

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Harvest your Life

October 2014



This Month:

**The Journey; Looking forward;
Looking back; Take a Pew; Hope for a
Meal; Discovery in the Loft;
Church giving up.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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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, Gill Mahoney,
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!

In this Month's Magazine:

Features:

• Back to the Future	P10
• The Woodkirk Choirboy	P12
• Wednesday's Forever!	P16
• Harvest Celebrations	P17
• Healing at the Minster	P20
• Remembrance Sunday	P22
• Prayerful Thought - The Journey ahead.	P23
• Organ Loft discovery	P26
• Toilet Twinning - the result!	P28
• Hope 2014	P29
• Take a Pew	P29
• Gary & Julie 25 years	P30
• Christian Aid	P31
• Church Giving up	P32

Also this Month:

• Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions	P27
• Playgroup Update	P32
• Scouts on the Go !	P33
• Brian's Humour Page	P34
• Albert's Quiz	P35
• Poetry Corner	P36
• Diary for the next six weeks	P37
• Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths	P38
• Quiz Answers	P38
• Church Mouse tales	P39

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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.

Fancy Meeting You.

*I dreamt death came the other night, and heaven's gates opened wide,
An Angel with a halo bright beckoned me inside
There to my astonishment were folks I had judged and labelled,
As quite unfit, of little worth - and spiritually disabled!
Indignant words rose to my lips, but never were set free,
For every face showed surprise - for none expected me..*

Author Unknown.

We've looked back – now it's 'best foot forward'.

I grew up in the days before child car restraints, well, until my dad had them specially fitted in the back seat of our Morris Oxford Traveller. I can still recall something which will be beyond the experience of many of today's youngsters – kneeling on the back seat, looking through the rear window at what we were leaving behind – perhaps looking at the beach and sea, as Filey faded into the distance after a lovely day trip. Or waving goodbye to grandparents as we left a happy day of family visits.

It's something our own children were unable to do, strapped in to car seats and booster cushions. And they would complain, "I want to see where we're venting from!" It's one of those cute, childhood phrases which has found its place within our family vocabulary. Looking back allows us to see where we're 'venting from'. And over the last few months we've been able to do quite a bit of that.

The commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of WW I occupied our thoughts in the August edition of the magazine. And the part we played in the Yorkshire Medieval Festival caught the imagination of many people, and was well documented in last month's magazine, as well as in the local press. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our heritage and the roots of Christian ministry in this parish over the longer term. It reminded us of where we're 'venting from'.

Perhaps because of the particular interests of our enthusiastic editor, we have an amazing (and growing) stock of articles over the last year or so which allow us to reflect on the history of St. Mary's and its ministry in our parish. There have been reflections from more mature and former members of St. Mary's, reminiscing about what life was like in their earlier years. There have been photos of landmarks which no longer exist, but are fondly remembered. All remind us of the longevity of life and ministry in this community. There is much to be thankful for. And we are.

But it is not enough. Being a child, knelt up on the back seat, the view of where we're 'venting from' is fascinating, but you can't move forward from that position. You need to look forward and move forward. Having recently heard our son recounting their exploits in a South African National Park, having to drive in reverse at top speed to attempt escape from a stampeding elephant, reverse speed is not efficient as a means of travel (though they did escape!). We are now at a point, having looked back, of needing to focus on looking forward and moving forward in the life of St. Mary's.

Having seen where we're 'went from' we need to look at where we're moving to. The church, after all, is not a museum to the past, but a living body of people who seek to follow Jesus and serve others as he did. Nor is it like a vehicle where the vicar is driving things forward whilst everyone else is looking wistfully out of the rear view window at what used to be.

In the middle of October, the builders will be moving in to finally progress with the redevelopment project we have been working towards for so many years. I think many have talked about getting kitchen and toilet facilities in the church for so long that we've almost stopped believing it would ever happen, or that it would happen in our lifetime.

Throughout the course of the work, we hope to be able to continue using the church on Sundays, and for occasional services (eg. funerals) throughout the week, though regular midweek services will need to have different arrangements. We will trial a 10am Morning Praise gathering in the Vicarage to see if there is sufficient demand for this from 15th October.

Our Wednesday Communion service at the same time has been steadily growing, but as long as the builders are in, it will not be possible to continue. We will be needing extra hands to prepare the church for Sunday worship week by week, and would be grateful to anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and help!

The building work is expected to be completed by the end of February, and we will then be settling back into the new space and equipping it with all that we need before finally holding a big celebration and rededication service after Easter 2015.

So, if you're looking where you're went from, turn around and get strapped in – because we're in for an exciting ride. Don't miss what's ahead!

Revd. Amanda



Memories of a Woodkirk Choirboy.

Philip Stephenson takes us back to a halcyon time at St. Mary's.

There is nothing like a gravestone to evoke memories of bygone years and happy days when it seemed like the sun was always shining, the birds were always singing and all was well with the world.

As I come into church these days I often look at the grave outside the door on the right and think about the Revd. Claude Stephenson (not a relative) and his wife Florence who was one of the kindest ladies who ever came into my life and all the people involved with our wonderful old church who did their best to set me on the rocky road of the ups and downs of life.

It is almost 70 years since my elder brother Ken brought me down to choir practice one Friday evening. We had both been destined by our father to be choirboys and to follow the family tradition set by him and his father before him. Ken, who by now was well on his way to becoming head boy, dreaded the thought of having to look after me. He took his singing very seriously and looked on me as "beyond the pale". I remember that first choir practice as if it was yesterday because the choirmaster Frank Holmes asked Ken to sing the solo in the anthem due to be sung at evensong. He said he wasn't too sure about it because he hadn't had enough rehearsal, at which point I shot my hand up and said "I will sing it if you like". My brother tried to hide under his seat in embarrassment.

That choir practice was the start of one of the happiest times of my life because we had fun, lots of fun and we all used to enjoy choir practice on Friday night. Boys would meet at 6.30 pm and the men would join them at 7.30. The practice would usually finish by 9 o'clock and boys being boys you never knew what we would get up to. I remember one summer evening we left by the side door near the choir stalls. At that time the old vicarage had some apple trees at the bottom of the garden and they were full of apples. The temptation was too much and we decided to do a bit of "scrumping". I was up one of the trees passing the apples down to my friend below when the Rev. Claude appeared on the scene. To say that he was unhappy at seeing his beloved apple trees being stripped by a gang of unruly

choirboys was putting it mildly and we were ordered (most Reverend like) into the vicarage. We all sat in the study with heads bowed waiting for the wrath to descend upon us when the door opened and in came Florence (the vicars wife and protector of all choirboys).

She viewed the scene with some concern and, before the vicar could finish relating to her the saga of our great misdemeanours in the apple orchard, she began to pour each of us a glass of lemonade from a table in the corner and slowly but surely the vicar realised that he was fighting a losing battle.

"Please don't be angry with them dear" she said."I was listening to them sing earlier this evening at choir practice and they sounded lovely ".The vicar had a look of resignation on his face as he realised that he had been "undone" by his wife. She was such a gentle lovely lady who thought that all choirboys were 'little angels' little did she know what we were really like. After promising not to 'scrump' his apples again we all left with a bag of apples each and a look of quiet satisfaction on our faces.

All this was taking place in the late 1940s when the world in general was in turmoil, and everything was rationed and in short supply. Our world however never seemed to change and Sundays of course were the most important. I lived in West Ardsley and with little or no buses on a Sunday it meant I had a 30 or 40 minute walk (at pace) to get to church. The first Sunday in every month would be Sung Eucharist at 10.30 preceded by communion at 8 o'clock. The vicar insisted that all the boys take communion at 8am and we were not allowed to take it at 10.30. This meant that my mother would be pulling me out of bed before 7am to start the day. I would have about an hour and a half to get back home for breakfast after communion then back to church for 10.30. The sensible thing would have been to take a sandwich or something, but I can honestly never remember doing this (perhaps I enjoyed mum's breakfasts too much).

Easter and Christmas were my favourite times of the year because it generally meant that we would be rehearsing and singing parts of The Messiah. I used to enjoy all the services and eventually came to know them word for word.

One service still stands out in my memory.

In 1946 we dedicated the new war memorial at the back of the church. The processional hymn was "Onward Christian Soldiers" and as we stepped out of the choir vestry to make our way down the aisle, the church packed as I had never seen it before, I felt very proud just to be part of that wonderful evening.

During most of my time as a chorister the organist was "Mather" Fozzard. The organ situated over the choir vestry in the tower was manually pumped by a large handle on the left hand side of the organ. There was a lead weight which moved up and down as you pumped the air in with 2 marks - one at the top which indicated that it was full of air and if exceeded, made the organ squeak and one at the bottom which indicated that it was empty. If you let the weight go below that mark, the organ just groaned and came to halt. The organ "blower operator" was a young man called John Sheard (A farmers son from the farm (recently demolished) next to the paper shop on Syke Avenue. If he was absent for any reason a choirboy would be nominated as organ blower and that could be Mather's worst nightmare. At predetermined points there would be squeaks and groans which infuriated Mather who could be heard shouting instructions (or other things).

These were halcyon days with good memories but destined to last only as long as the treble voice which would inevitably break and in the last year or so before this event I was lucky to be made "Head Boy". This meant that I occupied the end seat of the front row near the pulpit and immediately in front of the choirmaster who occupied the end seat of the rear pew.

At what must have been my last Easter Sunday as a boy chorister I was to sing "I know that my redeemer liveth" from the Messiah. Unknown to me, my music teacher from school Alfred Chadwick, was in the congregation and immediately came to see me afterwards to tell me how "Marvellous" it would be if I should sing this in front of the school at assembly.

So far as I was concerned he was asking me to do the impossible. He was asking me to cross to my other world the world

where my mates and I enjoyed the rough and tumble of school life. I could see me losing more "brownie points" than was good for me. I resisted all the entreaties of Mr Chadwick but often wondered whether I should have put my pride to one side and done this one small thing he was asking of me.

Two or three years ago I was having a chat with my 92 year old aunt as she was coming to the end of her life in Soothill Manor. We talked about many things and she suddenly said "Do you remember Alfred Chadwick? We were very good friends ... and you were a choirboy at the time". I really should have done that little thing for him. Doesn't life have some funny twists.

Philip



Philip as a Choirboy

Wednesday Morning – campaign to continue!

With the builders taking over the church building from mid-October, the midweek service congregation, which has been steadily growing over the last few years, were warned that we would be unable to have services in church during the redevelopment. And, given that the Parish Centre is in use at that time with the ever popular Toddler Group, it seemed as if this valued part of the week would have to be relinquished.

The disappointment was clear. However, I was approached a few days later after discussions had been shared between members of the congregation. “Can we have a service in the Vicarage? We know it wouldn’t be a Communion Service, but we love our meetings so much we don’t want them to stop!” What a lovely idea, and how resourceful!

So, that is what will happen – Wednesday mornings at 10am we will have a service of Morning Praise, with a reading, thought for the day, prayers and maybe even some singing. After that there will be the usual refreshments and catch up with one another.

The Wednesday morning service is clearly valued, and is a place where people feel able to come, in the midst of the weekly routine, to pause and pray, to share news and to spend time with one another and with God. It has grown steadily from a small group of 6-10 people and is now double that size, with a regular congregation between 12 and 20. We’re almost outgrowing the choir stalls where we gather – though the closeness they give is something no-one would wish to lose by moving into the main body of the church. I’m sure the Vicarage will require that closeness to continue.

Why not pop along and see what you’re missing – you might never want them to stop – just like the regulars! Everyone is welcome – the first Vicarage service will be on October 15th at 10am. And you’re very welcome!

Revd. Amanda

Harvest Celebration Weekend – 11th&12th October

This year I stopped to ponder harvest through the other end of the telescope. What would stop harvest happening? The more you think about it, the more things spring to mind – adverse weather conditions, violence and civil unrest, poor health, laziness, failure of organisation or of distribution, lack of resources, harmful pollutants in the air or the soil, too much water, too little water, too much sun, not enough sun, breakdown of machinery.....

You get the idea? The more you stop and ponder it the more amazing it is that harvests succeed. So many of the factors which make harvest possible are things we take for granted. Health, strength, weather, availability of labour, are some of these - and for every one of them we depend on God's goodness and provision. That should be celebrated.

On **Saturday 11th October** our Harvest Activity morning, Ha ha ha ha Harvest, will allow children to enjoy creative, crafty fun, games and the inevitable puppets to think about the joys of Harvest. It's so important that our children are encouraged to celebrate and be thankful for not just the special treats in life, the big adventures and red letter days, but the ordinary basic things of life. They are easily taken for granted, but once a year it's good to take stock and give thanks. We'd be horrified if our children forgot to thank someone for a small gift, and would quickly prompt them to do so. Surely that should be much more the case when it comes to the Giver of all Good Things!

On **Sunday 12th October** our **All-Age Worship service at 10.30am** will be looking near and far. We'll think about those who live locally who have had to turn to Food Banks to meet their basic needs. But also we'll be looking further afield to South Sudan, an area which has been troubled by some of the problems which cause harvests to fail. We'll be thinking about one of our most staple foodstuffs – bread. And as with many All-Age Services it will be interactive and no doubt will include some taste testing! Always good fun.

Followed by a more reflective **Communion service at 12 noon** which will set the seal on a weekend to make us thankful for all God's goodness to us.

Rev. Amanda



Ha ha ha ha HARVEST!

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with a harvest theme**

Saturday 11th October 2014

10am-1pm

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Making a difference near and far.

Harvest 2014.

Our Harvest celebrations are being planned for the weekend of 11th /12th October – just before the builders arrive to begin our redevelopment on the current timetable. It seems a very fitting time – the arrival of the builders confirms that “All I have needed thy hand hath provided” as we have worked and prayed and finally reached the financial targets needed to deliver the project.

In time-honoured fashion we will be having a Children’s Activity morning on 11th October, and Sunday will see our All-Age Service at 10.30am and Communion for Harvest at 12 noon. During this time we will be bringing our gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs for local charitable causes, and financial gifts to support, through Christian Aid, those whose harvests have suffered and who will struggle to cope globally.

Our locally gathered foodstuffs will be split this year between Caring for Life, a Leeds based Christian charitable organisation which supports vulnerable adults, and the local food-banks which are doing such wonderful work in helping families in financial crisis struggling to put food on their tables.

Here is a list of the sort of things they would value:

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

Jars: Ketchup and brown sauce, salad cream, tomato puree, stock cubes, cook-in sauces, golden syrup, jams, honey.

Dried: Cereal, oats, muesli, plain flour, long grain and pudding rice, pasta, noodles, sugar, ready meals, dried apricots, sultanas, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda.

Tins: Tinned meals – mince, chilli, curry, stew, hot pot, spam, corned beef, chicken in sauce, Frey Bentos pies, tinned ham, tuna, etc. Vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, soup. Beans, spaghetti, ravioli, rice pudding, custard, fruit, fruit jelly, condensed milk.

Treats: Chocolate, Biscuits.

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

God has been good to us – let’s share his goodness with others!

Rev'd. Amanda

"I am the Lord who heals you"

ReSource Evening – Dewsbury Minister.

Monday 3rd November 7.30pm

Healing is many things – not just physical healing, but healing of hurts, healing of negative attitudes which make life feel dark and oppressive, healing of fears and doubts. There are few of us, if we are really honest, who have no need of any healing from God, even if we are the picture of perfect health!

The work of ReSource is a thoroughly Anglican ministry – it is not 'wild and wacky', it does not use gimmicks or dramatic effects – it is simply a liturgically based opportunity to learn about what healing is. It is based on a deep conviction that God is still active in the world today, and can and does wish to bring his healing to us as individuals and as a world.

Martin Cavender has visited us here at St. Mary's before, and I know his wisdom and irrepressible enthusiasm for God have been valued. Alison Morgan is a good friend of mine too, and she has the ability to teach sound principles in a way which is accessible and engaging. Both are based in Wells, Somerset, where the offices of ReSource are located, and are travelling all the way to Dewsbury for this evening. Why not make the opportunity to come along and listen? Maybe God will have something for you!!

I am a Trustee of ReSource, and have been since they evolved from what was formerly known as Anglican Renewal Ministries. They are an organisation firmly embedded in the Church of England who work to encourage churches, often small local congregations, that God is alive and active in the church of today. You don't have to be part of some huge mega-church with hundreds of worshippers, and huge budgets, to experience a God who has the power to heal and renew us. Why not come along and find out?

Revd Amanda

"I am the Lord who heals you"

An evening with Martin Cavender
and Alison Morgan of ReSource

Dewsbury Minster

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Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7.30 pm

With worship, teaching and prayer

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Martin Cavender is the Director of ReSource. Alison Morgan is a well known author and speaker. Martin and Alison work, with other members of the ReSource team, all over the country, bringing support and encouragement to local churches and regional groupings.



ReSource is an Anglican charity which works for the renewal of people and churches for mission in the power of the Holy Spirit: www.resource-arm.net

Come and find out more about what God is doing
among his people today!

Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2014

Service of Remembrance with British Legion 10.30am

We welcome you to join us for the Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.30am, at which the local branch of the British Legion will be joining us. Whilst this would normally be our All-Age Service, it takes a different format, but there will be appropriate activities organised for children in the Parish Centre if they wish to remember in that way.

As the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War it will be especially significant and poignant. We will be distributing replica copies of the Gospel of St. John which are like those given to each soldier serving during the Great War. For many of these young men the comfort and strength they found in the words in that small gospel were a lifeline to them. For some the physical presence of that small gospel in their breast pocket proved to be the difference between life and death.

Each Gospel has a page within it where a soldier is invited to complete a personal declaration of personal commitment to follow Jesus as a Christian disciple. These pages, returned to relatives with their personal effects in the event of their death, have brought deep comfort to families.

We are asking people to take one of these gospels only if they have a serious intent to read it and find the same comfort and strength for themselves which these soldiers found. Each deserves to be treated as much more than a souvenir. Generally speaking it is not the book which saves lives – it is the words within it. To put it on a shelf or in a cupboard misses the point.

Memorial Service 6pm

At our 6pm Memorial Service we welcome any to join us who wish to come and remember a loved one from their family who has died by lighting candles as their names are recited. We are only able to send out personal invitations to those whose loved one's funeral took place over the last year, but the service is open to all who wish to come. Names can be handed in on arrival to be included in the service. I know how many people find this a helpful event to be part of – some come year after year, and can see in doing so how life has moved on, but the love they cherish remains undimmed despite the passage of time.

Revd. Amanda

Prayerful Thought ...October

- Continuing the Journey

Hello there

Following on from last month's article where I was talking about adventure, I wonder if any of you did start an adventure, or have you helped someone along with their adventure?

Well if you were in church on the 31st August you did help someone along their adventure... because you were there to support me as I gave my first sermon, and I would like to say a big thank you to you for supporting me, and for your kind words afterwards.

This got me thinking about my continuing journey and return to college in September. We are studying the New Testament this first term so I am quite looking forward to that, as learning more about the bible and the people within it were the reasons I started this course in the first place.

The one thing you have to remember with any journey you make is that you can't always be moving at great speed, or ticking off stages regularly, it's not always as easy as that, and I thought back to one or two physical journeys I have made over the summer which help to illustrate this.

I have cause to travel up and down the M1 every month or so on a weekday and I despair sometimes at the congestion and delays, it feels like we are sat on a big car park! However, in complete contrast was the journey I took travelling south for my holidays using the A1, now it may have helped that it was a Sunday evening and the world cup final was on, but the journey was perfect, there was hardly any traffic, it was a lovely balmy summers eve, what a difference.

Now I must admit, I much prefer the A1 as a north/south route than the M1, but sometimes you have no option, because of where you are going, to use a particular route, and it is the same at the moment with my studies! I do enjoy reading about and learning new things, but then the 'traffic jam' is the 'x' thousand word essay, the 'congestion' that slows me down. However, I know I must work through this in order

to complete the course of study that hopefully, in 2 years from now, will see me licensed as a lay reader here at St Mary's.

St Mary's is coming through its own 'slow traffic' as the ongoing process for redevelopment is progressing, and we are just about to embark on the actual physical start of building work at the back of the church. There are lots of different words to describe this next step from exciting, wonderful and perhaps a bit scary to messy, noisy, and disruptive, but it is the continuation of the church's journey.

I don't know if you managed to get to the medieval weekend on the 16th August, which was a brilliant event, but one thing I liked was seeing old photographs of the area and the church. I am a 'newcomer' to West Ardsley and Woodkirk having only lived in the area for the past 16 years! But it was fascinating to see how things had changed. One of the main things I noticed was the changes that had happened inside the church.

Old churches are wonderful - they sit there peaceful and majestic, with history almost seeping from the walls, giving you the feeling that they have been like this for centuries, but when you actually have an opportunity to look back beyond the time you know, you see, that like anything else, there has been change. We have seen some of the evidence of some changes for example in the 19th Century Chantrell Watercolour that shows beautiful coloured panels on the walls. On display at the medieval event were quite a lot of photographs which show changes from the 20th Century. It took me ages on looking at one photograph, to see that the organ had originally stood on a balcony in front of the tower wall!

Looking back is not a bad thing, after I gave my sermon at the end of August I was rushing off to a family lunch to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of my parents in law, it was lovely to look back on their wedding photos and hear about some of the events of the past 50 years.

But we must be careful. To quote from some wise words I found on the internet..."The past is like using your rear-view mirror in the car, it's good to glance back and see how far you've come, but if you stare

too long you'll miss what's right in front of you”.

Now we can apply these wise words to us as the family of St Mary's, yes we should look back, but we are also 'on the cusp' of a surge forward in the journey of our lovely church, there will be a bit more of a traffic jam whilst all the construction and redevelopment is completed, but when that is done, what then?

We as a church, will then be able to continue our faith journey in our historic building that will have had a bit of a makeover in order for it to meet the needs of each of us as well as our community. We will have better facilities to meet the needs of those who come into the church building, but you know, this project is much more than providing toilets and somewhere to make a cup of tea, it is about moving forward, like when we get through our traffic jam on the M1 and can see the road ahead of us.

If you are reading this as a member of the church family who come to church and will be able to see what all the fundraising and grant applications have all been about as we progress through the project. However, if it is a while since you last came, then come and see us soon if you can so that you can compare 'before' and 'after'. If you are unable to come because of the lack of facilities due to poor health or mobility problems or because you have little ones that need facilities, then keep in touch through the magazine and the website, and we hope we might get a bit of publicity through local press too.

If you think of church more as a blockage, or traffic jam, then think again, St Mary's has stood the test of time since the 11th Century and will have seen much change in that time including Henry the VIII, Oliver Cromwell, the Great Plague, the Napoleonic Wars, the Industrial Revolution and two world wars, I'm sure if the church could speak it would tell you it is looking forward to the next stage in its history.

Are you ready to join the church on its 21st Century adventure?
Come and see us soon.

Dawn

Discovery in Organ loft.

Following the removal of the old organ for its new home, (it is now awaiting installation in a Dortmund church), an interesting discovery was made.

After the removal of the pipes, bellows and workings in the organ loft it revealed two unseen items. The first is a framed canvas, high up on the south wall; on inspection this was found to be a copy of the Lord's Prayer. I had already seen a similar size canvas unframed of the Creed, interestingly the reverse of this canvas is another image.

On examining old photographs of the interior of the church each of these can be seen hanging either side of the east window above the altar. But the other item will be interesting for local and family historians, and gives an insight to Georgian England. At this time the Napoleonic war was still raging, and George the third was recognised as insane. The item is a charitable board and here is the full inscription;

Charitable Benefaction.

FIFTY POUNDS

Left by Mr Joshua Scholefield late of Carlinghow hall to the Churchwardens and Overseers of Woodkirk for the time being, the interest of which is to be applied for the purpose of paying for the Education of Children as may appear the greatest objects of charity to be chosen by them out of the Families of Scholefield or Kitsons or their descendants resident in this parish, and not exceeding the age of Twelve Years, or in case there are no Children or not a sufficient number all or part of the interest is to be applied for the benefit of such other Children resident in the parish, under the age of seven years as may appear the greatest objects of charity, to be chosen by the Churchwardens and overseers. The above sum is now laid out in the five per cent Navy annuities.

Samuel Sykes. John Wordsworth Church Wardens. Issaac Hemsworth Overseer 1810.

That £50 would be £1698 in today's money, an enormous sum then. Issaac Hemsworth became a wealthy London leather merchant. We have a memorial to him in the church and the east window is dedicated to him, he is buried in St Mary's churchyard.

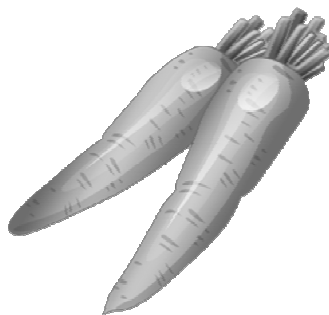
Derek

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

October is a time for tidying up. Leave some seed heads and rose hips for the birds. If you have spare earth in the vegetable plot plant some green manure. Some herbs can be potted up now to take you over the winter. Try parsley, chives and mint. Here are some of this month's jobs.

1. Sow some more winter lettuce such as Arctic King in the greenhouse or coldframe.
2. Plant more tulip bulbs for next spring.
3. Sow outdoor broad beans and peas.
4. Lift carrots, beetroot and any remaining potatoes now. Leave parsnips and Jerusalem artichokes in as they'll taste sweeter after a frost.
5. Before storing your garden furniture clean it off and treat with a wood stain or similar. Store in a dry, frost free place such as a shed or garage in a way which ensures moisture won't sit on it causing rotting.
6. Reduce the watering of house plants. Lift a pot to judge whether it feels heavy (wet) or light (dry)
7. Feed Brussels and winter cabbage now to encourage them on for Christmas.
8. Don't forget to put the compost heap to bed. Cover with an organic duvet, black polythene or pieces of wood.
9. Scrub bird feeders and birdbaths with a mild detergent. Put out nuts, seeds, stale cake and fruit. Don't forget clean water too.
10. Leave some runner beans and French beans on the plant to dry so that you have some for next year.

Sandra



Toilet Twinning - The Result.

At September's all age worship service I was pleased to be able to present the church with their framed certificates with pictures of the latrines that the Parish Centre toilets are now twinned with. These are: Nyanzale, Democratic Republic of Congo, Korpara, Bangladesh and Roveang village, Cambodia. One of these will now be displayed in each of the centre toilets. In total the Church raised £352.91 and it has also enabled us to 'twin' our yet to be installed church toilets, a magnificent effort from our uniformed organisations.

This means that we have helped provide a safer and healthier environment for these communities. Where before they may have used anywhere, a stream or river, which may contaminate drinking water, or for women to have to go out in the dark and risk attack, insect or snake bites, a safe clean latrine has been provided.

But anyone can be involved; you can twin your own home, office or school toilet with one in a less off country. It would be an excellent teaching aid to twin your toilet with one in the third world, teaching hygiene, economics, health, sanitation, geography etc. For more details just search toilet twinning and see what you can do. Or for more information ask me, Derek Barraclough. Thank you to all who have made this possible.

Derek



HOPE 2014 – Lunch event.

Earlier this year churches were given £100 from the Diocese to grow. People from St. Mary's took a £10 note and made things or took initiatives, and the money is being put together to make some folk from our parish feel like Kings and Queens for the Day.

We are aware that there are people who are isolated, lonely or adjusting to life after the loss of a loved one, and life can feel a little empty. We want to allow these folk to feel special again. So, we are inviting folk to a special lunch on Thursday 30th October in the Parish Centre, followed by entertainment and giving them a small gift to take home as a reminder that they are not forgotten.

Do you know someone who needs an invitation? A neighbour or friend, relative or acquaintance? Let Amanda know by Wed 8th October!

Take a pew – Furniture to be disposed of.

Once the builders come into the church, one of the first things they will be doing is removing the 12 pews which will be going to make way for the redevelopment. Alongside the pews there are three other items of furniture we are authorised to dispose of – the shelving unit which has been used for service sheet, a glass fronted cupboard (currently used for tea/coffee etc) and a table with drawer.

We are asking for donations towards the cost of the redevelopment of a minimum £50 per item. All items purchased must be removed by the buyer, as soon as possible after 13th October. (The items will be placed, short-term, in the vicarage garage, until collected).

The pews are 9' 9" long, but we have details of a local joiner who is willing to shorten a pew to half, quarter or three-quarters of its current length. This will involve around half a day's labour and so will cost £70 (in addition to the basic cost of the pew).

Please see Amanda for further details of this if required. With appropriate treatment, the pews should be suitable as garden benches – if you can't fit them in the house!

Please contact Revd. Amanda if you want more details or to express interest in any item.

Gary and Julie Celebrate 25 Years

Our treasurer Gary Mortimer and wife Julie celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on 21st September with family and friends by having Sunday Lunch at the 315 Restaurant at Lepton. Congratulations to both, whose actual anniversary was 2 days later on the 23rd.



*Gary & Julie cutting
the cake*



*Gary & Julie with their
respective Mothers,
Cynthia & Brenda.*



Will you set a place for Christian Aid this Harvest?

This year, our church will stand with communities like Alok, in South Sudan, that struggle to find enough to eat or a secure shelter for their families.

Sudan has been plagued by two brutal civil wars. Two million lives have been lost as a result of fighting, famine and disease. Millions more were forced to flee their communities to escape the violence.

Nyipock Majak (pictured) fled his home as a young teenager to start a new life in the north of Sudan. He was finally able to return home to South Sudan three years ago, when the region gained independence.

Nyipock is just one of more than 2 million southerners who have since gone back to live in South Sudan. Many of them arrived with few or no possessions and have depended on the kindness of local communities to help them get back on their feet.

In South Sudan, our partners are responding to the current humanitarian crisis in South Sudan (for more details visit christianaid.org.uk/harvest) and also helping communities to develop in the long term.

Our partner Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) gave Nyipock a cash grant to build his own house. He is grateful to HARD for the stability and security a safe home brings.

Nyipock, who prides himself on working hard, built his own clay oven. Now he rises at six every morning to bake 600 loaves a day for his community.



Nyipock with the clay oven he built.

He dreams of opening his own restaurant one day, saying, 'With the profit, I would buy school uniforms for my children and pay for their school fees. If they got sick, I would be able to pay for their treatment.'

'I do help others where I can and let them have bread. It's mainly elderly mothers and children, who have very little'

Nyipock has so little, yet gives so much. As we celebrate God's gifts to us this Harvest, let us support communities affected by poverty and conflict around the world. Acting together, we can turn our daily bread into a secure harvest for some of the world's poorest people.

Thank you so much for all you can give.



Donations will be used to support poor communities like Nyipock's all over the world.

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St Mary's Playgroup Update...

We are now back from our summer break and into our new term. We are staggering our intake of new children to enable them to settle in well.

Our theme this term, as well as settling in, is 'ourselves'. We will be looking at our bodies, health and hygiene, emotions, senses and likes and dislikes. Lots of different activities and fun to be had!

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding our new opening times – 9.30am to 12.00pm. The earlier time fits in better with school hours, meaning parents with school-aged children are no longer having to 'wait around'.

We still have limited places available on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. To ensure you get your preferred day(s) we would encourage you to contact us at your earliest opportunity on 07811 146958.

Becky

Church reports record levels of giving

Parishes across the country raised a record amount of £929 million in 2012 to fund the Church's ministry and mission across the country according to latest statistics. Parishes raised these funds from a combination of investments, legacies and donations despite the reduced gift aid rates. The figure represents an increase on £916m in 2011.

In addition to funding the work of the Church at a parish, diocesan and national level, Parish Churches also continued to give generously to other organisations donating more than £46m to other charitable organisations, exceeding the £43.3m raised by Children in Need. The statistics also show that after three years of deficits, parishes have successfully reduced their expenditure and encouraged more giving, to reach a break-even point in 2012. After adjusting for inflation, the data show that expenditure increased between 2002 and 2009 but has been steadily declining since.



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

Beavers Plan Ahead...

On the 5th September we returned after our summer break. We are now busy finishing off our safety badge with 'Dangers around the House'. We also said goodbye to 5 Beavers Jenson Tucker, Thomas White, Thomas Ward, Charlie Haigh and Charlie Bristow who have now joined the Cubs. They were a pleasure to have in Beavers and we will miss them, but we also welcomed 6 new Beavers too.

We are busy planning the next year, with lots of badge work and fun and games.

As we promised here is another gem from the 1959 Wolf Cub Test Book:-

Gardener's Badge:-

Must care for and cultivate a patch of garden of at least 16 square feet, preferably a square approximately 4 feet x 4 feet, for at least 4 months. Be able to demonstrate the use of, and how to care for, the following tools:- spade, fork, hoe, trowel, and rake.

In the case of town Packs where patches of garden are impossible, the following alternatives can be taken in place of 1) and 2):- Grow from seed three different plants in pots, or in a window-box, for at least four months.

Be able to point out and name six garden flowers and six vegetables from growing specimens.

Distinguish and name:-

Four common weeds and

Three common enemies of the garden, and

Three common friends of the garden.

We wonder how many older Cubs can remember having this book and taking part in all these tests? More next month

Gail and Joanne

Brian's Humour Page

Not as daft....

An elderly man in North Queensland, Australia had owned a large property for several years. He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees. The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built. He also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees. One evening, the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over as he hadn't been down there for a while. He grabbed a ten litre bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.

As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the dam naked." Holding the bucket up he said, "I'm here to feed the crocodile." Old men may walk slow - but they think fast.

Brian



Albert's 'Kings and Queens' Quiz.

1. Who was the first Queen to rule England?
2. King Zog I was the last king of which country?
3. Which creature has types named King and Emperor?
4. In children's literature who often said 'Off with his head'?
5. Who was the tallest King to appear in a cinematic film??
6. Which pop group combined with David Bowie on the hit song 'Under Pressure'?
7. The capital of Canadian province British Columbia, is named after which monarch?
8. Which film actor was known as the 'King of Hollywood'?
9. Which old music hall comic's stage name was copied from a sign on a theatre door?
10. By what name was the Chinese city of Beijing previously known?
11. Which American singer and pianist had a UK hit with the song 'Unforgettable'?
12. Who won a Best Actor Oscar for his role in 'The Private Life of Henry VIII'?
13. What is the capital city of Jamaica?
14. Humphrey Bogart won the 1952 'Best Actor' Oscar for his role in which film?
15. In 1895 who invented the safety razor?
16. Stewart Granger played the hero Alan Quatermain in which 1950 film?
17. In whose court did a Connecticut Yankee find himself in Mark Twain's story?
18. The author of 'Carrie' and 'The Shining' can be found by using the name and title of which English monarch?
19. Who played the title roles in the film musical 'The King and I'?
20. How many different Kings of England appear in the titles of Shakespeare plays?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

Poetry Corner.

Continuing our World War 1 theme the "Roses of Picardy" is a British popular song with lyrics by Frederick Weatherly and music by Haydn Wood. Published in London in 1916 by Chappell & Co, it was one of the most famous songs of the First World War and has been recorded frequently up to the present day.

Roses of Picardy

She is watching by the poplars, Colinette with the sea-blue eyes,
She is watching and longing and waiting, where the long white
roadway lies.

And a song stirs in the silence, as the wind in the boughs above,
She listens and starts and trembles, 'tis the first little song of love:

Refrain

Roses are shining in Picardy, in the
hush of the silver dew,
Roses are flowering in Picardy, but
there's never a rose like you!
And the roses will die with the
summertime, and our roads may be
far apart,
But there's one rose that dies not in
Picardy!
'tis the rose that I keep in my heart!

And the years fly on for ever, till the
shadows veil their skies,
But he loves to hold her little hands,
and look in her sea-blue eyes.
And she sees the road by the
poplars, where they met in the
bygone years,
For the first little song of the roses
is the last little song she hears:



Diary for October

Sun 5th	8am	Holy Communion (said) - Revd Graham Green
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) Revd. Paul Rolfe
	12.30pm	Baptism service Revd. Paul Rolfe
Wed 8th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Morning Praise (lay-led) & refreshments
Sat 11th	10am-1pm	'Ha ha ha ha Harvest' Activity Morning – see article.
Sun 12th	10.30am	All-Age Harvest Celebration
	12 noon	Holy Communion for Harvest
Mon 13th	ROY C SMITH (JOINERS) ON SITE FROM TODAY.	
	11.45am	First Steps Service – Parish Centre 'Henry's Autumn Walk'
	7.30pm	PCC meeting (Vicarage)
Wed 15th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) – Vicarage
	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 19th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Mon 20th	2pm	Mothers' Union in Parish Centre
Wed 22nd	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) – Vicarage
	9.45am	Hill-Top School Harvest service
Sun 26th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Wed 29th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) –Vicarage

Diary for Early November.

Sat 1st	9.30-11.30am	Church and Churchyard clean-up
Sun 2nd	8am	Holy Communion (said) ALL SAINTS'
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Mon 3rd	7.30pm	ReSource Celebration evening Dewsbury Minster 'I am the Lord that heals you' (see article)
Wed 5th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) – Vicarage
	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday Communion Service (with British Legion)
	2.30pm	Service of Remembrance at Tingley Memorial (Bradford Road)
SUNDAY	6pm	Memorial Service (see article).

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

Baptisms:-

In September we welcomed 2 new members to our church in Baptism;

Freya Louise Dedman, Daughter of Richard and Kerry from Ossett.

Isaac Joseph Holden, Son of Joseph and Laura May from Dewsbury.

Weddings:-

Jacqueline Salisbury and Mark Duffield from Tingley were married at St. Mary's on September 20th. Congratulations from the Church Family.

Funerals:-

Richard Sheard, beloved Husband of Rebecca, Father and Son from Soothill, sadly missed by all the family.

Joan Clayton, beloved Mother sadly missed by all the family.

Patricia Davies, Beloved Mother from Tingley sadly missed by all the family

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Mary I. 2. Albania. 3. Penguin. 4. The Queen of Hearts. 5. King Kong. 6. Queen. 7. Victoria. 8. Clark Gable. 9. Nosmo King. 10. Peking. 11. Nat 'King' Cole. 12. Charles Laughton. 13. Kingston. 14. The African Queen. 15. King Camp Gillette. 16. King Solomon's Mines. 17. King Arthur's. 18. King Stephen. 19. Yul Bryner and Deborah Can. 20. Seven (Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI, Henry VIII, Richard II, Richard III and John).

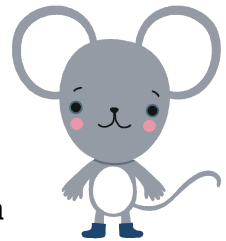
Albert.

A new home beckons.

Misha the Church Mouse has ideas.....

Destitute I am! Destitute! My penthouse home wrecked and nowhere to go! They have stripped the old Organ out and my comfy abode with it! I practically had to run for my life! What with winter around the corner I've had to put up with makeshift arrangements - like the vestry for example - which just won't do. The ground floor is such a comedown for a mouse of my stature.

My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, says I should stay calm and have a little patience - he's heard rumours of a new kitchen and even curved pews - very palatial, I'm sure. Far more fitting for a rodent of my breeding....



Misha

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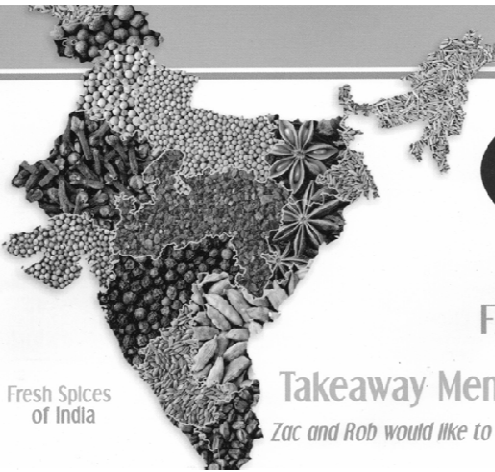
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm Becky Schofield 07811 146958
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

Every Sunday, the main Service is at 10:30am as follows:-

1st Sunday of the month:

- 8:00am Holy Communion (about 1/2 hour, no Hymns)
- 10:30am Holy Communion (with Hymns, 1 hour approx.)
- 12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month:

- 10:30am All Age (Family) Service. (Fun Service with theme)
- 12:00pm Holy Communion (Fewer Hymns)

3rd Sunday of the month

- 10:30am Holy Communion (with Hymns, 1 hour approx.)

4th Sunday of the month:

- 10:30am Holy Communion (with Hymns, 1 hour approx.)
- 12:30pm Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

5th Sunday (4 times per year)

- 10:30 All Age Holy Communion

Wednesdays:

- 10:00am Holy Communion (without Hymns)

3rd Thursday:

- 11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

Monday to Friday: 8:45am - 9:00am Morning Prayer.

To arrange for **baptisms, confirmations, funerals, the reading of banns** or any general matter, please contact the Vicar: **Revd. 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 (0113 2528710) email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org