

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Mother's Day

March 2015



This Month:

The Road to Easter; The Belt of Truth; What to do with a Church? Who to help in 2015; A Chorister's Tale; Heavy Metal in Church.

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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Elizabeth Aveyard, Derek Barraclough, Brian Gledhill, Julie Hyde, Gill Mahoney,
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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.

In need of refreshment?

As the Easter season draws close, many of us begin to plan for trips away which the long winter months and adverse weather conditions have delayed. For many, Easter marks the transition between living in 'winter mode' and 'summer mode'. The wardrobe changes, and the way we live changes as the weather improves. We're out and about again!

Many of us, embarking on a long journey, work out an approximate half-way point, and plan to stop there for a break. It might be a short spell in a motorway service station, a picnic in a layby, a meal at a local hostelry. Or, for a more long-haul journey, you might spend a day or two en route in a hotel or with friends or relatives who you don't get to see much. Journeys can be tiring, and demand much of you. As the motorway sign says, "Tiredness can kill. Take a break!"

Throughout the 31 days of March, the church is journeying – part of the path through Lent, when we walk with Jesus the journey towards Jerusalem and the cross. It's an arduous journey, and one which demands much of us. But at the very centre of the month comes our half-way point. 15th March. It tends to be known as Mothering Sunday, a day of flowers and celebrations, family reunions and time spent together. But it is also known as Refreshment Sunday – the austerity and self-imposed denial of Lent put to one side, and we allow ourselves to be refreshed and re-energised. That way we have the resources to get through the remainder of the journey.

My problem tends to be that I struggle to allow myself to relax and absorb that refreshment. When I stop for a break part way through a journey, I make it quick. A quick drink, a sandwich, a trip to the toilet, and off. I'm chomping at the bit to get back in the seat, and driving again. I know how hard it is to absorb the refreshment until I've reached the journey's end. The problem is, that once I've reached the destination point, I'm too exhausted to benefit from it for a while.

So, I'm determined to learn to pace myself on the journey through Lent this year. To allow myself to receive the gift of refreshment that God offers at the time when it is given. That way, the destination point of the Easter story can be embraced more fully and with less exhaustion. God does not want us to 'soldier on', weary and worn down, refusing his generous gift of refreshment along the path.

In a world where life's pace is demanding, gruelling at times, the need of a Refreshment Sunday is more vital than ever. It's not just about mothers, it's about all of us. So don't just give mums a break – allow yourself a break too.

Why not make a time to step aside from the rush and dash of life and come along to share the journey with us, whether on Refreshment Sunday, 15th March, or at some other point. The end of the journey, Easter Sunday, is a wonderful time to celebrate new life together. And this year we'll be able to do that in a church building which has signs of new life in the work which, by then, should have been completed. Come along and enjoy it with us!

May God bless you as you anticipate the joy of Easter.

Revd. Amanda

Building for the Future.

In theory, by the time this magazine lands in your hands, the building work should be complete! The long-awaited vision of community facilities – toilets, kitchenette, flexible social space, will be something we can at last enjoy, and invite others to enjoy.

It would be easy to revel in the new amenities and forget that they are there not simply for the benefit of the regular congregation but for the wider community. The only way it has been possible to secure the money from grant funders to realise the vision is by recognising the need for this wonderful building to be used for the benefit of others. It deserves to be used for more than just a few hours a week on Sundays, and for other occasional services, wedding and funerals.

A more flexible space can be used by a wider variety of people for a wider variety of activities. This allows St. Mary's to become the multi-purpose space it would have been centuries ago, when all manner of life would be found in its grounds and buildings.

If you know of a community group in need of a space for whom the community space at the back of church would be appropriate, let them know! If you've been thinking about starting a club, but need affordable premises, let us know! If you have fresh ideas for using the space during the week, it would be great to discuss it. You would struggle to find a more beautiful, ancient and inspiring meeting place for crafts, art, book clubs, coffee mornings, or a whole host of other uses for miles around.

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 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.

Revd. Amanda

Using Our Church...

Here are a couple of ways other Churches have made use of their space and helped the community at the same time...

Community café celebrates three successful years

Seacroft parish is celebrating the third birthday of their community café - which was set up to open up the church space to the local community.

Team Vicar, Revd Fiona Harrison-Smith, says, "We were aware of many isolated and struggling people and wanted to offer a safe space for them to come on their own - or to meet friends - in a warm and welcoming environment.

"The café offers good food at very low cost with lots of extras and freebies, but most of all we're an open space for anyone to use. We want to show that church belongs to everyone and dispel any notion that we're a club. We've also worked closely with the Kentmere Children's Centre next door to ensure that the café is welcoming to families and young children.

"After three years the café has really taken root and we now also link in to the weekly food bank outlet which is based in St Richard's crypt."

Seacroft Team Rector, Mike Benwell, said, "The café's becoming a hub for the whole community, which is particularly important in Seacroft as there aren't many places where people can meet in an informal way."

Mike Bradley, a new regular at the café, said, "I come here because there are people here. I often get depressed and made the decision to surround myself with people, as they lift my adrenalin! Café volunteer, Lis Bowes, says, "It's a buzzing place and a popular meeting point. And we've found that working together on this project has united us as churches across the parish."

St Stephen's Church, West Bowling, Bradford.

St Stephen's is a constant hub of activity in this Muslim majority area, particularly because of their Shine Project.

Each week they provide a CAP Job Club and access to computers for local people to look for employment. Sarah Hinton, St Stephen's Community Engagement Co-ordinator, says, "Many in this area don't have a computer or IT skills (which they now need to access Universal Credit), so these sessions provide support and training in a friendly environment."

And St Stephen's is the first church in Bradford to become a centre for Bradford Credit Union. Sarah says, "We wanted to respond to the problems and suffering caused by debt and loan sharks, so now people can come into St Stephen's and sign up to become Credit Union members".

Shine has also started a gardening project, which includes growing vegetables, and some of the wellbeing activities, including a knitting group, are attended by a local group of Gurkhas. Sarah says, "Many aren't aware of the Gurkhas who've lived in Bradford for a long time; we're delighted that this church is one of the few places that they feel comfortable coming."

Vicar, Jimmy Hinton, adds, "As the church of Christ in an area of diversity and need we want to see God's kingdom grow. For us that means building bridges, serving the poor, coming alongside people in their need - from whatever background, faith and culture. The Shine project is the vehicle through which we do this with other partners who share the same vision for our neighbours."

A Message from Pat Wass.

To my Church Family.

Thank you all so much for your wonderful love and support following Dave's death.

To be encircled by your care and concern made such a difference. Also for being there to celebrate David's life and to say goodbye. More than that, I want to thank you for your earlier support, especially as David's illness progressed.

I know that Dave was reassured that I would not be alone when the time came.

At the moment I am in a rather dark sad place. One, I know that some of you have already passed through, but, I believe, with the love and support of you all I will emerge to a brighter place.

So once again thank you all.

I thought you might be interested to know that the donations in lieu of flowers came to £225 which has gone to Myositis UK towards research.

God bless Pat.

Eggs-trordinary



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St. Mary's supports Bethany House

Following our appeal to discover which charity you would like St. Mary's to support during 2015, we were encouraged to consider Bethany House. As a local charity, dependent on local funding, we felt it fulfilled one of the important criteria the PCC had. Furthermore, as a Christian charity seeking to offer support to those in need of some 'TLC' it is an organisation we should be supporting. What's more, I have watched the dream of Bethany House turn into reality as Revd. Hazel Walker, who first had the vision, is a close friend of mine.

Many of you will know Revd. Hazel Walker, who regularly conducts services in my absence. Hazel and I have known one another since we began training together for ordination in 1997, and our friendship, forged in those 3 years of training, has remained strong since. Hazel is a skilled psychotherapist and continues to offer counselling and support to vulnerable people. She has now retired from work, but remains very active in working at Bethany House.

For as long as I have known Hazel she had a vision of a Healing Centre in Wakefield Diocese – a place of tranquillity and retreat where wounded souls can find support, peace and prayer. She has continued to believe God would bring this about, and has worked and prayed tirelessly for that vision to become a reality. That vision for what she called 'Bethany' grew. (Bethany, in the Bible, was a place where Jesus himself would rest at the home of Mary and Martha, and find solace when visiting Jerusalem, so it seems an appropriate name.)

For years, Bethany has travelled to church halls around the diocese, offering days of TLC, support and peace. But now at last they have a home of their own. The former Vicarage at Chickenley was offered to Bethany House as its base, and a team working with Hazel to offer a centre where people can come for support, listening and prayerful care. There is a housekeeper on site, and an open door of welcome. There are a variety of groups which meet there as support groups as well as one to one listening being offered. A range of different therapies are available, and crafting groups meet to chat and find satisfaction in being creative.

We believe this is a great charity for us to support. 1% of all the unrestricted giving we receive over the year will be donated to this cause. It is hoped that Hazel will be able to come and share in a service at some point over the coming months. That way, she can share her vision for Bethany and how God has provided, time after time, for the vision to become a reality.

Revd. Amanda

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words.

All Age Service 8th Feb 15

Before you could blink, Revd. Amanda started this month's All Age with a test. Could we, she asked, identify the Mister Men in the pictures? (Brian supplied some lurid green pictures of various Mr. Men). To be fair, some were better at this than others, but everyone seemed to know Little Miss Sunshine, Mr. Tickle and Mr. Grumpy - and you can draw your own conclusions from that.

But, continued Revd. Amanda, if you had to write down three words to describe yourself – what would they be? Whilst we pondered this troublesome question, quick as a flash we were invited to write down the results of this deep thought process. Obviously, I am too modest to tell you mine (!), but a few of the answers were - Happy, Kind, Tall and even Bossy, although the 'Tidy' claim was hotly disputed at the time. Still, three words were a tough ask and another 997 may have helped (although not in all cases).

What might our resident puppets Charlie and Alice make of all this, you may be wondering (well if you've got this far you might as well go with it):-

'Can you describe something you can't see?' - kicked off Alice, already setting the bar high for Charlie.

'Like what?' Charlie went defensive from the off, with previous experience telling him to be wary of tricky questions.

'What about me – in three words?' Went on Alice, ignoring the fact that Charlie could see her.

Just before the silence became intolerable, Charlie at last spoke up.

'Pretty, clever and LOUD!' he declared, satisfied.

'I'm not LOUD!' exclaimed Alice loudly.

'Er no – course not!' agreed Charlie, but we knew just what he meant.

Charlie, obviously buoyed by this small victory, then decided – for reasons only he could know, to put his head in the Lion's mouth:

'OK, describe me in three words!' he exclaimed, with far more optimism than we could imagine.

'Daft, silly and stupid!' Alice plunged in the knife, but then:

'Only joking!' she declared, convincing Charlie if not us.

Whilst Charlie wrestled with this, Alice thought again:

'OK then, describe God.'

‘Big, powerful, everywhere,’ responded Charlie with remarkable speed.

‘It’s still difficult to know what he is really like’, pondered Alice, ‘so God sent Jesus so that we could really see’, she explained. Charlie thought for a moment.

‘Got it now.’ He declared, happily.

‘Anyway, you’re still silly,’ Alice went back to the theme.

‘Well, you’re still LOUD!’

‘I’M NOT LOUD.’ Declared Alice, proving a point.

With Charlie’s efforts at describing God still fresh in our minds, we had a go ourselves – here’s the result of the combined wisdom of all of us:

Cute (a little Girl said it, but she could well be right); Wonderful; Fair; Inclusive; Forgiving; Almighty; Kind & Caring; Loving; Just; Wise and finally (and you can thank Seasonal Sandra for this): Omnipotent (no, me neither).

Lots of words, Revd. Amanda observed. A Great Big God, you might say. Amazingly, the next Hymn was entitled: Our God is a Great Big God:-

*Our God is a Great Big God, and he holds us in his hand!
He’s higher than a skyscraper, and deeper than a Submarine.
He’s wider than the Universe and beyond my wildest dreams!
And he’s known me and he’s loved me, since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part, of God’s amazing plan!*

What does it mean, asked Revd. Amanda – A Picture Paints a Thousand Words? We put 14 words on the board earlier (even including *omnipotent*), but do we still need another 986 to describe God?

How many of your own three words describe both you and God? Could you describe a friend well enough to be recognised by a stranger? How many words would you need?

Jesus is the picture that paints a thousand words about God. Jesus helps us to recognise God, but also to recognise God in others too. If you want some help in recognising God – come to an All Age Service, and get the picture.

David.

Are You Being Served...

Appointing the right leaders.

On 19th April we will be holding our Annual Meeting as a church, at which we appoint our churchwardens, and others to office as PCC members.

It is an important time of transition for St. Mary's. We have worked to deliver the re-development of the back of the church, and have some wonderful facilities which exist not just for the benefit of those attending services. Having spent much time working towards this, we now need to move on to the next chapter in the life of St. Mary's, and discern a clear vision for using the space wisely and well. That will need a group of folk at the helm who have a strong sense of where we are heading as a church, and who are working together to realise that.

It is therefore vital that individuals are nominated to the Church Council who represent the views of the wider congregation, and can express them accurately. But there's more to it than that. The PCC are not there to oversee drains and buildings, but to assist in growing the spiritual life of the church, its mission, vision and community involvement. All these aspects of the life of the church will form part of the agendas we will tackle over the next 12 months, as indeed will issues being faced by the wider church – e.g. the changes involved in the transition to the new diocese, and wider changes in the church nationally. We also decide the little things that can make so much difference to the ministry of the church. Some members of the Council are busy people with full-time jobs, others have more free time to give the church – each brings what they have, both in terms of times and skills. Without the generous giving of those skills and that time, St. Mary's could not continue to minister effectively in our community.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month from 7.30-9.30pm, and after a boost of caffeine we're raring to go on some lively matters for discussion.

This year, we will have 6 vacancies to be filled, as well as 1 Deanery Synod vacancy. Of those whose term of office is coming to an end. If you are on the electoral roll of the church (renewed between 22nd March and 5th April) and are a communicant member, you are entitled to apply to join us. You will need someone to nominate and second you, and add your name on the sheet in the porch from 5th April. If you're not sure it's for you, but you can identify someone who has something to offer, why not ask them to consider representing your views to the wider body of the church?

If you need any further details, why not ask Amanda, one of the wardens, or indeed a PCC member? And, if you feel you need to attend a meeting as an observer before making that commitment, just speak to Amanda – it can be arranged. We'll be on our best behaviour and we'll even save you a chocolate biscuit. Oh, dear – maybe not – it is Lent, after all!

Revd. Amanda



Church Celebrates the First Woman Bishop.

Dr Sentamu said that the consecration of the Revd Libby Lane put her in a long line of women who had borne witness to Jesus Christ, dating back to St Mary Magdalene; but the service was not about Ms Lane, he said; it was, instead, "all about Jesus". In the sermon, the Archdeacon of York, the Ven. Sarah Bullock, described God as the "midwife" who was bringing "into life a new stage of ministry".

She had been struck by a line in the Christmas edition of the BBC TV drama *Call The Midwife*, in which one of the characters, Cynthia, was struggling with God's call in her life. "I don't understand this," Cynthia said. "Why does he want me? I have nothing to offer - so little to sacrifice in response to his love." Archdeacon Bullock said that the character went on to realise that "when we offer ourselves to the living God, with all our failings, God blesses the offering." And there was no pecking order with God: whether it came from bishops or lay people, "God blesses the offering."

When the consecration was about to take place, Dr Sentamu asked the congregation: "Is it now your will that Libby Lane should be ordained?" A voice, later identified as that of the Revd Paul Williamson, Rector of St George's, Hanworth, a long-standing campaigner against the ordination of women, shouted "No!"

In response, Dr Sentamu read a prepared statement that explained the legal processes that made the consecration lawful; and he reminded the congregation that at the beginning of the service the principal registrar of the province, Lionel Lennox, had read the Queen's mandate for the consecration. "There is no impediment in law in me obeying Her Majesty's command," Dr Sentamu said. He repeated his question, and the congregation, twice as loud as before, replied "It is."

"I'm really pleased that there was a voice of dissent," the Revd Kate Bottley, Vicar of Blyth and Scrooby with Ranskill, said after the service. "But even more pleased that there were more than 2000 who shouted that the consecration was our will." The Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, said that the service was "not the end of the journey for the Church of England, but a milestone on the way".

The Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, said that it was "a really very significant and symbolic day for the Church of England".

The Belt of Truth. Ephesians 6:14.

Derek Barraclough follows on from the first part of this series regarding the Armour of God.

We now begin to examine the individual pieces of equipment that are listed in Ephesians 6:10-18. Verse 14 says this:- “Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist” (New Revised Standard Version). Some may be more familiar with the Revised Standard Version:- “Gird Your Loins”.

The first piece of armour that St Paul mentions is the Belt of Truth, but why is truth like a belt? And why when talking about armour start with the belt and not the sword or breastplate?

This item was usually made of leather, it went around the soldier's waist, according to John Stott it was more akin to his underwear than his armour. Yet it was essential, it held his tunic in, his sword and other equipment would hang from it and the breastplate would be attached to it, it all linked together. It would have helped to march and fight unimpeded by his tunic flapping about. In modern uniform it would have held up your trousers. Once fastened it would give him a sense of hidden strength and confidence. Also, to look at Roman armour, you would see that strips of leather hung from it, to protect the lower part of the body.

If we look at John 17:17 Jesus gives a clear definition of truth, God's word, the Bible, was given by inspiration by God. "Your word is truth" here it says, acknowledging that the word of God, the Bible, is true.

Those familiar with the musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar' may call to mind the line where Pilate replies to Jesus regarding truth "We all have truths, but are yours the same as mine?" But for Jesus, it is God's word that is true. This truth that Paul speaks of is the only truth that can stand against the devil's lies. As believers and followers of Christ it is the most basic essential that we are true. True to Jesus, true to the Gospel, true to each other. This telling the truth is what we are charged to do in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:16). 'You shall not bear false witness'. If we are truthful in all our dealings, we shall be distinct from many areas of society, business, finance, newspapers, politicians and the list continues.

If we lapse into telling lies then we fall into the Devil's game and we cannot beat him at his own game, therefore we need to defeat him using the rules of God's game. That means that we tell the truth

always and conduct ourselves honestly.

Paul wrote to the Roman church “Do not be conformed to this world” Romans 12:2. We are to remain honest and transparent in our everyday lives. Through this lifestyle others may be drawn to seek out the reason why we live this way, and we can point them to Christ. For the belt to do its job it has to be worn properly. Failure in the belt department could mean the loss of your trousers or worse.
Next time: The Breastplate of Righteousness.

Derek





Buy a Mothering Sunday gift and help transform a life.

By giving a Make a Mother's Day ethical gift this Mothering Sunday you will support the running of Mothers' Union projects that equip people to create better lives for themselves and their families; empowering communities to take control of their situation for themselves and ensuring our work is effective and sustainable. Mothers' Union's 4 million members around the world believe that families are central to community life and act to help them thrive.

We don't simply give out handouts.

We aim to inspire our beneficiaries: teaching them vital skills such as literacy or improved agricultural techniques, and encouraging them to work together as a community to identify their specific needs, support each other to overcome them and build a better life for generations to come. We do this by training nominated people in these communities as facilitators, equipping them to pass on vital skills to others in a way that ensures lasting solutions for that community.

We campaign for a better life for people who don't have a voice and give relief to communities that find themselves in serious need due to natural disaster and war. With your help we hope to raise over £180,000 in 2015 for vital projects in the UK and around the world.

Four easy steps to Make a Mother's Day

Step 1 Visit the Mother's Union Website and choose a gift. You can choose more than one gift and buy the same gift more than once.

Step 2 Visit the 'View Basket' page to see the gifts you have chosen. Please tick the Gift Aid box if you are a UK tax payer so your gift will be worth 25% more.

Step 3 We will then send you a Mothering Sunday card. (unless you request 'no card').

Step 4 You give the card to your mother.

Alternatively you can give a gift in memory of your mother, as a tribute to a life-time of caring. If you would like your mother's name to be placed in a remembrance book in the Mothers' Union Chapel please add her name when prompted.

A Letter from Ipswich...

Art Lindon, a former Woodkirk Choirboy, sends us this marvellous letter from the South...

It's been suggested to me, as I'm an old choirboy and cricketer for Woodkirk Parish Church, that I should talk about where I have ended up now at 68 years old.

I was in the choir with Joseph Auty, Roger Auty, Frank Holmes and Arnold Rhodes the cricket teacher. We had some good times! 20 choir boys and 8 in the Men's Choir - hardly heard of these days!

As a 14 year old, I was the Yorkshire schoolboy champion for the mile at 4 minutes 8 seconds. The world record was the 4 minutes mile!!

I served my time as a bound apprentice decorator at an excellent firm in Headingley, Leeds - Peter Page Limited and went through my training at Leeds College of Art, gaining my City & Guilds certificates and Higher National Diploma, plus a degree in Construction.

At this time I also played saxophone, flute, conga drums and Hammond organ in many R&B and soul bands including Georgie Fame & The Blue Flames, Chris Farlowe, Zoot Money's Big Roll Band and Cliff Bennett & The Rebel Rousers to name a few.

As a semi-professional player most Saturday nights, I played at the New White Bear and they loved it. I played two-three saxes at the same time as my hero Roland Kirk did.

I can also be credited (or blamed) for decorating many B&Q's, Comets, Morrisons, Asda Supermarkets and even Harewood House and Nostel Priory - quality work may I say!

I had a paint warehouse in Wakefield, selling to the trade and public until Wakefield City Council decided to knock the buildings down, and that was the end of that!

It was suggested to me, as I had a 10 acre smallholding, that I should get some sheep to keep the grass down. Therefore being

religious, I bought a dozen 'Jacob' ewes, very pretty, but not very commercial to breed! I then went into partnership with a guy in Wetherby and collectively owned 2,500 breeding ewes – a lot of noise at Easter, our lambing time!!

This is when my problems started, 3 heart attacks, diabetes etc etc. The Government will not admit to it, but I am a victim of Organophosphate Poisoning (OPP) from dipping sheep in 1980/90's. We had to dip sheep by Law twice a year. If you have CJD (Mad Cow disease in humans) you get compensation. There were approximately 6,000 victims of OPP's and I'm one of maybe 500 left. I hope no-one else has to suffer like I have!

My last work task was to be Lecturer in Charge at Doncaster College for the deaf for Construction. Funny, as it might seem, when I was confirmed many many years ago, the subject of our confirmation was praying for the deaf and dumb!!

Anyway from a true Tingley lad now living in Ipswich, if any of my old friends or colleagues wish to contact me I'm on 07870 988056.

Art Lindon

Many thanks to Art for taking the time to write to us about his life and times. We wish him well and hope the health problems are not too debilitating. Editor.

Candlemas Rock Mass was Amazing!

On Saturday 7 February, Wakefield Cathedral held the first diocesan Rock Mass for the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. People of all ages from children to those in their 80s were welcomed in for this special, joyful Eucharist service for Candlemas, presided over by the Rt Revd Tony Robinson. Live, **loud** rock music was provided by Christian band Metanoia.

The service included spectacular lighting, big screens and 'smoke' effects, with hymns inspired by the music of popular bands such as U2 and Metallica. The congregation waved glow sticks, danced, and gathered together to share their own individual prayers for our World and for each other, using chalk on a special mat running the length of Cathedral nave.

A Celebration of Marriage

On a cool February afternoon, we came together to celebrate the gift of marriage past, present and future.

Couples from all the matrimonial states arrived in number to hear and see a perspective that had either passed or was yet to come.

Paul Scire and Gemma Hornby are planning to marry at St. Mary's in May. After reading from the book of Ruth, this was their prayer:-

My Promise.

I promise to give you the best of myself
and to ask no more of you than you can give.

I promise to respect you as your own person
and to realise that your interests, desires and needs
are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and attention,
and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.

I promise to share with you
my innermost fears, feelings and dreams.

I will grow strong with you, and be willing to change
to keep our relationship alive and exciting.

I promise to love you through good times and bad,
with all that I have to give, and all that I feel inside
in the only way I know, completely and forever.

Gareth and Laura Twohey have been married for 2 years. They read from the first letter of John. This was their prayer:-

The Art of Marriage.

A good marriage must be created.

In a marriage, the little things are the big things.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person.

It is being the right partner.

Julie and Ralph Hyde have a family - Grace (17), Sam (15) and Eve (12). After reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians, this was their prayer:-

The Joy of Children. *By Renee Bartkowsli*

Children are often a challenge to our patience and understanding.
They're a demanding and awesome responsibility.
But oh Lord, what joy, what wonder, what richness they add to our lives!
We thank you, Lord, for all the pleasures they bring –
For the feel of a new-born baby nestling in our arms,
For the smile of a toddler responding to our love,
For small outstretched arms reaching for a hug,
And tiny upturned faces planting wet kisses on our cheeks.
We thank you for toys on floors and balls on lawns,
For happy, healthy children playing in the garden;
For bruises to kiss, school reports to praise,
And drawings to display on fridge doors.
We thank you, Lord, for bouquets of yellow dandelions
held up by tiny, mud-caked hands,
for shouts of victory voiced by breathless jubilant young football players,
for tousled heads resting peacefully on pillows in the quiet of the night.
We thank you for the excitement of a daughter preparing for her first date;
For the exultation of a teenager learning to drive a car.
What priceless joys, what rich memories you give us, Lord...
To store up in the attic of our memories.

Philip and Nancy Stephenson have been married for 56 years. They read from the New Testament, from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:-

If I speak in human or angelic tongues, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, then I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have no love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

This was their prayer:-

In marriage, couples sustain each other; heal each other, and help each other to grow, reflecting each day the sustaining love of God the Father, the healing love of God the Son, and the life-giving love of the Holy Spirit. Marriage is a permanent commitment to reconciling love.

(A reading adapted from the work of Dr. Jack Dominian).

Finally Barbara Tate, who lost her husband, Hubert, 6 years ago, gave us her insight:-

When someone dies, a part of the one left behind goes with him or her. Losing a loved one is like having a limb amputated.

Acknowledging and accepting this reality is a doorway.

Beyond lies a new life.

We may gain new understanding of God's will and purposes for us.

We may begin to appreciate in a new way how much God loves and cares for us.

But, we ought to guard against hasty, compulsive actions.

When someone dies or is dying, in the heat of our emotions, we may be tempted to make a vow, saying we will do this or that.

No, the decisions God seeks are better made in prayer and reflection and, in the case of grief, after the grief work is nearly completed.

Taken from 'Living Through Grief' by Harold Bauman.

After the Service we enjoyed some sparkling wine and wedding cake, served by Revd. Amanda.

Very tasty.



David

The Church in Pictures

The re-ordering work continues apace....



An almost complete curved Pew.



The curvature can really be seen here.



The kitchen is nearing completion too.

Brian's Humour Page

To Absent Brothers

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finished all three, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender says to him, 'You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; it would taste better if you bought one at a time.' The Irishman replies, 'Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days we all drank together. 'The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks the same way: he orders three pints and drinks the three pints by taking drinks from each of them in turn. One day, he comes in and orders two pints. All the other regulars in the bar notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, 'I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss.' The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then a light dawns in his eye and he laughs. 'Oh, no, ' he says, 'Everyone is fine. I've just quit drinking!

Brian

Saturday 14th March 2015
Fair Trade Coffee Morning
10.30 am to 12 noon



Once again we are holding a Fair Trade Coffee Morning at St Mary's, celebrating 20 years of Fair Trade and also to try and raise some money to enable us to purchase some 'must have' gifts too.

Last year you responded fantastically, as you always so kindly do, and you helped to raise the fantastic sum of £138 which we wanted to enable us to send a cow to Africa.

This time I've had a look at the World Vision catalogue and there are so many great gifts we could purchase which would bring relief or help to many people, so I think I'll wait and see what to get depending on how much we raise. Just to give you some ideas we could go for equipment like water filters or perhaps bees and bunnies? There really are all sorts of things.

This year however, we also have an added bonus, the coffee morning will be held in the newly redeveloped area in Church so if you can come along not only will you be able to help raise money to purchase vital gift items for disadvantaged people around the world, but you will also have a chance to see how lovely our new facilities look. (Please note if there are any last minute hitches and things are not quite ready, we will be in the parish centre).

I do hope you will be able to come along on the 14th March for a cup of fair trade tea or coffee and some homemade goodies. There will also be a Fair trade stall selling all your fair trade favourites; Stem Ginger Cookies, chocolate bars etc. and a raffle for a hamper of fair trade goodies.

I look forward to seeing you there.
Many thanks.

Dawn Tattersfield

Lord have mercy on our misery.

The language of our liturgy has implications for our mental health, suggests Revd. Eva McIntyre

Church groups around the country provide support and empowerment for people who live with mental illness. Conferences, drop-in centres, worship provision, and all manner of other activities show that Christians care about the daily reality of living with mental illness - indeed, many of us have lived experience of mental illness ourselves.

OUR liturgy, however, is at odds with this good practice. The recurrent themes of unworthiness and sinfulness which run through many Common Worship texts are, for those living with mental illness, like tree roots in a dark forest, waiting to catch your foot and send you crashing to the ground in pain.

The House of Bishops recently told the General Synod that "our liturgy must contain our doctrine." A central claim of Christian doctrine is that we have been forgiven; that we are God's children, saved by grace. It follows that we shouldn't indulge a sense of our own unworthiness, but rather live as beloved children.

Yet our liturgy actually reflects both our human tendency towards low self-esteem, and the comfort with which we cling on to the sense of our wretchedness and inadequacy. After all, being wonderful, loved, and potent is far more frightening.

MANY churches will begin their worship with a confession that implies, or explicitly states, that we are wretched and wicked. I have a particular dislike of the claim, in one Common Worship confession, that "we are not worthy to be called your children." This is a reference to the parable of the Prodigal Son, although in that story the words are never spoken aloud, because the father rushes out to embrace his son. The sentence was only the judgement that the son anticipated in his mind, before he actually returned to his father.

Its use in our liturgy encourages us to return each week to a place of self-chastisement; it makes no allowance for moving forward on our spiritual journey. I recall the words of a woman in my congregation: "I've

tried so hard all week, but the first thing I'm asked to do when I come to church is to tell God how awful I am!"

COMMON WORSHIP does also offer forms of confession which acknowledge human negligence, and harm done, both corporately and individually, without pandering to the tendency to wallow in our perceived impotence and wickedness. In particular, the form using the Kyrie, "Lord, have mercy," offers scope for creative and reflective self-examination.

The emotional roller-coaster ride may take an upward course with a good offertory hymn, only to plummet again with the Prayer of Humble Access: "We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs from under your table" - a misappropriation of words from the beautiful Gospel story where the Syro-Phoenician woman challenges Jesus over his suggestion that she might not be worthy to share the bread destined for the table of the Hebrews.

Then, before we can get to the queue for coffee, there's the post-communion prayer to navigate, where we may find such phrases as "he may not find us sleeping in sin."

IT WOULDN'T be too daunting a task to be more sensitive in our liturgy: careful choices from the wide selection of Common Worship texts could remove many of the stumbling-blocks. Introducing original material is permitted within the rubrics at certain points of the liturgy, such as the preface to the Eucharistic Prayer.

Taking time to unpack some of the language used during the service might help to divest it of the baggage we unwittingly attach to it. (If you don't have a say over the liturgy in your church, you could cut out this article and pass it on to those who have.)

A few simple steps could make the difference between someone going home with a sense of abject unworthiness, or secure in the knowledge that he or she is a beloved and powerful child of God. Now that really would be good news for our mental health.

The Revd Eva McIntyre is Co-ordinator of Mental Health Matters, which is part of the Committee for Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled People, a committee of the Archbishops' Council.

Prayerful Thought March 2015.

Well I can't believe it, we are in March already! And Lent come to that!

Lent, traditionally a time of 'giving up something' seems to have followed rather speedily on from New Year's Resolutions (if you made any!). Over the past few years I have neither made resolutions or given something up for Lent, but have tried to start the New Year with good intentions of changing a behaviour or attitude to something and have tried to start something during Lent, which happily has led to me joining in one of the Lent groups run by Amanda over the past couple of years.

Whilst I was thinking about giving something up the other day, I read an article in the paper about what we should and shouldn't eat, and I must confess I get heartily sick of it all. Last week/month/year you could drink red wine as it was good for you, but you must cut down on saturated fat as that is bad for you, this week/month/year, well now it seems wine isn't as good for you as they thought, and though limiting saturated fat is good, there were some reports that it maybe wasn't as bad as first thought!

Now please, please, do not take healthy eating tips from my article, it is just illustrating a point, but it did help me in deciding what to write to you about this month.

Firstly, if you read my February article you may remember that I was preparing a sermon which I was to present to my fellow lay reader students? It was when I was making some last minute changes about vines and bearing fruit that I started thinking about the healthy eating advice, eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day, and then the article about the conflicting advice on what we should and shouldn't eat reinforced my thoughts and clarified my thinking, so here goes...

I'm risking mixing a two bible passages here, hopefully it will make sense when you get to the end! My sermon was a reflection on John 15 1-8 which is the 'I am the vine you are the branches' passage and I had referred to the contemporary language version in 'The Message' particularly verses 1-3 which say "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

It was the bit about us already being pruned, ready for bearing fruit BECAUSE we have heard the message of Jesus. This had led me to think about how we might have been pruned, and suggest to you that Jesus has pruned us of the things that stop us bearing fruit, like selfishness, impatience and rudeness and they feel like really good things to prune, discard and get rid of don't they?

Now if these things have been taken away from us, and hoorah for

that, then does that mean we are able to now bear more good fruit for Jesus? This is where my healthy eating message comes in, and I'd like to set you a bit of a Lenten challenge, and do you know, it won't cost you lots more at the supermarket, it won't need some fancy fitness regime, and you definitely won't need any fancy fitness equipment.

Do you like the sound of that? Well read on...

Because we are pruned of those 'bad' fruits simply by hearing Jesus' message we can now be more fruitful, we are not weighed down with the negative, those things are gone, I don't know about you, but I feel better already! Hopefully you do too, because this is where I'm going to issue you with your challenge...

You may be good and manage to eat your 5 portions of fruit and vegetables every day, but that is not my challenge. NO, I would like to challenge you to try to SHARE some fruit every day, but I'm not talking about apples and oranges (although these are very nice). NO I'm talking about fruits of the Spirit which Paul talks about in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 5 v 22-23 where he talks about the fruits of the Spirit, which are; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

That sounds like good fruit to share with others, and it is something we can do just by being ourselves, no extra expense, no fancy fitness equipment, no punishing fitness regime.

It's 9 fruits in total, and whilst we may not be able to squeeze in all 9 every day, my challenge to you this Lent is; to see how many fruits of the Spirit you can share with your family, friends or anyone really, each day through Lent (It could be a total stranger, particularly if they've just done something silly and you are feeling a bit angry about it. Self control is a good one to think about then!),

The other good thing is that these fruits will never stop being good for you (or those around you) and let me tell you, you may not feel that these 9 fruits will help your heart health, but I can guarantee, that if you share any of them with someone else, then you will certainly have an impact on their heart health!

Lent is a time for reflection, a time for preparing ourselves for Easter, and what better way than to share these wonderful fruits of the Spirit with others, and if you are not very mobile at the moment, or not able to go out because of the weather, then if you can do nothing more, you can sharing them with God in prayer, asking him to spread these fruits of the Spirit all over the world, perhaps then a lot more people will benefit from our sharing too. So go on, get sharing your fruits with someone today, that's your challenge. Good luck!

Dawn



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

Beavers

On February 8th we had a wonderful evening at the Pantomime (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs also joined by the Ghostbusters) we were joined by Cubs, Scouts with some of their parents and Leaders.

It was one of the best Pantomimes we have seen - the children loved singing along with the Ghostbusters and Dame Dolly Doughnut (Steven Holt) was exceptional. The whole cast made it a night to remember.

Two of the Cubs even won a prize, James Newell and Thomas White, we all had a great time.

This month we also made pancakes which were very messy but fun. We are looking forward to the next few weeks when we have lots of badge work to complete and lots of fun things planned over the next few months.

We would just like to add it would be very nice to see more Beavers at Church Parade. This is always the second Sunday of the month and our numbers have been dwindling over the last 6 months. This is also our way of supporting the Church for all the help they give us as a Scouting Group.

Gail & Joanne.

Read more about All-Age Services on P16. Editor

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Things should be on the go now. Plenty to do in the potting shed (I should be so lucky!) pot up in the greenhouse or sit outside if it's warm enough. Oh! for a garden large enough for a greenhouse AND a potting shed! Here are some jobs to be getting on with this month. Sandra's Top Tip: Put grow bags and sacks/bags of compost in the greenhouse or conservatory, so they have time to warm up before being put to good use.

1. Try growing on plug plants in your greenhouse. They are a cheaper alternative to larger plants and there will be more of them!!
2. Plant some more onion sets and also some shallots.
3. Plant first early potatoes if it is mild and if your soil is workable.
4. Sow some sweet peas to grow alongside your runner beans.
5. Spring prune fruit trees like peaches and nectarines.
6. Cover prepared seedbeds with fleece, cloches or clear plastic sheeting to help warm up the soil in readiness for spring sowings.
7. Prepare trenches for planting soon. Celery requires good water retention and drainage so incorporate plenty of well rotted manure or compost.
8. Sow peas in guttering or old toilet roll holders at two week intervals.
9. Now is the time to make sowings of broad beans, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, spinach, leeks, herbs, basil, coriander, summer cabbage and cauliflower either in the coldframe or greenhouse.
10. Mice can be a problem at this time so place controls near crops in the ground, new sowings and near to any stored vegetables.



Sandra

Poetry Corner.

Back in 1965 Clifford Morehouse wrote this piece in the Parish magazine about his view of St. Mary's. 50 years on and you can compare and contrast. Then and now. I hope that Clifford and his family are amenable to a re-print in 2015.

A Layman Looks at his Parish

How does my Parish look to me, a churchman?

It is a poor, worldly thing, often concerned with petty matters; yet it is the doorway to the Great Church.

It is often hopelessly behind the times; yet it is the gateway to the future.

It is often torn by controversy; yet it holds the key to eternal harmony.

Its Minister is only human and often makes mistakes; yet he is the type and substance of the Great High Priest.

Its Altar is humble and plain; yet from it is dispensed the Bread of Life.

Its Choir sings but indifferently; yet through it sings the Choir of Angels and Archangels.

Its organisations are petty, and often seem to have little to do with religion; yet through them the organism that is Christ's Holy Body may function.

Its preaching is often pedestrian, even dull; yet through its pulpit the Word of God speaks to His children.

Its Sunday School is noisy, and the teachers are not well trained; yet through them a new generation is learning to carry on the faith.

It seems to have little influence on the community; yet without it, the community would be a poor place to live in.

Its budget is small, and hard to balance; yet within it is to be found the Great Treasure.

Its missionary flame burns low; yet through it men are sent forth to preach the Gospel to all nations.

It is full of sinners like me; yet it is the Mother of saints.

My Parish may seem weak, inefficient, inadequate and worldly; yet it is my link with the Great Reality. It is the very means whereby God comes down to earth and dwells among his people.

Clifford Morehouse
July 1965.

Albert's 'United States Capitals Quiz.

Atlas Alert! Each answer contains the name of the United States Capital Cities.

E.g. TheStrangler - a 1968 Tony Curtis Film. Answer: Boston.

1. Sounds like the surname of a famous English female novelist.
2. Host City of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.
3. This city and the state both begin with girl's names.
4. Annual venue of the US Masters Golf tournament.
5. This city shares its name with a duke in 'King Lear'.
6. Otto, former Prussian Prime Minister and chancellor of a Unified Germany.
7. Is this what the French would call a ripe stick of Rhubarb?
8. This sounds like a plural that might follow 'ball', 'barrow', 'old' or 'school'.
9. City that sounds like the surname of Frank, an old Irish comedian.
10. A lively 20th century North American dance that started a craze.
11. This North American Indian tribe sounds like a coy young lady.
12. An American film and Gramophone record company?
13. Christopher, a famous 15th century explorer.
14. A tailless, supersonic, delta winged airliner.
15. American singer John who had a 1974 hit with 'Annie's song'.
16. Where you might find white cliffs and sole.
17. Pre-Euro currency and a castle?
18. A Mythical Bird.
19. A small boulder
20. The home of Homer Simpson.
21. An assassinated American president.
22. An English explorer during the reign of Elizabeth 1
23. Stage and film musical city.
24. A Frenchman
25. A square Garden in New York.

Diary for March and early April 2015,

Sun 1st	8am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Tues 3rd	2.00-3.30pm	Life Source Lent Group at Vicarage – Session 2.
	7.30-9.00pm	Life Source Lent Group at 12 Woollin Crescent
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.
Fri 6th	7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service.
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.
Tues 10th	2.00-3.30pm	Life Source Lent Group at Vicarage – Session 3
	7.30-9.00pm	Life Source Lent Group at 12 Woollin Crescent
Wed 11th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (Iona setting) followed by refreshments (as above)
Sun 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday
Tues 17th	2.00-3.30pm	Life Source Lent Group at Vicarage – Session 4.
	7.30-9.00pm	Life Source Lent Group at 12 Woollin Crescent
Wed 18th	9.15am	Church open for prayer
	10am	Holy Communion (1662 setting) followed by refreshments.
		Service to be conducted by Revd. Glenn Coggins
Thurs 19th	11am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
PASSIONTIDE BEGINS		
ELECTORAL ROLLS OPENS (see article)		
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		Service to be conducted by Revd. Glenn Coggins
Tues 24th	2.00-3.30pm	Life Source Lent Group at Vicarage – Session 5.
	7.30-9.00pm	Life Source Lent Group at 12 Woollin Crescent
Wed 25th	10am	Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments
Sat 28th	10am-1pm	Eggs- trordinary Activity Morning (see article)

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

**Sun 29th 10.30am All-Age Palm Sunday Communion
with baptism**

Mon 30th 7pm Compline – short reflective service

Tues 31st 9.45am Hill Top Easter Service in church
7pm Compline – short reflective service

APRIL

Wed 1st 9.15am Church open for prayer
10am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
& refreshments

Thurs 2nd 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
with foot-washing after which church open for
silent prayer until 10pm

Friday 3rd 2-3pm An Hour at the Cross
(followed by refreshments at the Vicarage)

GOOD FRIDAY

Sat 4th 9.30-11.30pm Church and Churchyard clean-up
8.30pm Easter Eve reflective Service

Electoral roll closes.

Election nominations for Church Council open.

Sun 5th 8am Easter Day Communion (said)
10.30am All-Age Communion for Easter
12.30pm Baptism Service

No midweek service on Wednesday 8th April.

Sun 12th 10.30am All-Age Service
12 noon Holy Communion
(Clergy from St. Michael's to cover)

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

Baptisms:-

In February we welcomed 3 new members to our church in Baptism;

Seth William Chambers, Son of Gary and Elizabeth from Swillington.

Isabelle Anna Webb, Daughter of Stephen and Claire from Soothill.

And

Samuel Bernard Holmes, Son of Samuel and Lauren from Stanley.

Funerals:-

Sharrone Butcher, from Morley, will be sadly missed by her Husband Richard, and all her family and friends.

Stuart Hirst-Gee from Tingley, will be sadly missed by Maureen, and all his family and friends.

Bessie Chapman, from Soothill, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Austin (Texas). 2. Atlanta (Georgia). 3. Annapolis (Maryland). 4. Augusta (Maine). 5. Albany (New York). 6. Bismark (North Dakota). 7. Baton Rouge (Louisiana). 8. Boise (Idaho). 9. Carson City (Nevada). 10. Charleston (West Virginia). 11. Cheyenne (Wyoming). 12. Columbia (South Carolina). 13. Columbus (Ohio). 14. Concord (New Hampshire). 15. Denver (Colorado). 16. Dover (Delaware). 17. Frankfort (Kentucky). 18. Phoenix (Arizona). 19. Little Rock (Arkansas). 20. Springfield (Illinois). 21. Lincoln (Nebraska). 22. Raleigh (N. Carolina). 23. Oklahoma City (Oklahoma). 24. Pierre (Nebraska). 25. Madison (Wisconsin). Albert.

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**Contact: Brian Walshaw
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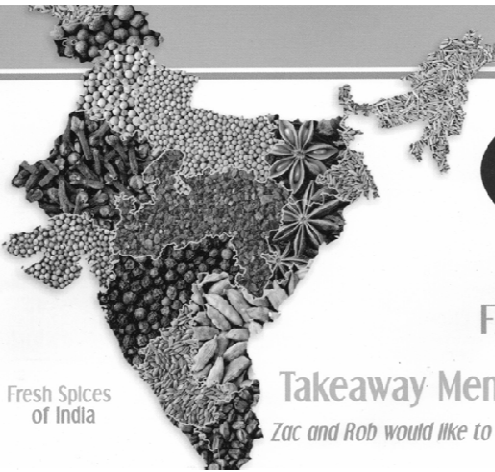
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What's on

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