

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

February 2015



This Month:

**Moving moments; Moving Words;
Moravian ties; Church ties; Warm
Welcomes.**

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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Contributions for the Weekly Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

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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.

Trevor's Teasers

One good thing about egoists - they don't talk about other people...

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

If man evolved from Monkeys and Apes, how come we still have

Monkeys and Apes?

Is Atheism a non-prophet organisation?

Is there another word for SYNONYM?

Trevor Sykes

We'll Get Through This

Lord, our troubles are so great,
We don't know what to do;
The price for our Iniquity
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling all about;
No safe place can be found.
Right is wrong, wrong is right;
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need your guiding light
To lead us out of here;
We'll focus on your Word, and prayer,
To take away our fear.

Temptations of this dying world
We'll rule out and let go;
Give our burdens all to you,
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll
Get through this, Lord,
Fixed on heaven above,
Assured of your protection, help,
And everlasting love.

By Joanna Fuchs

It just 'feels right'. That's just where it belongs!

You know when you try on a new pair of shoes, expecting them to pinch and rub until you've got used to them and they've adapted to you? It always takes a while, and perhaps plasters and sore spots until that's happened.

That's how I felt on the day they brought in the machinery to move the font from its place by the door to its new, central position. Throughout the day, I knew that was what was happening. And I daren't look! It's like watching someone manoeuvring into a tight parking space. I look away until the crisis is over. (And if I'm honest, I've done that at the graveside as a coffin is lowered in). There are those moments when you wait and hold your breath, praying that it will all be alright. Once the lights had gone out in church, indicating that the builders had gone home and the field was clear, I went over to look.

I was amazed. I looked down the aisle and it just 'felt right'. It felt like the font was in its right place. It's not that it had felt wrong before. It's only now that it was moved that this felt right. It was like that moment when you try on a pair of shoes and find, to your delight, that they feel as if they were made just for you.

It's not what I was expecting. After all, I had always emphasized, in every baptism service, that the font was traditionally located near the door because baptism is a point of entrance into the life of the church. There was not just a practical reason it was in its former place, but a theological (or ecclesiological) one (– that is, to do with the church). It was only after it was moved and I reflected on it that I saw that baptism is central to who we are. The truth is just as profound. We are God's children. Baptism is not what happens on one day – an event. It is a process, a journey which continues until we die.

In our consumer driven world we have an event mentality. You can purchase events – theatre tickets, parachute jumps, racetrack days, spa and pamper days. The gift to get for the person who's got everything. Events are everywhere, and people build careers out of Events management. It's big business and a great money-spinner.

Because that's the world we live in, much of what isn't an event becomes transformed into one. We begin to get processes and events muddled up. So, those who approach the church to get married have a tendency to see it as an event – a once in a lifetime day. I'll often remind the happy couple that the event is just the marking of the start of a process, which is lifelong. It's generally something overlooked in the glossy wedding magazines. Marriage isn't about a day. It's about a life.

The same is true of baptism. The baby, and the white silk dress and the glam and the glitz is just an event which is the start of a lifelong process of growing into being a follower of Jesus. But processes are not like events. There's no glitz and glam. It's not a money spinner. It's not marketable.

Lent's a great time to remember that, and to get away from the consumer driven event mindset to inhabit a different way of thinking. It passes beneath the radar because Lent is not a great marketing opportunity for supermarkets and shops. That's why they use Lent to focus on Easter and its eggs and bunnies – already appearing in the shops in January. Event mentality again. What about the process? How am I becoming more of a follower of Jesus than I was? The answer to that will be different for every one of us, and there is no hard and fast way of marking Lent.

Perhaps you might want to consider taking on some act of practical service, raising funds for a charity close to your heart. Or making a commitment to buying more fairly traded goods. Or reading something which will help you to grow in faith. Maybe you need to give something up to make space for other things.

Maybe consider the Lent course, beginning on Tuesday February 24th. We'll be exploring prayer – something many people do but no-one feels they are skilled at. We all value it, we all need it, so why not learn more about it? You'd be more than welcome to join us, at either afternoon or evening sessions. (See the diary for details).

Revd. Amanda

Celebrating marriage.

As well as meeting couples preparing for marriage, I meet many who have shared many happy years together since marrying in St. Mary's decades ago. Over the course of its history, no-one knows how many people have walked into the church as singles and walked out as a married couple. But we believe marriage is worth celebrating. So why not join us for a special service on the weekend of Valentine's Day, to share in the event? You may have married at St. Mary's recently or many years ago. You may not be married yet but planning to be so. You may have married elsewhere but want to join in the occasion, which will include bubbly and cake after the service.

Readings will be given by couples at various stages of their married life, and each couple will choose a hymn – maybe one they had at their own wedding (or, in the case of the engaged couple, plan to have). There will also be a reading from someone whose marriage partner is no longer alive, reflecting on the joys and heartaches of love. And whichever stage of your married life you're at, we will pray for you!

Come and join us on Sunday 15th February at 3.00pm for a great celebration of marriage!

Got an idea in mind for a new group?

From time to time we are approached by folk thinking about beginning a new group of like-minded people with a shared interest. In a world where there is so much loneliness and isolate behind closed doors it's a great idea and one St. Mary's wants to support whole-heartedly.

We are aware that finding a suitable venue can be a challenge – many community centres have closed down, and local Working Men's Clubs have suffered the same fate. Others charge commercial rates which are out of the reach of small gatherings seeking to explore their viability in early days, before they have become established.

We currently have space in the Parish Centre for two evenings a week. The space is often used for parties and special events on one off occasions for £50 for 3 hours, but for a regular weekly group that price can be reduced substantially. Also, in the coming months we will be able to offer a smaller community space in the beautiful and historic surroundings of St. Mary's Church for gatherings and groups. If you want to know more, get in touch with the vicar or churchwardens in the first instance.

Rev'd. Amanda



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A cause close to your heart?

For the last few years we have made a commitment as a PCC that 1% of our unrestricted income should be given to a charity which reflects some particular need close to our hearts.

In 2014, that was committed to Leeds Faith in Schools, a charity working in local High Schools to engage young people with the Christian message in a clear and relevant way.

Where should our 2015 donation be given? The PCC will be considering this over the next month or two, so if you have a particular charity close to your heart, please let us know. We try to focus on small charities, and often, like 2014, local charities, who do not have the big advertising budgets of national charities and for whom our gift will therefore make a bigger impact in their coffers.

Leeds Faith in Schools

The charity we have been supporting have been working in schools around Leeds since 1994.

As a youth and schoolwork charity they hope to be good news to the high schools of Leeds whom they serve by delivering assemblies, RE lessons, PSHE lessons, mentoring groups, running sports teams, lunchtime clubs and after school activities.

They are currently working in eleven high schools every week and a further two schools each half term. Additional to their core work they run a youth event called 'The Max' twice a year, take young people away on various residentials throughout the year and network with local youth workers in Leeds.

We hope that our support has helped them to achieve these goals.

Christmas Toy Appeal - the response.

Following the Toy Appeal, Malcolm shares the response from Batley Salvation Army. This should have appeared last month, but due to an oversight on my part, was missed. Apologies to all - Editor.

Volunteers at the Batley Salvation Army toy room were bowled over by the number and varieties of toys donated to their cause by worshippers at Woodkirk St Mary's.

The arrival of the bags of toys, trinkets, dolls and games which had been donated by St Mary's worshippers was like a dream come true said Morley resident Jill Gardiner who has worked as a cook for five years at the Salvation Army premises in Stocks Lane at Batley. During that time she has also been cajoled into the task of leading the challenge to find enough toys for the increasing numbers of poor families in the district as well as operating the Salvation Army's Food Bank for the area.

Having grown up as part of a deprived family Jill knows from first hand experience just how difficult it can be especially at Christmas time .

The numbers of really poor families in the area, some with four and five children, were increasing all the time, she said, and the challenge for the adults to provide toys for their children at Christmas was a really difficult one.

Those who had the guidance and backing of support workers were able to turn to the Salvation Army for help and the ones who had done so had found the Woodkirk contribution absolutely marvellous. Almost all of it was snapped up within a couple of days and it was expected that the remainder would quickly follow. Anything left over would be delivered to women's refuges.

Jill also wrote a letter of thanks to the Woodkirk congregation . This is what she said:

Dear All, Just a few words to express my gratitude to you all for your gift of toys to us. It was like a dream come true when Malcolm brought them.

"There are more and more needy families in the area every year and we are constantly handing out food parcels, toys and clothing.

Rest assured they have all gone to good homes in Batley, Dewsbury and Morley. I can't thank you all enough.

God bless each and every one of you. Have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year." Jill.

Malcolm

Life in a Moravian School...

Following on from last month's article supplied by Margaret Wilcock, about the Moravian origins of the Christingle, this month we dig a bit deeper into the Moravian Church and School life.

Margaret and Peter Wilcock both attended a Moravian School, here in West Yorkshire, in the pretty hamlet of Fulneck, near Tong village. Founded in 1753, Fulneck School is an historic independent school with a Christian ethos, set within a peaceful village community and settlement dating back to 1739. Girls and boys attended, but were kept separate – the boys in buildings on one side of the chapel, and the girls on the other side. So how did a Moravian School and Chapel come to be founded in West Yorkshire?

In the beginning.

To understand how a Protestant group from the Czech Republic came to West Yorkshire, we have to go right back to the year of the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. For fourteen hundred years the Roman Catholic faith was the accepted form of religion across Europe, however John Hus from the area known as Bohemia (now Czech Republic) preached against the immorality of the Papal hierarchy and protested against its tyranny. It was to cost him his life - burned at the stake as a martyr. His legacy lived on through his followers and in 1457 they formed the first independent Protestant Church, known as Unitas Fratrum in the Kunvald Valley, east of Prague. This band of brothers – or Unified Brethren were the founders of the Moravian Church.

The country of Moravia bordered that of Bohemia, and in ancient times Moravia also encompassed Bohemia. It is not clear why the Church became known as 'Moravian' as opposed to 'Bohemian' but may have been due to these ancient borders or may have been where these original Brethren came from. Their ethos was simple 'we learned to love' they said. They decided the expression of this love would come through these three paths – Music, Mission and Education and has endured throughout the centuries.

The Father of Modern Education - Jan Amos Comenius

Jan Amos Comenius was a famous forefather of the Moravian Church and came from a place called Fulneck in Moravia. He worked as a minister in the early Moravian church as well as serving as a School Principal some 400 years ago. He was an amazing and prolific educator and has been called 'The Father of Modern Education'.

Comenius published some of the first picture books for children and was a believer in the education of girls, who at that time were largely neglected educationally. He encouraged teaching children to think rather than merely to learn by repetition and memorizing.

The path to West Yorkshire

These early followers of Hus were often persecuted and for 200 years their fortunes fluctuated until finally, in 1621, they were expelled from Bohemia. Forced to leave, they headed north to Saxony (Germany) seeking refuge. At last they were allowed to settle in Herrnhut (eastern Germany), by Count Zinzendorf. Indeed the Count became so closely involved with the Brethren, that he became their leader. This was not the end of their troubles and once again the State intervened and in 1738 the Count himself was expelled from his native land. The group were forced to move on and this time they sought more tolerant lands.

The Moravians came to Fulneck in 1743 when Count Zinzendorf was on his way to visit one of the religious societies formed by Clergyman/ Preacher Benjamin Ingham.



Zinzendorf looked northwards across the green valley of Tong, towards Pudsey, he had ‘such a sweet feeling and deep impression of the place’, that he immediately determined it should be the site of the Moravian settlement, similar to that of Herrnhut.

The area he was referring to was actually known as ‘Fallneck’ and the moment was opportune as the 22 acre estate was up for sale by the owner, William Moss. Ingham learned that Moss was in a hurry to sell and negotiated the asking price down from £1130 to £905 and then leased the land to the Moravians. It was re-named ‘Fulneck’ – a tribute to Jan Amos Comenius. It took 10 years to build the School and Chapel, but finally the School began with its first boys in 1753. A Girls day school was started in 1768.



Fulneck Chapel & School

So what was it like to going to a Moravian School?

Peter and Margaret Wilcock both attended the School in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Margaret was a 'boarder' whilst Peter attended day school. 'There were prayers morning and night in the Church Hall', remembers Margaret, 'and a Special Uniform for Sundays, with a felt hat for winter and panama for summer'. In Church, the boys sat on the left and the girls on the right. 'We could see each other across the aisle' Margaret recalls. Peter remembers the schooling was not overly religious, but rather had a broad range of subjects providing a good all round education.

Schooling included Saturdays – Peter had Choir practise in the

morning, meanwhile Margaret played Hockey or had to go for long walks – with PE teacher Mrs. Crowther keeping a watchful eye. Peter's Saturday afternoons were Rugby games. Boys and Girls were kept separate but Margaret remembers her friend sneaking out for a midnight feast with some of her friends – and to meet boys! This shocking behaviour would have been met with instant 'dis-order points', with very serious consequences, as a collection of three dis-order points would lead to expulsion. Some of Margaret's friends were 'mission children' whose parents were away on (Moravian) missionary work in Antigua, Labrador, Newfoundland and Africa. Another strict rule was 'no talking after lights out'. If they were found talking they were sent to a small bedroom alone. Margaret remembers spending a few nights there....

It wasn't all discipline and work (and walking!) - a Saturday treat once a month was to go to the boys school hall (minus the boys) to watch a film. Margaret saw films like 'Casablanca' and 'Scott of the Antarctic'. Then it was back to the long walks on Sunday after Church. Sweets were allowed on Wednesdays and at weekends only – and Matron would keep a check for transgressors. At the end of spring term there was always the 'Girls versus Boys' hockey match – one of the few

times they were allowed to be together. Saturday afternoons also had a 'reading hour' when a variety of books were read – Jane Ayre, Ivanhoe and Treasure Island, for example.



Margaret (left) aged 17 with Christingle in hand.

Fridays were 'hair washing' day – dried in front of an open fire. Despite the 'discipline', Margaret and Peter remember their school days with fondness – Margaret says she 'thoroughly enjoyed it' - and also they both found someone special....

The School is still open today, and takes pupils from all walks of life. There is even a nursery for the little ones.

With very many thanks to Peter and Margaret for sharing their memories and stories. We visited the School and found a very nice little café called 'The Giving Tree' - they do an excellent bacon sandwich, if ever you are passing.



Peter & Margaret outside the School today.

Some of the more famous Pupils of Fulneck Moravian School:-

Herbert Henry Asquith (1852-1928) – Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1908-1916).

Robert Robinson (1886-1975) – President of the Royal Society and winner of the Nobel prize for Chemistry

James Montgomery (1771-1854) - Composer and poet. (Wrote 'Angels from the realms of Glory' amongst others).

Richard Oastler (1789-1861) - Campaigned for better factory working conditions and championed the 'Ten Hours Bill' for child workers.

Benjamin LaTrobe (1764-1820) - Architect of the Whitehouse, USA.

Diana Rigg – (1938-) – Actress who famously played 'Emma Peel' in 'The Avengers'.

David

Advance notice – watch this space....

Lent will begin this year on Wednesday 18th February, and an Ash Wednesday service will mark its beginning at 7.30pm that evening. This year the service will be at St. Mary's and we will be welcoming guests from St. Michael's East Ardsley, and other local churches if they wish to join us.

Tapping into the Life Source. Introducing Lent Course.

Have you ever felt that you would like to pray better? Does prayer feel like a mystery? None of us feel like we have got prayer mastered, I don't think. And if we do, we probably haven't!

Lent is the perfect opportunity to share our experiences and learn together. This five week course is written by someone I heard speak recently and was very impressed by. It offers five different perspectives on prayer.

Week One 24/2/15: Prayer – source of LIFE

Week Two 3/3/15: Prayer – source of JOY

Week three 10/3/15: Prayer – source of LIGHT

Week four 17/3/15: Prayer – source of WHOLENESS

Week five 24/3/15: Prayer – source of LOVE.

The course will run on Tuesday afternoons, commencing Tuesday 24th February 2015 from 2pm-3.30pm at the Vicarage. If there is sufficient demand we will also offer an evening session for those who want it, at a venue to be confirmed. Course books are available nearer the time at a cost of £3.99. If you would like to pre-order your copy (and you can do so whether or not you are able to attend) please see Amanda.



Prayerful Thought...February 2015.

Hello there

How are you getting on with inviting God to be a part of your year? Have you squeezed in any quiet time to share with Him out of your busy days?

Well over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to prepare a devotional time for the end of one of my Girls' Brigade Leader training days as well as doing my best to spend some quiet time with God.

It is funny isn't it, that when I feel I really need God's guidance and wisdom, I can find time to be with him in prayer. I remember that it is that time with God that will help. But the thing is, I am falling into the trap of just asking God for support when I really really need it. But what I keep going on about in these articles, is making God part of our everyday lives. If God is good enough for me to ask him to be with me and help me when I feel I really need Him, then why is he not good enough to be with me every day?

I have a reasonably 'fancy' (well to me it is!) smart phone, it is certainly not the latest up to date model, but I can access my emails from it and use its various 'apps' for things like finding bus and train times as well as posting messages on 'Facebook' etc, but unfortunately it has started 'playing up'.

My phone will work, but only if it is plugged in to a power source, which when you are talking about a mobile phone, sort of defeats the object really doesn't it, but it did make me think.

The devotional task I completed for a Girls Brigade Leaders training day recently was a closing prayer time. Now it is all very well undertaking theological studies, but it is quite another to then have to provide devotions to a group of ladies, albeit friends, who I have known for many years. But interestingly, tapping into the power of prayer and being 'nourished' by this type of 'spiritual food' developed my thoughts about power sources and connectivity.



This devotional time was also an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves, and I wanted those present to feel part of the service and to share the spirit of God between us. On that occasion, I used a large candle which we then used to pass a smaller light on to each other, lighting a candle around the room until we were all sharing the light of that one large candle amongst twenty of us holding individual smaller candles, and of course what we got, was that the small light of that one candle, was now much brighter because we had shared it.



We had shared the love of God present in one candle, through our devotions, so that all now held the flame of God's love with us, and I made the point that whilst we all held a small flame in our hands, God has put the flame of love in our hearts, we are in receipt of his energy, his power, he is encouraging us and nurturing us, providing us with spiritual nourishment in order that we may bear much fruit.

In addition to preparing this prayer time, as part of my ongoing Lay Reader training, I am also preparing a sermon. This is not for me to preach to you in church at this stage, although it may be one Amanda may invite me to give in the future, but it is one which I must preach to my fellow Lay Reader students, and it was whilst thinking about being plugged in to the power source, I was inspired for my theme.

I have decided to give a sermon on John 15:1-11 which records in verse 5 Jesus' words 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.'

Sound familiar?

Without my phone being plugged into a power source it can do nothing.

We can receive the one light of the love of God, but it is much stronger if we share that light.

It is important that we continue to receive nourishment, power, but how can we do this?

We could sit on a window sill absorbing the rays of the sun and taking a periodic drink to help us grow, but that would not be enough. We need variety, we need 'pollinating' one thing the multiplying candle flames show us, is that our light is much brighter collectively when we were all together sharing the love of God, and like my mobile phone, we need to be able to tap into the 'power source' from God if we are to bear fruit.

Our Church redevelopment is progressing and we see change most weeks when we are in church, but the really great thing will be when it is all finished and we have some much needed facilities within our beautiful church building, enabling us to provide services to our community that we were unable to do before. But we must guard against seeing the redevelopment work as; just some much needed rest facilities and a much better place in which to serve drinks after a service. This new space that we will have created, is a new part of the vine that God is encouraging, it is a small flame waiting for us to share it to make the light shine brighter and stronger.

The best way we can be energised and keep the power of God then is two fold;

We must receive regular boosts of power through coming to church and sharing worship and fellowship together. Through coming to church we can encourage and support Amanda as well as share the love of God with our friends in church, but also,

We must be prepared to share the love of God and the power of the spirit which is placed in our hearts, by God, and nurtured by Amanda and our church family. We get an energy boost which makes God's love shine out to those with whom we will come into contact.

It is very easy, particularly at this time of year, to stay at home and save our reserves of energy, because in winter when it is cold it takes much more effort to make ourselves head out into the cold to share worship and fellowship with our friends at St Mary's.

But think again. We don't care if you put on every layer of clothing you possess and look like the 'Michelin Man' when you set foot through the door, or that your coat may



not be as smart as the one you normally wear, but you are wearing it because it keeps you lovely and warm, you are part of our family and we would love to see you.



Perhaps getting yourself into church next Sunday will be the battery charge you need to boost your energy levels at this time of year. Let the love of God shared amongst your church family, permeate those layers and give you the inner glow that the sharing of God's love gives to all of us.

Dawn Tattersfield





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

Beavers

In January we welcomed 2 new beavers in to our colony, Kingsley and Hermione and said a sad farewell to 4 Beavers who have now joined our Cub Pack.

We have had a packed programme over the month, a Games Night, which was great fun. Finding a pen pal - the Beavers have said they would like to write letters and send writing paper and pencils to the children of Ikizu in Tanzania which is the link parish to St. Mary's.

The Beavers agreed that the money from our sleepover this year will also go to the children of Ikizu to help with their schooling.

We will go bug hunting when the weather improves but we still have a lot planned to keep us busy during the next term., which includes pancake making.

We are all looking forward to the Pantomime on 6th February; we will be joined by the Cubs and Scouts for a fun time.

Gail & Joanne.

Cubs and Scouts

All 16 Scouts were at Barnsley bowl last month practising for the district 10 Pin Bowling competition. The following week they lined up in for the competition. After a tense time, **Laura Newell** won the individual prize for the highest score of 198 over 2 games. Well Done Laura!

This month it's the District Swimming Gala (7th Feb), with the Cubs defending their trophy as last year's winners and Scouts hoping to do well after a good third place. Fingers crossed.

The Scouts are starting their Creative Challenge badge, which includes making giant lego shapes behind a screen and then trying to make a replica using voice commands only. Tricky.

Meanwhile in July, the Scouts are planning to go to the Jamborette in Haarlem, Holland for 10 days. They will be joined by up to 5000 Scouts from all over Europe, plus Japan and USA. 12 scouts are going and they have already done 3 bag-packs at Supermarkets to help raise funds.

Martin Luther King - inspiring words from one of the greats...

Ordained in 1960 and installed as a co-pastor (with his father) at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a preacher. Here are a dozen quotes from a man who found a way to move faith from the pews to the city. Perhaps one of them is right for you?

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude."

"Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, 'Love your enemies.' It is this: Love has within it a redemptive power ... Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy to a friend."

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a moulder of consensus."

"I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Gail

On the Seventh Day....

Once upon a time, in the Kingdom of Heaven, God went missing for six days. Eventually, Archangel Michael found him on the seventh day, resting.

He asked God, 'Where have you been?'

God pointed downwards through the clouds.

Archangel Michael looked puzzled and said,

'What is it?'

'It's a planet,' replied God, 'and I've put LIFE on it. I'm going to call it Earth and it's going to be a great place of balance.'

'Balance?' inquired Michael, still confused.

God explained, pointing down to different parts of the Earth.

'For example, North America will be a place of great opportunity and wealth, while South America is going to be poor; the Middle East over there will be a hot spot, and Russia will be a cold spot.

Over there I've placed a continent of white people and over there is a continent of black people.'

God continued, pointing to the different countries.

This one will be extremely hot and arid while this one will be very cold and covered in ice.'

The archangel, impressed by God's work, then pointed to another area of land and asked,

'What's that?'

'Ah,' said God. That's the North of England, the most glorious place on Earth. There are beautiful people and many impressive cities; It is the home of the world's finest artists, musicians, writers, thinkers, explorers and politicians.

The people from the North of England are going to be modest, intelligent and humorous and they're going to be found travelling the world. They'll be extremely sociable, hard-working and high-achieving, and they will be known throughout the world as speakers of truth.'

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration but then proclaimed,

'What about balance God, you said there will be BALANCE!'

God replied very wisely,

'Wait till you see the bunch of idiots I'm putting down South to govern the country!'

Derek

What is there 'Beyond Ourselves'?

Ever wanted to know more?

'Beyond Ourselves' is a 10 week course exploring the big questions about what Christian faith is all about, what is there 'beyond ourselves', why there is suffering in the world. It may interest a variety of people:

- Those wanting to explore what Christians believe
- Those who want to get confirmed (specifically when Bishop Nick rededicates the church on Sunday 3rd May 2015)
- Those who want to refresh their understanding
- Those who want to get to grips with the Bible.

A small group will be embarking on this course beginning on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 7.30pm at the Vicarage. The 10 week course will be completed on 17th March, in time for our Easter celebrations and anticipating the forthcoming rededication service.

Why not ask Amanda if you think this may be the course for you? Phone 01924 472375 or e-mail vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org for more information.

Revd Amanda

Children's Society Christingle Services.

On Christmas Eve we held our two Christingle Services, raising £323 for the Children's Society. This includes £68 from the 'Collecting Candles' which some people had filled and brought along to the Service.

This year, the focus for Christingle is Child Poverty. In the UK today, 3.6 Million children live in poverty and this figure is set to rise to four million by 2020. Every one of these children need our support and prayers if they are to overcome barriers that affect their health, education and happiness.

A great big thank you to everyone who came along to help to make the 300 Christingles - and a special thank you to our three young people: Edward Parker, Oliver and Harry Appleyard for all their hard work and testing the sweets to make sure they were alright!

Thank you to everyone for your support.

Susan Walshaw

Woodland Trust News

As a member of the Woodland Trust, dedicated to the preservation of ancient woodland and the nurture of new woods, I bring you a couple of their current projects...

Schools and communities across the UK are set to be given a 'conservation boost' and receive an extra 100,000 free trees this year as the Woodland Trust welcome a new partner on board.

Yorkshire Tea's support over five years will help them plant 500,000 trees. For the first year the business is committed to funding 100,000 free trees for schools through the tree pack scheme.

The Woodland Trust partnership forms part of Yorkshire Tea's one million tree pledge. The tea company will also be planting 500,000 trees in Kenya, working with communities around the tea estates that produce leaves for the Yorkshire Tea blend.

Woodland cover in the UK is particularly low at 13 per cent, compared to the European average of 44 per cent. The Woodland Trust needs both the support of the public and businesses to allow it to plant more trees – as well as protect and restore ancient habitats. The Yorkshire Tea partnership will be launched at the beginning of March. The company has already funded the planting of hundreds of thousands of trees for rainforests in Africa through its 'Vanishing Woods' project. The aim is to do the same back here in the UK through the Woodland Trust.

The Woodland Trust has reacted with outrage to news of a proposal released by Extra Motorway Services that would destroy ancient woodland between Junction 5 and 6 of the M42 near Solihull, West Midlands. The proposals would mean loss to Aspbury's Copse, an ancient wood located where the M42 crosses Solihull Road.

The charity is already campaigning against the loss of ancient Smithy Wood, Sheffield, due to proposals by Extra at Junction 35 of the M1. Nikki Williams, Head of Campaigning at the Woodland Trust, said:

"It's unbelievable that an organisation could be so brazen as to propose a motorway service area that destroys ancient woodland anywhere, but Extra Motorway Services obviously has no shame when it comes to destroying the UK's precious and irreplaceable habitats. This second lot of proposals, added to those we're already fighting by Extra at Smithy Wood, Sheffield, are completely unacceptable and we will be joining forces with longstanding local campaign groups to object in the strongest terms.

David

Woodland Walks - enjoy a winter walk...



There is a wealth of wildlife at Skipton Castle Woods including badgers, roe deer, kingfishers, woodpeckers and sparrow hawks.



Throstle Carr Beck – on the east side of Middleton, set in 20 acres close to the M1/M62 junctions and owned by the Woodland Trust.

St Mary's Playgroup Update...

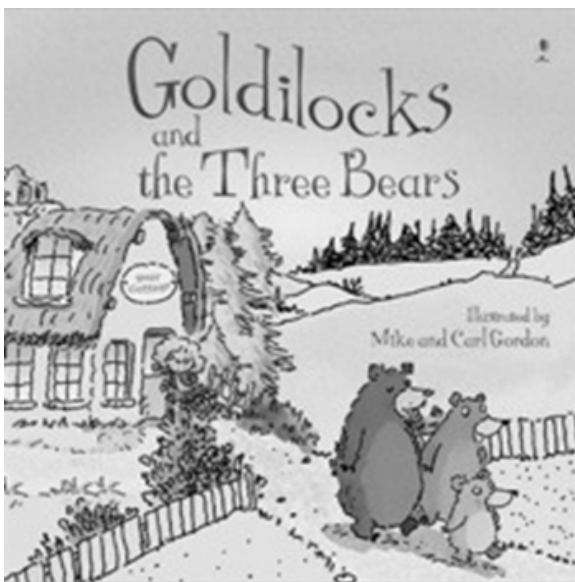
Hello everyone

Thank you for all the support you gave us last term with selling raffle tickets, donations, and attending our Henry Bear services. Thanks to all your generosity we raised a fantastic £501 from selling cakes, calendars, the Christmas decorations made by the children and the raffle.

After half term we will be concentrating on 'children's books', including Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and Jack and the Beanstalk.

Playgroup is currently full on Tuesdays. Limited places are available on Mondays and Thursdays. If you require a place for your child, just call in for a registration form and pick up a prospectus in the entrance porch.

Becky and the team at St Mary's



Brian's Humour Page

Golf Ball...

Two Golfers were approaching the first tee.

The first guy goes into his golf bag to get a ball and says to his friend - "Hey, why don't you try this ball." He draws a green golf ball out of his bag. "Use this one - You can't lose it!"

His friend replies, "What do you mean you can't lose it?!!"

The first man replies, "I'm serious, you can't lose it.

If you hit it into the woods, it makes a beeping sound, if you hit it into the water it produces bubbles, and if you hit it in the rough, smoke comes up in order for you to find it."

Obviously, his friend doesn't believe him, but he shows him all the possibilities until he is convinced. The friend says, "Wow! That's incredible! Where did you get that ball?"

The man replies, "I found it."

1. We have a genetic predisposition for diarrhea. Runs in our jeans.

2. Apparently, someone in London gets stabbed every 52 seconds. Poor guy.

3. I tried to catch fog yesterday, Mist.

4. Why did the scarecrow get a raise? He was outstanding in his field.

5. Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet.

6. Someone stole my Microsoft Office and they're gonna pay. You have my Word.

7. My wife accused me of being immature. I told her to get out of my fort.

8. What do you call a woman on the arm of a banjo player? A tattoo.

9. I called a psychic once. She asked who was on the line, so I hung up.

10. I took the shell off my racing snail, thinking it would make him run faster. If anything, it made him more sluggish.

Brian

Poetry Corner.

To Do List From God

I ran my life in search of worldly things;
My time and will were firmly in control.
I thought I had no need for what God brings;
I gave no heed to murmurs from my soul.

Christian message all for thee flowers
“You’re planning, doing all the time,” it said,
“But something else is missing deep inside.
Your mind is whirling, but your heart is dead,
So turn to God and let go of your pride.”

I did, and God said, “Here’s My plan for you:
Give your life to Me, and just let go.
Have faith and pray, and read the Bible through,
And you’ll have blessings more than you can know.”

So simple, yet it brings me perfect peace,
Living life for God the way I should.
Direction, purpose, fullness and release—
Life with God is very, very good.

By Joanna Fuchs

Albert's 'First and Last' Quiz.

1. What is the first book of the Old testament?
2. What is the last book of the Old testament?
3. Name the first 'Bond girl', played by Ursula Andress in Dr No?
4. At which battle did 'Custers last stand' take place?
5. On 14th November 1952 which record topped the UK charts?
6. Who wrote the novel 'The last of the Mohicans'?
7. Which Club won the first ever English Football league championship?
8. Which club were the last English Football League Division 1 champions? (before it became the Premier league).
9. In 1956 who was the first film star to appear on a postage stamp?
10. In which month does 'The last night of the Proms' take place?
11. Who was the first million pound winner on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'?
12. 'The last train to Clarkesville' was the debut single of which band?
13. In 1932, which novelist and poet wrote the script for the first ever Royal Christmas broadcast (by George V)?
14. Which mission number was the last Apollo moon landing?
15. Which Yorkshire born actor was the first Briton to win the 'Best Actor' Oscar?
16. Who created the long running TV series 'Last of the Summer Wine'?
17. Listed alphabetically, which is the first country to be named?
18. ...and which is the last country?
19. Who was the first US President to ride in a car, a plane and a submarine; travel outside the U.S. when in office, have a toy named after him and be awarded the Nobel prize?
20. Which 1972 film, starring Marlon Brando, was banned in many places because of its pornographic content?

The Return of Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions...

Brrrrr.... Nothing like a bit of a cold snap to remind us it's still winter!! I hibernated in January but it is time to think about what you can plant now! It's not too late to look through seed catalogues and order seeds. Here are a few jobs you can do in February.

Sandra's Top Tip: February is the last month in which you can take hardwood cuttings from ornamental shrubs such as cornus, salix, roses & ribes; otherwise, wait until November.

If you have not already done so, dig a trench for runner beans and fill it with rotted compost or kitchen waste.

Chit your potatoes. Put them in a light, frost free place and watch them sprout!

Plant a few onion sets – leave some for early spring though!

This is the time to plant fruit trees. Dig a nice big hole and put plenty of organic matter at the bottom.

Fancy some garlic? Plant some now. (In pots if you like)

Tomatoes can be started off in a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill now, ready for later growing in the greenhouse.

Whilst it is too early to feed fruit in general, make an exception for strawberries. Apply a tomato feed to encourage spring flowering.

Place gladioli corms in seed trays and place them in a light, warm spot. This helps to create an earlier display.

Ensure light levels are adequate for house plants.

Do we have a plan of action for the coming seasons? If not, draw one up now.

Sandra

Diary for February and early March 2015,

CANDLEMAS

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Wed 4th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) Vicarage
Sat 7th	9.30-11.30am	Church and churchyard clean-up
	7:30pm	Quiz Night with supper – see article P13
Sun 8th	10.30am	All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 9th	11.45am	'First Steps' Toddler service
		'Henry makes a discovery' – Parish Centre
	7.30pm	PCC meeting – Parish Centre
Wed 11th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) Vicarage
Sun 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	3:00pm	Celebration of Marriage – see article.
Mon 16th	2:00pm	Mothers' Union meeting – Parish Centre
Wed 18th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion service.
We welcome members of St. Michael's. Revd. Glenn Coggins will preach.		
Thurs 19th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Tues 24th	2.00-3.30pm	'Life Source' Lent Course Session 1
		– Vicarage –see article
	7.30-9.00pm	'Life Source' Lent Course Session 1 –
12,Woollin	Crescent, West Ardsley.	All are welcome at each venue.
Wed 25th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) Vicarage

MARCH 2015.

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Wed 4th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) followed by refreshments
– This is dependent on the builders completing on schedule! If work not complete, service in Vicarage.		
Sat 7th	9.30-11.30am	Church and churchyard clean-up
Sun 8th	10.30am	All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 9th	11.45am	'First Steps' Toddler service
		– Henry learns to share. Parish Centre.
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Parish Centre.

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

Baptisms:-

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

Lukas Jake Pascke, Son of Andrew and Jennie from East Ardsley.

Amelia Rose Larkin, Daughter of Timothy and Zoe from West Ardsley.

And

Funerals:-

Geoffrey Hall Clegg, from Tingley, sadly missed by his Wife Cathy, family and friends.

David Wass, from Tingley, sadly missed by his wife Pat, family and friends.

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Genesis, 2. Malachi, 3. Honey Rider, 4. The Little big horn, 5. Here in my heart (sung by Al Martino), 6. James Fennimore Cooper, 7. Preston North End, 8. Leeds United, 9. Grace Kelly, 10. November, 11. 'Egghead' Judith Keppel, 12. The Monkees, 13. Rudyard Kipling, 14. Apollo 14, 15. Charles Laughton, 16. Roy Clarke, 17. Afghanistan. 18. Zimbabwe, 19. Theodore Roosevelt. 20. Last Tango in Paris.

Albert.

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To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 051

Parish Centre Rentals

We have space for Groups who may be interested in using the Parish Centre on a Monday or Wednesday evening.

Nominal Cost is £50 for 3 hours.

**Contact: Brian Walshaw
01924 479380 for more information.**

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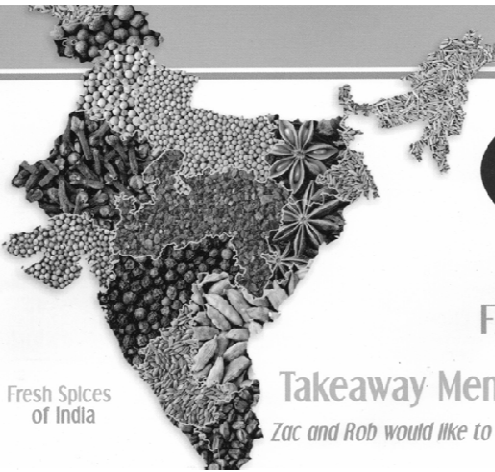
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What's on

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