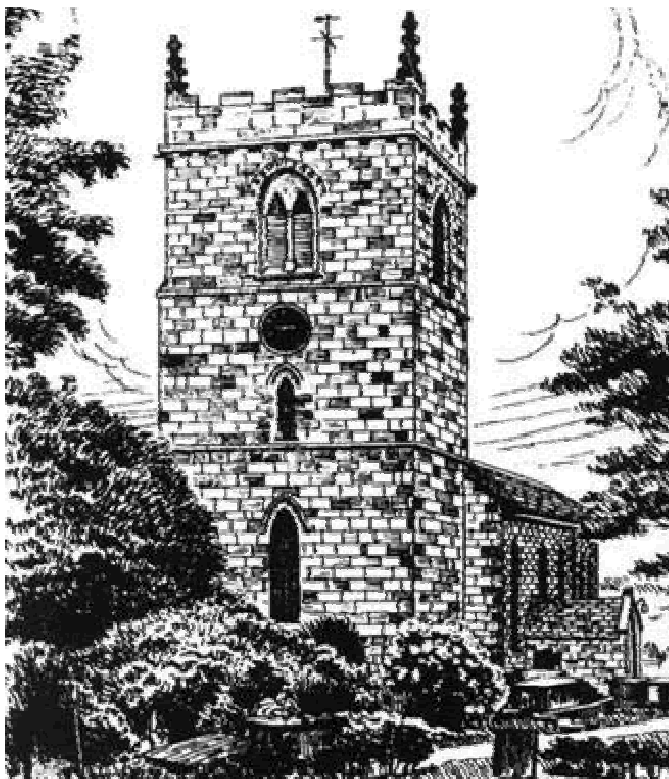


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

It's a New Dawn

May 2015



This Month:

Moving on:

Revd. Amanda is leaving...

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Deputy churchwardens: Neal Pinder-Packard
Gary Mortimer
Glyn Jennings
David Townsend

Organist: Tim Freemantle

PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

PCC Treasurer Barbara Tate

Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

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Parish Centre Manager: Glyn Jennings 01924 470272

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& Deputy Church Warden

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

Deanery Synod rep: Glyn Jennings

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Derek Barraclough, Brian Gledhill, Julie Hyde, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Dave 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.

**Start by doing what's necessary; then do
what's possible; and suddenly you are
doing the impossible.**

Saint Francis of Assisi

Revd. Amanda & Derek are leaving.

Sadly, Amanda and Derek have announced they are moving to a new challenge with a new Church. Here Amanda tells the story their decision to move.

After 11 years as Vicar of Woodkirk, I have increasingly begun to sense that, with the first phase of the redevelopment complete, it was the right time to move on to pastures new. This will allow congregation and community to 'grow into' the new facilities without the constraints of how I might have envisaged it being used. In due course, a new priest, perhaps with gifts and skills I have not been able to offer, will be called to lead you into the next chapter of life here. It has not been a decision I have taken lightly, but is one I sense God's leading in.

Later on this year, at a date yet to be announced, I will be collated (sounds like a cold supper!) and inducted (sounds like childbirth!) into the post of Rector of St. Mary the Virgin, Sprotbrough and Area Dean of Adwick-le-Street Deanery in the Diocese of Sheffield. The church has many similarities to another St. Mary the Virgin parish which we have come to love and become very attached to, here in Woodkirk. It is a traditional congregation with a desire to grow and become more engaged with the community it serves.

I believe that the many lessons I have learnt here (along with the many mistakes I have made) will mean I am equipped to work with the church to move forward. They are particularly seeking someone who enjoys working with children and young people, and is able to communicate the Gospel message effectively at their level, and who can build links with local schools. I am aware that, with God's grace and your patience and love, I have been able to grow in that aspect of ministry during my time here at St. Mary's.

I was a very inexperienced vicar when I arrived here, and very conscious that the level of trust that God, the bishop and the church had in me was very much greater than the level of trust I had in myself. It has been your love, your patience, your support, which have allowed me to grow in confidence and experience of ministry. I would not be the vicar I am today without the moulding of the people of St.

Mary's. I am forever in your debt. And now, willingly or not, you are gifting me to a new congregation. They will be the beneficiaries of the investment you have placed in me, and the ways you have allowed me to grow in ministry.

As Area Dean of Adwick-le-Street, I will have a wider remit than just a parochial post, but will be there to support the ministries of nine other churches across the deanery. I will be the means by which information and vision is disseminated from a Diocesan level to the local parishes, organising Deanery Synods and clergy chapter meetings, liaising with archdeacons and bishop's staff. This will be a new level of responsibility for me, and a steep learning curve, but, following my sabbatical leave, I felt ready for a post which had a wider responsibility and an investment in the ministry of the church at a Diocesan level.

I feel overwhelmed by the level of trust God and others have placed in me and hold tightly onto the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:14 "He who has called you is faithful, and he will do it." I know that you too will feel that God is asking more of you than you may feel equipped for as you carry the church through the vacancy until a new priest is appointed and inducted. But you too will need those words – God can use you- he will do it. He is faithful. We have experienced that faithfulness time after time here at St. Mary's over the last 11 years. When there has been a need, God has always provided, and the redevelopment is a very visible proof of God's provision and faithfulness.

I am, however, very thrilled and relieved to be moving to a church which already has toilets! And one whose small churchyard is both full, and fully maintained. This does not mean it will be an easier ride – just that the challenges which we will face will be different ones to the ones we have faced here. They will be ones where we often feel out of our depth, but find that we are carried on the tide of God's grace. You will find the same too. Our prayers will be with you, as yours, I hope, will be with us.

Revd. Amanda

St. Mary's Sprotbrough

*So what is the Church like where Revd. Amanda is going?
Here's a sneaky look....*

They describe themselves as lively and active mainstream Anglicans and in 2005 St Edmund's became their daughter church. The main Sunday service is at 10:15am (in case you fancied a change...). They also have an ecumenical covenant relationship with Sprotbrough Park Methodist Church. Family Services are held on Sunday afternoons at 4pm.

The parish church, dating from 1176, stands at the centre of the old residential village of Sprotbrough, serving a growing community of 2500 homes, three schools and one home for the elderly. The village is three miles from Doncaster, close to the A1 and stands above the (River) Don Gorge.

The present church is affectionately known as "Albreda's church" after the grand-daughter of one of the very early owners. The original church was almost certainly small and only two thirds of its present length, with a small and probably square chancel. The design was typical of Saxon and some early Norman churches. Since its foundation it has been radically altered. Today only traces of the masonry of Albreda's church remain, situated between the arches of the first two bays in the nave arcades. The church as you see it today is essentially as it would have been around 1520.

David



St. Mary's Sprotbrough

A Big Thank you!

Brian and Susan Walshaw first took on overseeing bookings for the Parish Centre way back in 2001. In those days, the facilities on offer were not of the standard we are now able to offer, and the task was significantly smaller as a result.

Since then, the demand has soared, as improved kitchen and toilet facilities, replaced windows and a more regular programme of decorating has made it more appealing as a venue for parties and other bookings. When other commercial venues are more costly and prohibitive for some families, the Parish Centre has become a very popular option. I don't know how many times Brian and Susan have walked the path between their front door and that of the Centre, in all seasons and weathers, to open up or lock up for a booking. They have done it faithfully, consistently and with great diligence, and in so doing they have ensured the church could generate much needed funds to help to sustain the ongoing life and ministry of St. Mary's. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. The job has grown as the years have passed, but they have carried on regardless.

Brian and Susan have reached the decision that it is time, after a long period fulfilling this role, to hand on the baton. It is hoped that we will be able to find someone to take up this important role before the end of June. Their quiet efficiency has helped so many, made so many children's birthdays, anniversaries and family celebrations special and memorable occasions, and raised significant money for church. Could you consider taking on this role? Even if you want to explore it on a trial basis, let us know! Without this responsibility being carried, it wouldn't just be the church which would be poorer. The whole community would be worse off. So, if you want to be a blessing to folk in this area, as Brian and Susan have been, please consider this role.

Thank you Brian and Susan! You are stars!

Revd. Amanda

Fair Trade - a Life Line

Well hello again, I am delighted to be able to confirm that the monies you so generously raised at the Fair Trade Coffee Morning in March have purchased 5 'Life Lines' through Oxfam. Not only that, but our five lifelines were doubled to 10 courtesy of the UK Government.

A 'lifeline' helps to restore the essentials like safe water, power and roads when people need it most.

We don't know who will benefit from our gifting, but it is wonderful to think that our gift has been doubled and so will now help twice as many people. As I write this piece we are just hearing of the devastation and loss of life following an earthquake in the remote country of Nepal, let us hope our gifts go in some small way to show our love for those people affected by this disaster.

Thank you once again for your generous support.

Dawn Tattersfield

Sponsor a Chair.

To complete the Back of Church a set of 40 Chairs are required for the larger occasions. These will be kept in the new Tower storage cupboards instead of having to carry chairs from the Parish Centre each time – helping to keep Brian (and friends) fit and healthy.

The chairs cost £38 each. If you would like to Sponsor a Chair please fill in an envelope (in pews). Many thanks.

David

Help the Hungry.

South Leeds Food Bank are running low on supplies. Foodstuffs they are short of are: coffee, long life milk, sugar, fruit juice, tinned fruit, jam and sponge pudding. Any help you can give is much appreciated.

In March, South Leeds Food Bank issued 153 vouchers, feeding 236 adults and 144 children. At St Cross, we were heartened when a previous recipient of food, came in to see us and thank us for the help she was given when she was in crisis but, I suppose more importantly, she came to bring a donation now that she is on her feet again. Makes it all worthwhile!!! Will you please add my thanks to all St Mary's congregation who donate food on a regular basis. We can't continue without them.

Barbara

APCM Vicar's Report 2015.

Revd. Amanda writes her final vicar's report

Well, what a year it's been. I concluded last year's report with the words "There have been many changes in the last 10 years, and I suspect my 2015 report will also have many changes to report – perhaps more than most. Some have been a long time coming, and we are thankful to God for his grace and goodness.

Here's to another year walking with God and one another." With our rededication service in just a fortnight, we are ready to celebrate God's faithfulness and provision. 2015 will indeed go down in our collective memory as a significant year in the long and varied history of St. Mary's, Woodkirk. Another local vicar, at the end of a major redevelopment, commented that overseeing the project had taken a year out of his life. I remember feeling that that seemed a bit OTT – now I'm not so sure! But I reckon it's a bit like child-birth – there are times you wonder why you thought this was a good idea, but as soon as it's over, you know it was all worth it.

Just after the last APCM I took a step back for a three month sabbatical. I believe that was a fruitful time both for me personally, for the congregation here, and also for the wider church. The project, about how well the structures of the church support young mothers (and mothers-to-be) who are ordained or called to ordination, culminated in a 22,000 word report, which has been sent to various places locally and nationally, including the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are ongoing conversations about publication, and I reckon that this report will go some of the way to improving the experience of future young female clergy.

These young women will probably never know that the congregation of St. Mary's had a part to play in their journey, by releasing me to undertake this work. But I know – and so do you - that your sacrifice was worth it. I am grateful to you for the way you embraced the challenge of those three months from May to July, to the wardens, Gail and Brian, the Core Group and PCC, and all those who took on additional work or responsibility to enable the good ship St. Mary to continue on her course without floundering!

I know how it has instilled in the church a greater sense of confidence that you are able to continue in the short term. I know it was probably good for you to have the experience of a variety of covering clergy. It also felt good to 'come home' after three months, and heartening to see how much was happening without any clergy

involvement at all.

The Medieval Festival in the middle of August was a case in point. A huge thank you to Dave Townsend who oversaw the delivery of this project, and the team who rallied around – including Brian, Barbara and Liz. The involvement of local schools, and the performance of scenes from the medieval Mystery Plays, courtesy of the amateur players from St. Andrew's, Bruntcliffe, together with the knowledge and expertise of our local historian Peter Aldred, and artefacts brought from the museum at Huddersfield and Wakefield archives, and the presence of a long-bow archer and stocks, barley wine, pottage and spelt bread, all worked together to create a very special day which showed St. Mary's teamwork and initiative at its best. We had a good and steady flow of many folk through the doors that day. One-off events of this nature are projects we are good at, and plan to continue to invest in.

Further evidence of that was amply shown in the HOPE 2014 project. The aim was to consider how St. Mary's might be a blessing to those in our community. The project team of Brian Gledhill, Dave Townsend, Averille Milburn, Barbara Tate and Liz Aveyard suggested that we might consider doing a 'Lunch for the Lonely', well aware of the levels of social isolation which are experienced in the area. It was a vision which all took to heart. The challenge to grow £10 was taken up by folk with gusto, and before we knew it, the £100 seed money the diocese had provided had grown to an amazing £800+. There were an amazing variety of initiatives growing that £10 note.

Using the funds, we were able to provide a very special meal – Liz Aveyard's culinary expertise proved invaluable, and the drafting in of a number of her work colleagues offering a day of community support was so helpful. Others, who got no personal benefit from the day, helped with providing table decorations. The Guides served the meal and were a credit to themselves and their leaders. Everyone played their part in creating a wonderful day for 30 folk who usually eat alone. Surplus funds were so plentiful that we have been able to give selection boxes to every child attending a Christingle service, and take Easter gifts to all the residents of Lydgate Lodge. It has definitely left the impression that St. Mary's cares about the community – not just the regular congregation.

The outward looking face of St. Mary's is taking very physical form in the redevelopment of our church – the major element which will make this year go down in history. It was clear during my sabbatical that the project would be able to start in the autumn as the final grant

we were seeking was awarded. My arrival back in the parish coincided with the arrival of Oliver and his team from Orgelbau Schulte, who purchased the redundant organ with a view to rebuilding it for a Dortmund church. We are thrilled to know it will be heard and loved elsewhere.

The removal of 11 pews, and sale of a number of other items of redundant furniture, approved by faculty, has created the space for the gradually emerging structure of the seating, ramp, toilets, kitchenette and cupboard space to grow. The process has involved a number of additional meetings, not least for myself and the wardens, to whom I am grateful for their time and commitment to the project. I am grateful too to the PCC who have attended additional meetings, taken on additional responsibilities and given authority to myself and the wardens to make further decisions when these have been required quickly.

The level of trust you have demonstrated has been both gratifying and humbling. I want to pay particular tribute too to those who have helped to clear out the space in the organ loft and the former choir vestry, those who have stored items normally held in church in their own homes, and those who have dropped everything to come and clean when the need has arisen. Above all, a huge debt of gratitude should be expressed to Gary and Barbara for their financial skills which have enabled us to steer a smooth course through the project. Barbara in particular has had to learn quickly how to reclaim VAT for the project without which we would not be in the relatively healthy position in which we find ourselves. Barbara's enthusiasm and energy seem boundless, and I am hugely grateful for the gift she is to St. Mary's.

The complexity of the project was increased as Roy C Smith (Joiners) Ltd, our contractors, went into liquidation at the end of December and reformed as Roy C Smith Ltd. It was not foreseen in a family company of such long-standing who have weathered the storm of recession, but ably steered by our architect Stuart Beaumont of ONE17 design there was minimal disruption. The level of craftsmanship is exemplary, and the bespoke furniture is a fitting 21st century addition to a building which houses items from medieval, Jacobean, Victorian and Edwardian eras already. We are proud that the most recent additions, in our watch, are of such high quality.

We are grateful too to the grant funders without whose financial backing the project could never have been realised. WREN and Grantscape are both environmental funds, and we have secured funds from Awards for All, Garfield Weston Foundation, Bishops' Development Fund and Community First, amounting to almost £90,000 in total, which, supplemented by monies raised by pledges, and ring-

fenced from legacy monies, have allowed us to realise the first phase of the project. The full-height screen to divide worship and social space was both more contentious and easier to defer, and will form part of a future bid for monies to include remedial works to the east window and wall.

All this makes it clear we cannot 'rest on our laurels'. There is not only future work to do, but more importantly, the kitchenette and toilet facilities are not an end in themselves. They are a means to an end – and that end is the provision of space made available as a community resource. This is the outward looking face of St. Mary's expressed in bricks and mortar – or rather, in wood and drainage! It is on that basis that the substantial funding has been made available to us.

The next chapter of life at St. Mary's will be the focus of much discussion in the coming term of office of PCC members, and we will want to take on board insights from the entire congregation as the journey continues. That is one of the reasons I believe it is vital to have a strong and visionary PCC membership this year, growing a clear and coherent plan for the future life of St. Mary's.

Vacancies on a PCC always impoverish a church and its ministry – the wider the range of views and people prepared to shoulder some responsibility the better. The real danger is that too few people are expected to carry too much – and become worn down in the process. Church becomes life-sapping rather than life-giving and its lay leaders appear worn rather than joyful. Why would anyone want to join a church like that?

That is why the first commitment of any should be to worship – the work comes later. If we get that wrong we end up just trying to 'keep the show in the road' and forget why. We have a wider variety than many churches in our worship – from the All-Age to the more traditional, and as Dawn Tattersfield and Derek Barraclough are now in their second year (of three) in training as Lay Readers, we can anticipate a greater variety of preaching styles in future.

The opportunities to swap pulpits both with Revd. Glenn Coggins from St. Michael's East Ardsley, and (a first in living memory) with Revd. Paul Martin from the local Methodist circuit have been enriching, as has the variety of retired clergy who covered the sabbatical – to whom I am grateful – John Pinder-Packard, Paul Rolfe, Graham Green, Hazel Walker, Stuart Millington, John Marsh and David Andrew.

The smaller congregations we are facing is a concern, and can leave us wondering how to engage more effectively, and even mislead us into supposing 'no-one wants to know'. My experience has been that

there are people who do want to know about Jesus – just not necessarily about the church. It is the packaging rather than the product which is the problem.

I have had more in depth conversations about faith this year than ever before. Our recent nurture course was attended in some cases by people who had engaged with me through the community rather than through church. Their expressed desire to continue to meet and learn about faith now the course is completed points to the potential for what is being called an 'intentional community'. That is a 'fresh expression of church' which is engaging with issues of faith and discipleship in a small group but may struggle to find traditional ways of being church meeting their needs.

This is a dynamic the Church of England is recognising and is now training clergy for – but it's not something I was trained for, and am having to learn as I progress! This poses some significant questions about how to sustain these differing ways of belonging to St. Mary's alongside each other, and how each will look as the future unfolds.

It feels unsettling but we have to trust in the movement of the Holy Spirit which is, after all, a wind which blows where it wishes – and not in the neat and tidy channels we try to create. This variety of ways of belonging reminds us that the life of St. Mary's is bigger than what most of us see Sunday by Sunday.

Midweek services have been able to continue in the Vicarage throughout the course of the building works – we have had to adapt established patterns, we have outgrown the Vicarage living room, but have all found the experience a positive one. A conversation with the midweek congregation towards the end of the time showed we had all appreciated different things and don't want to lose some of the elements we discovered in that time. This openness to new ways of worship bodes well for the future. The willingness to experiment with different ways of worship in our changing building will ensure we keep growing in depth and hopefully numerically. This service has become a particular growth point in the life of St. Mary's - without any conscious effort on my part. I believe it has the potential to grow significantly as we learn to use the building in a more creative, dynamic and outward-facing way.

Change in worship is often led by circumstances rather than by pro-active planning. The pattern of midweek services has shown that. So too has the departure of George Ford, who, this time last year, we were anticipating would be around for much longer than he was. His departure in August left us once again struggling to find cover organists

Sunday by Sunday.

The visit of Tim Freemantle to cover our Memorial Service led to his offer to journey with us through a trial period of six months as he seeks to discern (along with us) whether to move to a contractual position here. We are grateful to him for being part of the life of St. Mary's, bringing us some much-needed stability and enriching our worship. I know Tim has expressed a desire to develop the worship life of St. Mary's, and we want to work together to explore the possibilities. Thank you Tim for journeying with us.

Behind the scenes much continues to happen which is unseen and often unrecognised. Our groups and organisations (uniformed and otherwise) continue to engage with sections of our community which rarely use the church. I want to pay tribute to some – Sally Shaw nobly continues to sustain the Mums and Tots, as she has done quietly behind the scenes for years. She would love someone to take it on, I know, but until that day, her quiet service is exemplary.

Also, the Mothers' Union as they adjust to life in a new deanery, having to travel to unfamiliar churches – thank you for your effort and willingness to try new things, however challenging. You are proof that old(er) dogs CAN learn new tricks!

Playgroup staff have faced the challenges of an OFSTED regime which sets the bar ever higher, and this will have implications for us as a church as we try to support them in a more and more complex world of child-care. We are grateful to them for their hard work, and especially to Becky Schofield whose supervisory role is an increasingly demanding one.

Other children's organisations consolidate a link with young families which I am privileged to build on through school contacts, which are now strong and positive.

Through Barbara we have a link with the local food bank, and through Liz Aveyard an engagement with Christians Against Poverty Money course, both seeking to serve others in the name of Jesus.

There are of course other groups and organisations – each are valued, but there is not space to thank each individually at this point. There are others who sense that now is the time to relinquish roles they have held for many years.

I want to express a debt of gratitude to Brian and Susan Walshaw who have managed the bookings for Parish Centre lets, and have walked the path between their door and that of the hall more often than most of us imagine. The use of the hall has increased considerably since they took on the role 14 years ago. We now have the challenge of

finding someone prepared to take on that role, which is invaluable in raising much needed revenue to resource ongoing ministry.

Gail Townsend has also reached a point at which she feels it right to step back from the responsibilities of Churchwarden which she has now carried for 11 years, with just a brief break as required by the Church Representation rules. She has ably kept the wheels oiled of ministry here, in too many ways to mention, both seen and unseen, but without which the good ol' ship St. Mary's would have floundered on the rocks many times. We have all come to rely on her unfailing presence, and know that there are times we have perhaps taken that presence for granted, for which we are deeply sorry.

Whilst I know she has told me many times how much she loves her ministry here, it comes at a cost and takes its toll, and we as a church family now need to release her and pick up some of the numerous tasks she has undertaken. Many have become so used to thinking, when an appeal for help has gone out, "Gail will do it" that we've barely given the need a second thought. Now that will need to change – so that Gail can get the refreshment she needs, and so that the weight of church life is carried more evenly. That will be a challenge for all, but it is also an opportunity for new ministries to grow and new gifts to be discovered. Thank you Gail for all you have done and continue to do. Gail will remain in her role as Verger.

Thanks to Dave for his support of Gail, his sterling work on the magazine, the weekly news-sheet, and the numerous little tasks he finds himself doing when Gail says, "I'll get Dave to do that".

To Brian for his practical skills and work. Thanks to Derek, who seems to do so much – from market stalls to surplus magazine delivery, from opening the car park to updating noticeboards, and more importantly, keeping me sane and supplied with regular cups of tea.

How we embrace the coming year will be pivotal, perhaps more so than for a long time. If we follow the example of our namesake, St. Mary, and be those who say "Yes!" when faced with a call to serve God, he can do some amazing things through us. If, on the other hand, we prefer the easier and less demanding route, the future may be different.

Events like the Medieval Festival, and HOPE 2014, show that St. Mary's is its best when many folk bring their skills together. God has given us some amazing gifts – let's use them to his glory and for the advancement of his kingdom in our parish.

Rev'd. Amanda

Hope 2014

Yes, I know, it's 2015 now, but we have finally used the remainder of the money raised for this project.

First of all, thanks must be given to the people who grew their £10 into much, much more. The Bishop's initiative certainly paid off.

We started by forming a committee, don't we always? We decided to try to give elderly and lonely people a good day out. Liz, God bless her, cooked a magnificent meal of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding and crumble or cheese and biscuits to finish, all accompanied by wine or beer. Brian arranged the entertainment, the Guides became waitresses for the day and the 30+ people we entertained all said they had had a wonderful time, so it was all worth it, including Amanda, Averille and me peeling what felt like a ton of potatoes.

However, we found that we still had over £400 left, so we decided to do something for youngsters and as we were on the run up to Christmas we decided to give a selection box to all the children attending the Christingle services. 120 selection boxes were purchased and Liz wrapped everyone up herself, so she was given the honour of giving them out. Thankfully we had enough and no child left empty handed (hope they don't expect it again this year!)

We still had money left and our committee had dwindled to three, so it had to be something relatively easy. It was decided to do something for the residents of Lidgate house. The 56 lady residents were given a plant in a nice ceramic plant pot and the 8 gentlemen received Easter Eggs. We had an Easter Card for all of them and as we intended to deliver everything on the Monday after Palm Sunday, we took Palm Crosses as well. There was still a small amount of money left, so a couple of boxes of chocolates were bought for the staff. Amanda had mentioned that we might do a short service as we gave the goodies out. However, best laid plans and all that, when we arrived there on the Monday morning there was a big notice on the door saying that they had an outbreak of sickness and diarrhoea, so were only able to drop off our gifts.

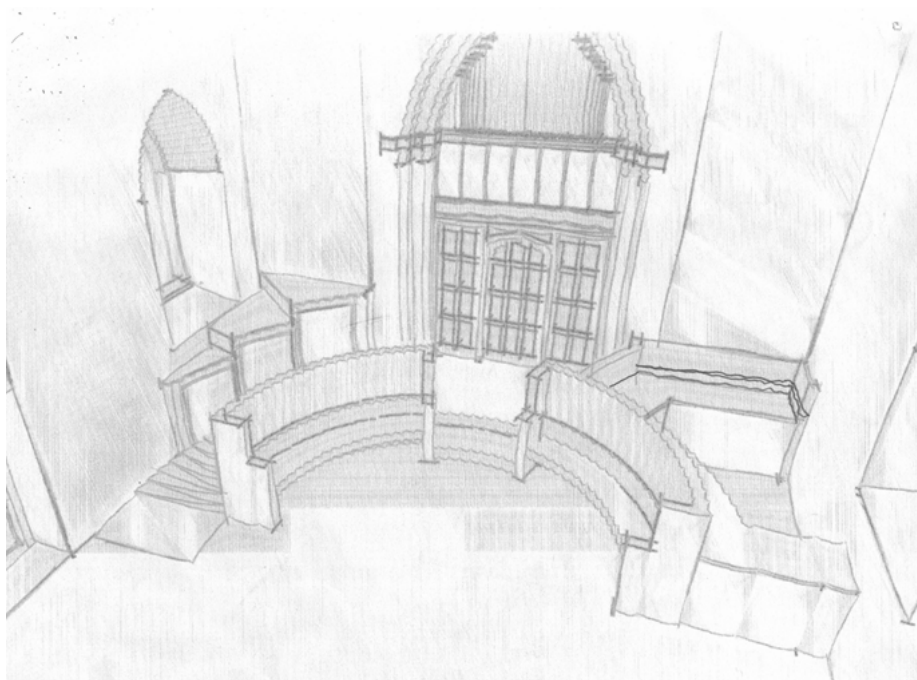
So that's our project completed, with many thanks to all those who participated and/or donated.

Barbara

Church Re-Ordering

It's been a long journey - but the wait is finally over....

In the March 2013 edition of the magazine we showed an Artist's impression of how the back of Church might look with a dedicated kitchen space and re-located Font, framed by curved pews, a dis-abled ramp and toilets in the tower space behind.



On the next page are two pictures of the finished work. They bear a remarkable similarity to the original vision, sketched out over 2 years ago. I remember looking at the sketch and being excited at the prospect of such a beautiful creation adorning the Church, but wondering if it might ever really happen. The hurdles to overcome seemed like high mountains, and climbing the peaks - massive outdoor earthworks, huge costs, long winter months with inadequate heating, (to name but a few) all seemed to be a challenge we might struggle to overcome. Somehow we have achieved the impossible and this has been a team effort, but we would do well to remember and thank one person in particular for her guidance and sheer will to see it through. Amanda has left a legacy of which we can all be proud.

David



Prayerful thought May 2015

Were you in church on the 3rd May for the thanksgiving service led by Bishop Nick Baines, rededicating the Church following the recent redevelopment work?

What a wonderful opportunity to join in a service of celebration and rededication bringing together church family and friends from near and far, and friends and supporters from our local community, to share in the joy of a project completed, the provision of much needed facilities and a flexible meeting space in this wonderful old Church, giving it a new lease of life and fitting it for service to the community in the future.

But now, after the celebration, we can't just put away the cups and saucers and the chairs, and put our feet up and say 'Job done'. Whilst we may have just come to the end of phase 1 with the building work completed, but we now have to start on phase 2, actually making use of the space we have created.

Phase 2 could be an even bigger challenge than completing phase 1, because as most of you will now be aware, Rev Amanda announced a number of weeks ago, that she and Derek will be leaving us as Amanda has obtained another post, and so going forward, we will be without a vicar for a while.

Now before Easter, as part of my ongoing Lay Reader Training, Amanda had offered me the opportunity to preach a sermon, this was before the news of her departure was known, and it was actually part way through my preparation of a sermon on 'The Good Shepherd' as told in John's Gospel, that we learned of Amanda's impending departure.

I know that quite a number of you were in church on the last Sunday in April and heard my sermon, but I hope you don't mind that I felt I would like to share it with you as my prayerful thought for May. The Gospel reading from John 10:11-18 is the story of Jesus talking about being the good shepherd, I know my sheep, and my sheep know me - "...[his] sheep follow him because they know his voice".

When I first started thinking about the content of what I wanted to talk about, the image that sprung to mind when I thought of a shepherd and sheep was One Man and his Dog. I remember watching it years ago on BBC 2 presented by Phil Drabble.

In the programme there were a number of 'contestants' with their sheep dog, and they had to manoeuvre a small flock of sheep through a number of challenges ending up with the sheep neatly penned in to a

small fenced enclosure.

Through a lot of whistling and unusual phrases for example "Kum By", the shepherd used his sheepdog throughout the process to a usually satisfactory conclusion, of course some shepherds managed better than others and gained higher points.

Now the place where One man and his dog was filmed was generally nice lush green pasture within a large, but nevertheless fenced or walled field - there were no dangers and the sheep usually stayed together in a small bunch, until the sheepdog started trying to gather them of course! But if we think about the environment that Jesus and the people around him recognised for a shepherd and his sheep, this would be quite different.

Galilee and it's area may have had some grazing, but there was also a lot of scrub, a dry and arid place, not the lush green pasture we are used to seeing here in the UK.

Being a shepherd was, and probably still is, a hard and demanding life, through the day the shepherd would walk many miles with his sheep to find pasture where they could graze, there would be wild animals about and robbers who would want to steal the sheep, and think about having to watch them all day in the heat. I don't know about you, but sometimes on a warm and sunny afternoon, the urge for 40 winks is so strong, yet if the shepherd did that he could lose his precious sheep.

One of the main challenges for the shepherd and his dog on the TV programme was that they did not know the sheep, and as with anything, if you don't know what you are dealing with this can be quite difficult.

But this was not the case with the shepherds in Jesus' time. They knew their sheep well and it wasn't unusual for the shepherds to name their sheep, a practice that eastern shepherds still do to this day. I don't think that the shepherds called their sheep a name like Mabel, or Sharon, well not as far as I know! they were more likely to give them a name which described some trait or characteristic for example long ears, or white nose. I like to think that perhaps they had one called speedy the one that was always at the front or perhaps lingerer for the one that was always at the back! But the key thing was that the shepherd knew the characters of his sheep and could watch them accordingly knowing those that tended to stick closer together and those that tended to wander off.

If we compare the shepherd and the sheep in One man and his

dog and the shepherd with his flock wandering around Galilee, it illustrates quite well, the way God lets us live our lives.

Yes, God could let our lives be like One man and his dog, where we have lush pasture and are neatly penned in and safe, but that isn't how God works is it? He doesn't give us a 'safe' contained life where we are penned in and stay in one place, no, He gives us the life of a Galilean sheep where we are free to roam, but this of course introduces us to unknowns, in giving us freedom, we may have dangers around us, we are not in the safety of a field or a pen.

Sometimes of course there will be challenging terrain and we 'travel through dangers', these are the times when the Galilean shepherd would keep his sheep close and keep more of an eye on them so that he could keep them safe, the sheep know their shepherd and would be reassured by his presence and his voice.

Now this next bit of my sermon took on a slightly different complexion to perhaps how it was originally going to go, following Amanda's announcement that sadly she and Derek will be leaving us to go on to pastures new (sorry no pun intended).

To be honest, in my current position, part way through my lay reader training, this news is rather devastating, because although Amanda isn't officially one of my tutors, she has been wonderful in supporting me, in reading all my draft essays and making suggestions, as well as talking through things with me and helping me to make sense of some of the subjects I have studied. Also, Amanda has been here at St Mary's all the time I have been coming here, so the thought of going forward without her is initially quite frightening, just like a sheep, I have been spooked, I am somewhat frightened by this impending change.

But the more I have thought about it in preparing for today, the more I have realised, that as important as Amanda is, and she is important, we have to remember that whilst we may think of her in a sort of shepherd role, we mustn't forget the fact that actually, our shepherd is Jesus.

Yes we will be losing an important 'lead sheep', perhaps Amanda is our 'speedy' sheep, the one that is always in the front, leading the flock on. But our shepherd does not change, and yes I'm sure there will be challenges during an interregnum, but our greatest strength in times of change, is to keep close to one another, not only physically by attending services and gathering socially, but praying for each other, and staying close to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Whilst for some of us, this may feel like the world we know and love is ending, we have to remember that this is all part of God's plan.

God brought Amanda and her family to us over 10 years ago and we thank him for that, especially as we think about all that has been achieved here in that time. But we must also remember, that whilst Amanda has been a very important part of what we have achieved in St Marys in the past 10 years, she couldn't have done that without us, the Church family.

It is so easy to think of church as being something that belongs to the vicar which we are helping her with, but actually when you think about it, St Mary's is our church which the vicar helps us with. This wonderful building that has been here for over a thousand years is surely proof of that.

Change isn't easy, it's not always welcome, but we must keep in our minds that this is part of God's plan for us and St Mary's, the Good Shepherd is leading us on. He is not leaving us, he is taking us through some potentially challenging terrain, but this is the way that God lets us live our lives, not penned in safe and sound, but free to choose our path, but we must keep close to each other and close to our shepherd.

In the next few months we know that 'speedy' our lead sheep, the one always at the front, is going to join another flock, but we must keep together when speedy has gone so that we hear the guidance we need from our shepherd.

It's no good wandering off by ourselves, we won't hear our shepherds voice there, and it's no good being 'lingerer' dragging your hooves at the back, because you can't hear the shepherds voice from there either.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember about journeying through challenging terrain is that we must not stop in it, we mustn't stand still. If we find ourselves somewhere 'dangerous' it's generally safer to keep moving isn't it, because in continuing to move forward together, we do not then stay in the dangerous or unknown terrain.

It is up to us to be guided by our good shepherd and we know that we will come out the other side, into new and exciting pastures. Are you ready?

Dawn

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

As we start another year of growing, weeding and nurturing let's hope that the weather settles down and we have sun and rain in equal and steady amounts. Bedding plants are on their way and some of the marigolds have buds on! Nipping out to do soon. This year for the Garden Party plant stall I'll have busy lizzies, lobelia (shrub & upright) salvia, petunias and ~~mess mesum mesam~~ (dictionary time!) mesembryanthemums (pew) - I may have begonias and gazanias also.

Sandra's Top Tip: Don't throw away any broken pottery or pots. Break them up and use them as crocks. These provide great drainage for containers and don't cost any extra. Be sure to wear protective gloves and glasses to avoid any injuries!!

1. Keep on top of weeds as warmer weather approaches. (Hopefully!)
2. Sow runner beans in cold frame or direct into a prepared trench.
3. Keep onions and shallots free from weeds.
4. If the soil is warm enough, sow French beans directly into the ground.
5. Net strawberries against bird attacks and put straw around them to protect from mud splashes and slugs.
6. Pinch out tips of sweet peas. Pinch out to a leaf bud where two new shoots will form.
7. Harvest rhubarb. You will need to stop pulling this year's stalks over the next week or so.
8. Sow spring bedding seeds for next years display. Sow plants such as wallflowers, pansies and Bellis perennis.
9. Check planted pots for weeds. Also don't forget to water and feed them regularly.
10. Divide primroses after they have finished flowering. Lift, split and re-plant them ready for next years display.

Sandra



Sandra's Plants
are coming along
well....





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

Beavers report for 2014/2015

We now have 20 Beavers and a waiting list. Badge work now takes up a lots of our time - we have completed our outdoor challenge, promise challenge, safety badge, healthy eating and creative and we are now in the middle of our Friendship challenge badge.

The Beavers have written to children in Tanzania and have also collected money so that they can buy much needed paper and pencils for writing. We also took part in Comic relief and collected £28 youngsters. We have lots of Badge work to complete before the summer holidays and also a sleepover.

We were very lucky to visit Pets at Home in Dewsbury again, which is one of our favourite places to visit - the Beavers love handling the pets and learning how to take care of them. Over the next month we will be visiting the Fire Station in Dewsbury. We once again had a wonderful Christmas party and a trip to the Panto, with the Cubs and Scouts.

We will be having our annual BBQ on the 17th July and then after the holiday we have lots planned. Where we hope to take the Beavers out visiting in the future, will be up to the parents giving us a helping hand. A rota will be placed in the hall and it will much appreciated if you could come along and help at any time.

Gail, Joanne and Skip

Eating in the UK in the Fifties

Pasta had not been invented

Curry was a surname

A take-away was a mathematical problem

A pizza was something to do with leaning towers

All crisps were plain - it was whether to use the little bag of salt or not.

A Chinese chippy was a foreign carpenter

Rice was for pudding – never for dinner.

A big Mac was what we wore when it was raining

Only Heinz made beans

Fish did not have fingers

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not Sushi

No-one had heard of Yoghurt

'Kebab' was not even a word

Muesli was available – back then it was called 'Cattle feed'

Prunes were medicinal

Trevor Sykes.

Brian's Humour Page

IDIOT SIGHTING No1

My daughter and I went to a fast food check-out to pay our bill and I gave the server a £5 note.

Our total bill was £4.20p, so I also handed her a 20 pence piece.

She said, 'You gave me too much money. I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me £1 back.

She sighed and went to get the Manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 20 pence and said 'We're sorry but we do not do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back 80 pence in change.

IDIOT SIGHTING No2

We had to have the garage door repaired. The repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one they made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said,

'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two..' We haven't used them since.

IDIOT SIGHTING No3

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the Highways Department to request the removal of the 'DEER CROSSING' sign from our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars on this stretch of road!

I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing any-more.'

IDIOT SIGHTING No 4

My daughter went to a local well known Chicken outlet and ordered a Taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had Iceberg Lettuce.

Brian

Think you've got it tough? Let Loko inspire you!

Christian Aid week – Special services on Sunday 10th May.

One of the great things about Christian faith is its global perspective. We are not an inward-looking group of naval-gazers – but an outward looking group of people who want to support others in the name of Jesus. Christian Aid week is the single biggest Christian initiative each year seeking to make that possible.

This year we discover the challenges facing women in Ethiopia, who often feel overwhelmed by the problems they face, but whose strength in providing for their families against the odds is nothing short of inspirational. Loko is 29, and has very little. She provides for her three children and three step-children by gathering firewood and taking it to market to sell. Its back-breaking work – involving four trips a week to the mountain to collect the wood, and three days in the market seeking to sell it. The walk to the mountain site takes a gruelling 8 hours – and then there is the walk back home – with a load of firewood. The three days at market can enable Loko to raise the equivalent of £4 a week – which will barely feed her family, who eat just once a day.

How can we help?

Through the Christian Aid partner on the ground, HUNDEE, families like Loko's are provided with a cow. The sale of butter and milk enables them to increase their income, eat better, and even save a little to enable the children to have access to medicines and education. It really can make that much difference!

A community where family groups each have a cow can start to build co-operatives to create initiatives and industry which allows the whole community to benefit. And all that is needed is a cow to start the whole process!

We'll discover another woman, whose future was bleak but who has been able to turn her life around and find hope because of the support of Christian Aid.

Why not come and make someone's day – or someone's life – on Sunday 10th May? Our All-Age Service is at 10.30am, and will show pictures of the women whose amazing resilience against all the odds is inspirational. There will also be a more reflective Communion Service at 12 noon where we will ponder God's invitation to us to get involved in his great work.

It would be great to share this service with you!

Revd. Amanda

Christian Aid Week

10th May to 16th May 2015

It's that time of year again already! Just a little update on the Christian Aid Committee project for churches in Morley:

This year we are raising money for Burkino Faso, which has had four years of drought and because of the shorter season due to global warming their existing plants cannot cope. Accordingly new seeds are being developed that can accommodate the climate change. Money collected for this project, which is separate from the annual Christian Aid Week donations, has provided research and training that have resulted in tremendous improvements in crop yields so that the population can adequately provide for themselves. The project is managed by the Evangelical Church Office of Development.

Turning back to Christian Aid Week, collectors are always needed and I would appreciate any volunteers for the house to house collecting.

The usual walk will take place on Saturday 9th May and will be in the region of Fairburn Ings RSPB reserve, which is a lovely area. The walk is approximately 5 miles long and anyone prepared to join it should contact me, Sally Shaw, on 01924 475048. You will be very welcome!

Sally.

St Mary's Playgroup Update...

At Easter we said goodbye and good luck to six of our children who all left to go to school nursery. We wish them lots of fun and happiness in their new adventure!

Our theme this term is transport. We will be discovering all the ways we travel and how vehicles move.

This term we will be introducing a 'wow' board for occasions when children have done something amazing and makes us say 'wow'.

We sadly said goodbye to Lizzie last month and the decision has been made for Playgroup to operate with 4 staff members, with up to 20 children. Accordingly, we are completely full on each of the three days.

Becky

Poetry Corner.

In this poem Thomas Hardy describes his attempts to follow the ghost of Emma Gifford, who he met 43 years earlier, along the Cornish cliffs where they used to wander.

After a Journey

Hereto I come to view a voiceless ghost;
Whither, O whither will its whim now draw me?
Up the cliff, down, till I'm lonely, lost,
And the unseen waters' ejaculations awe me.
Where you will next be there's no knowing,
Facing round about me everywhere,
With your nut-coloured hair,
And gray eyes, and rose-flush coming and going.

Yes: I have re-entered your olden haunts at last;
Through the years, through the dead scenes I have tracked you;
What have you now found to say of our past -
Viewed across the dark space wherein I have lacked you?
Summer gave us sweets, but autumn wrought division?
Things were not lastly as firstly well
With us twain, you tell?
But all's closed now, despite Time's derision.

I see what you are doing: you are leading me on
To the spots we knew when we haunted here together,
The waterfall, above which the mist-bow shone
At the then fair hour in the then fair weather,
And the cave just under, with a voice still so hollow
That it seems to call out to me from forty years ago,
When you were all aglow,
And not the thin ghost that I now frailly follow!

Ignorant of what there is flitting here to see,
The waked birds preen and the seals flop lazily,
Soon you will have, Dear, to vanish from me,
For the stars close their shutters and the dawn whitens hazily.
Trust me, I mind not, though Life lours*, (*lours – looks gloomy)
The bringing me here; nay, bring me here again!
I am just the same as when
Our days were a joy, and our paths through flowers.

Albert's 'Gone to the Dogs' Quiz.

Name the Sports that are the themes of the following films.

1. Blades of Glory
2. Cinderella Man
3. Cool Runnings
4. Escape to Victory
5. Point Break
6. Sea Biscuit
7. Slap Shot
8. The Colour of Money
9. The longest Yard
10. Tin Cup
11. Best Shot
12. Blood and Sand
13. Chariots of Fire
14. Damn Yankees
15. This Sporting Life
16. National Velvet
17. The Final Test
18. The Games
19. Geordie
20. Grand Prix
21. Greased Lightning

Answers on P38

Diary for May and early June 2015,

MAY

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Sat 2nd | 9.30-11.30am | Church and Churchyard clean-up |
| | 2-4pm | Open Afternoon |
| Sun 3rd | 8am | Holy Communion (said) |
| | 10.30am | SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND REDEDICATION |
| | | Bishop Nick Baines to preach and celebrate. Followed by a Faith Lunch. |
| Wed 6th | 9.15am | Church open for Prayer |
| | 10am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments |
| Sun 10th | 10.30am | All-Age Worship – Christian Aid week special |
| | 12 noon | Holy Communion |
| Mon 11th | 11.45am | ‘First Steps’ Toddler Service in Church – ‘Henry’s Grandad moves house’ |
| | 7.30pm | PCC meeting in church |
| Wed 13th | 9.15am | Church open for prayer |
| | 10am | Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments |
| Sun 17th | 10.30am | Holy Communion (sung) |
| Mon 18th | 2pm | Mothers’ Union – Ben Richardson – Life in the Police |
| Wed 20th | 9.15am | Church open for prayer |
| | 10am | Holy Communion (1662 setting) & refreshments |
| Thurs 21st | 11am | Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge |
| Fri 22nd | 1.00pm | Wedding |
| Sun 24th | 10.30am | Holy Communion (sung) PENTECOST |
| Wed 27th | 9.15am | Church open for prayer |
| | 10am | Holy Communion (with prayer for healing) & refreshments |
| Sun 31st | 10.30am | All-Age Communion TRINITY SUNDAY |

EARLY JUNE.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| Wed 3rd | 9.15am | Church open for prayer |
| | 10am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) & refreshments |
| Sat 6th | 10.30am-3pm | GARDEN PARTY IN VICARAGE GARDEN |
| Sun 7th | 8am | Holy Communion (said) |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion (sung) |
| | 12.30pm | Baptism Service |
| Mon 8th | 7.30pm | PCC meeting in Parish Centre |
| Tues 9th | 7.30pm | Armley Deanery Synod hosted by St. Mary's with Bishop Nick |
| Wed 10th | 9.15am | Church open for prayer |
| | 10am | Holy Communion (Iona setting) & refreshments |

Help a Swan....

Have you any unwanted sheets, blankets , pillowcases or towels? If so The Swan Sanctuary are in urgent need of them to use in their intensive care unit that help nurse the swans and baby cygnets back to full health.

Please contact me Liz Aveyard on:-

0113 8081033 or 07791 324221

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

Baptisms:-

29th March Palm Sunday we welcomed into our church family: Jemima Olive Wiesiolek Twohey, daughter of Gareth and Laura from Tingley.

5th April we also welcomed into our church family in Baptism: Evan Bulmer, Son of Johnathan and Caroline from Tingley.

26th April we welcomed into our church family in Baptism: Lucas Henry Allan, Son of Christopher and Ruth from Tingley, Lucy Ann and Eden Alexandra Willcock, children of Ashley and Emma from Tingley, Jacob Michael Middleton-Taylor, Son of Christopher and Charlotte from Tingley.

Weddings:-

Zoe Tattersfield and Timothy Larkin, from Tingley were married at St. Mary's on the 25th April. Congratulations from the Church Family.

Funerals:-

Edwin Johnson, from Soothill, will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Ice Skating 2. Boxing 3. Bobsleighing 4. Football 5. Surfing 6. Horse Racing 7. Ice Hockey 8. Pool 9. American Football 10. Golf 11. Basketball 12. Bullfighting 13. Athletics 14. Baseball 15. Rugby league 16. National Hunt Horse Racing 17. Cricket 18. Marathon Running 19. Hammer Throwing 20. Motor Racing 21. Stock Car racing

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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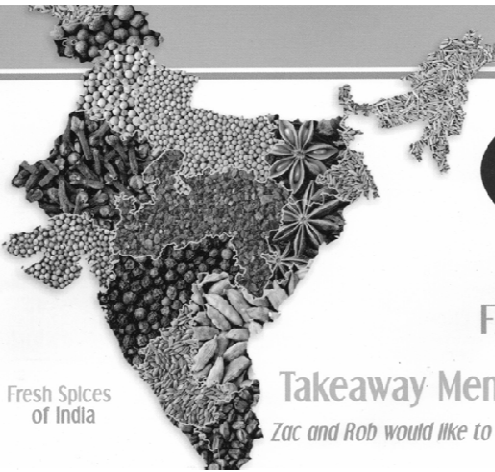
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CONSULTANTS

CHRISTINE BENNETT
RACHEL STONES

RESIDENCE
3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

What's on

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| 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