

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Remembrance Month

November 2015



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

Deal or No Deal?; Jonah;
On the RADAR; The Italian Job;
New friends and old.

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Brian Gledhill, Julie Hyde, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Dave Townsend, Barbara Tate, Tim Freemantle.

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.

**The good life is one inspired by
love and guided by knowledge.**

Bertrand Russell

Prayerful Thought for November

Dawn asks if we are a bit like Jonah?

Hello Again.

It's funny isn't it how things work out sometimes?

You may remember last month I was talking about 'sat navs' and perhaps how we should use God as our sat nav.

Well, I had another incident with my sat nav a few weeks ago and thought 'well that's given me my topic for my magazine article', so here you go...

I was heading not far away, to Cliff College in Derbyshire for a retreat weekend with Girls' Brigade. For those of you who may not be aware, I run a Girls Brigade group over in Castleford, (an organisation similar to Brownies and Guides). This was a Leaders weekend for Leaders from our region which covers a large area as far east as Hull, as far west as Liverpool, Chester and North Wales, south as far as Derbyshire and North as far as Scarborough and North Lancashire.

I picked up two friends and we set off in plenty of time to get to our destination. I didn't have a map book in the car as I have been to Cliff College before, I had my trusty sat nav and knew that I needed to come off the M1 at the Chesterfield exit.

Now that all sounds straight forward, and I thought it was, however, I had neglected to check the actual exit number from the motorway as I was sure Chesterfield would be signed.

Now I know that sat nav likes to send me up over goodness knows what little roads to get to Cliff College, but I knew that I could easily ignore the sat nav and then find my way via Chesterfield, a much easier route on bigger roads, so off I trundled happily ignoring sat nav and trusting in my ability to read a sign post!

Well...so much for that!

I did ignore my sat nav and carried on watching for the Chesterfield exit but two things conspired against me. Firstly Chesterfield is NOT signed from the south bound M1 (As it transpires, the exit I wanted to leave at!) and secondly, I ignored my sat nav too many times!

I ended up at a service station ringing David getting him to check which exit I needed to find that although I was approaching junction 25 I should actually have left the motorway at junction 29!

So we turned around at the next exit and headed north. Chesterfield IS signed from the north bound carriageway...typical! On balance I should have followed the signs for Chatsworth as I knew where I wanted to be was just a bit beyond there.

I was very cross with myself as it made us late for a meeting, my friends were fine about it but I was pestered as I had intended getting there and having plenty of time to relax instead of getting there and having to dash straight into a meeting.

So what's this got to do with God then?

Well, my trials and tribulations with navigation and ignoring instructions reminded me of the story of Jonah. For those of you unfamiliar with the story, Jonah was a man of God, a Prophet who God asked to go to Nineveh, a city full of sin. Now Jonah didn't ignore God, he heard Him but didn't want to go to Nineveh so went away and hid, but of course one thing Jonah couldn't do was hide and in the end of course Jonah gets swallowed by a big fish where he eventually (after three days) was ejected by the fish and went to Nineveh as God had asked.

Now another thought I had was about what Jesus said about listening to God, and when I looked up where it was I hadn't realised that Jesus also makes reference to Jonah (It's not bad this bible stuff is it?). The passage I wanted was Luke Chapter 11 verse 28 where Jesus said "...Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." In the following verses Jesus refers to Jonah being a sign to the people of

Nineveh and that Jesus Himself was the equivalent sign of God for people then.

So are we listening out for God's word or instructions for what he wants us to do for Him? Or are we being Jonah and trying to run in the opposite direction?

Well I can tell you that I know quite a few people, and I'm sure there are others who I don't know about, who are getting involved a bit more than perhaps they have done in order to help throughout our time of interregnum (time without a vicar). It has been lovely to see where people have volunteered to help out - some in big ways, some in small ways, and I know some of you who maybe don't get to church as much as you would like to, are also supporting St Mary's with your prayers.

Now as we are a few miles from the sea, I think it doubtful that God will send a big fish to swallow any of us up if we try and hide from something he wants us to do (although we do have Ardsley Reservoir, so I'm not ruling it out!) but seriously, is God softly suggesting you may be able to help in some way? Have you been too busy lately to come to church, to a service or a monthly clean up?

I know how busy we all are, but as we come up to that most hectic time of year, Christmas, can you listen out for God's quiet voice and see if you can support St Mary's by coming to services or helping out.

Remember what Jesus said in Luke "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it"

Bless you.

Dawn

George and Jemima: The Foodies

Both pop up

Jemima. Hi George, how are you today?

George. I'm fine thanks Jemima, but I'm feeling a bit stuffed this morning.

Jemima. Why's that George?

George. Cos I've eaten too much breakfast.

Jemima. What have you had to make you feel stuffed?

George. Er, bacon, eggs, make that two eggs, sausage, beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, and oh yeh, chips.

Jemima. "CHIPS", you had chips for breakfast?

George. Yeh course. I'm stocking up before harvest starts.

Jemima. Stocking up! What do you mean? Stocking up?

George. Well it's harvest time and you know what that means.

Jemima. What?

George. My mum will be growing salad, and as I told you a few weeks ago, I HATE SALAD

Jemima. George, do you ever stop to think to thank God for all the food you eat, and that includes salad?

George. What's food got to do with God?

Jemima. Where do you think the food you eat comes from?

George. Asda, Morison's & Tesco, unless my Mum's in a good mood, then it's Waitrose.

Jemima. Well George, where did Asda, Morison's, Tesco & Waitrose get the food from?

George. A Farmer.

Jemima. How do you work that one out?

George. A Farmer! ya know, bread from wheat, milk from cows, tea from some bloke in India, Except for the baked beans, I don't know where they come from. Maybe they came from God.

Jemima. So you think we should just thank God for the baked beans then George?

George. Yeh, course, cos I can't think how they ended up in a can looking like that. It didn't happen on a farm did it?

Jemima. AH YES! The lesser known miracle of the baked beans. They actually are beans George; they are called haricot beans to be precise, and are grown by farmers. Then they are baked and put into tomato sauce, which is made with tomatoes, which are also grown by the farmer.

George. Right. So we should thank farmers for baked beans too?

Jemima. NO George, we still thank God for the baked beans, the bread and the tea with milk in it.

George. Even though it came from farmers via Sainsbury's?

Jemima. You never mentioned Sainsbury's

George. Nah. Don't like their beans.

Jemima. Look George. We should thank God for our food before we eat it.

George. Phew! A bit late for that this morning, but why do we have to thank God?

Jemima. For creating seeds in the first place.

George. Oh, and Cows?

Jemima. COWS!!!!?

George. Yeh, cows don't grow from seeds. Wor that would scare you, Imagine watering your garden and up pops a cow...

Jemima. Don't be silly George.

George. Sorry! Thank you God for the cows, I like stuff from cows.

Jemima. There's no need to go into details George. I was thinking more along the lines of sun & rain, like in the song. We plough the fields and scatter the good seeds on the ground....(starts singing)..... but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand. He sends the snow in winter
The warmth to swell the grain....

Georgethe cow pats and the horse dung and poly-ure-thane

Both. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then
thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

Jemima. All this talking to you George has made my lunch go cold;
I'll have to Zap it in the microwave.

George. Do we have to thank God for microwaves?

Jemima. I haven't got time to explain George; I've only got an hour
for lunch.

George. You should have had SALAD then!

Both. See you all again soon. Bye Bye.

You can see George and Jemima at the All-Age Service on November
8th at 10:30am.

Brian

Deal or No Deal ?

Gail looks at our Deal with God...

At the all age service on 11th October we played a game with the children where they had to pick a bag. One had a bar of chocolate, one had a washing up sponge and a third had a banana skin. The children were given a lolly and had to decide whether to trade their lolly for one of the bags, a bit like the game show 'Deal or No Deal' where one of the contestants has to decide which boxes they wish to open. They keep going until two boxes are left - the one they have and one left in play. What would you do if the last box in play had £100.000 and the other box was still unopened, but the banker offered you £175.000? Would you press the red button and take the Deal or say.... 'No Deal' and open the last box?

What made the show interesting, of course, was that no one knew what would happen if the contestant kept playing.

It is the same for Christians throughout the bible, people were given deals or choices in the Old Testament from Jeremiah. Jeremiah speaks of two possible "Deals" or arrangements between God and his people. The word that is used to describe these two possible deals is 'Covenant', unlike the game show, Deal or No Deal, we can see in advance which of the two covenants is the better deal.

If we look at Jeremiah 31: v31-34 and look into the first covenant God made with his people, and then look into the new covenant he now extends to all people:-

Jeremiah 31: In v31 The Lord says "The time is coming, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah". The word "New Covenant" indicates that Jeremiah is comparing two different covenants through which God established a relationship with his people.

Jeremiah tells us little about the old covenant, but Verse 32 tell us "It will not be the like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand out of the land of Egypt, a covenant that they broke, says the Lord" Jeremiah looks back several hundred years to the time when the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt.

God, after several plagues, convinced Pharaoh to let his people go, but Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them, who were pinned between the impending army on the one side and the Red Sea on the other, the odds are against them, God performed a stunning miracle for his people, he open up a dry path through the sea

so that the nation could escape to the other side. When the armies of Egypt followed, God sent the waters back over them. With this incident fresh in their minds, God established a covenant with his people.

This Covenant was two sided if they, the people, observed his law and commands, he would bless them. But if they failed to live as his law instructed, they would suffer for it. Before the ink was dry on the old covenant, they had already broken it by engaging in all sorts of pagan immorality. They had just been the beneficiaries of one of the greatest miracles recorded in the Old Testament, yet quickly they had forgotten what God had done for them.

Fast forward several hundred years to the sixth century B.C., When Jeremiah served the little nation of Judah, the remaining fragment of God's Covenant.

Jeremiah's book is filled with doom and gloom and warnings to Judah. Why? Because the people had forsaken God ... they had forsaken him time and time again. Finally God stated "Have it your way", so God gave them seventy years where he allowed enemy nations to attack, defeat and deport them from their homeland for seven decades.

God's world of today has continued in the ways of ancient Judah. If we still carry on with this Deal or No Deal in God's word, we could go right back to Adam and Eve....

God had given Adam the sweetest deal that was ever given to man; Free run of the Garden, a beautiful wife, all you can eat, peace, tranquillity, no war, no famine, no poverty, no hate and an intimate personal relationship with the creator of the universe. But Satan came along and started to stir things up.

Tempting Eve with a new deal, One that he portrays as a better Deal than the one made with God. Eve pushes the Deal button when she should have said "NO Deal".

There is an old saying "Opportunity knocks once – but temptation beats on the door every day".

We live our lives constantly surrounded by temptations.

So let us look at God's "New Deal" – the New Covenant. Jeremiah 31 V 33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel. After that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying "Know the Lord" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. "For I will forgive their

weakness and will remember their sins no more.”

The old covenant was two sided arrangement, If the People did their part... God would do his part. So God looks forward in time to a day when his new covenant would come to fruition.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.”

God states to those under the New Covenant that “I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

A new covenant relationship with God is not based on what people do; it is based on God ...One in whom we believe. Jesus Christ brought this new covenant relationship to fruition by his sacrifice. God remembers not our sins but his Son's sacrifice on the Cross... on our behalf.

No strings attached no fine print... on the bottom page.

A one-sided deal, a unilateral covenant signed, sealed and secured in the holy, precious blood of Jesus. And that signed covenant is brought to us through faith in Christ Jesus.

Deal or No Deal?

Perhaps the word Deal is too casual to describe this great gift of God. Despite our efforts at overcoming sin and rebellion, God came forward with the divine rescue plan of his new covenant, God not only came forward... but came down to our world in the person of Jesus Christ. He came with righteousness that covers our sinful hearts. He came with the sacrifice that atones for not only our sin but the sin of the whole world.

Jeremiah's promise of the New Covenant was fulfilled by the Coming of the Messiah. At the Last Supper Jesus lifted the cup and said “This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26 v280).

Just as the Banker tempts the contestant, so does the world tempt us to take bad deals?

We know which box... which covenant holds the Gift of Jesus that holds the gift of eternal life. Let us accept the gift laid before us and accept Jesus not only as our Saviour but the Lord of every aspect of our lives, let us yield to the Holy Spirit ... be transformed in to the image of Christ, accept him fully be all that God has called us to be.

Gail

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

The season is not so much drawing to a close but rather it's starting. Now you can start to plant some crops for next season such as Garlic, Peas and Broadbeans. Garlic needs a period of cold so try and put some in the ground now in time for the first frosts.

1. Plant garlic.
2. Sow Broadbeans and Peas.
3. Dig heavy soils and leave in clumps for the frost to break down.
4. Wash pots and seed trays thoroughly in soapy water. Also clean and oil your tools.
5. Bring in the last of the dried beans such as Runner and French.
6. Harvest leeks when required. Heel some in horizontally, in a shallow trench by the back door allowing easy access when it's cold!
7. Plant patio containers for spring colour using hyacinths, daffodils, crocus and grape hyacinths as well as fritillary and Iris reticulata.
8. Stake any Brussels sprouts that look leggy. Pick off any yellowing leaves.
9. Lift Chicory and Rhubarb for forcing. Rhubarb crowns should be at least three years old. Remove foliage from Chicory and place in a warm, dark place.
10. Take a moment to talk to gardening friends, relatives and neighbours to see if there is a way to save money. There are often bulk buying deals for fertilizers, composts and seeds.

Sandra

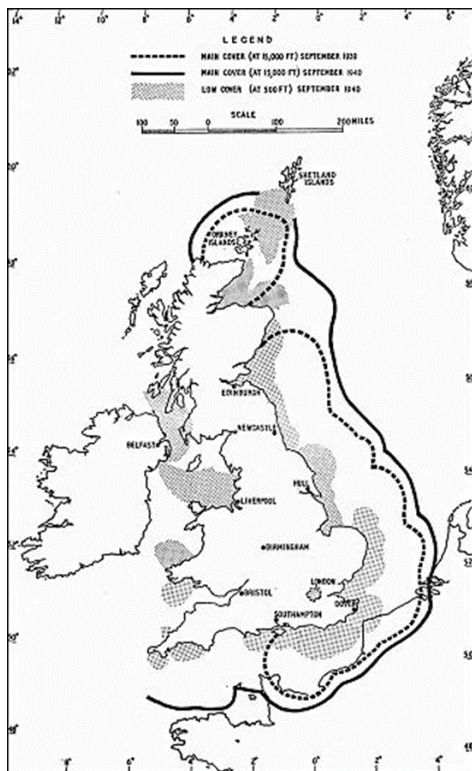
We Will Remember Them.

In this month of Remembrance, we take a look at one of the few remaining servicemen of World War 2.

Percy Hudson is 94 years old, but served in the RAF during the Second World War, volunteering in 1941 as a 20 year old. He trained in Blackpool learning Morse Code amongst other things. These skills meant that Percy was an ideal candidate as a RADAR operator and he was sent off to Blackhead in Northern Ireland, not far from Belfast. Radar was a comparatively new invention back then, and it had been set up around coastal areas to give early warning of German aircraft. These Radar sites became known as Coast Defense radar, or 'Chain Home'.

During early tests against Chain Home in 1938, RAF pilots had noticed they could escape detection by flying at low altitudes. This was due to the minimum angle of the Radar equipment being about 1.5 degrees above the horizon, which meant aircraft were below the radar's sight until they approached within a few miles. They could escape detection entirely by flying between two Chain Home stations at altitudes around 1,500 feet. At first this was not considered to be a serious limitation, as bombers typically flew at altitudes of 15,000 feet or greater, and at that altitude they could be detected over France.

It was not long after the start of the war that the Germans accidentally noticed the same thing. In this case, aircraft sent on



minelaying sorties almost always returned while those on other intruder missions were almost always intercepted. These aircraft had to drop their payloads from very low altitudes, so they generally followed routes over water, including rivers, flying at low altitudes for most of the mission. At first it was not obvious why they were surviving, as there could be many reasons; fighters might not be able to see them against the ground, AA guns positioned inland might not be able to aim at them, etc. But it quickly became apparent that low altitude flight meant they were not being detected on the radars.

To counter this the 'Chain Home Low' (CHL) type Radar systems were introduced which could 'see' aircraft at much lower levels. When the Luftwaffe began a series of low-level attacks that proved almost impossible to defend against, additional CHL sets were ordered and set up to fill the gaps between the sets co-located at the CH stations. In April 1941 all of the CHL sets were upgraded with a new antenna motorized to spin at 1, 1.5, 2 or 3.33 rpm, using a single transmit/receive antenna instead of separate ones. This would have been the type used by Percy.

So it was that Percy was sent to a tiny Radar station at Blackhead in Northern Ireland. Two of the original buildings remain there today (see picture) and there appears to have been at least three further buildings of which only concrete flooring remains. This bleak outpost may not have seemed like much of a way to fight the Germans, but the new Radar equipment meant that this coastal headland covered the Irish Sea and protected major west coast ports such as Liverpool, as well as the West Coast of Scotland. In fact Percy



recalls that the island of Ailsa Craig would come up on the Radar, and he had to be careful to distinguish its muddy grey outline from that of an enemy plane!

By 1943 Percy had moved to RAF Martlesham Heath for a 6 month stint, which was a Hurricane base, later being taken over by the USAAF. Percy then transferred to a maintenance unit, going with a 60 foot low loader to collect crashed aircraft and take them to Cornwall. Finally the war ended, but Percy was sent over to Istres, near Marseille, using his Radar skills to help guide long distance planes back towards England and home.

After leaving the RAF, Percy was able to go back to his old job at Greens in Wakefield as a Crane driver, but soon he found out that Pinderfields Hospital were looking for Male Nurses. He worked as Nurse for several years, looking after injured Miners on G&H Ward, before serving on the Acute Theatre as a technician, sleeping at work for two nights a week so that he would be available for emergency admissions. Pay was £4 per week. In the early 50's Percy switched to the Yorkshire Electricity Board, starting as a meter reader but progressing to be Foreman of works before retiring at 62 years old. Percy's wife, Marianne, was a Manageress in Batley, catching the bus to work from Baghill. Marianne sadly passed away 8 years ago, but Percy has a son Michael, a Pharmacist (now also retired) and daughter, Jean who became a Primary School Headmistress.

Percy has lived on Heybeck Lane for 32 years and has been a regular at St. Mary's for nearly a decade. His war medals were stolen in a burglary, and although the RAF have tried to replace them, they sent the wrong ones. His eyesight is almost gone, but, he says, he has good neighbours, family and friends who look after him well. Gail takes him home communion twice a month, as Percy finds it hard work to be in church for long periods.

I have the impression, talking to Percy, that he is uneasy – embarrassed even, that he did not fire a shot in anger during the war. Not every hero of this war fired a single shot at the enemy, but they all played their part. Who knows how many lives were saved by a man in

a tiny building on a bleak headland in Ireland, providing early warning to the people of Liverpool and the surrounding areas and scrambling our own fighters to intercept a deadly cargo. In this month of remembrance we salute you too, Percy Hudson - Airman No.1436620.

David



Percy Hudson relaxing at home.

Mothers Union

On Wednesday 14th October we were celebrating 120 years of M.U. in the Wakefield Diocese and commemorating the end of Wakefield Diocesan Mothers Union. The Service in Wakefield Cathedral was both uplifting and sad. We are now in the diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales and the Deanery of Armley.

Hymn

Verse 1

Praise you Lord for all the caring
Love for families all around
Through the work of Mothers Union
May the love of Christ be found
Thanks for all the groups and branches
Joined in fellowship and prayer
Helping bring relief of suffering
To the world for which Christ cares.

Verse 2

Families who have met with trouble
May we in your love draw near
Show the world Christ's living presence
Helping those in doubt or fear
From a vision of Mary Sumner
Years of dedication led
Mothers Union and its members
In the name of Christ its head.

Be with us here in Woodkirk, Lord, as we adjust to our new Diocese and Deanery.

Brenda Dixon
M.U. Leader.

Look Out for.....

Wednesday 16th November MU meeting at 2pm:

A Flower Arranging demonstration by Averille

The Great War - The Italian Front

Dawn Tattersfield explores the Cemeteries of Northern Italy

As some of you may be aware, my husband David is a First World War historian and Trustee of the educational charity 'The Western Front Association'.

This means that I am able to visit the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium at least once a year, although earlier this summer we actually missed out on Northern France, visiting the Marne (on the champagne region around Epernay) and also later staying in Ypres.

You would think after all these years that there wouldn't be too many 'new' places for us to visit, but in fact in late August we went to a new area for both of us, the Italian Front.

We flew into Venice and then boarded a coach for our 4 day trip heading north towards the mountains. On the first day we called at a beautiful cemetery on the Venetian plain at Montecchio Precalcino where in gorgeous sunshine our tour guides introduced us to the Italian Front and the brave Italian soldiers who fought against the Austrians in two main campaigns in 1915 and 1918.

We then drove into the mountains and onto the Asiago plateau up a series of about 11 hairpin bends on the road. The views as we ascended were breathtaking!

The weather favoured us on day two which was a blessing as this was a walking tour! The sun shone as we set off from Cavalletto British Cemetery enjoying more stupendous views from a position known as the Ghelpac Fork across the plain towards Venice, sadly not clear enough to see that far but still wonderful.

We stopped off at Granezza British Cemetery where the brother of Vera Brittain (who herself is the mother of Baroness Shirley Williams) is buried. Edmund, who was killed in 1918, is possibly the most famous of the men to be buried in this area. We then carried on walking the San Sisto Ridge stopping off at Barenthal Cemetery in a lovely wooded glade, for lunch.

By the end of the day we had done a lot of walking, but had also heard about the brave soldiers who had fought there throughout harsh winter weather. (The area is a ski resort and is snowy from about October to May!)

After a visit to the Museo di Canove di Roana in the morning, we had another walk on day three, first of all visiting a large Italian Cemetery, with a smaller British one (Magnaboschi) but unfortunately despite our entreaties the weather spoilt itself by pouring torrential rain down on us. This rain lasted for a few hours whilst we were out following the 'Galleria Granatieri'. This was a supply route cut along the sheer cliffs to enable the Sardinian Grenadiers who held this

position to reach the summit of Mt. Cengion. We then walked through the woods to a position known as "Handley Cross" where an exploding ammunition dump denied the troops essential ammunition, and where gunners fired over open sights in a desperate effort to hold the line.

We were still able to visit Boscon British cemetery and hear more about the actions of British, Commonwealth and Italian soldiers in repelling the advances of the Austrian soldiers.

For our last day, after visiting the memorial to Italian troops built by Mussolini in the inter-war period, located in the town of Asiago, we set off further into the mountains, heading for the Dolomites in the North East. En route we visited the site of the crossing of the River Piave - which was the action that virtually ended the war on this front in 1918 - hearing about the treacherous crossing of this very wide river.

It looked quite calm when we were there, but after winter the river was a raging torrent due to snowmelt from the mountains and many soldiers were lost trying to cross it. From here we headed to the skiing area of Cortina D'Ampezzo, looking at Mt. Lazagui (2,700m.) and Tofana de Rozes and the battle for Il Castelletto

I still find it difficult to imagine how the Italian and Austrian soldiers fought on these vertical cliffs. However, one of the most touching things I will remember is how when both sides were on the mountains during the Winter, they communicated with each other and realising that both would die without certain supplies, actually shared things with each other to keep themselves alive.

After many years of visiting the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France, the landscape of the Italian Front, being very mountainous was completely different, yet the stories of the resilience and bravery of the soldiers still amaze me.

I have a feeling that four days in this astonishing area will not be enough for David (or me!) and somehow I feel we will be heading back there before too long on an independent trip. I just hope David doesn't want us to go in Winter for a more authentic feel, I prefer looking at the mountains against a lovely blue sky backdrop, not shushing down a ski slope!

Dawn

Playgroup welcome a new friend.

With the departure of Henry Bear to Sprotborough, the playgroup welcomed a rather shy new friend in October. Barney the dog (pictured) was a bit shy to start off with hiding under Dawn's coat, but the children sat very quietly so Barney was brave enough to come out and say hello.

Barney was interested in what the children had been learning about the weather. In fact, Dawn told the children that Barney likes all sorts of weather. When it is raining he can go out and jump in puddles, when it's sunny he likes running up and down on the beach. We talked about Autumn and the lovely colours of the leaves and Barney said that he loved to run about in the leaves, and we thought about the approaching winter and possible snow. Barney even had his scarf on ready to go out in the cold!

Dawn led the children and Barney in a prayer thanking Jesus for the different seasons as well as for our families and playgroup leaders who look after us, then before he went, there was time to give Barney a hug until he visits again in the New Year.



Organist Required...

We have a vacancy for an Organist for Sunday Services, Weddings and Funerals. This is a paid position and therefore you should be a competent musician, who can commit the time to play on Sundays and other days of the week, including busy periods such as Christmas and Easter where there are extra services.

If you fit the bill—or know someone who does, please get in touch with our Church Warden (and accomplished musician) Brian Gledhill, for further discussions.

Many thanks. David

Hill Top School celebrate Harvest in style.

Mrs Hyams, staff, pupils and supporting family and friends filled St Mary's Church on Friday 23rd October for their Harvest Festival. There were some excellent lively harvest songs with old favourites like 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'All things bright and beautiful'. Each year group presented an item.

Reception waved beautiful Autumn Leaves at us whilst reciting a poem about the falling of autumn leaves and brushing them into a pile before the wind scatters them again (to the tune of London Bridge is falling down).

Year one also recited 'An Autumn Poem' which they did really clearly for everyone to hear. Year two recited another poem about all the different types of food teacher says they must eat like apples and broccoli before revealing the secret cakes that appear in the staff room!

Year three told us about how the Ancient Egyptians farmed their crops in time with the flooding of the river Nile and year 4 told the story of Joseph and then years three and four joined together to sing 'Any dream will do' from the stage musical 'Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat'.

Year five had been studying different types of bread from around the world, telling us about Tortilla's, Irish Soda Bread, Bagels, Naan Breads and Grissini (Italian Breadsticks) and it was not only Mrs Hyams who felt a bit peckish after that one!

Year six rounded off with an excellent 'Sing Off' with the year group splitting into two and one side singing a song written by one of the teachers to the tune 'Let it go' from Disney's Frozen interspersed with a lovely group singing a 'Harvest Rap'.

It was a wonderful service and if the church ceiling has cracks in it from the rousing singing, then it was worth it.

I thought you would like to know some of the words of the songs the children sang. I cannot list all of them, but hopefully the ones I have shared will give you a good idea of the lovely thoughts, sentiments and actions the children shared with us.

Song 1

I'll go to the furthest place that I could go
He'll be there, He'll be there
To the east or the west to the sun or snow
He will always be there!
Oh Yeah! Oh Yeah!
He will never leave me

I know He cares
He's the only one I know who's always there!

Song 2

I've got a song I can sing to be thankful
I've got a song I can sing to be glad
I'm gonna say, every day, that I'm grateful
For all the blessings I have!
I've got a song I can sing in the morning
I've got a song I can sing in the night
I'm gonna sing every day, that I'm grateful
For all the good things in life
You can never be too grateful,
It's a funny thing
When you start to count your blessings,
You'll sing, sing, sing!

Song 3

A little bit of kindness in your day
Will bring a lot of happiness your way
It doesn't take a lot to stop and say,
'Can I help you?'
A little bit of kindness here and there
Will show a lot of people that you care
It's something you can practise anywhere
If you want to!
What a difference we can make
When we brighten someone's day
Is there any better way to be happy?
Just a little thing or two
It's not difficult to do
Will be just as good for you as each other.

What was it Jesus said about knowing the kingdom of God like children? These three songs remind us of God's love for all of us. Thinking about Paul's letter to the Corinthians 2 Chapter 9 verse 6 he says 'Those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly, but those who sow generously will reap generously.'
Hill Top Primary School definitely sowed generously on Friday, thank you all so much for a lovely Harvest Celebration.

Dawn Tattersfield

Blind Bartimaeus

On Sunday 25th October our service was led by the Revd Arani Sen one of our Area Deans, from Armley.

The Gospel reading was from Mark Chapter 10 verses 46 to the end and was the story of Bartimaeus.

Revd Arani delved further into the story of Bartimaeus and how he met Jesus, persevering when he knew Jesus was coming by, making sure he was there at the roadside and, despite people telling him to be quiet, shouted out to Jesus twice saying “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus asked that Bartimaeus be brought to Him, and Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Jesus to do for him. Bartimaeus asked Jesus if He could make him see again, and Jesus, recognising Bartimaeus’ faith, restored his sight.

Revd Arani then reminded us how the message from this Gospel applies to us today. We must have faith in Jesus, we must persevere, if we want Jesus to help us at any time, but perhaps even more so during our interregnum (period without a Vicar).

Just imagine, we wouldn’t have had the story of Bartimaeus being healed by Jesus if Bartimaeus hadn’t persevered and shouted for Jesus’ attention, we wouldn’t have been able to share in Bartimaeus’ delight in regaining his sight and then following Jesus.

Please, please, don’t get disheartened during this time of vacancy, there are many people working hard to ensure that we can provide regular services, we are also approaching one of the busiest times of year for the church, Christmas. We are providing all the different services throughout this time, so please, persevere like Bartimaeus, and come to church, perhaps Jesus will speak to you and ask you what you would like Him to do for you!

Come and see us soon.

Dawn Tattersfield

Poetry Corner.

T'Picture Show

It stands back barely noticed nah
Its face strangely coud an' blank
Just a storage space for frozen foods
Yet time wa when it could swank -
'cos it wa 't' New Empire alias 't'Bug
Na more than an overgrown shed
Though it wa'n't Ritz, we wa fond of it.
(bein' t'only picture 'ahse wi ed)

Films wa' s'owed, the' often brok' dahn
Just when t'suspense wa at its peak
First aid wa applied but if t'film died
Ya gor a ticket ta, 'come back next week'
Sat'da wa it's hey day, the wa a matinee
An two 'ahses wa allus shown then
Six o'clock till eight (an' for t'neet rakes),
Eight o'clock till ten.

Fowk came in chatterin' groups
Fra a foreign place called Thorpe
An' the' wa a bus reight ta t'dooar if tha wanted
Though it wa allus much cheaper ta walk
S' a regular pilgrimage ovver t'bridge the' med
t'Bug at t'top a t'Falls
Well beggars cant be choosers.

Author unknown (though I'm guessing it's a Yorkshire person)
My spell checker has had a meltdown...

David.

Playgroup November News

Hello Everyone

We have reached the end of our first half term and I am pleased to say all our new children have settled into playgroup's routines really well.

Our first half term was all about the 'Weather'. The children enjoyed making sunshine pictures and welly printing – you can see their work on the display board.

Our topic for next half term will be 'Celebrations' including Bonfire Night, Diwali and of course Christmas. We will be making bonfire pictures, festival of light silhouettes and making Christmas tree decorations and cards. We will also be doing lots of the children's favourite activities.

If you require a place for your child, just call in for a registration form and pick up a prospectus in the entrance porch.

Becky and the team at St Mary's

Church Mouse Tales.

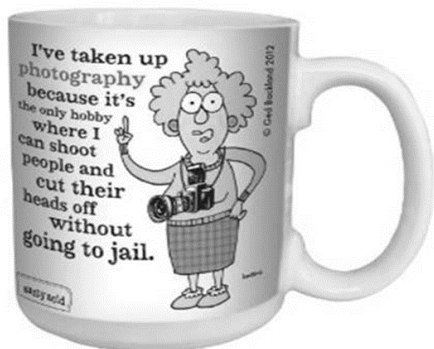
At this time of year a Mouses' attentions are drawn to the subject of keeping warm. Sunday's and Wednesdays are no problem—nice warm radiators! Even the odd Saturday can be quite toastie. It's the other days of the week which can be quite a challenge. My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, has not, it has to be said, been much use. 'Running on the spot', 'press ups' and 'star jumps' (whatever they are) have no appeal whatsoever. Its all right for him in his thick woolly Habit.

'Mine is called a 'Great Schema' he informs me. 'Its due to my high ranking position', he went on loftily. A 'great schemer' was the perfect description I agreed. He would do well to come up with one that keeps me warm—meanwhile I have slipped un-noticed into his ample hood. A great scheme of my own, I declare...

Misha



Brian's Humour Page: Caution—Crazy Woman...



Brian

Diary for November and Early December 2015.

NOVEMBER

Sun 1st	10:30am	10.30am Holy Communion (sung)
	12.30pm	Baptism Service
Services conducted by Revd. John Pinder-Packard		
Wed 4th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Sat 7th	9:30am	Church and Churchyard clean up
Sun 8th	10:30am	All-Age Remembrance Worship
	12 Noon	Holy Communion
		With Revd. Glenn Coggins
	6pm	Remembrance Day Service
		With Ven. Paul Hooper
Mon 9th	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Wed 11th	10am	Holy Communion
		With Revd. Glenn Coggins
Sun 15th	10:30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		With Revd Rosemary Asquith
Wed 18th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Thurs 19th	11:00am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 22nd	10:30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		With Revd Rosemary Asquith
Wed 25th	10am	Holy Communion
		With Revd. Glenn Coggins
Sat 28th	10am	Christmas Fair in Parish Centre (to 3pm)
Sun 29th	10:30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		With Revd Chris Johnson

START OF TOY COLLECTION

EARLY DECEMBER

Wed 2nd	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Sat 5th	11am	Carol Singing at Country Baskets (to 12:30pm)
	1:30pm	Organ Recital starring George Ford
Sun 6th	10:30am	Holy Communion (sung)
		With Revd Elizabeth Lee

TOY COLLECTION ENDS

Wed 9th	10am	Holy Communion
		With Revd. Glenn Coggins
Sat 12th	10am	Activity Day Fun for Kids (to 1pm)
Sun 13th	10:30am	All-Age Nativity Service
	12 Noon	Holy Communion
		With Revd Elizabeth Lee

Albert's 'Musical Animals' Quiz.

1. Which American City is a translation of 'The Angels'?
2. Angel Falls is the world's highest waterfall – in which country is it?
3. Where do fools rush in?
4. Which New York born actor starred in the films 'Angel Heart' (1987) and 'We're No Angels' (1990)?
5. Which German-born actress came to prominence in the 1930 film 'Blue Angel'?
6. In which 1987 film did Mickey Rourke and Charlotte Rampling appear?
7. What does the word 'angel' actually mean?
8. Which American actress, famous for her repartee, starred in the 1933 film 'I'm No Angel'?
9. Which angel told Mary she would become the mother of Jesus? (Luke 1: 26-27)
10. In Revelations 12: 7-9 with what creature did the angel Michael fight?
11. Which group had a 1970's hit with 'Angel Eyes'?
12. In the Bible which angel is sent by God to warn Noah about the flood?
13. How many angels are named in the bible? Is it 2,4,6 or 8?
14. Which sculptor created 'The Angel of the North'?
15. Which angel was sent by God to heal, in particular children and travellers?

Answers on P34.

Albert

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

Baptisms:-

In October we welcomed into our church family in Baptism:-

Hugo Arthur Thompson, Son of Glen and Lucy from Tingley.

Emmy Mary Jane Ward, Daughter of David and Lynsey from Tingley.

Zac David Michael Ward, Son of David and Lynsey from Tingley.

Leon Harry Edward Gerrard, Son of Alisdair and Lynsey from Tingley.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1.Los Angeles 2.Venezuela 3.Where Angels Fear to Tread 4.Robert de Niro 5.Marlene Dietrich 6.Angel Heart 7.Messenger 8.Mae West 9.Gabriel 10. A Dragon 11. Roxy Music 12. Uriel 13. 4 (Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Uriel) 14.Anthony Gormley 15.Raphael

Albert.

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Parish Centre Rentals

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

Nominal Cost is £50 for 3 hours.

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

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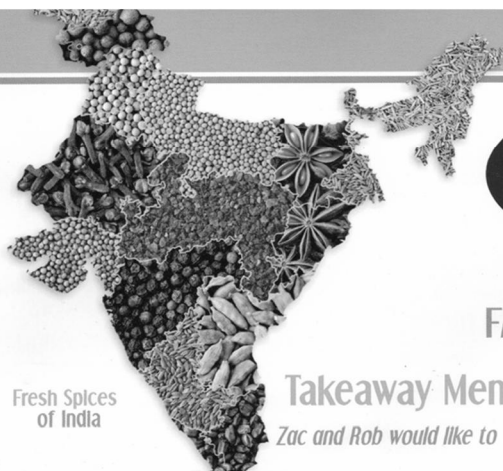
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm Becky Schofield 07811 146958
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Rainbows	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393
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:

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

To arrange for **Baptisms** please contact: Gill Mahoney
Tel: 07771 533871

To **book weddings, funerals, or the reading of banns** please
contact our Coordinator, Gail Townsend (0113 2528710) email:
Gail.Townsend12@gmail.com