

# Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

**April 2016**



[www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)

**This Month:**

**New Vicar; Say a Prayer;  
Love Life; St. Frances;  
90 Good Deeds; Just Sing!**

## Who's who at Woodkirk

**Vicar of St Mary's:** Currently Vacant .  
St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road,  
Woodkirk, WF12. 7JL

**Lay Pastoral Minister:** Gail Townsend 0113 2528710  
**Churchwardens:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790  
Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

**Deputy churchwardens:** Gary Mortimer  
Glyn Jennings  
David Townsend

**Verger:** Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

**Organist:** Samantha Hawkins

**PCC Secretary:** Dawn Tattersfield

**PCC Treasurer** Barbara Tate

**Social Chairman:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

**Parish Centre Hire:** Sally Shaw 01924 475048

**Parish Centre Manager:** Glyn Jennings 01924 470272

**Parish Legacy Officer:** David Townsend

**Child Protection Officer:** Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

**Health & Safety Officer** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

**Data Protection Officer:** Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

**Magazine Editor &** David Townsend 0113 2528710

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

**Deanery Synod rep:** Glyn Jennings

### **Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:**

Brian Gledhill, Julie Hyde, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Dave Townsend, Barbara Tate, Liz Aveyard, Gail Townsend, Glyn Jennings.

If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 50p really helps to keep it going!

## **In this Month's Magazine:**

### **Features:**

• New Vicar revealed	P9
• Prayerful Thought	P9
• Christian Aid Week	P12
• The Saturday Club	P12
• Is it Leeds or WYAD?	P13
• Do we Fairtrade?	P13
• Palm Sunday at School	P14
• 90 Good Deeds for the Queen	
• St, Frances of Rome	P16
• George and Jemina	P18
• Love the life you didn't want	P21
• Ripon Cathedral Show Time!	P22
• Songs of Praise Needs You!	P24
• Take it to the Lord in prayer	P26
• Wise Words from a Mother	P27
• CAP Money Course	P30
• Girl Guides retirement	P31
• Games Night	P32

### **Also this Month:**

• Brian's Funny Bone	P25
• Poetry Corner	P28
• Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions	P29
• Church Mouse Tales	P30
• Alberts Quiz	P33
• Diary for the next six weeks	P34
• Mother's Union 2016 Diary	P34
• Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths	P35
• Quiz Answers	P35

**JW Binks**  
**Funeral Directors**  
**www.jwbinks.co.uk**  
**Traditional Funerals**  
**Green and alternative funerals**  
**Low cost “simple funerals”**  
**On call 24 hours a day**  
**Queen Street, Morley**  
**0113 253 2087**

---

**H WHITELEY AND SON**  
**(*MARTIN FOX*)**  
**MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS**  
**CEMETERY LODGE, BRUNTCLIFFE LANE - MORLEY**  
**EST. 1904**

**Private Address**  
**116 VICTORIA ROAD**  
**MORLEY**

**LEEDS**  
**0113 252 8145**

**First Class Workmanship**  
**Personal Attention**  
**Reasonable Charges**  
**Telephone 0113 253 4739 (Yard)**

# CROFT HOUSE VETERINARY CLINIC

378 Soothill Lane

Batley

West Yorkshire

Private off road parking  
Please telephone or call for an appointment.

We are two minutes from the  
'Babes in the Wood' pub.

We are happy to support  
Woodkirk Parish Church.

**Tel: 01924 474300**



Fresh Spices  
of India

**TINGLEY**  
**Balti House**  
Fully Licensed Indian Restaurant

**FAST FREE DELIVERY SERVICE**

**Takeaway Menu**

**Tel: 0113 238 1193**

*Zac and Rob would like to thank all our patrons for many years of support*

**At Balti House, we don't do fast food, we do good food as fast as we can.  
Open 7 days a week. Lowry Road, Tingley, Wakefield WF3 1TW**



208400



**Gas Installations**  
**Service & Maintenance,**  
**Landlords Gas Safety Checks**  
**Boiler Upgrades**  
**Un-vented Hot Water Cylinder**  
**General Plumbing & Heating Repairs**  
**Free Estimates and friendly service**  
*Tel: Lee Fowler 07949 292201*  
*or Mark Walshaw 07949 928380*

## **Clean and Sparkle Services**

Want your home cleaning?  
Want a professional & friendly service?  
Want a high quality cleaning service you  
can rely on?  
Wait no more.  
Call Pat for a full quotation now

Phone: 01924 443 428  
Mobile: 07974 844 958  
E-mail: [oldroydpatricia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oldroydpatricia@yahoo.co.uk)

**We use all our own products**

# WOODKIRK VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

**YOUR FUNCTION DESTINATION (J28)**

**LEEDS ROAD, DEWSBURY**

**0113 252 3139**

*www.woodkirkvalleycc.co.uk*

- \* WEDDING RECEPTIONS
  - \* CHARITY EVENTS
  - \* CONFERENCES
  - \* CHRISTENING PARTIES
  - \* COMMUNITY EVENTS
  - \* PRIVATE PARTIES
  - \* CHILDREN'S PARTIES
  - \* FUNERAL TEAS
- 



## RMT TV + Satellite Services

- Aerials
- TV distribution systems
- Freesat / Sky
- TV / Home cinema set up
- TV wall mounting
- Cat 5 / Home networks
- Repairs and problem solving
- Building extension pre-wires

**Richard Thompson**

**131 Haigh Moor Road**

**Tingley**

**WF3 1EJ**

**Telephone: 0113 2536064**

**Mobile: 07846029745**

**Email: rmt72@icloud.com**

**Wakefield, Leeds and  
surrounding area**

**No job too big or small**

**15 years experience**

## **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](http://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](https://twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk)

### **Wheelchair Access**

A wheelchair is available to help people move easily between the church and Dewsbury Road. Just ask.





## **Our New Vicar is officially appointed...**

The Bishop of Leeds, The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines, is pleased to announce that the **Revd Sharon Wilkinson**, currently serving as Curate at St Paul's Church, Scotforth in the Diocese of Blackburn has been appointed as Vicar of St Mary's Church, Woodkirk in the Leeds Episcopal Area in the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales.

The Licensing Service will take place at St Mary's Church, Woodkirk on Monday 20th June 2016 at 7.30pm. Bishop Nicholas Baines will be officiating.

*(PS: Don't mention the war (of the Roses) . I mentioned it last month, but I think I got away with it — Editor).*

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

This year the APCM will be on Sunday 17th April after the service and at the back of Church. Everyone is welcome to stay, however you need to be on the Electoral Roll to vote for Church Wardens, PCC members and the like. Happy voting...

## **Prayerful Thought. Have you decided?**

Well hello there

I am writing this at the beginning of Holy week, and by the time you read it, Easter will be past, although you may still be munching your way through your chocolate Easter Eggs!

As we approached Palm Sunday we did have a couple of lovely spring days with lovely sunshine and a bit of warmth, I do hope that we managed a few nice days over Easter too as it makes a lot of difference doesn't it?

We have now moved our clocks forward an hour and we start being able to enjoy lighter evenings and suddenly, even if the days are not brilliantly sunny, we lose the gloom of cold, damp, drizzly winter evenings. Spring has sprung once again, when perhaps we wondered if we would ever have blue skies again after those grey days.

I love Spring, my birthday is in Spring which is always a nice thing to look forward to, even though this year it is a rather large

milestone birthday! And although I do like gardening, it also means I have to start preparing and planting in our allotment (although David does do a lot more than I). I'm sure Sandra is sat reading this saying 'Oh Dawn, you should have had stuff prepared and planted ages ago!' but Easter is usually when we start getting stuck in.

Of course over these last three years I have had the added complication of essays with deadlines in the middle of April so that I end up juggling my time between essay writing (which again like gardening could have been started ages ago!) and weeding.

Are you starting to feel a bit more energetic, even if you are not quite as mobile or 'sprightly' as perhaps you once were, the sight of crocuses and daffodils in gardens and window boxes really does raise ones spirits.

Of course as Christians we have another reason for the raising of our spirits when we come through the ups and downs of Holy Week, the desolation and despair of Good Friday to the joy and elation of Easter Sunday.

Now of course, if we had been amongst Jesus' disciples it would have taken a bit of time before we accepted what Jesus had been telling us, had actually happened.

We would have been with Jesus on Maundy Thursday, hidden away from the authorities on and after Good Friday, and met in secret for a little while afterwards, bereft of our charismatic teacher. It's OK for us, we know how the story ends, but they didn't, they had to trust in Jesus even though he wasn't amongst them anymore.

I often wonder whether if I had been a follower of Jesus if I would have trusted what he had said or would I have been doubting like Thomas?

However, as Christians today we find ourselves in a somewhat similar position to those early disciples. We have to trust Jesus, we have to trust God.

We live in a world full of hatred, war and bitterness, power struggles, poverty, abuse of natural resources. We come to church,

we pray for all these situations, and sometimes we might feel that it is too much, how can God help in all these situations?

This is where we must trust and have faith in God, and it's not easy is it?

We pray and we hope whilst we see on our TV screens and read in our newspapers of the continuing problems in our world, but we must not lose heart, we must keep praying about these situations. It is our faith that will keep our hopes strong that solutions can be found. Being a Christian doesn't mean that bad things will stop happening, or that people will not suffer, but we ask God for His intervention, His Grace and His love in those situations where we feel powerless.

At Easter time, I think about Jesus coming to the end of his journey. Jesus knew how his life had to end, he knew he had to die. Jesus had faith in God, his father, and I think the most moving bit for me is when Jesus prayed to God, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will but yours be done."

At the last, Jesus asked God for His intervention, His Grace and His love, if there was any way this story could end in a different way, then it was at this point that Jesus asked for it, however, he also acknowledges that it is not his will but God's will that is to be done.

Well it was God's will that was done, Jesus was sacrificed for our sin, but then as God promised, Jesus rose again and now sits at the right hand of God in heaven.

Jesus had the ultimate trust in God and was rewarded, let us continue to pray to God for all those things that concern us, and ask that His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus we are free from sin, let us rejoice and be glad. Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed Hallelujah.

Love and prayers

Dawn

## **Christian Aid Week, 15th to 21st May 2016**

Christian Aid Week is rapidly approaching and we will once again need door to door collectors. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is. We will also require volunteers for the Christian Aid sponsored walk which will take place on the 21st May around the area of Oakwell Hall, Batley.

This year's walk has been reduced in length to 4 miles as most of the people who volunteer are getting on in years and are not as able as they once were. It would be very nice to see some younger faces amongst the usual walkers, so if you would like to get some sponsors and join the walk please contact me on 01924 475048.

Also coming up, in Morley Town Hall at 7-15 pm on the 11th June, is Christian Aid's Celebration Concert, featuring as guest soloist Morley MP Andrea Jenkyns and various local schools. Full details will be advertised nearer to the event, meanwhile please reserve the date in your diaries.

Do help to continue the good work of this very worthy registered charity which has helped people in all parts of the world for so many years. Thank you.

Sally Shaw

01924 475048

## **Saturday Gathering community in Halifax**

The Yorkshire church where homeless, ex addicts and those living on the margins have come to faith is the latest star of the 'justpray' campaign for the Church of England.

Men and women who came to faith through the Saturday Gathering have featured in a series of short dramatic films for Lent and Easter that bring their own struggles into the retelling of Psalm 22 with the message that faith and prayer isn't easy. And now the church in Halifax town centre is the star of the latest film offering from the Church of England for its 'justpray' website – a one stop digital hub to encourage people that prayer is for everyone.

justpray.uk is a place where you can leave your own prayers on line.

## **What's in a name?**

Introducing a discussion on the naming of the diocese, Bishop Nick told members of Synod that there was an urgent need to decide whether it should be called 'Leeds', its legal name, or 'West Yorkshire & the Dales', a name which he said caused confusion.

"I'm getting letters almost every week", he said, "from people complaining 'why don't you use your proper title of the Bishop of West Yorkshire and the Dales?' – the answer of course is that I'm not. Within the media there is a complete lack of clarity both locally and nationally. Increasingly in the public sphere we are coming across it with politicians who don't get it as well."

He said there was a need to create a visual identity for the diocese especially with the move to a new diocesan office, and a proposal was tabled for discussion to call the diocese 'Leeds' with the strapline 'The Church of England in West Yorkshire & the Dales.' In groups, Synod members discussed the proposal and wrote down their answers which will be considered before a decision is made.

## **Are we a Fair Trade Diocese?**

Synod members enthusiastically supported a motion to work towards becoming a Fairtrade diocese by writing to all churches asking them, where not already registered, to register as a Fairtrade Church. A letter will also be sent to all Church of England schools asking them, if not already registered, to register as a Fairtrade school - and a Fairtrade steering group will be set to steer the registration of the Diocese as a Fairtrade diocese.

The motion was put by Ven Bev Mason, Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, pictured left with Kay Brown, Chaplain of Abbey Grange School who talked about the way schools can imaginatively adopt Fairtrade status.

## Assembly about Palm Sunday.

I just wanted to share with you my experience just before Easter with the wonderful pupils at Westerton Primary School. During our period of vacancy I have been visiting both Westerton and Hill Top Primary Schools to take part in whole school assemblies. Whilst I have had brilliant times with both schools, it is Westerton Primary that I wanted to refer to today.

I went into school the week before Palm Sunday and had prepared some slides in order to talk about the Palm Sunday Story, this also included teaching the children a new song. It was Palm Sunday style words to the (as I thought well known) tune of 'She'll be coming round the mountain'.

I spoke to the school prior to the assembly and whilst we were not sure the children would know the tune, Miss Walsh the music teacher thought she had the music so we thought we would be OK.

Well I told the Palm Sunday story from Mark's Gospel, linking in pictures and also referred to Holy Week. We then got to the part of the new song. I shared this song with Gail so I hope you maybe had a chance to use it on Palm Sunday too, the words of the song are as follows:

He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes

He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes

He'll be riding on a donkey

Riding on a donkey

Riding on a donkey when he comes

Oh we'll all go out and meet him when he comes

Oh we'll all go out and meet him when he comes

Oh we'll all go out and meet him

All go out and meet him

All go out and meet him when he comes

We'll be waving our palm branches when he comes

We'll be waving our palm branches when he comes

We'll be waving our palm branches

Waving our palm branches

Waving our palm branches when he comes

We'll be shouting out HOSANNA when he comes

We'll be shouting out HOSANNA when he comes

We'll be shouting out HOSANNA

Shouting out HOSANNA

Shouting out HOSANNA when he comes

I asked the children when they got to verse three to wave their arms as palm branches and then in verse four to shout out 'Hosanna', and off we went. Well I can honestly tell you the children were brilliant, the vigorous arm waving and loud shouting of over 250 children was absolutely electric, I was hit with a wall of sound, and I'm sure if Jesus had ridden through that assembly hall on his donkey he would have been so impressed!

To round off our celebrations of the joy of Palm Sunday I asked the children to do a Mexican Wave (you may have seen these at large sporting events where the crowd rise in waves all around the stadium. Again the effect of this from my privileged position at the front of the hall was amazing.

I often find myself thanking God for all His many blessings to me, and I am grateful for those blessings every day, but I think I count as one of His most wondrous blessings, the path He is leading me along that has given me the opportunity to share the stories of Jesus with the young people in two of our local schools.

Will you be SHOUTING out HOSANNA when Jesus comes?

Love Dawn

## **Queen's 90th Birthday – Get involved.**

The Queen's 90th birthday is on the 21st April, and this marks the start of a series of events running through April, May and June.

A weekend of events to celebrate the Queen's birthday and, unofficially, the Duke of Edinburgh's 95th birthday, will start on June 10th with a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

We will be having a thanksgiving tree in Church at the All Age Service on Sunday June 12th. Between April and June if you do a good deed, or see someone else do so, please write it down on a card and on that Sunday all the 'Good Deeds' will be hung on the thanksgiving tree. We hope to collect 90 cards – one for each of the Queen's years to go on our '90 Good Deeds for the Queen' tree.

Gail

## **St Frances of Rome (Francesca Busso; 1384-1440)**

Francesca was born in the Trastevere district of Rome, to parents who were both wealthy and deeply religious. With the Benedictine spiritual director her mother chose for her. Francesca planned an ascetic religious life for herself (one of severe self-discipline and abstention) but her parents had already chosen a husband for her, and at the age of thirteen she became a wife of Lorenzo Ponziano. He never treated her with anything except love and respect, but she was not happy. Her sister-in-law, Vanozze found her weeping one day; Frances confided her longing for life devoted to God and found a kindred spirit. Together they planned how to reconcile their wishes with married life.

They began visiting the sick and distributing alms and set up an oratory in the family Palace, where they could pray once their day's duties were done. Frances gave birth to her first son in 1400 and the following year was appointed head of the household on the death of her mother-in-law, despite her protests that the post should be Vanozza's. She was loved and respected by the whole household.

At about this time, however, outside events began affecting the family and Rome. A war over the kingdom of Naples brought famine and disease. Frances distributed the family's supplies to the hungry, and when there was nothing left (except provisions for the family's basic needs, which her father-in-law insisted on keeping in the cellar), she went out begging.

Struggles between pope and antipope following the Great Schism of the West reduced Rome to a battleground in 1408, by which time Frances had had another son. The elder son was seized as a hostage, and Lorenzo was stabbed. Frances' son was given back to her when two horses on which he was to have been taken away refused to budge, and she gradually nursed her husband back to health. The son was taken once more and exiled with his father. The family palace was ruined, but Frances and Vanozza opened a hospital in what remained for victims of the plague that was ravishing the city.



Her infant second son caught this and died; Frances was very ill with it for several months but survived.

She developed remarkable powers of healing (which she attributed to a guardian angel visible to her), and the fame of these spread all over Rome. She also predicted the end of the Great Schism, and once Martin V had been elected sole pope and peace was restored, Lorenzo and the elder son returned from exile. Lorenzo's health was broken, but he willingly took second place in his wife's concerns as she set about forming a group of like minded women into a religious community.

This was known first as the Oblates of Mary and then the Oblates of Tor de Specchi, after the tower into which they moved in 1433. They were not religious Sisters and did not take vows, but they were committed to living in common (which



Frances could not do while her husband was still alive, and devoting their lives to works of mercy. Frances refused to be called foundress and ensured that all were loyal to the first superior, Agnes de Lellis, but when Lorenzo died she entered the community. When she did, Agnes insisted on resigning and compelled her to become superior.

Frances' visions and ecstasies increased as her health failed. She died in the evening of 9th March 1440, uttering the words, "The angel has finished his work. He is beckoning me to follow". Her body was buried in the chapel of the oblates in Santa Maria Nuova, which was later renamed Santa Francesca Romana after her. She was canonized in 1608.

Gail

## **George and Jemima give their Best...**

*In March's All Age, foot washing Service, George and Jemima are on form...*

Both pop up

Jemima. Hi George.

George. Oh hello Jemima, how's things?

Jemima. I've been thinking.

George. Wow! I bet that hurt.

Jemima. No George, I'm serious.

George. Go on then, what's up?

Jemima. Do you ever think what it must be like to give away your best?

George. Oh yeh. it happened to me once.

Jemima. Oh, when?

George. In PE at school once.

Jemima. In PE at school, what happened?

George. We were all in the school gym ready to start our exercises, when the gym teacher noticed that my pal Jimmy Smith didn't have his gym shirt, and if he couldn't find it he wouldn't be able to do gym class. So you know what I did Jemima? I gave him my vest.

Jemima. I said give him your best, not give him your vest, you idiot.

George. Sorry, I thought you said vest.

Jemima. Oh George, what am I going to do with you?

George. Well I don't know what you're on about.

Jemima. I'm trying to think what it must be like to give away your most prized possession to another person. Like, I have a silver charm bracelet that belonged to my Great Grandma, that she left to my Grandma, that she left to my Mum and my Mum has now given it to me.

George. Blimey, I'm glad it wasn't left to your Great Great Great Grandma, or we'd be here all day, ha ha.

Jemima. Don't be daft George. How can you be so silly at this time of day?

George. I get up very early, ha ha.

Jemima. No George, come on be serious for once. What's your most prized possession?

George. Ooooh! now let me think, 'cos I've got lots.

Jemima. Come on then, such as?

George. Erm! I've got my first ever bogey I picked when I was a baby.

Jemima. Urgh George.  
 George. Only kidding  
 Jemima. Come on.  
 George. OK. I have a Leeds United football shirt that is signed by all the players, which my Dad won at a sports quiz.  
 Jemima. And would you give that away to someone else George?  
 George. No Way. I would if it was a Man United shirt though.  
 Jemima. So come on, what else have you got?  
 George. I've got my 21 gears super duper rally cross slick white walled tyred dayglow red painted with racing saddle twin cam brakes with dynamo allergen lights front and back. (gasps for air) cow horn handlebars with electro plated twin horns stereo radio with beat box headphones. ( gasps for air again) MOUNTAIN BIKE (phew)  
 Jemima. Could you be a bit more specific?  
 George. Oh and yeh, it's got a puncture.  
 Jemima. OK George. Then would you give your Mountain Bike to someone else?  
 George. No way.  
 Jemima. That's what I'm talking about. Remember what we learned in Sunday School last week?  
 George. Er, sort of.  
 Jemima. Remember, when Jesus went to that city where a man called Lazarus lived, and Jesus raised him from the dead.  
 George. Oh yeh  
 Jemima. Well, if you remember, Lazarus lived with his two sisters, Martha & Mary and they gave a dinner in honour of Jesus, and while Lazarus was eating at the table and Martha was serving the food, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening to him teach. As she was sitting there, she did a very unusual thing.  
 George. What did she do?  
 Jemima. She took a bottle of very expensive perfume and began to wash the feet of Jesus with it. Then she dried his feet with her hair.  
 George. Ugh! her hair, her hair, you mean she could afford that expensive perfume but couldn't afford a towel?  
 Jemima. No George, listen. Mary knew that it would only be a few days before Jesus was crucified and buried and Mary wanted to give Jesus the very best that she had, to show her love for him. That perfume was the very best thing that Mary had to offer. You see George, Jesus has given us the

most wonderful gift imaginable, the gift of everlasting life, and it's free. But it was a very costly gift to Jesus. So what can we give to Jesus to show our love for him? I don't think he wants my silver charm bracelet or your Leeds United shirt.

George. He's not getting my Mountain Bike

Jemima. Don't worry George, Jesus doesn't want your Mountain bike, he just wants us to give him our life.

George. Well that's alright then.

Jemima. Yes George, that is alright.

George. Can you smell sweaty feet?

Jemima. Say bye bye George.

George. Bye Bye.

Brian



*George and Jemima at the All Age Service*

## Love the Life you never wanted.

We tend to define our life based on our perception of our progress. Am I where I thought I would be at this age? Have I achieved what I thought I would? Are my dreams more or less real today? Am I happy in my marriage, my family, my position at work? Is my life successful?

In reality, life is never defined by our performances or circumstances. What really makes any life worth living today is the presence and protection and pleasure of the almighty, all-satisfying God.

After being sold into slavery by his own brother, Joseph surprisingly rose to power in perhaps the most powerful empire in the world:

*The LORD was with Joseph, and he becomes a successful man, and was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favour in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all the he had. (Genesis 39: 2-4)*

Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything. But Potiphar's wife lusted after Joseph and tried to seduce him. When he faithfully refused her advances she framed him, claiming he had come to her. Her lies ripped him of all his power and responsibility and landed him in prison (Genesis 39: 20). He committed no sin (at least not with Potiphar's wife), neither was deceit found in his mouth, and yet he was treated as worse than a slave, locked away without hope of release.

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison....And whatever he did, the LORD made (Genesis 39: 21-23)

Whether in power or in prison, Joseph's life was hope-filled, meaningful, and successful, not because he worked so hard or received what he deserved, but because GOD was with him. The

LORD was with him in his masters house – and the LORD was with him in prison.

### How Good Is Your Life?

Is the life you're currently living the one you always wanted for yourself?

Did you think you'd be married by now? Or that you'd still be married? If you are married, did you marry when you thought you would, or whom you thought you would?

What about your job? Not what you hoped for? Do you feel like your gifts are being wasted? Do you dream of doing something different with your life?

Maybe you wish you were living somewhere else? You long to be closer to home or father away?

The reality is that all of us can imagine something better for ourselves than our circumstances today. The greater reality is that, if you love and follow Jesus, God always writes a better story for you than you would write for yourself. The "better" is based on this; God himself is best, most satisfying thing you could ever have or experience and, therefore, fullness of life is ultimately found not in any earthly success or relationship or accomplishment, but in proximity to God through faith.

The dark side of this good news is that you may have to walk through pain, disappointment, rejection, and suffering in your life. The brighter (and prevailing) side says God never makes a mistake in choosing good for you. Everything you experience – expected or unexpected, wanted or unwanted, pleasing or painful – is God's good plan to make you his own (John 10: 27-29) to give you himself forever (Psalm 16: 11) and to use your life to reveal himself and his glory to the world around you (Isaiah 43: 25; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

### The Secret of Contentment

A couple thousand years after Joseph ruled and was then left to rot in prison, Paul lived and wrote the same things about life:

*I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4: 11-13)*

What is the secret of joy and contentment in the face of whatever life brings? It's centring and anchoring our joy and contentment in Christ, rather than in life. When we have little and have lost much, Christ comes and reveals himself as more valuable than what we have lost. And when we have much and are overflowing in abundance, Christ comes and shows that he is far superior to everything we have.

God means for all of us - after the wrongly convicted Joseph, and brutally beaten Paul - to have faith, hope and joy. Make him your greatest treasure and ambition, and everything else that happens to you, in the light of that infinite pleasure and security. Learn to love the life you have with God, even if it is the life you never wanted.

Gail

## **Ripon Cathedral Reveals itself...**

Ripon Cathedral Revealed will run from Thursday 28 April to Monday 2 May 2016.

The weekend of events begins with the Festival Jazz Preview Evening with wine, canapés and speaker Martin Fish: a well-known gardener, writer and media personality.

The evening offers an opportunity to view the magnificent flower displays by award winning arrangers before the general public.

The whole festival offers a variety of activities including the spectacular Flower festival, Food festival, Children's creative activities, Musical events including the Cathedral Choir, rounding off with our well known, annual Beer Festival within the Cathedral grounds on the May Day Bank Holiday Monday.

The weekend promises to be exciting, captivating, fun and fulfilling. This festival is to celebrate the Cathedral's rich heritage in the beautiful surroundings of Ripon, the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales.

We look forward to you joining us.

*This is an opportunity not to be missed.*

## **Do you like a good Sing Song?**

BBC One's Songs of Praise is inviting church members in the diocese to join them for two afternoons of traditional hymn singing at St Aidan's Church, Leeds. These will be broadcast in future editions of the programme. They are especially keen for enthusiastic singers to come and make up a specially-formed 'combined choir', who will lead the viewers at home in the singing.

The details are as follows:

### **SONGS OF PRAISE RECORDING 1**

Combined Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 28 April, 7.15 – 8.30pm

Television Recording: Saturday 30 April, 2.30 – 5.45pm

### **SONGS OF PRAISE RECORDING 2**

Combined Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 28 April, 8.30 – 9.45pm

Television Recording: Sunday 1 May, 2.30 – 5.45pm

All rehearsals and recordings take place at St Aidan's Church, Roundhay Road (at the junction with Elford Place West), Harehills, Leeds LS8 5QD.

People are welcome to take part in one or both recordings, and are also welcome to attend as part of the congregation. Congregational singers are not required to attend the rehearsal.

Admission will be by free ticket. To apply please use the ticket application form (on the diocese website), and e-mail it to [songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk](mailto:songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk), or you can post it to: Songs of Praise Tickets (Leeds), 1st Floor, Dock House, Media City UK, Salford M50 2LH.

The deadline for all ticket applications is Tuesday 12 April 2016. Tickets will be posted after this date. In the event that we are oversubscribed we will allocate on a first-come, first-served and/or a pro-rata basis.

If you have any queries, please e-mail the team at [songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk](mailto:songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk), or call us on 0161 335 8429.

After over 54 years, Songs of Praise continues to be enormously popular and these recordings promise to be wonderful events.



## Brian's Funny Bone...

*Well, I guess it just had to come to this sooner or later!*

A blond man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts:

"Did you find the shampoo?"

He answers, "Yes, but I'm not sure what to do... it's for dry hair, and I've just wet mine."

-----

A blond man spies a letter lying on his doormat.

It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND ".

He spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.

-----

A blond man shouts frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!"

"Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor.

"No!" he shouts, "this is her husband!"

-----

A blond man is in jail; the guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet.

"Just WHAT are you doing?" he asks.

"Hanging myself", the blond replies.

"The rope should be around your neck" says the guard.

"I tried that", he replies, "but then I couldn't breathe".

-----

An Italian tourist asks a blond man: "Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

To which the blond man replies: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."

-----

A friend told the blond man: "Christmas is on a Friday this year".

The blond man then said, "Let's hope it's not the 13th".

-----

Two blond men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station.

One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?"

The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two."

Brian

## **Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Whilst on placement at Gildersome I have been joining in their Lent Course and this has been about Grace. The readings through Lent and the teaching on a Tuesday evening have been fully focussed on God's Grace given to us, freely and without limit. The key element the other week though, was that we needed to activate that Grace and it was by FAITH that we did that.

I do like the hymn "Take it to the Lord in Prayer" and I sometimes think of it when 'grappling' with an issue. It seems funny that even though I think of this hymn, I haven't usually prayed about the situation until I think of the hymn. It feels a bit like using the oven gloves after I've already burnt my hand!

But, in undertaking reading in order to pull together a portfolio as the outcome of my placement, I came across this prayer in a church magazine from almost 10 years ago, so with thanks to whoever originally shared it, here is a lovely prayer...

### **Like Butterflies**

Lord, help us to recognise how fragile we are – like butterflies.  
How easily we can be crushed and hurt – like butterflies.  
How we wish we could fly away from life's problems – like butterflies.  
How free and beautiful we want to be – like butterflies.

But we never can be butterflies, we have responsibilities, problems, crosses to bear, fears for ourselves and our loved ones.

We have minds that churn with anxious thoughts, leaving us weary, doubting and longing for your peace.

Lord, only you know how many times we will fall under the weight of our crosses, we know that you fell three times with the weight of our sin on your shoulders. Even you Lord needed help to carry your cross, as we also need help.

Give us grace to ask for and receive the help we need to bear our loads, let us not be proud or silent in our suffering, help us to turn to you Lord and to find YOU in each other. Make us good listeners and wise counsellors, teach us to be caring and gentle, let our touch be as soft as the fleeting caress of a butterfly landing on a flower.

Teach us grace, humility and childlike trust, be our light when dark cocoons enfold us. Make us aware of your beauty and in our fragility – hold us.

‘Are we weak and heavy laden? Lumbered with a load of care. In His arms he’ll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there.

Dawn

## **Wise Words from a Mother...**

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred:

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives:

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful you will win some false friends and some true enemies:

Be successful anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you:

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight:

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous:

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow:

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may not be enough:

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

*You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God:*

*It never was between you and them anyway.*

Mother Theresa

## Poetry Corner.

*Dawn unearthed this from a church near you....*

Here's a variation on a hymn I thought you might like.

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me, trust in Him.

Yes Jesus loves me...yes Jesus loves me...  
Yes Jesus loves me, for the bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go,  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

Though I am no longer young,  
I have much, which He's begun,  
Let me serve Christ with a smile,  
Go with others the extra mile.

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(With thanks to an old Church Magazine from Gildersome.)

Dawn

## **SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS**

Before planting anything, think about what was where last year and possibly, what will be there next year? Crop rotation is essential if you wish to avoid diseases building up in your soil. It is also essential to avoid leaching nutrients year after year by planting the same crops in the same place. The one exception I make is with my runner beans. If you dig your trench in the same place and fill it with rotted compost or kitchen waste, then that, coupled with the nitrogen left from last year's crop, usually brings in a good harvest.

Sandra's Top Tip: Compile a check list of all the things you wish to achieve in the garden during this growing year. If you don't do it now you may become too engrossed in the growing season and forget all about it.

1. Start sowing in earnest with parsnip, carrots and Broadbeans directly into the ground.
2. Cover your bean trench and put up your bean poles.
3. Plant out peas from your guttering or cardboard tubes. Sow more in the greenhouse every two weeks.
4. Sow successional crops such as lettuce, radish, rocket and spring onions. Use any piece of spare garden you may have.
5. Harden off sweet peas.
6. Sow some winter greens such as winter cabbage and sprouting broccoli.
7. Clean up the strawberry bed. Remove any dead or dying leaves.
8. Plant Brussels sprouts, spring cabbage and asparagus crowns.
9. Place small logs or other objects into the margins of ponds so that hedgehogs and other forms of wildlife that fall in can scramble out with relative ease.
10. Divide or cut back any overgrown marginal and bog plants before they come back into growth.

Sandra

## **CAP Money Course—Are you Money fit?**

You are invited to.....

A course where you can answer these questions:

- Do you know how much money comes into your household?
- Do you know where it all goes?
- Would you like to save more?
- Would you like to be able to bless others and give more?  
(We are not asking you for money!!)
- Are you prepared for the future?

If so, please come and join us for an informal evening, starting with a free meal with your local CAP Money team on Wednesday 20th April at 7:00pm at West Ardsley Methodist Church (bottom of Haigh Moor Road). For catering purposes please contact Liz Aveyard 07791 324221 by 10th April. Many thanks.

## **Church Mouse Tales...**

*Misha's world has turned a bit surreal....*

The other day my friend Hubert, the Black Canon asked me a very strange question.

'Did you know you are missing?' he asked raising his eyebrows.

'Missing?' I replied.

'Yes', he said, 'you've not been seen for a while and its caused some consternation.'

'Oh', I said, 'well I've been here as far as I can remember.'

'Well, you need to show yourself, because officially you are missing—and if you are not here then it throws everything out. I mean who will do your jobs? What about the rota? And don't even get me started on security!'

Calm down, calm down,' I said in soothing tones, 'I really am here—everything is fine.'

'Well, er, good,' said Hubert, 'because frankly there's talk of a replacement, and that would never do! Think of the hours of training !'

'No, no,' I said, 'it'll be fine—I'm hoping I'll turn up—one way or another. Just wait and see.'

And I thought it was supposed to be me who was the fretful one....

Misha

## **Girl Guides retirement...**

I have worked with 1st Woodkirk (St Marys') guides since July 2000. That year Anne (my unit helper and mum in law) and I inherited only 8 guides and no equipment. We have taken the unit from strength to strength and even had a waiting list on a few occasions. During that time, we have taken guides camping and on residential, been to the big gig twice, hosted other guide units, introduced older girls to brownies and rainbows as young leaders and participated in numerous events and services within the church family.

Unfortunately, both Anne and I are not in the best health now and we feel we are no longer able to give Guides the best experience as we have in the past. We have asked parents and friends to volunteer and take over but there were no takers. We are looking for a woman over 18 with an interest in supporting young adults to become the best they can be. There is training to become a leader but this can be finished in a couple of months and a mentor will be provided as will help and support from Anne and I. All external training and first aid courses will be paid for out of unit funds.

If we do not find a leader, then our unit will close. The work is incredibly rewarding and the love of the girls that have passed through the unit and gone on to successful adult lives is testament to this.

If you or someone you know would be interested, please call me urgently on 07841 513530.

Thank you in advance

Vikki Springett

# GAMES NIGHT FOR A GOOD CAUSE



**Saturday 16th April**

**Parish Centre**

**6:30-8:30**

**Quiz and Beatle Drive**

**Raffle Prizes to be won!**

**The money donated will be put towards a project set up by the Scouts to help build a school in Morocco. Charlotte Sykes is participating in the expedition and will be your host for this fun night of fundraising.**

**Your quizmaster will be Albert Shaw.**

**Any additional donations you wish to make see Sally or Charlotte.**



## **Albert's 'A is for April Quiz**

1. Which member of the British Royal family served in the Falklands War?
2. Which part of a flower contains the pollen?
3. The novelist Nick Hornby supports which football team?
4. By what name is the German Shepherd dog better known?
5. What is the eleventh sign of the Zodiac?
6. In the Church of England, which rank is immediately below a Bishop?
7. Where was Davy Crocket killed?
8. For what crime was Anne Boleyn executed?
9. What flavour is ouzo, the national drink of Greece?
10. What substance, obtained from sperm whales, is used in perfumes?
11. What name is given to a fear of heights?
12. Which is the world's driest desert?
13. Little Rock is the capital of which American state?
14. In mythology who is the beautiful youth loved by Venus?
15. Which is the river Nile's largest dam?

Answers on P35

Albert

## Diary for April and Early May 2016.

### April

Sat 2nd	9:30am	Church and Churchyard clean-up
	2:30pm	Wedding
Sun 3rd	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd. Rosemary
	12:30pm	Baptism
Wed 6th	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd. Glenn
Sun 10th	10:30am	All Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion with Revd. Chris Johnson
Mon 11th	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Wed 13th	10am	Morning Praise with Gail
Sun 17th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd. Rosemary
	12 Noon	APCM
Wed 20th	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd. Glenn
Thurs 21st	11:00am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sun 24th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd. Graham Greene
Wed 27th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Fri 29th	11:45am	Wedding

### Early May

Sun 1st	10:30am	Holy Communion
		with Revd. John Pinder-Packard
	12:30pm	Baptisms with Revd John Marsh
Wed 4th	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd. Glenn
Sat 7th	9:30am	Church and Churchyard clean-up
Sun 8th	10:30am	All Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion with Revd. Rosemary
Mon 9th	7:30pm	PCC meeting in Church

### Mother's Union Diary 2016:

April 18th	Speaker: Mrs. Mary Sharpe, MU Vice President. (2pm)
May 16th	Speaker: Mrs. Nancy Stephenson (2pm)
June 20th	Outing to Chatsworth House.
July 18th	Beetle Drive
Aug 15th	Meal out – Venue to be arranged
Sept 19th	No Meeting
Oct 17th	Speaker: Mr. Philip Stephenson (2pm)
Nov 21st	Christmas Wreath making with Averille Milburn
Dec 12th or 19th	Christmas Meal
	– Venue and final date to be confirmed.

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

## **Baptisms:-**

In March we welcomed one new member to our church in Baptism.

Elia Elizabeth Heravi, Daughter of Craig and Emma from Tingley

## **Weddings:-**

Helen Knowles and Joshua Bell, from Tingley, were married at St. Mary's on the 26th March 2016.  
Congratulations from the Church Family.

Quiz Answers. : 1. Prince Andrew. 2. Anther. 3. Arsenal. 4. Alsatian. 5. Aquarius. 6. Archdeacon. 7. The Alamo. 8. Adultery. 9. Aniseed. 10. Ambergris. 11. Acrophobia. 12. Atacama. 13. Arkansas. 14. Adonis. 15. Aswan.

**WOODKIRK  
POST OFFICE**

**S & J DEPUTY  
NEWSAGENT AND GENERAL**

**NATIONAL LOTTERY  
PERSONAL SERVICE  
1041 LEEDS ROAD**

**DEWSBURY  
TELEPHONE  
01924 472547**

**Andrew Roper**

**Painter &  
Decorator**

**Wallpaper Hanging**

**Tel: 01132 189324  
Mob: 07855 169672**

**30 Years Experience  
Spenslea Grove, Morley  
Leeds, LS27 0DZ**

**Advertise in**

**St Mary's Parish Magazine**

**Contact: The Editor (see page 2)**

**Annual Fee for Advertising 2015:**

**Quarter Page £30.00**

**Half Page £60.00**

**Full Page £100.00**

## **Shirl's Curls**

Local fully qualified Ladies Mobile Hairdresser with over 20 years' experience.

Shirley brings the professional salon experience to you in the comfort of your home, without the stress of travelling or parking.

Specialising in cutting/styling, foils, colouring and perming.



Get in touch to discuss your needs and to book an appointment.

**To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 015**

## **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: Sally Shaw**

**01924 475048 for more information.**

## **LIZ ROSS**

**QUALIFIED SURGICAL  
CHIROPODIST  
MSSCh MBChA**

**Chiropody Home Visiting  
Service in your area.  
Call now for an  
appointment.**

**PATIENTS' FREEPHONE  
0800 9707834**

**OFFICE: 0113 252 1482**

**MOBILE: 07799 416249**

**laraine.ross1@virginmedia.com**

**HPC Registered CH20590**

# BENNETT OF MORLEY

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

o o o o o o o o 0 o o o o o o o

***Tel 0113 2525374***

An independent family business,  
the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Marshall  
family who were established in  
1891. The family pride themselves  
on their caring and understanding  
of the bereaved and offer a complete  
funeral service including a pre-paid  
funeral 'plan'.

o o o o o o o o 0 o o o o o o o

### CONSULTANTS

**CHRISTINE BENNETT**  
**RACHEL STONES**

RESIDENCE  
3 HOLLY COURT  
TINGLEY

## What's on

<b>Mothers' Union</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
<b>Playgroup</b>	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm Becky Schofield 07811 146958
<b>Girl Guides</b>	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
<b>Toddler Group</b>	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
<b>Rainbows</b>	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393
<b>Brownies</b>	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
<b>Keep Fit Class</b>	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
<b>Young at Heart</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
<b>Beavers</b>	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
<b>Cubs</b>	Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm Marianne Ingham 07778 542302
<b>Scouts</b>	Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
<b>Explorer Scouts</b>	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