

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy New Year 2015

January 2015



This Month:

**Changing times; Changing Bishops;
Changing Focus; Unchanged
Christingles; Unchanged Fair;
Unchanged love & support.**

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

Happy New year 2015

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
The glory of thy face.

Another year of leaning
Upon thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
Of witness for thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for thee.

Frances R. Havergal. (14 December 1836 – 3 June 1879) was an English religious poet and hymn writer. *Take My Life and Let it Be* and *Thy Life for Me* are two of her best known hymns. She also wrote hymn melodies, religious tracts, and works for children.



The times, they are a changing.

As I write the Vicarage garden looks like a battlefield. In fact, my husband reckons it may be a potential fund-raising opportunity. In a time when you can buy experiences of all sorts, the Vicarage garden has the potential to be a 'World War One Battlefield Experience'. There have been trenches, lots of mud where once there was grass, piles of rubble, gravel and a large yellow skip now has pride of place on the Vicarage drive, alongside a small tipper truck and bulldozer.

Fortunately we are not gardening fanatics and are not too precious about the state of the lawn. As my husband told the contractor, "It's taken me almost eleven years to get it into this state – of neglect." If a Vicarage is meant to be like living in a goldfish bowl, it has become even more so. As I sit at my desk trying to think sublime thoughts(!) a tipper truck trundles past the window. When a large section of mature, 8ft high hedge suddenly shifts and is uprooted, and brushes past my view on its way to the skip, sublime thoughts have long since disappeared. What is going to happen next? It can all feel very disconcerting!

The Christmas message we have recently celebrated reminds us that sublimity is not found on some higher plane, way above the mess of daily life. The baby in the manger proclaims that God is with us in the mess of our lives. The season of Epiphany which carries us through the whole of January is about searching for God in the muddle and confusion and turmoil of ordinary daily life. Finding God in the mess. And at the moment there is plenty of that!

January is perhaps a time when we are more aware of the mess of life than usual. The idealism of Christmas is over, the aspirations to be different are often expressed at New Year, (and fade so quickly) and yet it's also a time when the post-Christmas bills have to be paid, and weight has to be lost, and the effort has to be put in. The reality of life can feel a long way from how we'd like life to be. Life can feel like my garden looks – like a war-zone!

For some it's a time when some of those big questions arise – Where am I going? What's life all about? Is there anything beyond ourselves? And how can I know more about it? The 'Beyond Ourselves' course is just the thing – 10 weeks to discover what Jesus has to say about these things, to ask the big questions and perhaps to find that more questions lie behind them. For some it may lead to confirmation; but not for all. Come along if you think it's for you – Tues 13th January at 7.30pm at the Vicarage.

When preparing for the redevelopment we knew there would be ground-works involved to supply drainage – but our thinking was much more focussed on the end result – the long-awaited toilets and kitchenette. We cope with the mess much better when we know what things will be like in the end. Sometimes in life we only see the mess – we don't see that there is a purpose behind those problems and challenges which is for our good. Life isn't meant to be easy (contrary to what the adverts tell us). But it is meant to be good. Mess doesn't mean things have gone wrong – it's often about putting things right. So, if life feels like my garden, hang on in there – there's something good will come out of it!

May God bless you in 2015.

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 2.30pm for a great celebration of marriage!

Rev'd. Amanda

First woman bishop in Church of England announced

Downing street have announced that the new Bishop of Stockport – and the first woman bishop in the Church of England – will be the Rev'd Libby Lane, currently Vicar of St Peter's, Hale, and St Elizabeth's, Ashley.

As Bishop of Stockport she will serve as a suffragan (assistant) bishop in the Diocese of Chester. She will be consecrated as the 8th Bishop of Stockport at a ceremony at York Minister on Monday 26th January 2015.

Libby Lane was ordained as a priest in 1994 and has served a number of parish and chaplaincy roles in the North of England in the Dioceses of Blackburn, York and Chester. For the past 8 years she has served as Vicar of St. Peter's Hale and St. Elizabeth's Ashley.



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Better together.

Celebrating our belonging in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Over the last few months we have been building links in new ways between the local churches. In November, I was privileged to be able to conduct a Sunday morning service at West Ardsley Methodist Church. It was their Mission Sunday, and I was invited to speak about my experience as a member of a Rooted in Jesus team in 2012 in Morogoro, Tanzania. It was a lovely day – I was made to feel very welcome and felt at home amongst other members of our local Christian family.

Because I was ministering there, Revd. Paul Martin was invited by the PCC to conduct the communion service here at St. Mary's. As one of the members of the Methodist church said, it was a historic day, and one I think he never believed would happen in his lifetime. Everyone felt it was a significant marking point in our shared ministry in this community.

Then, just a few weeks later, I was asked to conduct a funeral for someone I have visited month by month to take Home Communion, but to conduct that service in Tingley Methodist Church which was where he was raised. At the invitation of Revd. Paul Martin, I was able to share that service with him. It was enlightening to do so – we can learn so much from one another.

Sunday 18th January 2015 marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and we continue to work for the strengthening of the links between our churches. Our divisions are historic ones but often we see, when we share together, that the past should not be the decisive factor as we move into the future. As we think about the worldwide church, disunity is something many of our Christian family cannot afford, in the face of persecution. They stand together because they know they have more in common than they have which divides them.

We will be sharing in a special service hosted by West Ardsley Methodist Church on Sunday 18th January 2015 at 6pm. I will be preaching – but don't let that put you off! Let's support our growing links as we seek to offer our community the love and welcome Jesus has offered us!

Revd. Amanda

Prayerful Thought...January 2015.

Hello there

Well here we are into another New Year, and a very happy new year to you. I don't know about you, but Christmas seems ages away, it was sort of looming and then I blinked and it was gone!

Like many others I was so, so busy up to Christmas, and what was worse was, that some of the things I was having to do, (essays for my theological studies) I should have started earlier and then not had so much to do, to add to what is already an amazingly busy time.

It seems that every year I know Christmas is coming, it doesn't move, it's always on the 25th December but yet it sort of creeps up on me. I think I get cross with the over commercialism where cards and gifts etc start being advertised and decorations go up just after Bonfire Night that I sort of ignore all that and then end up madly rushing about.

Are you an organised person? I wish I was organised!

I have some friends who are so organised and I've watched them and worked with them, and I can still only aspire to be as organised as they are. God obviously made me to be a kind of "fly by the seat of my pants gal" where I have to have a looming deadline before I get motivated.

However, whilst this type of last minute disorganised approach doesn't do anything for my stress levels, I do find that cutting it close to the wire does help me focus as I can shut out all the other distractions because I know that I **MUST** get this thing done.

Often when I get to the point of completion of whatever it is I have managed to meet the deadline for (at the last minute as usual of course!) I often look back and think about how much easier it would have been, to have planned the task better and not had such a last minute rush. I have such lovely friends and family around me who know what I am like, and offer guidance and advice (and never moan about WHY I seem to leave it all to the last minute) and I smile to myself, that perhaps all these friends who support me, are there because God has tasked them with trying to get this message through to me!

Now that's an interesting thought isn't it?

Is there something you struggle with and your friends and family or work colleagues try and support you and offer help and guidance? Perhaps you struggle to keep your finances in order, not so much

financial advice, but just being a bit more organised with what you have. Or are you the parent who always seems to forget baking ingredients or signed reply slips, or deposits for school outings and end up frantically texting one of your son or daughters classmates mums just to check?

But really, what if that is God using our friends to help us?

I always listen to my friends and I always try and take on board what they advise me because I know it will help me really, but when it comes to the crunch, my haphazard behaviour pattern always seems to win through.

One of my friends recommended a book to me, I haven't had chance to get a copy of it yet it's called the Chimp Paradox and is one of those "self help - new you" kind of books.

Now I don't know if it's any good, as I say I haven't had a chance to read it, but when my friend explained the premise it seemed to make a lot of sense.

The book suggests that we have an 'inner chimp' the emotional part of our brain, designed by evolution to support our survival, which responds up to five times faster than our rational brain. Then there's our human mind, which is rational, and reaches careful and deliberate conclusions. Then there's the computer, our bank of remembered experiences full of automatic habits and responses, some good, some bad, which works twenty times faster than our human mind and four times faster than the Chimp.



The book then talks about how we need to learn to manage our 'chimp', and when my friend told me about this, whilst not having read the book, and also whilst not in any way blaming others for my disorganised-ness, I think that other people's 'chimps' do sometimes impact on mine!

Sometimes I sit down to focus on something but then something else crops up that I have to deal with, and I'm sure you feel the same.

Well I'm sure my friends will breathe a collective sigh, and also raise an eyebrow or two when they read this, and will also probably be

thinking, well I wonder how long she'll manage it this time? But yes, I do intend to try and take a few steps in order to become more organised!

I have bought myself a note pad planner which has Monday to Sunday listed on each page, 1 page for each week for the whole year and I am going to try and get some planning done.



One thing I think will be helpful is to produce a list and keep adding to it as I remember things I have to do, and adding new things to it that I am asked to do as I go along. Then hopefully, by starting with a list I may even start being able to cross some things off it.

But I'll tell you one thing that I will make sure I include at the beginning and end of every day, just a little slot of time to spend with God, because if he is using my friends and family to subtly try to help me get organised, then I know that I need to thank him.

There is so much I need to thank God for. Firstly for my friends and family who for so long have tried, and continue to try to help me be less frazzled and rushed with everything, I need to thank him for helping me focus when as usual I leave things to the last minute and then have to pull out all the stops to get things done, and I also need to thank God for bothering with me.

I don't know about you, but having God who cares for me, and who provides me with friends and family who put up with me (oh and care for me too of course!) does make me feel that actually if I spend those few quiet moments each morning and evening saying thank you, then perhaps things will start sinking in and I will get organised.

How about you? Would spending a few quiet moments at the beginning and end of every day help you? You may not think so, but if you don't already, then start today, you never know, you've got nothing to lose, but you may have something to gain.

(Oh and if I don't quite get there, and still end up rushing to meet my deadlines, I know that however exasperated my friends and family, and God may be with me, they still love me and will always be there for me).

Whatever plans you may have for this year, don't go it alone, ask God and your family and friends to be part of it too, it's amazing what you can do when you include others.

Dawn Tattersfield

The Moravian Christingle Service.

Following the success of our own Christingle events, Margaret Wilcock shares with us the origins of this Germanic Service.

The custom of Christingles began in the Moravian Congregation of Marienborn (in Germany, east of Hannover - not far from Magdeburg) on 20th December 1747, at a children's service conducted by John de Watteville. After singing hymns together the Minister read some verses which the children themselves had written 'in honour of the Saviour's birth', and he then went on to explain to them, in a way which made the story fresh and lively, what happiness had come to men and women from the birth of Jesus, 'who has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps ever burning to their joy and our happiness.'

To make the point even clearer each child then received a little lighted wax candle with a red ribbon. John de Watteville ended the service with this prayer:-

Lord Jesus kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become.

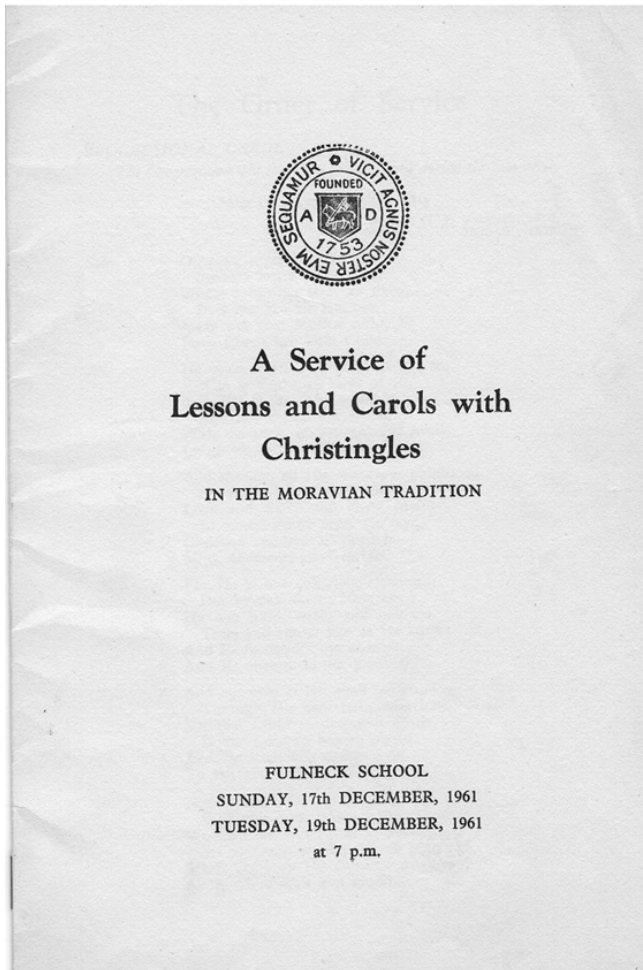
The Marienborn Diary concludes 'hereupon the little children went full of joy with their little lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed'.

The symbolism gradually developed and today in the Moravian Church, the Christingle consists of an orange representing the world, with a candle lit to represent Christ, the light of the world. The candle is held in a goose quill, the upper part of which is split into branches on which are impaled nuts, raisins and sweets. These stand for the created order over which Christ is King and for God's bounty and goodness to us in providing the fruits of the earth.

The service ends with the traditional Moravian Carol:

*Morning Star, O cheering light
Ere thou cam'st how dark earth's night
Jesus mine, in me shine,
Fill my heart with light divine.*

Margaret remembers a Christingle service when she was 15 years old and still at School. You can see below the front of the service booklet 'in the Moravian tradition'.



Many thanks to Margaret for supplying the background and memorabilia for this story.

Latest Church Pictures...

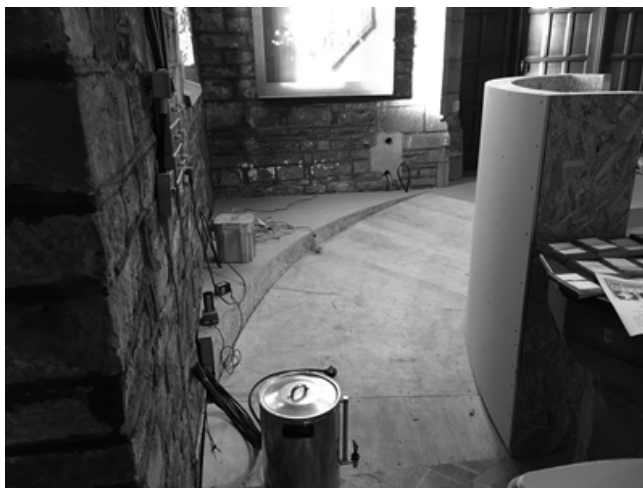
In addition to the inside work, the trench digging and associated earth works outside are progressing well. So we are on track for completion in March.



The new Font position. 'it looks like it was always meant to be there', commented Church Warden Gail.



The Curved pews start to take on their final shape.



The slope is of course the disabled access ramp to the tower base where the toilets are to be located.

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

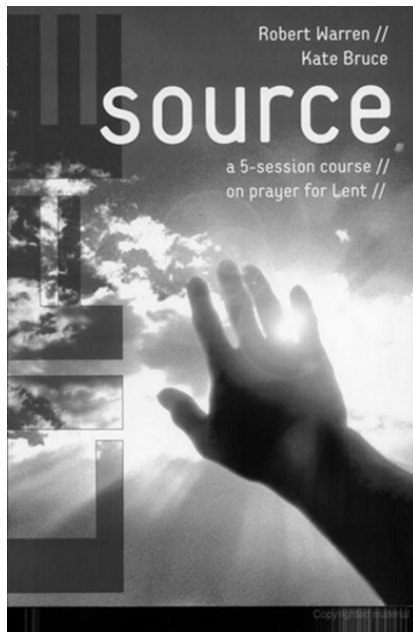
Week Two 3/3/15: Prayer – source of JOY

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.



Is our Church getting smaller?

With the pews removed and now the font transposed into its new position in the centre of the aisle (see P20), does St. Mary's seem bigger or smaller to you? Certainly now there are fewer seats we all sit a bit closer together. A bit cosier and a bit nearer the action on a Sunday morning.

But if you think our church is small spare a thought for the old church of St Andrew, Upleatham, Nr Whitby, North Yorkshire. It measures only about 20 feet by 13 feet, and may well be the smallest church in England!!

The Western tower dates from 1684, and replaced a smaller bell cote. The south wall, with its two blocked arches and blocked window (within the larger of the two arches) suggests that there was once a South aisle to the church....which was probably demolished due to its poor condition around 1684. The arches of the aisle were subsequently blocked up, with a window being inserted sometime later...which was also then blocked up. The buttress at the South wall of the tower, is probably actually the remains of the church's Southern wall.

The North wall still retains its 'Norman' corbels, eight in total, with another 3 in the East wall (although this wall was built entirely in the 19th century). At least our Church is still the same size it always was!

David



Christmas Fair in Pictures....

After the success of the Christmas fair - here's a look at the people who worked so hard to make it happen. With thanks to Brian Gledhill for the pictures and for his efforts too! (As always, the camera man never gets to be on a picture). Santa is missing too, but he had to fly....



The frontline disciples were:-
Betty, Rachel, Audrey, Margaret
& Dawn

Sandra G with Cakes
a plenty...



Trevor and Family
on the Scouts Stall



The Kitchen Saints were:-
Alice, Jane, Margaret, &
Margaret, Edward (hiding),
Pat, Brenda & Susan.

Derek the
bookworm...



Gail, Mary, & Amanda
having a Tombola fest...with
help from Ella & Ava



Hannah & Arty on the
Brownies Stall.

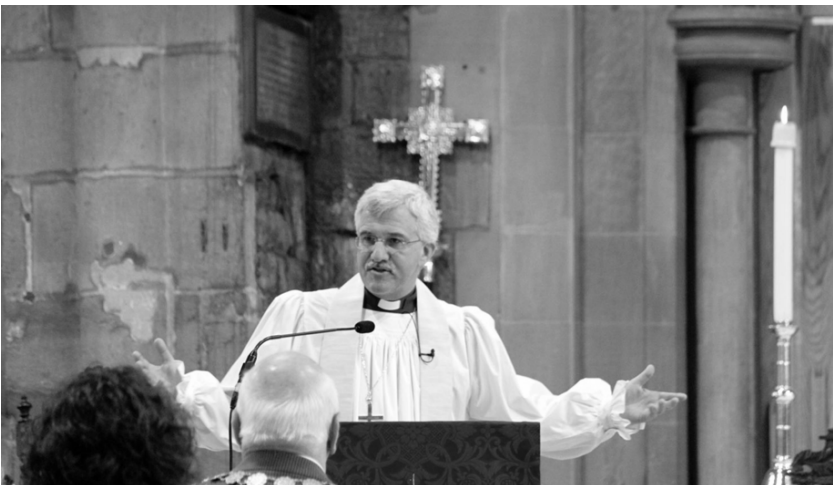
Big Yorkshire welcome for Bishop Jonathan.

No amount of drizzly grey November weather could have dampened the spirits of all those who gathered at Dewsbury Minster to give the first Bishop of Huddersfield, the Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs and his wife, Toni, a big warm Yorkshire welcome.

The Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines led the service and greeted Bishop Jonathan and his wife and welcomed them both to the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales and to the Huddersfield Episcopal Area before he was greeted warmly by civic leaders and faith representatives from across the region, including the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe and the Mayor of Kirklees, and the Deputy Mayor of Calderdale.

The Minster Singers and the Gospel Whispers raised the roof with their mix of traditional and contemporary songs and hymns as over 350 people gathered to welcome their new bishop. There was a special trumpet fanfare played by Colin Lowther, and there were messages of hope from young people and representatives from across the Episcopal Area including the vicar of Huddersfield, a local solicitor and an Islamic scholar from Dewsbury .

Bishop Jonathan was officially welcomed to the start of his ministry as the First Bishop of Huddersfield and stepped forward to give his first sermon as the First Bishop of Huddersfield on the theme of hope.



Extracts from Bishop Jonathan's Sermon:

We are on the verge of something amazing – something completely new. That is what our two Bible readings both say to us this morning. God is in the business of transformation – of making things new – and we are invited to be part of what he is doing. That was the fundamental message of Jesus from the very start of his ministry – “Watch out, get ready, because God is breaking into our world in a wonderful new way – and you need to be ready to join in with what he is doing.”

We can see that hope breaking into people's lives when someone extends a hand of friendship across the divides of creed and class and culture. We can see that hope dawning in someone's heart when they hear and receive the good news that they are infinitely loved in Jesus Christ and that they have a place to sit and a part to play in the new world of his kingdom. We can see that hope at work when someone who has been hurt and rejected finds acceptance and healing through the unconditional grace of a God who stands before them as a fellow human being; a God who embraces them and weeps with them until at last they can smile and laugh together as citizens of the new world that God is making.

*And the heart of all this – extraordinary though it may seem – **is the life of the local church**. We are God's upside down plan for turning the world inside out. We, as Saint Paul says, are the weak and insignificant and even the refuse of the world, but God in his mercy (and probably also his sense of humour!) takes us and uses us to bless and change the lives of others. It starts small like a mustard seed, but it can grow, nurtured with hope and watered by God's Spirit*

We cannot build the kingdom of God here on earth – that is a dangerous deceit, whether in a religious or a secular form – but we can plant seeds of hope and in due time see trees blossom and grow, whose leaves are for the healing of both people and nations. We can work together across our communities to nurture the vision of people reconciled and living together, sharing in the purpose of human flourishing and of the renewal of creation itself.

The signs are there; things are happening; a new world is coming. We need to see those signs and to join in with what God is doing – full of hope for all that is to come. Will you join me in working to turn that vision into a reality? Amen

Leeds Minster & Emmerdale in Epilepsy Support.

Emmerdale actor John Middleton (who plays the vicar, Ashley Thomas) gave a festive reading at a carol concert at Leeds Minster to raise funds for Leeds-based national charity Epilepsy Action.

The concert, which took place on Monday 15 December, 6.30pm, included carol singing led by the choir, readings from guest speakers led by John Middleton and prominent author Will Fiennes announced the winning entry of the Epilepsy Action festive poetry competition.

Epilepsy Action invited guests to remember loved ones at the carol concert with a personalised Shining Star for a suggested donation of £10. The Shining Star was engraved with a loved one's name and special message and then displayed on the Christmas tree at the concert. The star was then presented in a keepsake box for people to take home.

The Revd Canon Charles Dobbin at Leeds Minster, said: "We're delighted to host Epilepsy Action's Christmas carol concert this year. Christmas is a celebration of light shining in darkness. This makes it a fitting time to celebrate the light of understanding and knowledge about epilepsy too."

Epilepsy affects around one in every 100 people and 87 people are diagnosed with the condition every day in the UK. Each year, Epilepsy Action directly helps over 1.2 million people through a range of services, including its Epilepsy Helpline, freephone 0808 800 5050, specialist nurse scheme and award-winning website, epilepsy.org.uk

David



What is there 'Beyond Ourselves'?

Ever wanted to know more?

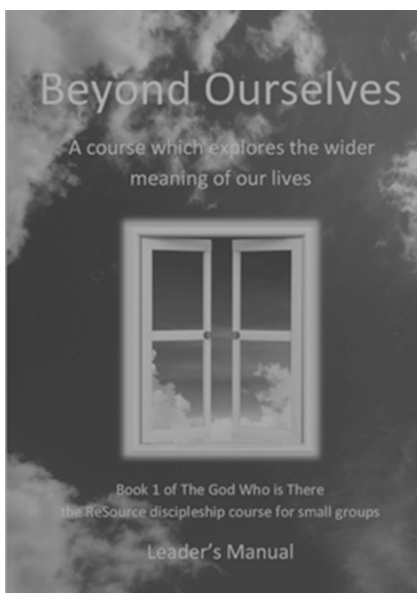
'Beyond Ourselves' is a 10 week course exploring the big questions about what Christian faith is all about, what is there 'beyond ourselves', why there is suffering in the world. It may interest a variety of people:

- 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



Home from Home for new Sub-Dean of Wakefield Cathedral.

Throughout his 34-year ministry Revd Canon Tony Macpherson has never worked more than 20 miles from Wakefield Cathedral. He was ordained there in 1980, watched his youngest daughter, Catherine, follow in his footsteps when she was ordained there in 2010, and today Bishop Nick has announced he will be installed there as the next sub Dean and Canon Pastor.

Said Canon Tony: "I am really excited to be able to play a fuller part in the cathedral team.

It's a great place to work, and while I loved my diocesan-wide role, I am really pleased to be able to focus on cathedral work as the next stage of my ministry.

Originally from the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, Tony was brought up in the church, though none of his family had ever been ordained. He trained to be a teacher, but as soon as he left home, he began to discover church for himself and it was at that point that something clicked – he decided ordination was the path for him. So after qualifying as a teacher (his back up plan if his bid for ordination failed), he went straight into ordination training and his first curacy found him in Morley, Leeds.

This was followed by a post in Penistone and Thurlstone, now part of Sheffield Diocese, and then he moved to Grimethorpe, near Barnsley, just as the coal mine in the village was closing.

"It was a tough time for everyone in those villages; man, woman and child. The pit closures taught me a lot about community, about the value of community and the way in which communities can suffer so deeply, especially when events are taken out of their control," said Tony.

His next role found him on the edge of the city of Wakefield, at St Michael's, Westgate, and priest in charge of Horbury Junction and Horbury St Mary's and Rural Dean of the deanery. He was made Canon Missioner for the historic diocese of Wakefield in 2007 – based in the Cathedral - and worked alongside parishes on Everyday God, Transformational Planning and visioning. He was instrumental in the big events held in the historic diocese of Wakefield including, All the Saints at Cannon Hall, Arise at Nostell Priory and the Party in the Precinct to mark the end of the old diocese.

Said Tony: " My dream here at the Cathedral is to continue to build a

place that's open and accepting, where everyone feels welcome, a place where each member of the cathedral team can play their part.

"Christianity is not accepted by everyone and one of the main challenges the Church faces today is growing disciples. I want this place to speak to every member of the community, regardless of whether they have faith or none and here in the heart of the city we are in a great position to begin to do just that. "But that depends – and it depends on creating a thriving, flourishing, caring, outward-looking Christian community here at Wakefield Cathedral.

"And that's what I want to be part of," he added.

Tony will be licensed by Bishop Nick on January 11th at Wakefield Cathedral.



Revd Canon Tony Macpherson

St Mary's Playgroup Update...

Hello everyone

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2015!

We said goodbye to 12 children at the end of the Christmas term and we will be saying a big 'hello' and welcome to a few new children and their parents/carers.

The topic this term is animals and the children will be enjoying lots of lovely animal stories, including Goldilocks and the Three Bears, as well as animal printing and making finger puppets.

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

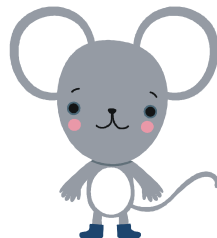
Copies of the prospectus for playgroup are available in the foyer of the parish centre. Feel free to take a copy or pass it on to anyone new in the area. If you need any further copies then please do let me know.

Becky and the team at St Mary's

Church Mouse Tales...A Year in the Life.

What a year that was! After being evicted from my lofty home, when the Organ was removed, I tried to hitch a ride to a utopian restaurant in the deep south, but failed due to door confusion (I picked the wrong one). Meanwhile 'foodbanks' were mooted but they weren't for me either! Then there was the speeding episode, when I feared for my life, followed by my friend Hubert, the Black Canon, disappearing to Amsterdam (he saw a mouse, there, he said).

I still haven't worked out what happened to Ratty, but Hubert banned me from eating so many things - ropes, altar cloths, carpet (as if!), electric cables and pew runners - my head was spinning. June was a testing time, but on the plus side, there was this left over burger at the Garden Party...Then we went Medieval and I was almost shot by Ann Archer (although how we got her to come along I don't know). Finally the shock of seeing Hubert, apparently downing a pint, almost finished me off. All I can say is - I hope next year is just the same!



Misha

Brian's Humour Page

Praise the Lord...

A religious woman upon waking up each morning would open her front door stand on the porch and sing:

"Praise the lord."

This infuriated her atheist neighbour who would always make sure to counter back,

"There is no Lord."

One morning the atheist neighbour overheard his neighbour praying for food, thinking it would be funny, he went and bought her all sorts of groceries and left them on her porch.

The next morning the lady sang:

"Praise the Lord, who gave me this food."

The neighbour laughing so hard he could barely get the words out shouted:

"It wasn't the Lord, it was me."

The lady without missing a beat sang out:

"Praise the Lord for not only giving me food but making the atheist pay for it!!"

It's in the Game...

Harry walked over to the Priest after services,

"You know Father, I am really stuck in a quandary I would like to attend church next week but I just can't miss the big game next Sunday, it's just out of the question."

"Oh Harry Harry" said the Priest putting his arm around Harry, "don't you know? that's what modern recorders are for?"

Harry's face lit up

"Great idea ", he enthused, "I can record your sermon!"

Born again Parker...

A man, late for an important meeting, was searching desperately for a parking spot in a crowded lot. Looking up to the sky he entreated "Lord if you find me a parking spot, I promise to start going to church again."

The words were barely out of his mouth, when a spot opened up right in front of his car. The man looked back up:

"Never mind I found one."

Brian

Poetry Corner.

Trevor Sykes looks back with misty eyes...

When we were young...

I remember the cheese of my childhood
And the bread that we cut with a knife
When the children helped with the housework
And the men went to work, not the wife.

I remember the milk from the bottle
With the yummy cream on the top
Our dinner came hot from the oven
And not from the fridge in the shop.

The kids were a lot more contented
They didn't need money for kicks
Just a game with their mates in the road
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner
Where a pen'orth of sweets was sold
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic
Or is it - I'm just getting old?

I remember the 'loo' was the 'lav'
And the bogey man came in the night
It wasn't the least bit funny
Going 'out back' with no light.

I remember the slap on my backside
And the taste of soap if I swore
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?
Or our initiative was destroyed?
We ate what was put on the table
And I think life was better enjoyed.

Anon.

Albert's 'January' Quiz

1. Which popular music programme was aired for the first time on the 1st January 1964?
2. Which comedian, who died on the 2nd January 1963, had the catchphrase: "Ooh, you are awful, but I like you"?
3. John Thaw was born on the 3 January 1942. What character did he play in "The Sweeney"?
4. Which poet, who died on the 4th January 1965, wrote "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" the basis for the musical "Cats"?
5. First heard on the 5th January 1938, starring Arthur Askey and Richard Murdoch, what was radio's first regular comedy series?
6. Born on the 6th January 1934 which actress starred with John Mills and Anthony Quayle in the film "Ice Cold in Alex"?
7. Trevor Howard died on the 7th January 1988. Who played opposite him in the film "Brief Encounter"?
8. Born on the 8th January 1935, what was the middle name of Elvis Presley?
9. On the 9th January 1971 Clive Dunn celebrated his birthday by reaching number One in the UK pop charts. What was the name of his hit song?
10. Who invented the C5 electric trike, launched 10th January 1985?
11. Richmal Crompton, author of the "Just William" stories, died on the 11th January 1969. What was William's surname?
12. Singing cowboy Tex Ritter, born on the 12th January 1905, recorded the title song for which 1952 western film?
13. Author Michael Bond was born on the 13th January 1926. For which series of stories is he best known?
14. On the 14th January 1969 who announced his retirement as manager of Manchester United?
15. On the 15 January 1977 which US actor topped the UK charts with "Don't Give Up On Us"?
16. Born on the 16th January 1909 who was the original Annie Oakley in the Broadway musical "Annie Get Your Gun"?
17. The youngest Bronte sister was born on 17th January 1820. Who was she?
18. Born on the 18th January 1892 who was the screen partner of Arthur Stanley Jefferson?
19. Born on 19th January 1921 whose first book was "Strangers on a Train"?
20. Born on 20th January 1896 which veteran comedian won an Oscar for his role in "The Sunshine Boys"?

Answers on page 38

Albert Shaw

Parishes to be asked for a Share rise of 1.75%

Synod Members agreed to the proposed Budget for 2015 after a lively debate and a series of questions from the floor. Parishes will be asked to increase their Parish Share contributions –which pay for clergy stipends, housing and pensions – by a less than inflation amount of 1.75%. The Diocesan Board of Finance, led by acting Chair, Bishop Tom Butler, also recommended a pay rise of 2% for clergy in keeping with national stipend levels.

Bishop Butler said that there was a projected shortfall for 2015 of £770,000 - but that that figure was based on a 100% Share collection rate. A more realistic expectation of 90% would result in an added shortfall of £1.5million. “These shortfalls,” he said, “can be covered from healthy reserves. But the simple truth is that the diocese is living beyond its means and a radical re-examination of the way we raise money to fund our ministry must be given the highest priority in 2015.”

Transition costs and other factors in 2015 are also estimated to be £1.2 million though Bishop Butler said that savings could be made if the programme was re-examined. He added, “We have argued strongly with the Church Commissioners that it is unreasonable to expect a new diocese to bear all the transitional costs and we are confident that some £1 million might be forthcoming from the Commissioners during 2015 which would help reduce the cost on the diocese. But we couldn’t include this ‘speculative’ figure in the budget.”

Finally two retired bishops were welcomed as Honorary Assistant Bishops in the new diocese – the Rt Revd Clive Handford had been an Assistant Bishop in Ripon and Leeds diocese. The Rt. Revd David Hawkins who was the Bishop of Barking until his retirement, was also welcomed. Before moving to the Diocese of Chelmsford, David Hawkins was Rector of St George’s Church in Leeds City Centre.

Diary for January and early February 2015,

Sun 11th	10.30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion
Mon 12th	11.45am	First Steps Toddler service – Parish Centre 'Henry searches for treasure'
	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Parish Centre
Tues 13th	7.30pm	'Beyond Ourselves' group – exploring faith today. Session 1 see article
Wed 14th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) – Vicarage
Thurs 15th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 18th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	6.00pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at West Ardsley Methodist Church – Amanda to preach
Mon 19th	2pm	Mothers' Union meeting – Parish Centre
Tues 20th	7.30pm	'Beyond Ourselves' group – Session 2.
Wed 21st	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) – Vicarage
Sun 25th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
Tues 27th	7.30pm	'Beyond Ourselves' group – Session 3
Wed 28th	10am	Morning Praise (followed by refreshments) – Vicarage

FEBRUARY 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
	7:00pm	Quiz Night with supper – see article on P
Sun 8th	10.30am	All-Age Worship
	12 noon	Holy Communion

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

Baptisms:-

In December we welcomed 4 new members to our church in Baptism;

Nico Rowley-Cooper, Son of Leigh and Abigail from Tingley.
Albie Steve and Finley Stephen Day, Sons of Stephen and Jacqueline from Tingley.

And:

Ella May Stuckey , Daughter of Thomas and Charlotte from Tingley.

Funeral:-

John Taylor, from Tingley, sadly missed by his Wife Pat, family and friends.

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Top of the Pops. 2. Dick Emery. 3. D.I. Jack Regan. 4. T.S. Eliot. 5. Band Wagon. 6. Sylvia Syms. 7. Celia Johnson. 8. Aaron. 9. Grandad. 10. Clive Sinclair. 11. Brown. 12. High Noon. 13. Paddington Bear. 14. Matt Busby. 15. David Soul. 16. Ethel Merman. 17. Anne Bronte. 18. Oliver Hardy. 19. Patricia Highsmith. 20. George Burns.

Albert.

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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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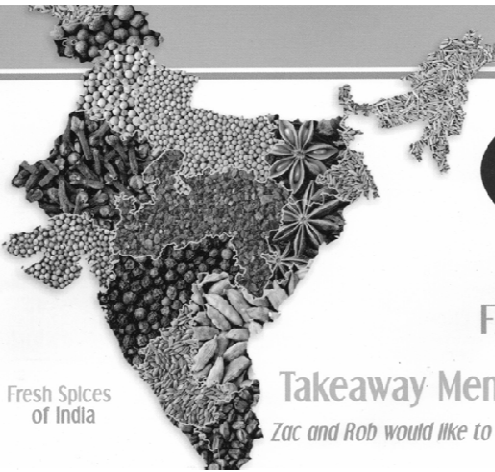
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What's on

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