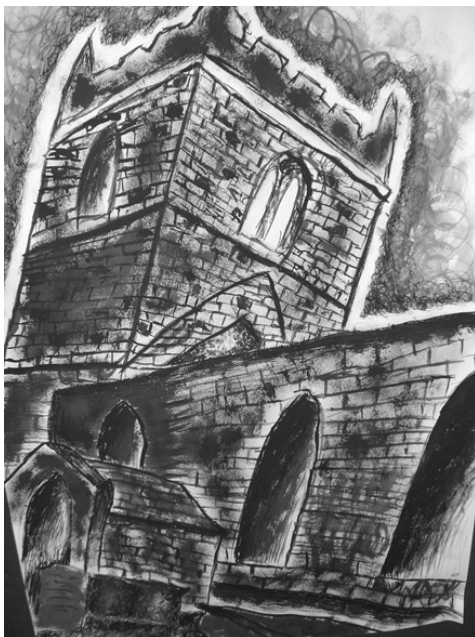


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

September 2014



This Month:

**War and Prayers; Organs and
Festivals; Harvests and Sabbaticals;
Re-Ordering and Adventures.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Weekly News Sheet. Email: dave2408.townsend@gmail.com
Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.
Mobile: 07745 301746
Contributions for the Weekly Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

Deanery Synod rep: Glyn Jennings

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!

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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.

Troop Train.

*As we came down from Amiens
And they went up the line
They waved their careless hands to us
And cheered the Red Cross sign.
And often I have wondered since
Repicturing that train
How many of those laughing souls
Came down the line again.*

Vera Brttain.

The Treasure Trail of life.

Well, September is upon us, the month when normality returns for those with children, and when many of those without children pack up their suitcases and head off on holiday! Holidays are not only a time to 'get away from it all' but also to take stock of how things have become 'out of kilter' in the routine of life. How can the next year (academic or otherwise) be in better balance than the last year has been? What is a time of recreation can become a time of re-creation, being made new.

Towards the end of my sabbatical (of which, more later) we went to spend a week in Brighton with our daughter, Hannah. Because she has been there for a number of years, it has become a familiar spot to us, and a walk down Brighton sea-front is something we've done regularly.

But this time, we did it differently. We followed a treasure trail, looking for clues which would enable us to find some (fictional) treasure. And it felt like those so familiar paths were being trodden with new eyes. We noticed things we'd never seen before. We took time to focus on things which were familiar but not familiar – to really look, intently, expecting to find something. It was an amazing experience! One by one the clues were discovered, not without excitement. It felt like we were coming ever nearer to our 'treasure', and it was clear that the person who had devised the Treasure Trail we had in our hands, had walked the path before us and was enabling us to recognise the landmarks along our way. At last the location of the treasure was discovered, and, exhausted but satisfied, we sat down on the beach to enjoy our picnic!

September can feel like the start of a familiar path, as a new academic year beckons, and the well-trodden route lies once again beneath our feet. In many ways it is like that familiar path our family takes once a year or so along Brighton sea-front. Do we expect to find treasures along the way? Or do we miss many of the clues which we pass because we don't expect to find anything new? Do we expect to find clues to God's presence with us, the re-assurance that Someone has walked this path before us and is guiding us on in our life's journey? Or do we rush along with our eyes half-closed?

There is indeed treasure to be had, and it's not fictional! The Bible reassures us that there is a great Treasure awaiting us as God's children at the end of our journey. Let's enjoy searching for the clues which guide us towards it!

Revd. Amanda

The Sabbatical is over.

I didn't realise, when I walked out of St. Mary's at the end of April into three months of sabbatical leave, just how hard I was going to find it. All the structures of life, the routines and patterns, had gone. It didn't feel like the freedom I imagined – it felt like a loss, and that surprised me. I wandered around at a loss – never having realised how much St. Mary's had become my life and my life had become St. Mary's. That's not good for anyone, whether ordained or lay. God is so much bigger than the church, and we lose sight of so much of what he wants for us when we are so absorbed in church life. We become blinkered and too narrow in our views, and miss how God is at work in the world around us. But having the blinkers taken off can feel frightening!

A fortnight in Cambridge early on in May enabled me to start my sabbatical project in earnest, exploring the question, "If motherhood is an asset to ministry, how well do the structures of the church reflect that?" In between enjoying the services in Selwyn College chapel, eating very elegant meals at High Table (where not only port and madeira were passed, but also the snuff-box!) I spent a great deal of time with my trusty dictaphone – an invaluable gift at the start of my sabbatical.

I listened to the experience of young mums at theological college, and those in ministry, and then laboriously typed up each interview. Some were not yet mums, but in training for ministry hoped to begin a family soon. Others had been mums for a long time, but many had pre-school children or primary school children, and had faced some very significant challenges in the expectations placed upon them.

The picture, I quickly realised, was a very sketchy one – each diocese runs entirely independently of those around it – there is no Church of England maternity policy, and every Diocese is required to write their own. If one works well in one diocese, that wisdom is rarely disseminated to other dioceses, and many don't even have a policy in place until a young woman in ministry is pregnant. None of this makes it easy for a young woman, and can often give the silent impression that having a child is inappropriate and unexpected.

The Church of England is trying to encourage young vocations, but has a problem recruiting young women. Around 70% of men in training are under 40; about 70% of women are over 45. Perhaps the issues of motherhood have a lot to do with it. Women are clearly feeling that it would be better to wait until their children have grown before embarking on ordination. And yet, for all the challenges, the research is also clear that motherhood qualitatively changes a woman's ministry – they meet people they wouldn't otherwise meet in the parish, and come across as normal, accessible and like other families. It's a good thing! They may not be able to work a 70 hour week – but one has to ask whether that is the most effective way to work anyway. Most are working 40 or 50 hours a week, and yet are often being made to feel that that does not equate to full-time ministry!

This is just a very quick overview of my reflections, but I hope you can see some of the issues which I have been exploring. At least the Church of England is beginning to ask these same questions. There is a national group assigned to explore the ways in which things need to change to allow those in ministry (not just women) to thrive, and they will want to see my research. It will be going, in due course, to Ministry Division in London, which deals with vocations; and I have been encouraged to send parts to the Archbishop of Canterbury. On top of that there is the possibility of publication, though that would involve some work on my 44 page first draft.

I very quickly realised that there is far more than can be achieved in a 3 month sabbatical here. Whilst in Durham, I was invited to consider a PhD – which I was told would only be 6 years part-time!!! I don't see how that is likely to happen!

So, it has been a fruitful time, though some of the fruits are yet to be seen. I did get some rest-time as well, with a week in Brighton (mentioned earlier in the magazine) and a time of retreat. But it is good to be back 'in the saddle'. If it's shown me nothing else, it's shown me I'm not ready to retire just yet!!!

Revd Amanda

Preparing for re-development.

As I write, we are welcoming a German Organ-builder into St. Mary's, who will be dismantling and removing our redundant pipe organ, which is returning with him to Germany where it will be refurbished for a church in Dortmund. They seem very happy with their acquisition, and we are happy that we now have the clear space in the choir vestry, where the console has been housed for the last four years.

This is the first step, in practical terms, towards the long-awaited redevelopment, which we anticipate will commence in mid-October. The first stage will be the external ground-works, creating the plumbing which will be needed. After that the work inside the church will begin. We understand that in total the work should take around 4-5 months, so will be complete in the Spring. At the moment it appears we will be able to continue to use the church for services, though the demands of cleaning will be higher, and any help that can be offered would be very welcome – watch this space!

We are very excited that at last the vision is becoming a reality – and know that this work will enable the church to be more user-friendly for everyone, with the toilets, and baby change facilities, and kitchenette which will allow it to become much more of a meeting point and social space than has been possible in the past. This will make it a community resource in a way that has been difficult before.

It is hoped that, once the redevelopment is complete, we will be able to invite the Bishop to come and rededicate our building – and that we, as the church in this place, will also rededicate ourselves to God, and to serving our community in his name. With this in mind, we are hopeful to be able to prepare candidates for confirmation in readiness for this landmark event in the life of St. Mary's.

Revd Amanda

Prayerful Thought ...September - Feeling Adventurous?

Hello there

Well as you read this we will be thinking back to a marvellous summer of sun and spectacle and will be returning to school or other routines which may have gone a little awry during August. But don't think that just because we are back to routines that there are no adventures to be had!

For some of you, perhaps your children have begun University, or perhaps moved schools, or perhaps your 'little one' has started school? My youngest niece will be moving from nursery to 'proper' school this September and for children, their education is such an adventure. The adventure of learning can be an amazing one, but you must not leave that adventure solely with your children and their teachers but join in, discover and share in the wonder of learning new things. Now the great thing about this is if you are a grand parent, or even a great grand parent you can still share in your grand (or great grand) children's learning, capture and share their enthusiasm and encourage them, that encouragement is vital in helping children gain the maximum they can from their learning experience.

I'm not saying this as a teacher, but just as someone who has seen the difference encouragement can make. I am not an A* student, I never was. In fact if asked, I say that I 'survived' school, because I didn't excel in academia, but my parents encouraged me to do my best, which enabled me to learn and be enthusiastic and apply myself to things. This in turn enabled me to get the required number of 'O' Levels to go on to further study at a local technical college and then get a job and through ongoing study, enthusiasm and willingness be lucky enough to work my way through my profession to what I class as the 'top' level I could achieve. Also, as a leader in Girls' Brigade, I have seen the difference praise and encouragement can make to girls' when they think they can't do something and then with your encouragement and practice they do do it!

Now your 'formal' education may be over, and may have been over for a good few years, but I'm sure you'll agree, that we never stop learning, and if learning is an adventure, then perhaps we aren't too old for adventures either?

It's funny, but my inspiration for this article came from a magazine, and it started by saying...

"As we get older, it's all too easy to fall into the trap of thinking that adventures are something that happen to other people...how many times have you caught yourself day-dreaming about an expedition only to censor the thought with a blunt: "don't be daft, I'm too old/fat/out of shape/skint?"

Well we only have to look at Jesus calling his disciples to realise that we don't have to be super intelligent, super fit or rich to have an adventure. Jesus called everyday men to be his disciples, Simon (called Peter), Andrew, James and John were fishermen, Matthew was a tax collector but the Bible doesn't give us any further information here about what Philip and Bartholomew, James and Thaddeus, Thomas, Simon or Judas Iscariot were before they were called. But the main thing to remember is, that these men were not without faults and shortcomings, they were not scholars, they had no special skills, they were ordinary people, just like you and me. Yet when Jesus called them, they left all that they knew and embarked on an adventure with Him.

I love the fact that Jesus chose these 'ordinary' people because it proves that everyone, given encouragement and support, can be extraordinary. So what will your adventure be this Autumn?

Are you able to plan and undertake some challenge you have been wanting to achieve for some time, perhaps climbing the three peaks, walking Coast to Coast like Wainwright, perhaps learning a new skill or picking up an old one and restarting it? Perhaps it's sitting down with a child, grand or great grand child and listening and encouraging them in their next step of academic learning. Perhaps it's coming in to church after a time away? Perhaps it's picking up your Bible and following some form of bible study, taking an opportunity to learn a bit more about the disciples or others in the bible?

As you will know if you have read any of my previous articles, I have embarked on a new adventure myself...I don't need any special outdoor gear, walking boots or poles, crampons or ropes, and up to press the most exotic location I have been to is the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield!!!! But it certainly has been an adventure starting on this path, completing year 1 (of 3) on a course of study in Theology and Ministry, which could see me being licensed as a Lay Reader in Church.

Happily I haven't had to leave my family or my home to undertake this adventure like the disciples did, but like the disciples, I am not exactly sure where this adventure will lead, but I am putting my trust in Jesus that he will reveal to me what I need to know as I make progress on this 'journey'.

Now the best thing about an adventure is to have someone to share it with, and have someone to tell about how you are getting on. Well I am really pleased to be sharing this journey with Derek as he is undergoing the same adventure. It is really helpful when you sit and listen to sometimes very deep religious discussions to share with someone else who was there whether they 'got it' or not, and relief sometimes that they were as confused as you were!!

But I'm sure Derek will agree with me, that more important is the knowledge that there are friends who are supporting you, encouraging, listening to your rambling (well certainly for me there's a fair bit of rambling going on!) and helping you along the way.

There are some who are very obviously supporting Derek and I from Amanda (who has to put up with two of us!) to our tutors at college, but you also have a supporting role too. You are part of the parish, the church family that is part of our support network, being there, praying for us and encouraging us and that counts greatly, knowing that you are there. Now we seem to have come full circle don't we, from the start of my article, about the importance of encouragement.

You may not be as young or sprightly as you once were, you may not get to church as often as you'd like, but you can encourage Derek and I as we are about to commence our second year of study through your prayer and support.

As I said at the beginning, I'm not an A* student, but I am stepping out on an adventure that is opening up the Bible to me and making me think, and challenging me. I'm sure I will continue to have doubting times like Thomas, and I'm sure I'll open my mouth and put my foot in it like Simon Peter did, but that encourages me, knowing that I don't have to be perfect and that Jesus is revealing to me one step at a time what his plans are for me.

Now that sounds like a good adventure to me, and I hope you may feel inspired to pick up your Bible and follow perhaps some daily Bible study, who knows where you might go on your adventure?

Dawn Tattersfield

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!

Revd. Amanda



Ha ha ha ha HARVEST!

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St. Mary's Medieval Festival.

A Grand day at Church

This year on August 16th we re-created the Mystery Plays some say for the first time in 500 years. Many of these were written by our very own Black Canons, here at St. Mary's.

As part of the Medieval Festival, organised by The JORVIK Group, creators of the famous JORVIK Viking Festival, The Yorkshire Medieval Festival brought the St. Andrews Birchencliffe drama group to our Church to perform Noah's Flood. The performances were loved by the audience as the cast from young to old re-told the story of Noah - in costume and fully enacted, including a feisty Noah's wife whose husband felt the full force (literally) of her fury.

Will, the Longbow Archer, told us the stories of those Medieval Archers - who, if caught by the French, would have their first and second fingers chopped off so that they couldn't fire their bows. They soon learnt to taunt the French by raising the said two fingers high in the air and waving them at the distant French Army. Will then demonstrated the Longbow to the crowd with an impressive display of shooting.

We had Artwork from Hiil Top and Westerton Schools showing Medieval scenes - including the Black Canons, as well as the 'hierarchy' from the King down to the animals and peasants..

There was a whole raft of Historical Artefacts, pictures and written documents supplied in the main by Historian **Peter Aldred** (himself a descendant of the Bishop who crowned Alfred King). Chris Tuckley also brought some artefacts and story boards from the Jorvik Archive and Malcolm Haigh assisted with the Historical information.

We also served up a tasty 'Peasants Lunch' of Pottage, Spelt Bread, cheese and barley wine (or tea and coffee instead!) provided by Barbara, with help from Derek (the bread & wine) and Brian (the cheese) and a gang of sturdy helpers who served up the fayre all day long.

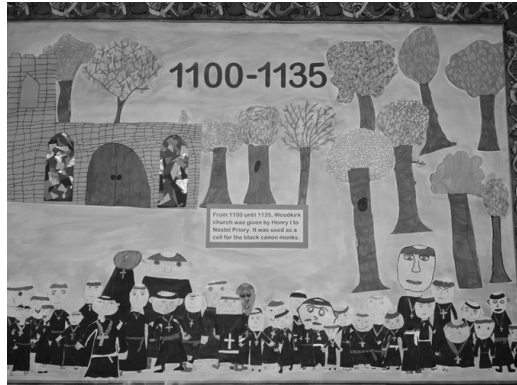
It was a fantastic day, attended by the Mayor of Morley, Councillor Wyn Kidger and a great number visitors - so many we ran out of cheese and pottage (a vegetable soup like concoction, created by Barbara), curious to see and hear about medieval times. A medieval wench came along (see pictures overleaf) and we pelted wet sponges at the Churchwardens (fair enough really) in our Medieval Stocks.

David

St. Mary's Medieval Festival - In Pictures



*Amanda & Gail wait in
trepidation*



*Hill Top School Artwork:
The Black Canons*



*Hill Top School Artwork:
The Battle of Hastings*



*Will the Archer in
action*



The Black Canons



Crowds start to fill the Church



Brian's turn....



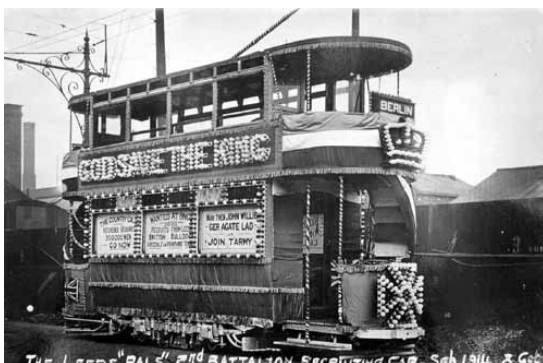
Westerton' School's pyramid of Medieval Britain.

St Mary's and the Centenary of the First World War

It may seem strange to us looking back, but for many young men enlisting into the armed forces in 1914 was an adventure. The commonly held view was that “It would be all over by Christmas” and to young men who had never been abroad, or even in some cases to the British coast, it was exciting.

In our own area young men would be destined for careers in mills or down mines or working hard on the land, the chance of foreign travel and to be patriotic, fighting for your King and country to ‘get one back’ at the Germans was enough to tempt many.

There was the iconic poster showing Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War pointing out to you with the caption “Your Country Needs You”, but also local regiments pulled out all the stops. The pictures below show the iconic poster image, the second photograph shows the ‘Recruiting Car’ of the 15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (known as the Leeds Pals).



(Photograph from the David Atkinson Archive)

Who could but be stirred into action at this sight, urging you join up with slogans that said “Kitchener requires 500,000 men - GO NOW”, “Wanted at once, 5000 recruits from Leeds. British Bulldogs. Airedale or Yorkshire Terriers” and finally in the Yorkshire dialect “Nah then John Willie - ger agate lad - join t’army”, and it worked.

There was an enthusiastic response from Leeds men and by the end of September over 1,000 had joined the Battalion.

It is a little difficult, at this early stage of my research into the men on the Church war memorial, to say how many of those listed answered Lord Kitcheners call, but what we can tell is that William Bairstow, Sam Evans, Ernest Gash and Jesse Gill did because their units were 'Kitchener' units.

In the case of Ernest Gash, there was an added element of 'adventure'. Although he enlisted into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, whose recruiting area was the Wakefield/Dewsbury area, he was transferred en masse, along with others recruited at the same time, into the Royal Munster Fusiliers. This was because recruiting in Ireland was rather slow, and there was a surplus of men who had joined in Yorkshire.

(It is one of those strange coincidences you come across when undertaking research, that a chap from the war Memorial in St Paul's Church, Glass Houghton, my church before I came to live in West Ardsley, was also part of this draught of men and was also killed in Gallipoli 9 days after Ernest).

I was amongst the congregation at the Westminster Abbey Solemn Commemoration Service on the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War on Monday 4th August 2014 at 10.00pm which was a fitting and very moving service.

Amongst the readings, hymns and music, I think the reading by Captain Harris of the Coldstream Guards from "A letter to Joy" perhaps captures the mood of many of those young men;

I must write you one more line dearest to say Goodbye before we go, as God knows when I shall see you again. I am so awfully glad we are going – it is what we have been waiting for for so long and it has come so much sooner than we expected or hoped. I think there is not much doubt that we are really going: we were served out with our rifles this afternoon and we believe that we shall be at Southampton tomorrow night.

So now dear it is goodbye and may we meet again if God wills. You know that if I am allowed to come back I shall feel exactly the same to you as I do now and shall be ready for you whenever you can come to me, and you know that I shall come straight to you and ask for you directly I come back.

It's a funny game this war! We are all fairly shouting with joy at going and I daresay we shall soon be cursing the day and then when we get back we shall say we had the time of our lives! Goodbye darling, may God bless and keep you.

*Captain Alfred Dougan 'Mickey' Chater
2nd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders (7th Division) 1914-15
25th October 1914.*

Let us remember those young men who 'answered their country's call' and gave their lives so long ago, and remember their families, our ancestors, who prayed for their safe return here within our own St Mary's Church.

Dawn Tattersfield

Archbishop of York issues prayers for Mosul

The Church of England is calling on its members to pray, act and give to those suffering in Iraq under the actions of ISIS. The Archbishop of York issued three prayers for Mosul and the third of these can be used for all those fleeing persecution across the country.

Holy God, your Holy family was driven into exile and many holy innocent boys were massacred, we hold before you today the suffering people of Mosul. Amen

Lord, in this city where Christians and Muslims have lived together for over 1400 years, we pray for healing, peace and restoration. Bring light out of this present darkness and hope from despair that guided by your Holy Spirit, all your children may find a new way forward together based on your love for us all. Amen

Hold in your loving arms, all those who have been caught up in this conflict. We pray for those forced to flee their homes, all who have lost friends, family and possessions and who now face an uncertain future. Bless our Christian brothers and sisters who have seen the destruction of their churches and communities and for our Muslim neighbours who have also experienced destruction and suffering. Amen

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions.

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and that your garden was in good shape on your return. You may get some late sweetcorn to harvest and the odd apple that is ready for eating. Here are some jobs for this month.

1. Onion sets may be planted now for overwintering and harvest early next summer. Choose a hardy variety such as 'Radar'
2. Plant strawberry plants to increase your stock. Aim to replace plants after their third year.
3. Earth up celery and leeks.
4. Plant spring cabbage. Cover with fleece to stop pigeons shredding them.
5. Lift main crop potatoes. Check they are ready by rubbing the skin. If it doesn't come off easily they are ready.
6. Plant tulips for next year.
7. Day lengths are now reduced and house plants slowing down so you need to water them less. It is important to make sure they do not dry out though. Lift a pot and judge whether it feels heavy (and therefore wet) or light (dry)
8. Start to clear away some of the crops that have gone over (ended) like runner beans and sweet peas.
9. Pull up outdoor tomato plants and hang them upside down in the greenhouse to increase their chances of ripening.
10. Division of perennials can begin. Start with those varieties that are overcrowded, or the first to die down for the year.

Sandra

George returns for special Concert.

As you may know, our Organist, George left us in August to be the Organist at Leeds Catholic Cathedral. George will be sadly missed as he has had a great effect on all of us since his arrival.

The good news is that he is coming back on Saturday October 4th at 1:00pm for a special concert for everyone to enjoy. Come along and see George and friends for only £3.50 including food and drink! What could better. See Brian or Betty for tickets.

The Old Organ is no more...

Finally the Organ goes to a new home.

On Tuesday 19th August our old Organ was finally taken away in the back of a truck. It is not being scrapped, though, it is travelling across the ocean on a journey of over 500 miles to Dortmund in Germany, where it is going to be lovingly re-built and used in a Church over there.

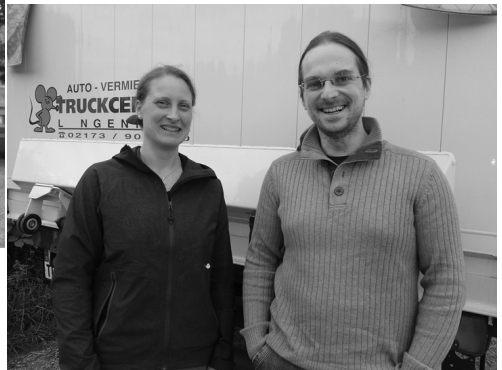
It took Oliver and Sonia (pictured) as well as two friends also from Germany, 3 days to take it apart and pack it into the truck. Brian went to Manchester Airport to collect the helpers as Oliver and Sonia drove from Dortmund to Rotterdam, caught the ferry and then drove again from Hull to Woodkirk to arrive here in mid-August to start the dis-assembly process.

They allowed 5 days to complete the work, but in fact finished early and were able to come to our Medieval Festival on one of their surprise days off. The organ has gone, but we will be hearing more about it as the rebuild starts over in Dortmund, so watch this space. The good news is that we were also paid £1000 for the Organ, which fittingly will be used to help with the new work about to start at the back of Church - an old organ for some new toilets - out with the old and in with the pooh, one might say...(sorry, its getting late).

David



The Organ ready to go.



*Oliver & Sonia from
Dortmund.*

Exploring Confirmation.

Have you ever thought about getting confirmed? Perhaps you don't really know what it means, you've heard the word but are unsure you understand it.

Confirmation is a public sign of an intent to follow Jesus. In baptism, a child is given a belonging to him, but on the whole they have had no say in the matter. Confirmation is an individual's acknowledgement of that baptism, and their declaration that they have taken ownership of that.

As an analogy, as I was growing up my parents had a small bank account they operated for me, and invested money in (though not much, given that there was about £40 in it when it was finally handed to me!). When I was an adult, that account no longer said, Mr & Mrs Dalby on behalf of Amanda Dalby. It was in my name, and I was responsible for it.

Baptism might be regarded as the opening of a spiritual bank account. The name is held in the records (the baptism register) and the parents know that it's not just about opening an account but investing in it, building their child's awareness of Jesus and nurturing a faith in him. Confirmation is that child turning adult in their readiness to take responsibility for their faith.

It can happen at any age – as our Confirmation register shows. As a rule of thumb, I tend to discourage children under the age of 13 being confirmed, as it is at around that age that young people tend to start to question and test out for themselves the assumptions of their parents, and begin to make decisions about what they choose to embrace for themselves and what they don't. (Those who are parents of teenagers will now that, sometimes to their cost!) That is true in matters of faith as much as anything else.

But it's not just for teenagers! Many people start to embrace a Christian faith for themselves much later on in life. They hit a point where they are confronted with their own mortality, or begin to ask themselves questions about the meaning of life and what they are on this planet to do. So, often people will begin to explore being confirmed in their 40s, or their 60s, or even their 80s. It seems for them a good opportunity to put a marker in the sand and proclaim a new phase of their life has begun, and that phase is one where faith matters.

Wouldn't it be wonderful for it to be more than the building which is redeveloped and begin a new chapter of its life? Wouldn't it be wonderful for lives to start a new chapter too? If you would like to talk about the possibility of being confirmed, give me a ring on 01924 472375 before the end of September.

Revd. Amanda

Toilet Twinning. Not a 'bog standard' affair!

Last year, I came across this initiative at a Christian convention called New Wine. The organisation is part of Tear Fund and its aim is to improve and provide sanitation in villages and schools in under developed countries. How it works is for every £36 raised it will 'twin' a toilet with one overseas.

For that you receive a framed certificate with a photograph of the individual toilet that you are twinned with. £240 will enable 'twinning' with a school toilet block. I approached some of the uniformed organisations with the idea and rainbows, Brownies and Beavers decided that was something that they would like to do. I hoped to be able to raise enough to twin our three Parish centre toilets with three overseas. The response was magnificent, Brownies doing a sponsored 'Skip to ma Loo' Brilliant.

We actually raised over £250. This will enable us to twin not only our centre toilets but also our two new church toilets! A fantastic achievement by all concerned. But it doesn't end there. You can twin your home, office or school toilets by going on to www.toilet-twinning.org and twin your loo. Or there are gift packs, a loo roll gift pack, or vouchers for Christmas, birthday, weddings etc.

I am hoping to acquire a t-shirt and be sponsored to wear it whilst on holiday and so provide more toilets so that those less fortunate have something to go on!

Derek

Children's Society

Would all box holders please let me have their boxes for emptying. If anyone would like a box to start collecting for next year, see me in church or ring 01924 479380. Thankyou

Susan Walshaw.



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

Beavers look back.

In August we are still on our annual holidays, so we have nothing to report, but we are very much looking forward to returning on the 5th September.

During the holidays I was given by Harry and Clarice Gough their son's Wolf Cub Test book, so I thought I would share a few of the tests taken from this book, the book is dated 1959.

Athletes Badge:-

Sprint 50 yards in 10 seconds,

Jump 2 feet 6 inches (high jump)

Jump 6 feet (long jump)

Climb a tree at least 15 feet, or climb a rope at least 10 feet.

Throw a cricket ball 20 yards, and catch one thrown 10 yards.

House Orderly Badge:-

Make a cup of tea and fry bacon or sausage, or fry or poach an egg.

Prepare potatoes and boil or bake or fry them.

Make a bed, wash up crockery, utensils, etc.

Clean windows and silver or brasswork.

Clean and tidy a room.

Lay a table for at least three people for a meal of two courses.

Thread a needle and sew on a button or darn a hole in a jersey or stocking to mend a tear.

Wash and Iron you neckerchief.

How things have changed!

We will share some more gems with you next month.

Gail and Joanne

Brian's Humour Page

In Heaven as on Earth.

One day, there was a catastrophic event that caused all living creatures on Earth to die. To sort things out, everyone went to heaven.

God came and said, "I want the men to form two lines. One line for the men who ruled their women on Earth and the other line for the men who were ruled by their women. Also, I want all the women to go with St. Peter." With that said and done, the next time God looked, the women were gone and there were two lines.

The line of men who were ruled by their women was 1,000 miles long, and in the line of men who ruled their women, there was only one man. God became angry and said:

"You men should be ashamed of yourselves. I created you in my image and you were all whipped by your mates. Look at the only one of my sons who stood up and made me proud. Learn from him! Tell them, my son, how did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "I don't know, my wife told me to stand here."

Remember Old Folk are Worth a Fortune.

What with Silver in their hair and Gold in their teeth; stones in their kidneys, gas in their stomachs. I am quite a frivolous old girl - seeing 5 gentlemen each day. As soon as I wake up, **Will Power** helps me out of bed. Then its time for **Mr. Quaker**. As soon as he leaves **Arthur Ritez** shows up. He can stay for the rest of the day if I'm not careful just moving from one joint to another. After a very busy day I'm ready to go to bed with **Johnny Walker**, and, oh yes - I'm also flirting with **Al Zymer**. The Vicar came the other day and said at your age you should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him I do that already. No matter where I am I end up wondering 'What am I hereafter?'

Brian

Albert's 'Three of a kind' Quiz.

1. Name three types of bird with only three letters in their names.
2. Name three types of fish with only three letters in their names.
3. Name three types of animal with only three letters in their names.
4. Name three Premiership football teams with three word names.
5. Name three types of road transport vehicle with only three letters in their names.
6. Name three types of tree with only three letters in their names.
7. Name three men's names containing only three letters. (No abbreviations!)
- 8 Name three women's names containing only three letters. (No abbreviations!)
9. Name three types of edible fruit or vegetables with three letter names.
10. Name three books or films with the word 'Three' in their titles.
11. Name three riven with only three letters in their names.
12. Name three colours with only three letters in their names.
13. Name three groups of entertainers with the word 'Three' in their stage names.
14. Which is the only chemical element with just three letters in its name?
15. Which is the only Shakespeare play with 'Three' in its title?
16. Name three popular drinks with only three letters in their names.
17. Who was the only man to be elected as US President three times?
18. The cartoon character Mickey Mouse was named three times. He was previously Mortimer Mouse, but what was he first called?
19. Which Moroccan city with only three letters might be associated with the late Tommy Cooper?
20. Which Scottish city with only three letters sounds as though it might be hidden by the previous answer?

Answers on page 34

Albert Shaw

Poetry Corner.

William Blake was a writer, a poet and a painter. He courted controversy in his time by criticizing marriage, but at that time he saw that marriage too often was pre-arranged for convenience, prosperity or necessity, and not for love. He opposed sexual inequality as well as slavery, and supported what became the beginnings of the feminist movement. His efforts along with Mary Wollstonecroft and later Emily Pankhurst, helping to fight what is still one of humanity's greatest crimes - bullying, oppression and violence against women.

He was reverent of the bible but had little time for the church, since their interpretations of the bible did not match his own. He is, however, celebrated by the church in a commemorative stained-glass window installed between 1976 and 1982 at St. Mary's Church, Battersea, where he married Catherine in 1782. This is his poem as we start the season of Autumn:-

To Autumn

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stain'd
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.

The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.

William Blake (28th November 1757 – 12th August 1827)

Diary for September

Wed 3rd	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Sat 6th	9.30-11.30am	Church and Churchyard clean-up
Sun 7th	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Mon 8th	7.30pm	PCC meeting in church
Wed 10th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments
Sun 14th	10.30am	All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 15th	11.45am	'First Steps' Toddler service in Parish Centre. 'Henry makes new friends'
Wed 17th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments
Thurs 18th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Friday 19th	9am-12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Nursing
Sat 20th	1pm	Wedding
Sun 21st	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	6pm	Ecumenical Songs of Praise at St. Mary's
Wed 24th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)
	7.30pm	CAP Money Session 1 – Parish Centre
Sun 28th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Thanksgiving for the gift of a Child (Revd. Paul Rolfe)

Diary for Early October.

Wed 1st	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Morning Praise. (Lay-led) & refreshments
	7.30pm	CAP Money Session 2 – Parish Centre
Sat 4th	9.30-11.30am	Church & churchyard clean-up
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
	7.30pm	CAP Money Session 3 – Parish Centre
Sat 11th	10am-1pm	'Ha ha ha ha Harvest' Activity Morning
Sun 12th	10.30am	All-Age Harvest Celebration
	12 noon	Holy Communion for Harvest

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

Baptisms:-

In August we welcomed 7 new members to our church in
Baptism:

Jorgi Kathleen Atkin, Daughter of Damien and Stephanie from Tingley.

Caitlen Jane Winter, Evan James Winter and Jenson Reece Winter, Children of Nikki and Hannah from Tingley.

Oliver Lee Kerr and Jack Michael Kerr, Sons of Lee and Katie from Tingley.

Aria Lily Melia, Daughter of Michael and Abbie from Tingley.

Weddings:-

Sharon Greenwood and Andrew Nettleton, from Dewsbury were married at St. Mary's on August 2nd. Congratulation from the Church Family.

Funeral:-

Lily Violet Adams, Beautiful and Precious Baby Daughter of Nicola and Stephen.

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Emu, Owl, Tit. 2.. Cod, Dab, Eel. 3. Bat, Cat, Rat, etc. 4. Queens Park Rangers, West Bromwich Albion, West Ham United. 5. Bus, Car, Van. 6. Ash, Elm, Oak. 7. Guy, Ian, Roy. 8. Ann, Eve, May. 9. Fig, Nut, Yam. 10. Three Men in a Boat, The Three Musketeers, Three Men and a Baby. 11. Dee, Don, Wye. 12. Jet, Red, Tan. 13. The Three Stooges, The Three Tenors, The Three Degrees. 14. Tin. 15. Henry VI, Part Three. 16. Gin, Rum, Tea. 17. Franklin D. Roosevelt. 18. Oswald the Rabbit! 19. Fez. 20. Ay.
Albert.

Volunteers Needed.

On the morning of the 20th September from 9:00am to 11:00am to help clear the back of Church and back Vestry of all the items in the cupboards etc so that work can start on the re-ordering. Also on the 4th October 9:00am to 11:30am to complete the task.

Just come along on the day if you can.

Many thanks

Gail

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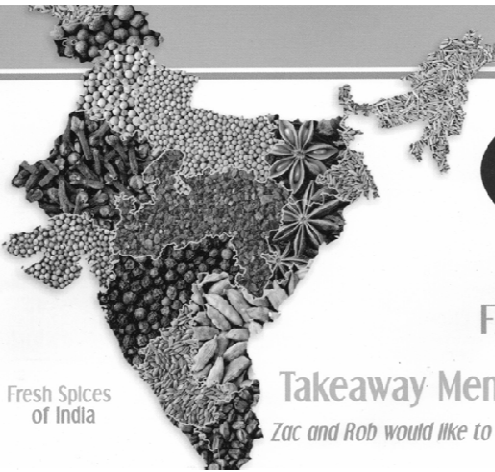
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am to 12:15pm 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

Main Sunday Service is 10:30am Parish Communion (except the 2nd Sunday of each month)

Services:

1st Sunday of the month:

8:00am Holy Communion (said)

10:30am Holy Communion (sung)

12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age (Family) Service

12:00pm Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion (sung)

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

1st Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

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 (0113 2528710) email: weddings@stmarywoodkirk.org