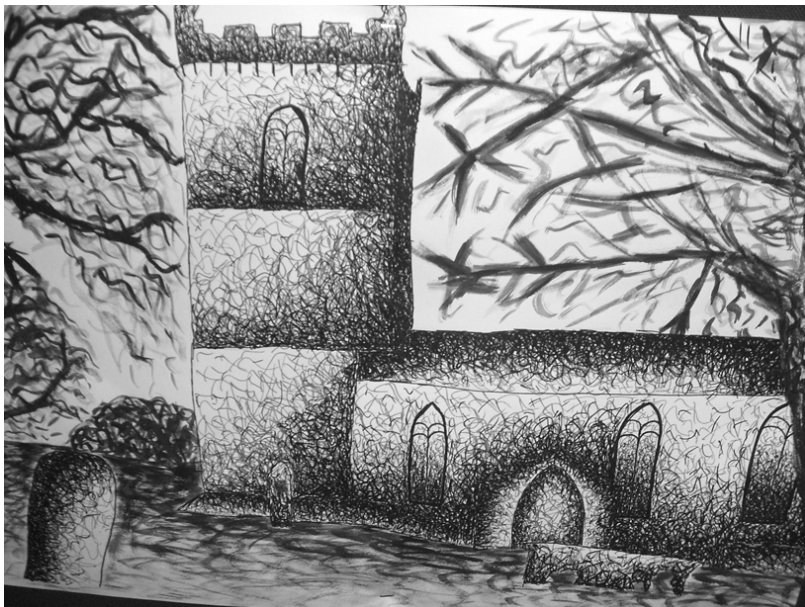


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

May 2014



Picture by Lauren Teale

This Month:

**Walking with God; Easter Changeover;
A Poppy to Remember; A Year in our
Lives.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Elizabeth Aveyard, Derek Barraclough, Brian Gledhill, 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.

*I am a Christian, not because someone
explained the nuts and bolts of
Christianity, but because there were
people willing to be the nuts and bolts.*

Rich Mullins

APCM Vicar's Report 2014.

It's been an interesting year, and one in which I sense God's preparation work in church life as we move closer to delivering the redevelopment we've talked and prayed about for so long. A little more than twenty years ago, Derek and I were involved in a church undergoing a much more major redevelopment than ours, one which involved us worshipping in a local school hall for some months. We found, during that time, that as we were reshaping the building, and changing its orientation, God was little by little reshaping our priorities, and re-orientating us. When we finally returned to the building, we were better able to use it as a result. We had thought it was about the building. God was about more than the building. He was about the church – us. I discern, as I look back over the last year, that in God's gentle yet persistent way, we are being shaped into the congregation he needs us to be for the future shape of the church's ministry. If we ever thought it was just about toilets and a kitchen at the back, be warned – God has other ideas!

As so often happens when God is at work, it all began with one of those glorious serendipitous moments you don't see coming. The discovery of the Chantrell watercolour just a matter of weeks after the last Vicar's report was penned. In fact, the first clue on our trail, the clipping from the Oldie magazine, landed on my desk on my birthday – and what a gift! It wasn't just a painting, it was a door of opportunity I suspect God was opening up and inviting us to walk through. A window into the past becomes a door into the future. I am hugely encouraged that, in tight budgetary times, when we are trying hard to raise money for something much more basic and practical like toilets, the PCC had the vision to see this as an opportunity and embrace it to the tune of £2000. Virtually all of this has since been recouped with donations from within and beyond the church and sales of the 50 limited edition prints which were produced. The positive publicity St. Mary's gained both locally, across the Diocese and regionally with articles on Calendar News and in the Dalesman magazine has been great for us after more difficult publicity in the recent past.

But that door of opportunity led further, and created the impetus for visits from local schoolchildren to learn about the painting in its original setting, as well as being the launchpad for the Art Exhibition planned in conjunction with Woodkirk Academy, held during our Harvest weekend. This showed that a building which inspired art in the past continues to inspire young artists of today. The atmosphere for

that event was wonderful, creating opportunities for church and community to come together and to celebrate our shared heritage and life. The readiness of the church family to offer a warmth of welcome and their trademark buns and hospitality made the event one which the school are keen to build on for the future. The acquisition of the painting was furthermore one factor in the decision of the Mayor of Morley to hold his Civic Service here the following evening. A full church with art old and new, schoolchildren and community members, brass band and organ, was a rich and wonderful event, and one of the year's highlights. The whole weekend seemed to me to bring church and community together, and make us a less inward looking and more outward facing congregation. The vision I believe God is growing is of a church with 'porous walls' – not literally, but spiritually – that the blessing experienced in worship seeps out into the community, and the rich life of community can find a ready means of expression within the church and its life. In all this it seems God is preparing us to be stewards of a church building which will be a more intentional community space in the future, as the redevelopment is finally delivered.

There are other initiatives which feed into that, some ongoing projects and others one off events – and it does seem to me that a series of such one off events is encouraging the creative involvement of the wider congregation as well as keeping us fresh and outward looking. Building on some long term outward looking focus points, like our involvement with Christian Aid, (thank you Sally) and the growing commitment to Fairtrade Fortnight, with its Big Brew event, which has recently seen us raise sufficient to provide a cow for a hard-pressed African community, (thanks to Dawn for taking the initiative on this), we are increasingly looking out into our local community too. The response to the Food Bank appeal has been astounding, and as a church we have filled many bags which have served to support local families in crisis. Several folk have undertaken training, and Barbara Tate is now assisting at a nearby Food Bank in the hopes that, once we have the available space necessary, following the redevelopment, St. Mary's may be able to become a distribution point for this ministry in our own community. As we take seriously the Gospel call to reach out to the most vulnerable, the Food Bank ministry stands alongside an ongoing ecumenical involvement in Christians Against Poverty. Two members of St. Mary's will be undertaking training later this month to assist in delivering the CAP money course in this community.

These ongoing outward looking initiatives are just part of the picture. One off events consolidate this focus. One such is the recent 'Big Thank You event'. The PCC, following the last APCM, did an MOT Health-check on Church life, and identified the need to express thanks more intentionally as a key action point. Some folk have been helping around the church and in the churchyard for many years, others have begun more recently. One has even gone to the lengths of buying a ride-on mower to assist in keeping the paths clear. People like this are often unacknowledged, and we wanted to assure them that, though often unseen, their work is valued. This again proved to be a positive and encouraging afternoon, building links and creating a church with 'porous walls'.

We aim to build on this in the summer, having applied to become part of the Yorkshire Medieval Festival, opening our building up to celebrate our heritage with visitors from across the whole of Yorkshire. We hope to have a small group of local people involved in amateur dramatics to present scenes from the Miracle Plays, and even folk dressed as black canons guiding people around, and will once again draw on Peter Aldred's extensive archive of Woodkirk's story.

A small sub-group of creative events thinkers from the PCC have thrown themselves into this with energy and imagination – I have been encouraged by their positive 'can do' attitude. The group were originally drawn together to focus vision for the HOPE 2014 project event. They quickly identified a major issue we have already recognised in this community of loneliness, and are planning a special lunch in October for those who rarely get the opportunity to eat in the company of others. All part of us bringing hope to our community, being Good News instead of just talking about it. All these are indicators that we are becoming more outward looking, outward reaching and a church with 'porous walls'. This is, I believe, the way God is preparing us for impending redevelopment.

The timescale of delivery of the redevelopment is starting to become clearer. We heard in November that we have been awarded £50,000 from WREN, a landfill grant-aiding body. This is a major boost to the project, and has since generated a further £10,000 from Garfield Weston, a provisional £10,000 from another funder and we are awaiting the results of a further two applications. If successful, once pledges are honoured, we will have the £115,000 we need to proceed. The clock is well and truly ticking – we need to get all the funds in place, register the process with the landfill body by this

November, and complete the work by the following November to retain the major grant. The first phase does not include the full-height screen, which I know was more contentious and which will become part of a subsequent phase, but does include toilets, kitchenette, ramp and semi-circular seating, repositioning of the font and removal of some 11 pews.

The redundant organ must of course be removed prior to this, and within just a matter of days of its placement on a Redundant Organs Register last month, we have an offer of £1000 from a German organ-builder which will hopefully see the organ restored for a church in Dortmund. That gives us income we didn't dare to expect, plus some much needed storage space in the organ loft. Our hope is that the contractors will be able to commence work on site in the late autumn, once the wedding season is over, and it will take some five months to complete. Our architect advises us that it is hoped we should be able to continue worshipping in the church throughout, though we will need extra help ensuring the building is cleaned in preparation for services. So, the reality is that by the time our next APCM comes around, the work will be well under way, and maybe even nearing completion. This will enable the church to be more fit for purpose for the future, and a genuine community resource – a building which is outward facing and used by many more people than it currently is – a place with porous walls, if you like.

All this has implications for us as the church. There is no point having 'porous walls', offering welcome to the community, and looking outward, unless we also are looking upward, and have something distinctive to offer. For God's blessing to seep out we need to be resourced by him. That means a growth in our relationship with God and one another. I believe there are some encouragements over the last year. The short course, 'Growing in the Scriptures' held over 5 weeks last summer allowed a number to gain a fuller sense of the Bible. The Lent Groups currently running I find hugely encouraging – some folk are new to them, others have attended every one for the last 10 years, but I see signs of higher levels of ability to articulate what faith means to us. This growing confidence is a delight to see, and should encourage us.

Sadly these groups have not grown numerically. Though some have joined for the first time, there are others, a higher number, who are no longer with us. What is true of Lent Groups is reflected in the church as a whole. We have said a final farewell to a number of the

church family over the last year, including Rosa Padgett, Marjorie Balaam, Mary Turner, June Stephenson and most recently our organist, John Hardcastle. The loss of John was particularly painful for us all, and we are very grateful to God and other local organists for enabling our worship to continue almost seamlessly whilst we have been seeking to secure a new organist. We are thrilled to welcome George Ford to St. Mary's as our new organist. For the next six months he will be getting the feel of the place to make sure he is happy to commit himself to us contractually, and we to him.

Returns I am required to make to the Diocese suggest, however, that new attenders roughly equal the number we have lost. Some are part of the midweek congregation, which has grown significantly recently. Others are finding their belonging in the monthly All-Age Worship congregation, which is now one of the main ways we have of engaging with young families. The need to encourage these folk to feel they are not on the fringe of St. Mary's but have a real stake in its future is a pressing one, and one we are striving to meet. Primarily this can only happen through building relationships, and for those relationships to be forged with a wider base of people. I am confident that the opportunity the sabbatical will provide for lay people to plan, devise and deliver the All-Age Worship will offer us the means to develop that.

The sabbatical I will be taking between May and July is a great opportunity for the church to take ownership of its ministry, to grow in confidence and competence to deliver that ministry, and to continue to move St. Mary's forward, with the grace of God. I have been offered the opportunity a number of times before but have not felt the time was right for the church. I believe now that the congregation is able to sustain the momentum we currently have – I certainly don't believe a sabbatical is a time for us to 'coast 'til t'Vicar gets back'. A vicar's job, in many respects, is to do themselves out of a job by training the laity to deliver ministry with confidence in God and one another. There will be a variety of clergy coming Sunday by Sunday, and every other Wednesday morning. I am certain that the variety of perspectives and styles of ministry they offer will enrich a church which can be in danger of becoming over-familiar with one voice and perspective! The PCC and Core Group will be tasked to oversee the period, under the leadership of two wardens! It has been a huge ask of Gail to cover the warden's job alone this year, and my thanks go to her for her dedication to duty and her love for our church. Thanks too to all who

have supported her, the deputy wardens, and Averille, Neal, Gary, Dave and others.

In terms of training up lay leadership, we can be encouraged that Derek and Dawn are both undertaking the Common Exploratory Year, grappling with the Old Testament and now Ethics (don't I know it!!), and both are considering following this with two further years of study to become Lay Readers. It will be great to have someone to share up-front ministry with in a more formalised way again! I know this course has enabled both of them to engage with Christians from other Anglican churches across the Diocese, and the cross-fertilisation of ideas and perspectives, whilst not without its challenges, has been fruitful. Both have clearly grown in confidence.

Speaking of the Diocese, we stand on the brink of a new chapter, as the Diocese of Wakefield will cease to exist from Easter Day, in just a fortnight's time, and the new Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales) will emerge. We as a church will come under the leadership of the Bishop of Leeds, Rt. Revd. Nick Baines, and will become part of the Deanery of Armley. Leaving Birstall deanery will be difficult for some, perhaps in particular our Mothers' Union branch, as it will be the only new addition to the Armley Deanery and that will take some time to adjust to. The reality of ministry at grassroots level will not look much different for a while, the only real advantage being that our natural and historic neighbours, at St. Michael's East Ardsley, will now be in the same deanery; the structures will at last be in place to facilitate working together. This is something we as clergy have been keen to see for as long as I can remember, and we believe it will enhance our ability to engage more effectively with the Eastleigh estate which our shared boundary straddles.

There are some who say a church is only as good as the vicar who leads it. I don't see things that way. I suspect a church is only as good as the laity who belong to it. The vicar is there to encourage and instil confidence in the laity to be the people of God where they are. The vicar can disappear for three months, and ministry will continue, by God's grace and your faithfulness. If the laity disappeared for three months, the vicar would be stuck! No matter how good a vicar might be, they can't create all the sparkle and life in a church. That is what you do. You do it in so many different ways.

I am grateful to Dave for the effort and quiet fervour he has brought to the magazine. I see many church magazines and ours is a cut above most, and that is because of Dave. I'm grateful to Averille, who doesn't just arrange flowers, she worships in flowers and has

added her creativity and flair to the Lent displays. She reminds me of the amazing Hope 2014 group, its energy, enthusiasm and can-do attitude- thank you to Barbara, Liz, Averille, Dave, Brian –you all bring sparkle to St. Mary’s. Brian too with his efforts on the Social Committee –Brian will forever be linked in my brain with snails and that’s not just because I was nurtured on the Magic Roundabout in childhood! Thank you to the other Brian and Susan, whose many years of opening the Parish Centre for parties has seen a vast growth in demand and still they keep on doing it. Thank you to Ruth, who has taken on the Parish Centre cleaning and does a marvellous job.

Thank you to the Core Group for support, vision and spiritual intuition and openness. To all those who offer encouragement and challenge, those who ask the awkward questions and those who struggle with new things but are prepared to give it a go and find they are glad they did. Special thanks go to Gail for her faithful service and readiness to give of herself; and to Derek, who does so many little things around the church and has almost managed to grasp the heating system in church at last! He has an enthusiasm which reignites mine when I’m flagging, and I know he loves St. Mary’s as I do.

This makes a decade of annual reports from me. There have been many changes in the last 10 years, and I suspect my 2015 report will also have many changes to report – perhaps more than most. Some have been a long time coming, and we are thankful to God for his grace and goodness. Here’s to another year walking with God and one another.

Revd. Amanda

Pastoral Letter from the New Bishop of Leeds

Dear brothers and sisters,

Welcome to a brave new world – although you might not notice any difference just yet.

Easter Day marks the closure of the Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield and the birth of the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. Easter Day is a powerful day on which this should happen. We live a death – an ending – and we are grasped by a surprising hope – an opening up of a future we cannot yet see or control. Resurrection is not for the fainthearted.

Along with my fellow bishops, James, Tony and Tom, I commend you for your faithfulness and call you to prayer and commitment to living in the power of God's Spirit in the places we live and work and play and serve. Together we can live out the resurrection on the ground in our parishes and institutions, offering a bold model – an incarnation – of resurrection hope. Such hope is not to be rooted in neat formulae or comfortable familiarities, but in the person of the God who raised Christ from the dead and can, therefore, be trusted.

On Easter Day Mary Magdalene looked in the familiar place to find Jesus. She was surprised to find herself looking into a different sort of future and embarking on a bewildering journey with the Jesus she thought she had lost. We are invited to do similarly: to commit ourselves afresh to the call of worship and discipleship, and to be open to the gifts that only a new world can offer.

I and my fellow bishops are committed to praying for you and to serving you in the power of God's Spirit. The path will not always be smooth, but, like those on the road to Emmaus, we will be accompanied by the risen Christ. May God bless us all as we seek to follow him in the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales.

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines
The Bishop of Leeds



Hill Top Easter Service

On Friday the 4th April we welcomed Hill Top School into Church for their Easter Service.

It was also the Headmaster, Mr. Grant's last service with us as he is off to pastures new. It was very sad to say farewell to Mr. Grant, as he has played a very important part in bringing the children into St. Mary's.

We had some wonderful songs and readings, starting with the story of Mary, Joseph, and the disciples Simon Peter, James and John. Followed by a song called 'You can never be too grateful.' We heard the story of Jesus at the wedding, with the children playing the parts of the Bride, Groom, Waiter and Boy.

Another song followed and then we heard 2 children who played the parts of Andrew and Philip in the boat with Jesus, and we sang 'With Jesus in the boat we can smile at the storm'.

Next came the story of Zacchaeus up the tree: We sang, 'Zacchaeus was a very little man who climbed a sycamore tree.'

Then came the story of the garden with Bartholomew, James, Simon and Judas telling us about the events of that time. We sang 'Lord of the Dance' and Mr. Grant read the story of One Solitary Life.

The children paraded their Easter bonnets - you could see a lot of hard work had gone into making them and one of the children left their bonnet for Amanda to wear on Easter Day. (which she did!) Amanda told us a story about the Easter Stoles. The children had made some wonderful decorated Stoles for Amanda (a long scarf she wears during services). There were five in total and some children were able to parade them on Easter Sunday.

This was a wonderful Service - the children did a marvellous job telling their stories and the singing was beautiful. Well done Hill Top, it is always such a pleasure to attend these services.

Gail

PCC Secretary's Report.

A snapshot of a year in the life of the Church...

The PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (with the exception of August due to holidays). The meetings have taken place in the Parish Centre until January 2014 when they moved into Church.

The evening begins with refreshments served by PCC members and each meeting Opens with Worship which is led by a different member of the PCC each month.

April 2013

New PCC members were welcomed and the appointment of Committee/Officers took place

May 2013

An exercise was undertaken to determine our priorities and what we need to address as a church. The Articles of Inquiry was documented as this needed to be completed by the officers.

June 2013

Changes to the Safeguarding processes were noted. The PCC were informed that the Chantrell Painting was on its way up from London. A major problem was identified with the wiring; Npower had not installed the meter correctly. Electrician agreed to make everything safe and issue a safety certificate. PCC agreed to pursue with Npower The Mayor's Office would like to hold the annual Civic Service at St Mary's on the 1st September at 3.00pm with refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards.

July 2013

Barbara Tate was co-opted onto the PCC. It was agreed to hold a thank you service for everyone who gives something to the church. A date was set for Saturday 22 March 2014 at 4.00pm. It was agreed that the core group will preach throughout August. A temporary faculty has been secured for the display of the Chantrell painting. A professional photograph has been taken that we can obtain prints from. In September/October we are engaging with Woodkirk high school for inspirational artwork displays. The Deanery Synod report included the Celebration of 1st year of Deanery Synod training

programme at St Johns Cleckheaton. The Diocese is organising HOPE 2014 project. Bishop Stephen is to give £100 to every church who wants it to kick start a community initiative to help grow our community. PCC to think what event St Mary's could put on to engage our community.

August 2013

There was not a planned meeting due to holidays however an extraordinary meeting took place regarding the Arch Stonework. It was agreed that the work to amend the stone work of the arch in church can proceed.

September 2013

Burials draft policy was discussed. This is intended to be in line with all the Parishes in the area. Fabric Committee Report stated that we are still trying to raise money for back of church and East window. The archway gap has been looked at by the architect. Someone can put in some resin which is specially designed to fit in the gap. There are air pellet holes in the window of the ladies toilet in the centre. The Police have been contacted, an advert will go in the paper for witnesses and a crime number has been obtained. We received a Certificate to say we can have £100 from the Diocese to promote how this can grow as part of the HOPE project.

October 2014

There was a discussion regarding the rules and guidance for maintaining Graves. It was agreed to approve signs for the graveyard pending some additional wording being added to make it clear that it is the diocesan guidelines. This will then be reviewed in due course. Harvest weekend feedback was gathered. Woodkirk Academy had good representation and it was very much appreciated. The Mayors civic service was well received and well attended. We also received Feedback from training events; Developing Volunteers, 6 week course discussing expanding church and Finance training. It was noted that There is a meeting of the new Armley Deanery on the 23rd October for the Deanery synod representatives to discuss the Transitional plans for new Diocese.

November 2014

Gift Aid 2010/11/12 claim has been submitted online to HMRC. Npower advised we have no proof that faulty workmanship had taken place and

offered a £50 goodwill payment. This has been accepted. It was confirmed that the Wakefield Diocese will cease to exist and the new Diocese Leeds/West Yorkshire & Dales will start on Easter day 2014. Fabric Committee reported; following the 2011 Quinquennial report, most of high priority work has been carried out. Guttering and pipes around the porch will need to be replaced. These do not have to be cast iron but have to be fitting of the building. By 2016 it is stated that the Masonry repointing/replacement has to be completed. Amanda advised we have registered for a project involving the giving out of bags that can be distributed to people to fill with non-perishable goods to be taken to a local food bank. 100 bags have been ordered. Amanda advised that she has an annual appraisal and following this has been encouraged to take a sabbatical. Amanda has made an application and if it is approved this will take place between May – July approx.

December 2013

The treasurer presented November figures. There was a surplus of £6,097.71. Amanda read a letter from the diocese that stated; All Parishes who pay this year common fund in full will have the previous arrears written off. There is approximately £8,421.00 to pay the balance for this year. It was agreed that we pay this in order to start the New Year with a clean slate. We have been awarded £50,000 grant this month by WREN. The project has to be registered with WREN through ENTRUST within 12 months (ie. all the money has to be in the pot by then) and the work has to be complete 12 months after that.. There is a total of £85,244.00 in the pot with pledged income for the reorder. PCC formally recorded sincere thanks to all those involved in the grant applications. It was confirmed that Amanda will be on sabbatical from May – July 2014. There may be some additional administrative support needed from PCC. This is an opportunity for Amanda to do something different. Some research into the challenges faced by the Church of England with respect to young women being ordained.

January 2014

Organisations are to be contacted regarding the Hope Project to grow a tenner and to develop the project. PCC meetings held in Church from now on due to a booking now on a Monday in the Parish Centre. The electoral role will open 9th March for updating. On 23rd March the notice of APCM & Vestry meeting will go up with completed

electoral role & names of those who have been added & removed. In addition a sign-up sheet for Church Warden will also go up.

February 2014

Amanda has obtained revised costing for phase 1 of the redevelopment. Including fees & VAT this comes to a total of £114331.78. Funds secured total £89,993.00. We were advised of a Yorkshire Medieval project that was run by a gentleman from the Jorvik Museum which took place last year is also being run this year and is of interest to places with a medieval history. We will register a statement of interest before 7th March for St Mary's to be involved. 1% of annual income donation to charity was agreed to support Leeds Faith in Schools. This charity helps children engage with God within local high schools. The Methodist minister has approached Amanda to 'swap pulpits' on 16th November. This will mean Amanda will deliver a talk at the Methodist church and the Methodist minister will deliver a talk to St Mary's.

Julie Hyde

Prayerful Thought...May - Who needs Red Bull?

Well hello again, and I hope you all had a lovely Easter. And well done to you if you had given up anything for Lent. (Well done to my niece Emily who was really good and gave up Chocolate for Lent). But enough of chocolate for the moment and on to Red Bull.

I don't know if you know anything about Red Bull, but I am referring to an energy drink, which some of you who are Grand Prix fans, may recognise as being advertised on the racing car of Sebastian Vettel who has won the Formula 1 World Championship for the last 4 years.

Well Red Bull's advertising slogan is "Red Bull - gives you wings" and I was reminded of this during session four of the Lent Course we followed in the 5 weeks prior to Easter.

The reason was, that session 4 was entitled 'Shelter: Finding security' and there were a number of bible references for biblical images of security that particularly referred to wings, they were Psalm 17:8 "Guard me as the apple of the eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings..." and Matthew 23:37 "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings...". These references reminded us of the protection afforded by wings, providing shelter.

Red Bull don't refer to their drink as providing you with shelter, but the uplifting experience of flying. Yes I know, not all of us like flying, it is quite terrifying, but if we refer to the bible again we can find a different description of wings than the protective sort mentioned above. In Isaiah 40: 30-31 we read about "...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..."

Now that sounds good to me.

Do you do any bird watching? not necessarily the Bill Oddy type, but just watching the birds in your back garden, or when you are just looking at scenery perhaps from a hillside or at the coast? Do you catch that glimpse of something out of your eye corner? Have you noticed how there is a completely different style of flying dependent upon the bird?

Small birds like sparrows, blue tits etc flap their wings almost constantly when you see them flitting about, but if you have seen bigger birds like crows and kites or the really large birds like buzzards, ospreys and eagles, they flap a lot less. When they take off, it is an almost herculean task just to get off the ground (possibly because in the case of these last three birds their wingspans range from 4.5ft to an amazing 7.25 feet). What these large birds do is flap heavily until they can get airborne and then they use air currents and thermals to soar.

A year or two back I watched a fascinating documentary series. I'm sorry I cannot remember its name. It was wildlife from a 'birds eye' viewpoint. The programme makers were using film taken from tiny cameras attached to the legs of birds all over the world which chartered their amazing migration journeys as well as their every day flights for survival.

It was amazing and made you wish that had evolved with wings and could just take off and explore, seeing things from a very different perspective.

Well if you think about it, God's word does that for us if we take time to be with him every day. We can find bible references like the one in Isaiah quoted above and many more that will make us feel uplifted. We have just celebrated Easter, our most holy time in the church's calendar. Now that is always an uplifting time. Jesus had died on the cross on Good Friday, but was risen to new life on Easter Day, you can't get much more uplifted than that.

Now some of you will also be aware, that on Easter Day we also were part of a transformation, not quite so dramatic as Jesus'

transformation, but we became part of the largest of the 42 Dioceses that make up the Church of England which sounds quite exciting. Now we don't know if this will have a major impact on us as a church or not, the immediate change for us is that we no longer come under the Wakefield part of the diocese but Leeds, but beyond this we will have to see. We trust God and that He is at work for us and is guiding us to where we need to be and that is uplifting too.

Well, do you enjoy flying in an aeroplane?, or are you a bit frightened but determined to fly to get you to a place you really want to go? or have you never flown?

I am the second of these, I do fly but am really happy when we have touched down and are taxiing ready to get off! I did go in a hot air balloon once, flying from York Racecourse, which was so different, it was a bit frightening, though strangely not as scary as flying in an aeroplane. It was fascinating having a 'birds eye' view of familiar landmarks in the York area that you normally only see in a picture postcard. It certainly was 'uplifting'.

I have never had Red Bull, but I'm pretty sure it doesn't actually 'give you wings' although as an energy drink it perhaps give you that 'oomph' that you need to get through a task when you're tired and ready to stop.

Well, having a quiet time of prayer can do that too, really!

There are references in Psalm 17:8, 36:7 and 57:1 that speak about wings for when you perhaps want refuge and protection from every day toils and concerns, but if we want to feel uplifted and joyous then we can look at Psalm 18:10, 104:3 and Isaiah 40:31.

Next time you are looking out of your window at home, or on the bus, or at the coast, watch out and see what birds you notice. If, like me, you seem a bit like a sparrow racing about in a flap trying to get everything sorted, then think about perching and just having a look around and time out to rest. Or if you feel burdened with a troublesome problem, then think of the magnificent buzzard, osprey or eagle, yes they labour to get airborne, as you may be labouring at the moment, but persevere.

Red Bull might 'give you wings in the short term, but for the long haul take God with you and you will find the encouragement and oomph you need to 'soar on wings like eagles'.

Dawn Tattersfield



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A Letter from the Archbishop of York to the 3 Dioceses.

To the dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield

I am writing today to send my greetings to you all as we approach Easter Day, which this year for the people of West Yorkshire and the Dales also marks the beginning of your new Diocese. In recent days you have given thanks for the life of the Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds, and Wakefield, and now, you are like Abraham stepping out into the unknown, trusting in the presence of the risen Christ, and praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. You are all held in the God the Father's love.

I would like to pay tribute to you all for your efforts through what has I know been a very demanding, difficult and long process. This has challenged you all more than anyone else. I thank God for your patience, forbearance and determination through it all. You are pioneers within the Church of England - I thank you with all my heart for all that you have given and forsaken in the interests of God's future.

You have all justly celebrated the achievements of your three dioceses; and this has been very right and proper so to do. For what we begin this Easter Day is not a rejection of the past but an honouring of all that has been achieved, and a commitment to see the good news you have shared continue to grow and bear fruit more and more across this part of Yorkshire.

This Easter we also celebrate the present and the future, of new life breathed into every part of the Body of Christ which is the Church. We look forward to demonstrating in every mission unit, in every community and with everyone of whatever religious community in West Yorkshire that the work of the Church is thriving, growing and playing its part in everyone's daily life for the common good.

In Bishop Nick I have every confidence you have a supreme church leader and a man who can above all make this new Diocese a success. From Easter Tuesday he will be Acting Diocesan Bishop, until his Confirmation of Election as Diocesan Bishop on Pentecost, in York Minster. I do not doubt that God will equip you, with the leadership of Bishop Nick and his fellow Bishops, +Tony Robinson, +James Bell, and +Tom Butler, working together in new ways with all the clergy and laity,.

To you all then, I offer my thanks, my admiration, and my prayers for all you are about to undertake. May the risen Lord Jesus Christ be your strength, your hope and your joy! We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our song.

+Sentamu Eboracensis

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

As we start another year of growing, weeding and nurturing let's hope that the weather is a little more favourable than last year!! We have had rain and wind, let's hope things pick up from now.

Sandra's Top Tip: Don't throw away any broken pottery or pots. Break them up and use them as crocks. These provide great drainage for containers and don't cost any extra. Be sure to wear protective gloves and glasses to avoid any injuries!!

Keep on top of weeds as warmer weather approaches.

Sow runner beans in cold frame or direct into a prepared trench.

Keep onions and shallots free from weeds.

If the soil is warm enough, sow French beans directly into the ground.

Net strawberries against bird attacks and put straw around them to protect from mud splashes and slugs.

Pinch out tips of sweet peas. Pinch out to a leaf bud where two new shoots will form.

Harvest rhubarb. You will need to stop pulling this year's stalks over the next week or so.

Sow spring bedding seeds for next years display. Sow plants such as wallflowers, pansies and *Bellis perennis*.

Check planted pots for weeds. Also don't forget to water and feed them regularly.

Divide primroses after they have finished flowering. Lift, split and re-plant them ready for next years display.

Many thanks to David Broadhead for supplying some plant pots for this year.

Sandra

More Than Eggs...Easter Activity Day.

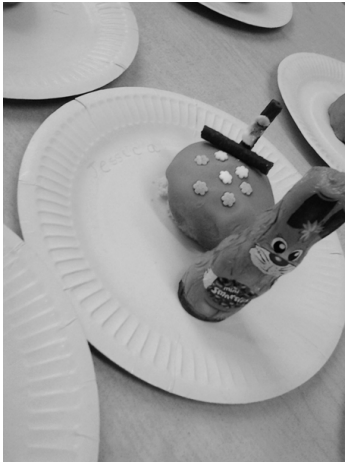
Twenty two under 10's swarmed into the Parish Centre last month for 3 hours of fun and crafts.



The Empty Tomb -
complete with footprints



Easter Baskets



Rock Cakes



Easter Bunnies



Decorated Easter Eggs



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

Beavers APCM Report

We now have a very thriving Beavers pack, numbers are increasing, at present we have 20 Beavers and a waiting list.

The Beavers are busy collecting their badges, and doing creative work.

We have had a fun packed year with parties and sleepovers including a pantomime visit with the Cubs and Scouts.

We also enjoyed a bowling games night, we tasted world foods, for our Country Code Wildlife Conservation we wore our wellies for the night and coloured in pictures of wellies for the Wildlife Conservation Magazine which was great fun and lots of colourful pictures of wellies were sent in. We also enjoyed making a wormery although not to everyone's taste! We had a great time petting the animals at Pets at Home.

We also held a horse race (not real horses) in aid of the alterations to the back of the Church, with the Cubs and Scouts we were very grateful to all who attended we managed to raise £387.00, and a great night was well worth all the hard work.

We have a full program for the Beavers to keep us busy over the next few months, We are all looking forward to the next year with excitement.

In April we had only a couple of Fridays due to the Easter Holidays. We managed to make some Easter glitter eggs this was great fun, plus an egg hunt and eggs to take home.

We also had an evening planting seeds for the Garden, this is always fun and very messy. Joanna and I hope you all had a wonderful Easter Holiday.

We will now be getting busy with a new programme of badge work and fun

Gail and Joanne

Easter Services at the Cathedral.

I have been very lucky to attend two services at Wakefield Cathedral over the Easter period.

The first was on Palm Sunday for the farewell service for Bishop Stephen, after serving Wakefield Diocese for 11 years, this was a wonderful service at which each church was given a pottery chalice to be used on Easter Sunday, which we at St. Mary's did.

The second service was the Chrism Mass at which the new oils are blessed. This always is a very moving service, and it may be the last one at the Cathedral in Wakefield, the hymns are always moving and sang beautifully by the choir.

Bishop Stephen reminded us we are moving into to brand new world as on Easter Sunday the Dioceses of Wakefield will no longer exist we are now called the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. The motto is BIGGER, BETTER, TOGETHER. So let us all embrace this new challenge.

If ever you get the chance to attend the Chrism Mass where ever it may be, my advice is go, it is such a wonderful experience.

Gail

First new Diocese for 85 years created on Easter Day

History was made on Easter Day, April 20th, with the creation of the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, the first new diocese in the Church of England since 1929, and, at 2,425 square miles, the largest diocese in England by area. The new diocese stretches from Huddersfield and Holmfirth in the south-west to Richmond and the River Tees in the northeast and from Barnsley in the south-east to Bainbridge in the North West.

With a population of 2.3 million people served by 656 Anglican churches, it includes the cities of Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield as well as North Yorkshire towns such as Harrogate and Settle. Marking the end of the three former dioceses of Wakefield, Bradford and Ripon and Leeds, thanksgiving services have been held in each cathedral, and on Easter Day, the Rt Revd Nick Baines the Bishop of Bradford and Rt Revd Stephen Platten the Bishop of Wakefield will lay down their pastoral staffs on the altars of Bradford and Wakefield Cathedrals.

Posters, bookmarks and prayer-cards announcing the new diocese are being distributed to every parish church.

Brian's Humour Page

- *This week an actual letter from an old Lady to her Bank Manager..*

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, --- when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an OFFENSE under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete.

In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client And remember: Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to get us going.

Brian

1st Woodkirk Brownies - APCM Report

It has been another busy year for the Brownies. We returned in the Autumn term, the Brownies plan their own program by looking at their hand books and badge books. They chose to complete their Discovering Faith Badge and Friend to Animals. The Brownies found out about endangered and extinct animal and adopted a dolphin from the WWF. In the second Autumn term they enjoyed finding out about different festivals including Diwali, and completed a Brownie's Own. We ended the Autumn term with a very successful Christmas Craft Night including a visit from Santa!

In the Spring term we have worked hard to complete our Artist Badge. Helped the Rainbows celebrate their 25th Birthday and welcome 4 new Brownies to our unit who have planned a Promise Party Picnic for after Easter. We have continued to sponsor the Toddler Bibles at Church and are very grateful to the church for letting us use the Parish Centre. (We have reserved a bible ready for Arthur.)

In the Summer Term we enjoyed a promise picnic for 4 of our new Brownies and said goodbye to 4 of our older Brownies who all moved onto Guides, before they left the older Brownies organised a Sixers Take Over Night where they ran the entire programme for the evening!

We had a visit from a trainee Guide Dog and raised £116 for Guide Dogs for the Blind and the girls earned their Disability Awareness Badge. To end the Summer term we had a trip to Krispy Kreme to dip our own donuts (The adults were more excited than the Brownies!) We ended the term with a garden party with the Rainbows.

We started 2014 with the launch of the BIG BROWNIE BIRTHDAY! Brownies are 100 years old this year. The Brownies are working on a challenge badge where they find out about Brownie events over the last 100 years. Some of the Brownies will be joining Charlotte and I along with 150 Brownies from Calder Division are Sleeping at The Deep in July. We will also be taking part in a cross Section event at Fan Wood in October.

I continue to be the leader in charge; Charlotte Austin has just finished Adult leadership, and will

ran Brownies with the help of Ruth and Elizabeth from Rainbows while I was on maternity leave for a term. Charlotte Anderson and Laura Gallant are working on their Young Leader Qualification. Leonie continues to work hard behind the scenes, doing the Brownie accounts, gift aid and shopping for us.

We have just paid our annual census subscription to Girlguiding which was almost £700. We charge £10 per half term in subs and raise money through raffles and craft nights.

Hannah Tombling: Leader

Poetry Corner.

I found God in the morning

*I found God in the Morning
We just sat and talked
I kept him near me everywhere I walked
I called God at noon time, a heart filled with despair
I felt his quiet presence, I knew He was there
We met again at Sunset
The waning of the day
I had made Him happy, I had lived his way
Then at bedtime I knelt
Silently in prayer
Again his gentle presence I felt:
Someone does care*

Anon.

Albert's 'Over 50's Group Names' Quiz

I set this quiz for our Over 50s group several months ago. Answers contained the first name or surname of group members at that time except one, where the name was in the question.

1. What was the name of the father in the TV series 'Steptoe and Son'?
2. Who wrote the 'Thomas the Tank Engine' series of children's books?
3. Who played the female lead in the film 'The Greatest Show on Earth'?
4. Who played the title role in the TV series 'Vera'?
5. Which female name can be found by turning round a circle?
6. In the Bible who killed Goliath with a slingshot?
7. Which cartoon character has a dog named 'Gnasher'?
8. Who was famous for appearing with his organ from below the stage of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom?
9. Who provided the glamour in the 'Road' films of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope?
10. Which county cricket team plays home games at the Rose Bowl?
11. Name the film in which Billy Crystal met Meg Ryan.
12. Who played Hilda Ogden in Coronation Street?
13. Who married Anthony Armstrong-Jones in 1960?
14. Who was British Prime Minister at the start of the 1990s?
15. What was the first name of former politician Dr 'Mo' Mowlam?
16. Which goalkeeper won 119 international caps for Northern Ireland?
17. Who was the hero of the film 'Hook'?
18. According to the film, who was the father of 'Rosemary's Baby'?
19. Who wrote 'Pygmalion' on which the musical 'My Fair Lady' was based?
20. Which British actress was once the President of the Dyslexia Society?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

A thousand poppies to bloom for Great War Centenary

Poppies will be grown in the grounds of parish churches and Church of England schools across the country as an act of remembrance for the centenary of World War 1.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are both urging church schools and churches to plant poppy seeds with them on April 30 to commemorate the centenary of World War One and help make poppies bloom across the country.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "I encourage parishes and church schools across the country to join together to make many thousand flowers bloom as a tribute to the sacrifice of past generations Here in the grounds of Bishopthorpe, we too, are getting behind this the parishes of the new Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales) and their shared efforts to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War."

Some dioceses - like Oxford, Exeter, Manchester and the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales - have sent packets of poppy seeds to all their churches and/or church schools to create their own memorial gardens or flower pots. Packs of Flanders poppies are on sale and can be bought at B&Q for £2 with a pound being donated to the RBL.

We have our pack of Poppies at St. Mary's.



Diary for May 2014.

Sun 4th	8am	Holy Communion (said) – Revd. Glenn Coggins
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) – Revd. John Pinder-Packard
	12.30pm	Baptism service – Revd. John Pinder-Packard
Wed 7th	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments – Revd. Glenn Coggins
Sat 10th	2pm	Wedding
Sun 11th	10.30am	All-Age Worship – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
	12 noon	Holy Communion – clergy from St. Michael's East Ardsley
Wed 14th	10am	Lay led Service
Thurs 15th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sat 17th	7pm	Snail Race in Parish Centre
Sun 18th	10.30am	Holy Communion - Revd. Hazel Walker
Mon 19th	7pm	Mother's Union Fashion Show
Wed 21st	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments Revd Glen Coggins
Sun 25th	10.30am	Holy Communion - Revd Stuart Millington
	1pm	Wedding
Wed 28th	10am	Lay led Service

Early June 2014

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said) – Revd. Glenn Coggins
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) – Revd. John Pinder-Packard
	12.30pm	Baptism service – Revd. John Pinder-Packard
Wed 4th	9:15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (common Worship)
Sun 8th	10:30am	All Age Service - Lay Team led.
	12:00	Holy Communion (St. Michael's Clergy)

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

Funerals:-

Sandra Williams, from Tingley, Beloved wife of Stuart, sadly missed by all the family.

Clara Spurr, from Tingley, Beloved wife of Harold, sadly missed by all the family.

George Burnley, from Tingley, Beloved husband of Edith, sadly missed by all the family.

Margaret Tolson, from East Ardsley, Sadly missed by Julie and all the family.

Myra Cowell, from Middleton, Sadly missed by John and all the family.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Albert. 2. Reverend Awdry*. 3. Betty Hutton. 4. Brenda Blethin 5. Clarice. 6. David. 7. Dennis the Menace. 8. Reginald Dixon. 9. Dorothy Lamour. 10. Hampshire. 11. When Harry Met Salty. 12. Jean Alexander. 13. Princess Margaret Rose. 14. Margaret Thatcher. 15. Marjorie. 16. Pat Jennings. 17. Peter Pan. 18. The devil! 19. George Bernard Shaw. 20. Susan Hampshire.

* This answer is phonetic, not the actual spelling!

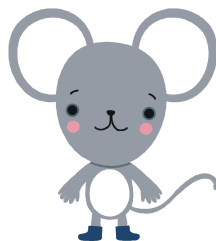
Albert.

Church Mouse Tales...

Misha the church mouse is trouble...

I'm thinking of re-naming my friend Hubert, the Black Canon, 'Grumpy'. The list of things I mustn't do seems to stretch further than the Church Aisle - and that's a long way. Now it seems I can't eat that wooden cross shaped thing placed in the corner. I mean there was an old boot there - so I thought it wouldn't be important. Hubert got quite cross - tasted better than wax candles though - you should have seen Ratty after he munched one. Talk about stomach cramps! So now its crosses added to the list - also on the banned substances are ropes, altar cloths, carpet (as if!), electric cables and pew runners. Hope that's the last one or grumpy will have nothing left to complain about.

Misha



Playgroup Supervisor Required

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. Contact Amanda on 01924 472375 or e-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Revd Amanda

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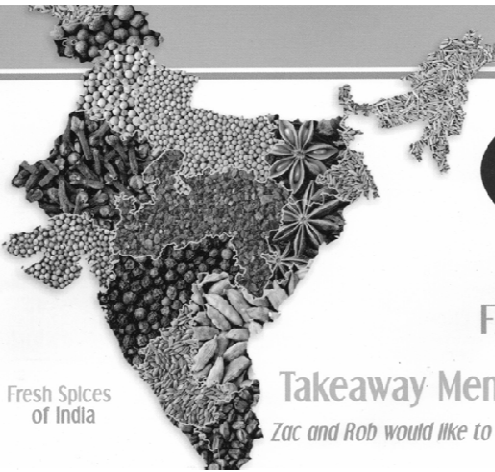
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e raceytracey30@yahoo.co.uk

BENNETT OF MORLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Tel 0113 2525374

An independent family business,
the 5th 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

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