda of Mercia was to return with an army and in AD642 they joined in battle, and at only 38 years of age, Oswald was slain on the battle field and his army defeated. King Penda did not end there though, and dismembered the body, placing head and arms on sticks in the battlefield. It was said a Raven took one of the arms up into a nearby tree and the place became known as 'Oswald's Tree' which is now Oswestry.

The body parts were collected and moved to various

monasteries around the country. It was said the arm which had been blessed by St. Aidan was a cherished relic and various groups sought to own it over the years.

Oswald was made a Saint both for his work converting his peoples to Christianity and his generosity towards the poor.

Much later the hermitage near Wakefield was converted to a Monastery and re-named St. Oswald's in his honour. The arms of St. Oswald were enshrined in silver at the Northumbrian Royal Seat of Bamburgh, traditionally in the Church of St. Oswald. This no longer exists, but appears to have stood on the site of the present Castle Chapel. This chapel along with the parish church, was later given to St. Oswald's Monastery at Nostell Priory and, in the 13th century, the monks there claimed to hold a substantial portion of Oswald's body, presumably one of the arms.

The second, right and incorrupted, arm, blessed by St. Aidan, had been stolen from Bamburgh by the monks of Peterborough Abbey (now the Cathedral). Here it was preserved as one of the monastery's most prized possessions, until lost or destroyed at the Reformation.

So it was that the actions of St. Oswald, in promoting Christianity and helping his people, inspired the Monastery at Nostell Priory, who in turn were keepers of our church at St. Mary's for four hundred years.

David



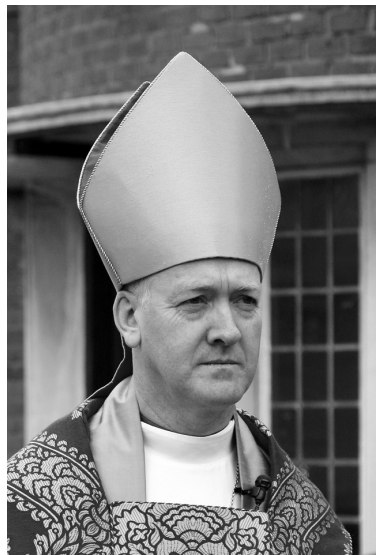
St. Oswald of Northumberland

New Bishop for our Diocese...

On the 4th February Downing Street announced that the Right Reverend Nick Baines will be the new bishop of our new Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales) . Bishop Nick was introduced in Leeds later that same morning by the Archbishop of York:-
“On behalf of the Crown Nominations Commission for this new Diocese of Leeds, and as Archbishop of the Province of York, I am grateful to Her Majesty the Queen (the Supreme Governor of the Church of England) for approving the nomination of the Right Reverend Nicholas Baines for election as the first Bishop of Leeds, following the restructuring (by the Dioceses Commission) of the Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield, in West Yorkshire and the Dales. “Bishop Nicholas Baines was the Crown Nominations Commission’s preferred candidate after prayerful deliberations, and a rigorous shortlisting and interview process.”

Nicholas "Nick" Baines was born 13 November 1957 in Liverpool and has been the Bishop of Bradford, since 21 May 2011 and the Bishop-designate of Leeds since 4 February 2014. He was ordained as a deacon in 1987 and a priest in 1988. His first appointments were as assistant curate at St Thomas' Church, Kendal and St Catherine's Crook. He then moved to Leicester, becoming briefly associate minister of Holy Trinity, Leicester, and then Vicar of Rothley (1992-2000), during which time he was also chaplain to an adult mental health unit, before becoming Rural Dean of Goscote in 1995. In 2000, he became the Archdeacon of Lambeth in the Diocese of Southwark.

Bishop Nick said: ‘It is a great honour and privilege as well as an enormous responsibility to be nominated to this post. I’m fully aware of the challenges this brings, but am confident that this new diocese will thrive. Let’s walk this new journey together as we forge new friendships, cross old boundaries and shape a vision for this new Diocese. I am excited by what lies ahead of us.’



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? Or do you travel light? What are the essential things you can't do without? After your toothbrush and soap, what else can't you leave behind? Hair straighteners? Make-up? A cuddly toy?

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 trip to a comfortable hotel room. 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 are 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 12, Woollin Crescent, West Ardsley. 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, in our journey through Lent, 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.

The five week course is taken from a book called 'Lentwise' by Paula Gooder. Copies of this will be available to buy nearer the time. But put the dates in your diary if you'd like to join us!

Revd Amanda

Church Growth cause for Optimism...

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said that "There is every reason to be hopeful about the future of the Church of England" as new research reveals churches across the country show signs of growth in a variety of areas of church life.

After a backdrop of decline of 9% in church attendance over the last decade the research identifies factors associated with growth. Archbishop Justin said: "There is every reason to be hopeful about the future of the Church of England, and indeed, all the churches in this country. There are many signs of growth, huge areas of development, and the church is – more than it has been for the last 60 years – demonstrating how essential it is to hold together our society.

"Over time there has been a decline in the percentage of the population that attends church. We need to listen to the message that comes through this research in order to develop our own strategies and stop doing things that help accelerate decline and focus on things that develop growth.

"The turnaround of the church is fundamentally in the hands of God. God is faithful. He has shown that in Jesus Christ, and He shows that to us every day in our lives - and in the lives of our churches together. But He calls on us to be his feet, his hands, his mouth, his eyes, his ears, who listen to and serve and love the people around us, who above all witness to the reality of the love of Jesus Christ."

Prayerful Thought ...Part VI

Hi there

Well no, the forecasters didn't get it right for February did they? We didn't have snow, however, and around the country there was a lot of rain. Some parts of the south and midlands, as I write this in mid February, are still suffering severely from flooding. It may well be a while before the main rail link to Cornwall through Dawlish is restored. I have actually been to that spot and watched as the trains have whizzed around that bend on their way east and west and you certainly wouldn't have said there was a weakness in the wall and path you walked on, it was safe and secure, well after these storms, perhaps not so.

This has made me think about what I class as my security and the things I gain strength from, and although I have not been susceptible to the bad storms and incessant rain of our fellow country folk down south, by the time you read this I will have attended my 4th funeral in 8 weeks. Now I'm sure there are some of you will have attended many more than that, and our vicar Amanda would probably welcome an 8 week period with as few funerals as that in it, but when thinking about my prayerful thought for this month it had me thinking.

I have prayed for the individuals involved throughout their battles with illness and asked for strength for those affected to handle the situation and for the love of God to surround them and their families. In one case I had been praying for continued recovery and a return to a health, in this instance, the loss of that individual was so unexpected, and I'm sure there are many amongst you who will have had similar instances when you thought a friend or family member was making a recovery for them then to slip away.

What do we say? what can we say? When we sometimes struggle ourselves?

Do you forget to talk to God about it? Do you shout to God about it? Does it shake your safety and security like that wall holding up the rail line at Dawlish?

I must admit, initially I sat and thought what's the point? Why am I praying for these situations when nothing seems to come of it? And I bet there are a few of you reading this who have had similar thoughts.

But it is at this time that we must continue to pray about things, about situations that trouble us, people, family and friends who need our prayers. But we need to think about is WHAT we are praying for.

Yes, we should continue to pray for our family and friends and those situations that need our prayers - like the flooding in our country, the areas of our world where war, violence, hatred and persecution are still the predominant situations, but shouldn't we also pray for those who are doing all they can to help? Those working away in the background, unnoticed by the media.

Do we pray that the rain will stop? perhaps we should pray for those who manage the countryside and the engineers who will look at designing flood defences, ensuring that they work together to find solutions that will help those who live and work in these areas, but also for solutions will not damage the wildlife and beauty of the area too?

Do we pray with sadness and anger because a loved one has died from terminal illness, or do we pray that donations will continue to be made so that research can be funded in order that breakthroughs will happen to bring cures for the future?

Do we add our voices to those who complain loudly and look for someone to blame or do we pray quietly for those who are working and giving their all to provide care constantly under difficult circumstances where perhaps budgets are squeezed, or the time they can spend with someone is not as long as they would like, because they are having to manage such a heavy caseload?

Did you follow the advice in my last article and focus on something? Did you focus outwardly? If you have done, and have been focussing on all these types of things mentioned above, then perhaps your prayers, like mine are beginning to get a bit longer.

If you feel like you are just giving God a whole list of things, then perhaps you need to stop and think a little. I mean, really, God is already aware of what is happening in the world isn't he?

Now don't be sitting there saying "well if he knows about all this then why isn't he doing something?" Just because we cannot see God obviously at work, doesn't mean to say he isn't.

It reminded me of one of those little prayer cards you sometimes find in the bookshops of churches, I spotted it as any stitcher would do, as it refers to different colours of thread, it goes like this; My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me; I cannot choose the colours He worketh steadily.

Oftentimes he weaveth sorrow and I in foolish pride, forget that he sees the upper, and I the underside..

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly, shall God unroll

the canvas and explain the reason why. The dark threads are as needful in the weaver's skilful, hand as the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he has planned

Don't let your foundations weaken like the wall in Dawlish, don't stop praying because you think your prayers are having no effect, how many years did we pray week by week for peace in Northern Ireland, now the majority of troubles have ended, it took time, but our prayers were fruitful.

Don't get disheartened, ask God for help. If you are angry, tell God and tell him why, he probably knows anyway, but sometimes putting it into prayer does give you a different perspective, and I find I cannot be angry in prayer for very long even if I start out that way, just talking to God about it helps me calm down and think about it differently.

Don't focus your prayers on the problem, focus your prayers on helping to find solutions. Let's hope that we don't have weeks of arguments over who's fault the flooding issues were, but a coming together of all involved for a speedy resolution for all those poor folk who have been affected that they may be restored to some semblance of normality sooner rather than later.

Dawn Tattersfield

New Church Legacy Website...

The Church of England has launched its new Church Legacy website: www.churchlegacy.org.uk

With essential information for individuals considering leaving a "lasting gift" to their local church in their Will, the website provides further information on leaving a legacy, example wording for your Will, and information for Solicitors and for PCCs. Church Legacy also shares parish stories where a legacy gift has helped transform a church's future.

If you would like to know more or discuss your legacy options at St. Mary's, you can also pick up a leaflet at the back of Church or speak to Amanda or David.

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

Things should be on the go now. Here are some jobs to be getting on with this month.

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

- Try growing on plug plants in your greenhouse. They are a cheaper alternative to larger plants and there will be more of them!!-
 - Plant some more onion sets and also some shallots.
 - Plant first early potatoes if it is mild and if your soil is workable.
 - Sow some sweet peas to grow alongside your runner beans.
 - Greenhouses can become very warm so make sure you have adequate ventilation during the day. Don't forget to close up at night as temperatures can drop.
 - Cover prepared seedbeds with fleece, cloches or clear plastic sheeting to help warm up the soil in readiness for spring sowings.
 - Prepare trenches for planting soon. Celery requires good water retention and drainage so incorporate plenty of well rotted manure or compost.
 - Sow peas in guttering or old toilet roll holders at two week intervals.
 - Now is the time to make sowings of broad beans, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, spinach, leeks, herbs, basil, coriander, summer cabbage and cauliflower either in the coldframe or greenhouse.
- Mice can be a problem at this time so place controls near crops in the ground, new sowings and near to any stored vegetables.

Sandra





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

Beavers

On February 7th we had a wonderful evening at the Pantomime (Cinderella) we were joined by Cubs and Scouts with some of their parents and Leaders. One of the Cubs Thomas Rutledge even won a prize, well done to him!

This month also saw us make bottles filled with coloured sand, which was very messy but fun. We also made a wormery - not to everyone's taste.

We are looking forward to our race night which takes place on the 7th March where we will be joining the Cubs and Scouts. Parents are all welcome as this is a fund raiser for St. Mary's Church, to help put Toilets and a kitchen in the back of the church. St. Mary's supports us in so many ways this is our way of saying thank-you. Please come and join us the Beavers have been given forms to fill in for the race.

Gail and Joanne

Scouts

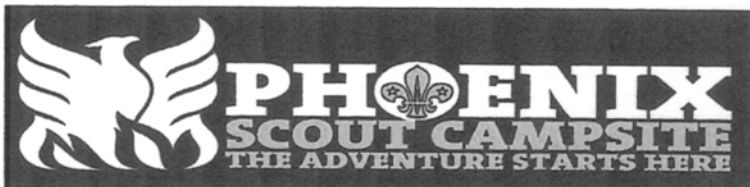
In January the Scouts entered the District 10 Pin Bowling competition at Hollywood Bowl. They finished a creditable 5th out of nine teams. Then in February came the district 5-a-side competition when they managed 4th out of seven teams. Also in February they were awarded their Fire Safety Badges.

By now the Scouts will have competed in their District Swimming Gala on March 1st. Results next month (fingers crossed).

Looking ahead in March, following the Race Night (above) is the 'Wake up Walesby' Camp which marks the start of the season and then in April comes the District Scout Activity Challenge at Phoenix Scout Camp (see next page for details).

In summer 2015 the district will be taking a contingent to one of the leading European Scouting opportunities. The Haarlem Jamborette is an established Dutch camp, which takes place every four years and allows Scouts to take part in a wide range of activities whilst making new friends and sharing experience with other young people of different cultures. 10 Cubs/Scouts have already signed up!

Skip.



District Scout Activity Day Challenge
Saturday 5th April 2014
10.00pm – 4.00pm

Be part of a team and compete in a number of challenges that will test both your mind and body.

Minimum team size= 5 (60 years combined age max)

Juice, Biscuits and all activities included in the price, but you will need to bring your own packed lunch.

Trophy awarded to the winning team.

Activities include:

**Bungee Running, Archery, Crate Stacking,
Bouldering, Mini Low Ropes Challenge,
Ladder Climb, Slacklining.**

Price per scout = £5.00

Numbers need to be in by the April leaders meeting at the latest.

If you require additional information contact Paul Blackburn on
Drighlington.scouts@ntiworld.com

Take part and gain elements towards various challenge badges



The Joys of Old Age...

Brian takes a humorous view of getting old...

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked:

'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied.... 'Two years older than me'

'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented.. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out. It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'

THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Brian

Playgroup Supervisor required.

Can you fill the void?

Following the departure of Debbie Nelson as our Playgroup Supervisor at half term, we are looking to recruit a replacement for her. The person we need would need to have NVQ Level 3 in Childcare, and some experience of work within a playgroup setting. The post is for 10.5 hours per week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings) term-time only, and is paid at £9.03 per hour. They must be CRB checked. We want to find the new Supervisor as soon as possible. Please contact Amanda to find out more details or to express an interest in this vacancy. Ring on 01924 472375 or e-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org .

Revd

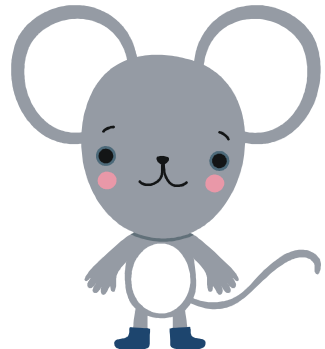
Amanda

Church Mouse Tales...

Misha the church mouse doesn't get out much...

My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, recently returned from a trip to Amsterdam. Excitedly, I asked him what he had been doing. He said he visited a Windmill. Oh! I said, what did you see there? He said he saw a mouse! A mouse? I said, where? There! he said, right there on the stair! Well I declare, I said. A little mouse? I asked. Yes, a little mouse with clogs on! Good grief! I said. What was it doing? It was going clip-clipetty clon on the stair! He said. Strange things going on in Holland if you ask me.

Misha



Albert's 'Famous Firsts' Quiz

1. Who was the first black Wimbledon Men's Singles Champion?
2. Who was the first Spanish Formula 1 World Champion?
3. Who led the first successful expedition to the South Pole?
4. Who was the first man to set foot on the moon?
5. Who was the first Spanish Golfer to win the British Open?
6. Who carried out the first successful heart transplant operation?
7. Which premiership football club was first to employ a black manager?
8. In the 1950's who invented and designed the first hovercraft?
9. Which was the first adult animal to be successfully cloned?
10. Which Scotsman discovered the first antibiotic drug?
11. Which major sporting event was introduced in 1930?
12. Who was the first black manager of a club?
13. Who were the first men to successfully climb mount Everest ?
14. Golda Meir was the first female prime minister of which country?
15. Who was the first person to win Oscars for acting and become an MP?
16. Who starred in the first 'talkie' movie?
17. Who was the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic?
18. Which Frank Sinatra record was the first to stay 100 weeks in the UK charts?
19. Which country was the first to give votes to women?
20. Which awards were presented for the first time in 1929?
21. 'A little less conversation' was the first UK No1 of the 21st century but which late great star performed it?
22. Which country was the first to send a woman into space?
23. Who was the first British woman to go into space?
24. Who was the first footballer to score 100 premier league goals?
25. Which film won the first ever 'Best Film' Oscar?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

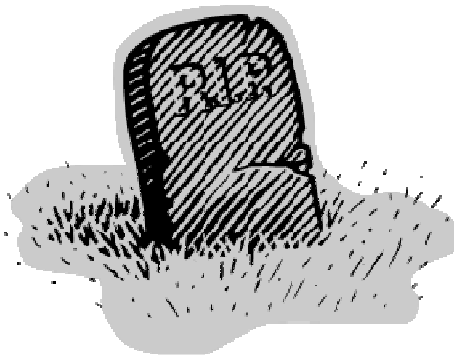
Poetry Corner.

Recently Harry Gough attended the funeral Service of one of his colleagues, Ronald Walton. This poem struck him as very pertinent.

On Death

When death from life takes o'er command
'Tis but as night succeeds the day.
All care and trouble fall away.
Naught in the face of death dare make a stand;
Death conquers all, alone holds sway.
No fear of death should make us quake,
This life is but a passing phase,
A dream of pain, a fleeting ache,
A halt where comes the parting of the ways.
If through the veil we cannot see,
'Tis not for us to blame our sight,
The fault not in ourselves may be,
But only that we lack for light.
God keeps for us the calm we need;
To God, death lends us only speed.

Ronald D. Walton 1936



Diary for March 2014.

Sun 2nd	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
This will include a special thanksgiving for John Hardcastle		
	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	
Fri 7th	7.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service – Tingley Methodist Church. Preacher: Angela Coggins
	7.00pm	Scouts Race Night – tickets (0113 252 8710)
Sat 8th	10:00am	Topple-testing session in churchyard
Sun 9th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 10th	12 noon	'First Steps' toddler service – 'Henry's New shoes' – in Centre
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in church
Tues 11th	2-3.30pm	'Lentwise' Session 1 – The compass – finding direction. Vicarage
	7.30-	'Lentwise' Session 1 – The compass.
	9.00pm	12, Woollin Crescent, West Ardsley.
Wed 12th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
Sat 15th	4pm	Big Thank You event – see article
Sun 16th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Mon 17th	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting – Parish Centre
Tues 18th	2-3.30pm	'Lentwise' Session 2 – Nourishment – Vicarage
	7.30-9.00pm	'Lentwise' Session 2 – Nourishment - 12, Woollin Crescent.
Wed 19th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
Thurs 20th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sat 22nd		Deanery Training Day – St. Peter's Gildersome – Dr. Christina Baxter
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Tues 25th	2-3.30pm	'Lentwise' Session 3 – Light – gaining wisdom – Vicarage
	7.30	'Lentwise' Session 3 – Light
	-9.00pm	– gaining wisdom 12, Woollin Crescent.

	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Lady Day Service – in church
Wed 26th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments

Sun 30th 10.30am Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday

Early April 2014

Tues 1st	2-3.30pm	'Lentwise' Session 4 – Shelter – finding security –Vicarage
	7.30	'Lentwise' Session 4- Shelter
	-9.00pm	as above
Wed 2nd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments
Fri 4th	9.45am	Hill-Top School Easter service in church
Sat 5th	9.30-12 noon	Church and churchyard clean-up
Sun 6th	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12 noon	Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Parish Centre
Tues 8th	2-3.30pm	'Lentwise' Session 5 – Water – enjoying refreshment –Vicarage
	7.30-9.00pm	'Lentwise' Session 5 – Water – enjoying refreshment. 12, Woollin Crescent, West Ardsley.
Wed 9th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
Sat 12th	10am-1pm	'More than eggs' Activity morning for children (see P13)
Sun 13th	10.30am	All-Age Service for Palm Sunday
	12 noon	Holy Communion for Palm Sunday

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

Funerals:-

John Hardcastle, from Horsforth beloved Husband of Adrienne, Son Julian and grandfather sadly missed by all.

Robert Clough, from Leeds, sadly missed by Sydney and family.

David Knight, from Woodkirk, beloved husband of Pat, beloved father and Grandfather sadly missed by all.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Arthur Ashe. 2. Fernando Alonso. 3. Roald Amundsen. 4. Neil Armstrong. 5. Severiano Ballesteros. 6. Christian Barnard. 7. Chelsea. 8. Christopher Cockerell. 9. Dolly the Sheep. 10. Alexander Fleming. 11. Football World Cup. 12. Ruud Gullit. 13. Edmund Hilary & Tenzing Norgay. 14. Israel. 15. Glenda Jackson. 16. Al Jolson. 17. Charles Lindberg. 18. My Way. 19. New Zealand. 20: Oscars. 21. Elvis Presley. 22. Russia. 23. Helen Sharman. 24. Alan Shearer. 25. Wings (Paul McCartney pops up everywhere!). 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.



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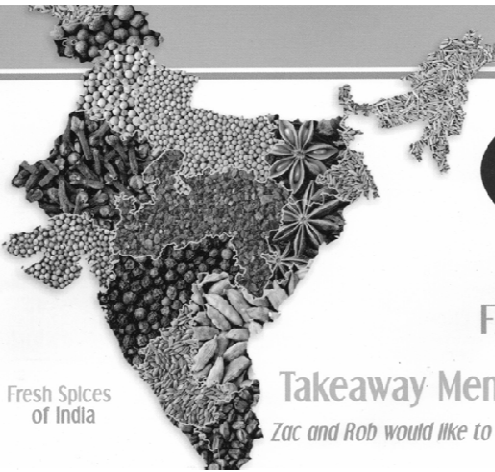
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What's on

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