

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Valentines !

February 2016



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

**Trust? The Invisible Wise Man;
Delightful Toys; More Vicars?
Churches together.**

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: **TBC**

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 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!

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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.

It is human nature to think
wisely and act in an absurd
fashion.

Anatole France

Novelist 1844-1924

Prayerful Thought. Have you decided?

Dawn asks us who we trust....

Hello there

It's funny where one's inspiration comes from sometimes isn't it?

I changed my car in early January and paid the difference through banking electronic transfer, and when I sat and thought about this, I thought to myself, 'I've paid for this car and yet no money has changed hands', no money has been seen. The money was there in my account then, at the touch of a button, it had transferred somewhere else.

I trusted that my instruction to the bank would satisfy the garage I bought my car from, and it did. This got me thinking about trust, and how much we trust without seeing.

I would say that most people in employment rarely receive a payment in cash, you get a payslip telling you how much you are going to receive and 'Hey Presto' on the allocated pay day, your money shows in your bank account.

If you are now retired, your pension is deposited electronically in some form and you go to the post office or bank in order to draw it out.

In the early days of humans there was no currency, no money changed hands, you had something you wished to trade and you traded it with something you wanted from someone else.

I often smile to myself when watching period drama's when paper money is used and you see someone unfold a huge sheet of paper which is something like a 'ten shilling note' because can you imagine trusting a flimsy piece of paper when you had been used to exchanging your eggs for someone else's fowl or loaf of bread? Nowadays of course we use paper money and coins without a second thought, and in many cases, many of us don't even do that, we trust our bank cards for payment of our purchases.

So who do we trust?

We trust our friends and our families who know us and care for us, we trust professional people, Doctors, Nurses, Solicitors, Vicars, people whose position gives them that status, those positions of trust.

Sadly in society we sometimes may have put our trust in someone or something and been let down, and that is hard and

upsetting.

The thing is, it takes quite a lot for us to trust someone doesn't it? Usually we have a connection with them, we know them and they know us, we may have shared something amazing or perhaps very sad, but there will be something that enables us to have that relationship of trust.

All this made me think about trusting God.

Do we trust God? Really?

Well if we use the examples mentioned above, I said that we have a connection with those whom we trust, we know them and they know us, and perhaps this is why we sometimes find it difficult to trust God, perhaps because we haven't let ourselves get to know Him as much as we could do nor have we let God get to know us.

I know in past articles I have referred to sharing with God in prayer, not just waiting until we have a crisis, but sharing our good times, our excitement, our joy and our laughter, well if we do that, surely then God can be one of our trusted friends?

I went searching on Bible Gateway, an electronic bible that enables you to input phrases or words and 'search', and when I did this with the word 'Trust' it told me that the word 'Trust' is mentioned 132 times in the Bible (in the Revised Standard Version excluding Apocrypha). Now, I'm going to have to 'trust' that statistic, otherwise I'll never get this article to Dave for the printing deadline!

That statistic is then broken down further and tells us that the word trust appears 119 times in the Old Testament and 13 times in the New Testament and for those of you who follow regular Bible Study it will probably not surprise you to know that the book in which the word trust most appears is in Psalms where it appears no less than 52 times.

I particularly like Psalm 9:10, "Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you."

That text immediately makes me feel reassured, if I know the name of God and trust in Him, He will never forsake me.

But trusting in God doesn't mean that we are then protected from the world, that we can sail happily through life untouched by the issues that affect the world around us. We are lucky in that we all have a roof over our heads, but we would be naïve not to recognise that there will be people in our community who struggle to feed their families or who are hurt by the actions or comments of others because

they have a different coloured skin or speak a different language.

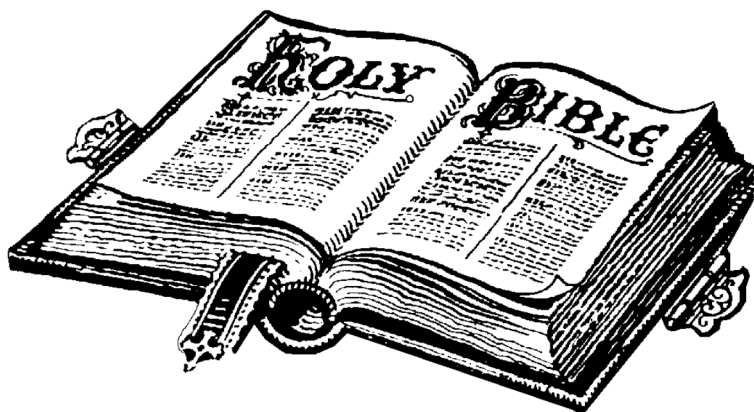
What trusting God means in these instances is that we say, 'Right then, yes we trust you, show us how we might help in these situations'.

Many of us watch the news with despair at the situations around our world for which we pray, for the troubles in the middle east, for relief for those who have suffered because of natural disasters like earthquakes and severe flooding, we may be able to donate money, but other than this and our prayers, we can't suddenly just dash off and help in a physical way. But do you know, that's not what God is asking us to do. He wants us to trust these situations to Him. Yes He wants our prayers for these situations because that then helps Him, He can then use these prayers to speak to those in the world who are better placed than we are to physically sort these situations out.

So going forward, perhaps like me, you will recognise how you trust things to happen that you can't always see, like being paid or paying bills by direct debit, and remember that if we share our lives with God, our good times as well as our troubles, then He can become our most trusted friend.

With love

Dawn x



The Children's Society

Susan reflects on the Christingles...

On Christmas Eve we held our two Christingle Services. The collection raised was £407, including £96 from the Collecting Candles (a Candle shaped money box) which people brought along to the Services. After paying £45 for Oranges our donation to the Children's Society totaled £362.

A great big THANKYOU to everyone who came along to help make the 250 Christingle Oranges (with a candle, sweets on sticks and stripes around the centre added) and a special thankyou to our young people. The services were well attended as always. The highlight for me is the lighting of the Christingle Candles under dimmed lights, a moment filled with awe and wonder for children and adults alike.

This is the highest amount we have ever collected. Thankyou to everyone for your support.

Susan Walshaw

Christians Against Poverty

Lifting People out of Debt and Poverty.

As we look to serve the poor and save the lost in 2016, we feel extremely aware of our complete dependency on God. Last month, staff in Bradford have been coming in early and staying late to cry out to God for the year ahead.

On Thursday 28th January, we were really excited to be holding a 24 hour prayer-athon. Many of us were fasting and staying awake late into the night (and even the following morning!) to pray together.

We will be praying for:

198 new churches will join us on our mission to open debt centres, job clubs, release groups and our new initiative, CAP Life Skills.

1,000 people come to know Jesus.

£3.5 million in one-off income.

People who need our help to find the strength to contact us.

2,850 people to go debt free this year.

400 people to find work this year.

CAP Life Skills to have a fantastic first year.

Knowing that your prayers are joining ours is such an encouragement. Without God, we can do nothing – but that we can do all things through him who gives us strength.

Thank you for your support!

Matt Barlow

UK Chief Executive

The Story of the Other Wise Man

My name is Artaban I live in a city called Ecbatana among the mountains of Persia in the days of Augustus Caesar ruler of the Roman Empire and King Herod ruler of Jerusalem. From the roof top of my house I can look over the rising battlements of black and white, crimson and blue, red and silver to the hill where the emperor's palace glittered above the city of Ecbatana like a jewel.

Around my house grew a wonderful garden filled with flowers and fruit trees, watered by rushing streams and made musical by countless birds.

High above the tallest tree in the garden stood a tower. At the top of this tower is where I work until late into the night, I am of the faith of Zoroaster. It is a study of the eternal struggle between the secrets of nature – above all, the secrets of the night sky

I have 3 friends who share my passion of the skies, Casper, Melchior and Balthazar, and for us the knowledge of the stars is the highest form of learning.

One spring night, the four of us were looking up to the sky when we observed two great planets draw together in the sign of the Fish and a new star shining more brightly than any we had ever seen before.

We knew from our studies that this star signified the birth of a great teacher who was to be born among the Jews. There and then, we decided to follow the star. We arranged to meet up together at a place far away by the Temple of the Seven Spheres in Babylon. From there we would set out with a caravan of supplies and follow the star to Jerusalem, to pay homage to the Child.

Excited, I set about arranging my affairs. First, I sold my house with its fragrant gardens and bought three jewels – a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl - to carry as a tribute to the new born child. On the eve of my departure, I said farewell to my father and knelt to receive his blessing.

Before dawn, even before the first bird had awoken, I went down to the stable where Vasda, my favorite horse stood saddled and bridled in her stall, shaking her bit and pawing at the ground impatiently. I swung myself into the saddle and was soon riding swiftly westward; I had to reach the Temple of the Seven Spheres on the appointed night, and the journey was long and hard.

I knew Vasda's strength, and pushed forward, riding late into the

night and starting long before sunrise every morning. Each evening, as soon as the sun sank behind the hills, the bright new star shone down.

Finally, after ten days and ten nights, I saw the great walls of Babylon. At last! In three hours' time I would be at the Temple of the Seven Spheres.

As I trotted past a grove of date palms outside the city wall, Vasda lowered her head and gave a soft whinny, then stood stock-still, quivering in every muscle, before a dark object lying in the shadow.

As I dismounted I could see a man lying across the road, I leant down to touch the man's head. The man gave a ghostly sigh and clutched at his robe with long bony fingers.

I saw right away this man needed help, but how can I stop, tonight of all nights? As I knelt beside him I prayed "God of truth and purity direct me in the holy path, the way of wisdom which you know better than any mortal. I then knew what I had to do - taking water and mixing it with some healing herbs, which were in my supplies, I laid the sick man's head in the crook of my arm and slowly poured the liquid into his parched mouth, Hour after hour I poured, a little at a time, then waited and poured again. At last the sick man's strength returned. 'Who are you' he asked, 'and why have you brought me back to life?'

I told him I was Artaban, of the city of Ecbatana, and I am going to Jerusalem in search of one who is to be born King of the Jews. I dare not stay with you any longer, for the caravan that has been waiting for me may depart without me. But see, here is all that I have left of bread and wine, and here is a potion of healing herbs. The sick man raised his hand to heaven, 'May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless you and bring you peace!

Now take heed: The Messiah will not be born in Jerusalem but in Bethlehem of Judah. May the Lord bring you in safety to that place. Because you have had pity on me and saved my life.'

It was now past midnight, I would have to ride quickly across the silent plain, but when I reached the Temple of the Seven Spheres, I could not see any sign of my friends. Then I saw a little pile of bricks and under them a piece of parchment, I picked it up and read 'We can delay no longer, We go to find the King of Kings.'

My heart was sad - how can I now reach Judah, with no food and a tired horse? I must now return to Babylon, sell my sapphire and buy camels and food for my journey. I then realized I may never catch up with my friends. Only God knows if I will miss the King of Kings because I stopped to help a dying man.

I returned to Babylon sold my sapphire and my beloved horse and exchanged them for a caravan of camels, food and wine, and set

off across the dreary desert. By day, a fierce heat blistered the earth, so no living thing could move, by night, jackals prowled and barked in the distance and an icy chill fell over the dunes. But I pressed on, faithfully following the bright new star, until, as the sick man told me, a star shone above the village of Bethlehem.

Now, at last I could give my pearl and ruby to the King; but the streets were deserted. I wondered if the men had gone up to the hill pastures with their sheep. Then, from the open door of a stone cottage, I heard someone singing softly. I entered, and found a young woman singing her baby to sleep. I asked the woman if she had seen my friends: Yes, she told me, three strangers from the East had appeared a few days earlier. They had told her about the star that had guided them to a place where Joseph of Nazareth, his wife Mary and her new born son were to be found. They had paid great reverence to the child and given him many gifts. But, she said, the travellers have disappeared and they say the man from Nazareth has fled to Egypt with his family. People were saying that the Roman soldiers are coming to enforce a new tax – the men have driven the flocks and herds high up into the hills. I listened to her gentle voice and the baby reached up to touch my face.

Suddenly, there came a noise of wild confusion in the street, a shrieking and wailing of women's voices, a clashing of swords and a desperate cry. The soldiers! The soldiers of Herod! They are killing the children! The young woman's face went white with terror. Clutching her baby to her, she crouched in the darkest corner, covering him with her robe. I went and stood in the door way, when the soldiers reached the cottage, I summoned their captain, and said "I am here alone, and I will give you this jewel, if you will leave me in peace, I showed him the ruby, the captain's eyes widened with greed and grabbed the jewel. 'March on' he cried.

As the soldiers left, I turned to the east and prayed; God of truth, forgive my lie! I have said the thing that is not, to save the life of the child. And now two of my gifts are gone. Shall I ever see the King of Kings? But from the shadows the woman's voice came saying 'Because you have saved my child, the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord give you peace, now and always.'

With the woman's blessing I carried on with my journey to Egypt asking all the time about news of the family from Bethlehem. I travelled onwards but the star had vanished from the night sky. Now I had no idea where to continue my search, so I decided to visit a wise old Hebrew rabbi I had heard of to seek his advice.

'My son' said the Rabbi 'our scriptures foretold that the King of Kings would be despised and rejected by men. He will not be found in a palace, nor among the rich and powerful. If you seek him, look among the poor and lowly, the sorrowful and the sick.'

The years passed, and I travelled on, always searching in the poorest places. As I passed through cities where people were dying of plague, I found no King of Kings but plenty of people to help. I fed the hungry and clothed the naked, healed the sick and visited those in prison. The years went by more swiftly than a weaver's shuttle on the loom. From time to time I took out the pearl - the last of my gifts. As I gazed at it I began to wonder whether I would ever meet the King of Kings.

Thirty-three years passed since I first saw the star and started my journey, so I decided to take one final journey to Jerusalem. I arrived during the season of the Passover, the city was busy with people who had come for the feast. There was a strange sense of foreboding in the air.

'What is happening?' I asked a young man who stood nearby.

'Have you not heard? he said, there is going to be a crucifixion. Two robbers and another man called Jesus of Nazareth. They say he has done many wonderful things, and everyone loves him greatly. But the priest and the elders say he must be killed, because he calls himself the Son of God'

Then I knew this must be the King of Kings for whom I had been seeking. Maybe if I offered my Pearl to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, he might save the man's life. So I rushed off to the Damascus Gate, but just as I got to the entrance a troop of soldiers came down the street dragging a young girl with a torn dress. As I looked at her, she broke away from the hands of her tormentors and threw herself at my feet.

'Have pity on me! She cried, 'Save me! My father was a follower of Zoroaster, and I see from your clothes that you are of the same faith. Now my father is dead, and I am to be sold as a slave to pay off his debts'.

As I looked at her for the third time I had to choose between keeping the gift for the King of the Kings or surrender it to save the

girl, yet in my heart I knew that to rescue this helpless girl would be a true deed of love.

I took the pearl and gave it to the girl to pay her ransom. I said 'Here is your ransom, it is the last of my treasures I was keeping it to give to the King of Kings, who is now to be crucified.'

As I spoke the sky grew black and tremors ran through the street, which heaved like someone in pain. Houses rocked, stones fell and crashed into the street. The soldiers fled in terror reeling like drunken men, the girl and I took refuge beside the wall of a guard house. The earth gave one last shudder and a heavy loosened roof tile fell and struck me on the temple. The girl bent down beside me, then there came a voice through the darkness, very small and still, like music sounding from a distance. The voice said 'Peace be with you, Artaban.

When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was in distress, you comforted me. As often as you did these things to the least of my children, you did them for me.' At last I knew my journey was ended, and with one last sigh I went to meet the King of Kings.

Gail



Church of the Nazarene Service in aid of Christian Unity.

Pastor: (Dr) Osahon Jeremie I. Ogbeiwi
6pm Sunday 24th January.

We met on Thirlmere Road in Tingley at the Church of the Nazarene, which is a cozy place where Dr. Jeremie presides. He welcomed us into his Church and we celebrated our common bonds with God and with each other.

Reverend Glenn spoke about our worldwide unity and our links with Tanzania, where the church is flourishing. In the beginning, explains Revd. Glenn, we went to Africa to help them 'get going'. Now, he explains, when we visit it is more to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Theirs is a great success story. Whilst the Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield dioceses' have been amalgamated into one, the diocese of Mara is having to split into three because it is now too big!

Africa has many problems, with projects, dreams, plans and targets falling by the wayside for many reasons: Poor harvests, new diseases, tribal or religious animosity and corruption preventing completion. The success of the church is because of its ability to unify people and give them a common aim. The church has a major role in the community. Its Ministers go out into the towns and villages and help people to help themselves. In the UK some of the roles have been taken over by government or other bodies. Schools and hospitals were once church led establishments, the Abbeys were the original universities until Henry VIII's wrecking spree.

In Africa help is needed from all directions and the church provides much needed support. So perhaps we can learn from them. They do not ask: 'Please come to church', they say 'what can we do to help? What are the problems and what can we do to help solve it together?' People come to church because it offers them solutions and they want to be a part of it. Jesus took the message of Christian love out into the streets. He was known for his deeds as much as his words and he offered solutions to people from all walks of life. Perhaps, concluded Revd. Glenn, we need to get out more...

Dr Jeremie helped us to see that, as Christians, we have common aims to be the Salt of the Earth and to be Light to the World. We hope we can.

David



Dr Jeremie.....biscuit anyone?



MOVIE NIGHT

25th Anniversary of Les Miserables

At The O2

Starring Alfie Boe & Matt Lucas

Saturday 20th February 2016 at 7.00pm

St Mary's Woodkirk Parish Centre

Tickets: £5. Children under 12: £3

Refreshments included.

Toy Delight.

Every year we have a toy appeal for Christmas.

Malcolm Haigh explains what happens next...

The Christmas gifts provided by Woodkirk St Mary's for poor and needy families in the Batley, Dewsbury and Morley areas completely astonished folks from Batley Salvation Army who were helping in their collection and distribution.

Jill Gardiner, who comes from Morley and who is chef at the Salvation Army's weekday cafe in Stocks Lane, Batley, said helpers had been impressed by both the large number of gifts given by Woodkirk and the quality of the gifts themselves.

The presents, she said, provided lots of surprises and good times for the needy folk of the area.

"Everyone, just everyone has been impressed by the quality of gifts which came from Woodkirk" she said.

The toys were distributed by the Salvation Army in co-operation with other groups in Dewsbury and Morley.

PS: Jill and her supporters provide a marvellous two course meal plus tea or coffee every day at the cafe. You don't have to be on benefits to enjoy the food. It's there for everyone at just £4 per person.

The more people who turn up the more economic is the cafe is and the more lonely as well as poor people are able to benefit. One stipulation is that you have to be in the seat at the table by 11.45pm.

Malcolm.

Jill writes:

Thankyou Woodkirk Church for your kind donation of Toys for our Toy Appeal at the Salvation Army Batley. Your generosity has been overwhelming. Lots of children in the Batley, Dewsbury and Morley areas had smiles on their faces this Christmas. Also 3 extra families in need will benefit this year due to your kindness.

God Bless you all.
Jill Gardiner
and Dorothy Harris.

A letter from Dawn

Hello there,

I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that I will be missing from St Mary's until after Easter, and that if you were wondering why, it is because of my ongoing Lay Minister training.

I am now in my final year of study and this Spring Term is when I have to undertake a placement in another church.

You may remember in early 2013 that we had Gill Robertson from Ossett and Evelyne Barrow from Emley - well now it is my turn to go on placement.

From the beginning of this year until Easter I am joining the church family at St Peter's Gildersome and St Paul's Drighlington.

Both churches are led by Rev Canon Felicity Lawson who is also our Area Dean, with Rev Dave Clark as Curate.

Thus far I have attended Sunday morning worship at both churches and been introduced to both congregations as well as attending a Church Council meeting and a number of other services and events.

Although it is early days, I am enjoying my placement so far, it feels a bit strange being the 'new kid on the block' but I have been met with many smiles and handshakes, and I look forward to sharing some of my experiences with you on my return after Easter.

With best wishes

Dawn

More Vicars please...

The new Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations (DDOV), is the Revd Canon Derek Walmsley (pictured below).

Derek's appointment as DDOV comes on the heels of a radical Synod report, "Resourcing Ministerial Education", which calls for an increase of 50% in ordinations. "With this in mind, and as part of the restructuring of the new Diocese, I have been appointed to implement these goals", says Derek. "I will not simply be a DDO who waits for people to offer for ordination, but be proactive in promoting vocations of every sort (hence DDOV). The geographical area involved is very large, so there are some challenges ahead! My appointment anticipates the development of a network of associate DDOs and advisors."

A full time DDOV administrator, Diane Komorowski, has been appointed and, for now, Derek and Diane are based at the Wakefield Office. Derek also spends a small portion of his time at Wakefield Cathedral where he has also been appointed a residentiary canon. But he stresses that his goal in the early months is to get out across the whole diocese to meet as many people as possible.



"I would love to hear from anyone who feels a stirring to get involved in this exciting phase of the church's ministry, nationally and locally. I also hope that churches and Deaneries will give me opportunities to come and visit, preach and listen.

"Please pray for me and the whole people of God, called by Him to serve Christ, the Christian community and the world."

Rural Church Growth Conference

Led by the Bishop of Ripon, the Rt. Revd James Bell, the 'Growing Rural Churches' conference took place in Harrogate but attracted participants from every area of the diocese, along with several delegates from outside.

In his keynote address which combined principles with practical suggestions, Bishop James challenged church leaders to work and pray with others, to draw more attention to the person of Jesus Christ, and to be 'intentional' in sowing the seed beyond the confines of the church.

He spoke of rural ministry as being one of hospitality and of 'presence' – of 'being out and about'. Rural churches he said, should be holding services every Sunday and said that lay worship leaders were coming forward to be trained in leading services.

"The priority for us in this generation," he concluded, "is to become a missional church and that means 'sowing', and it means 'reaping', and it means giving energy and time to 'keeping'".

Other speakers included Jerry Marshall, the Director of the Arthur Rank Centre, the home of the National Rural Offices for the Church of England, Methodist and United Reformed Church. He encouraged delegates to take an entrepreneurial approach by taking risks and new initiatives.

The conference heard from growing churches and examples of new initiatives from the Ripon Episcopal area – the Revd John Chambers and Gillian Lunn talked about the development of an **All Age family event**, 'Fun-Key' church at Richmond, while Revd Caroline Hewlett spoke about Forest Church in Swaledale.

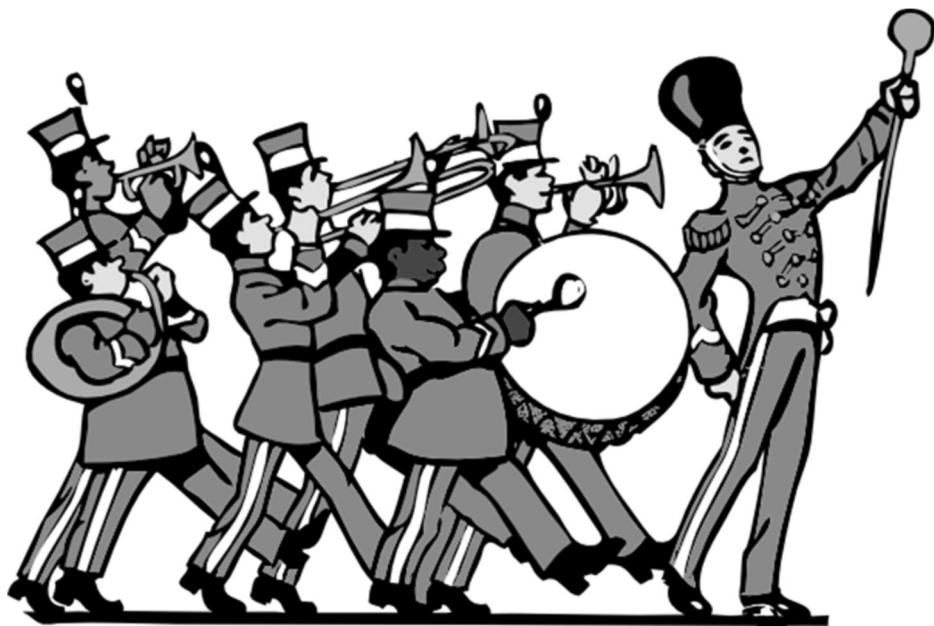
David

New Vicar Update...

We are expecting to interview 4 potential new candidates for the vacant Vicars post later this month. We hope we will find a good candidate, who will come and join us here at St. Mary's. Please pray for Gail and Brian as they will be the ones speaking to potential new incumbents to find out more about them...

David

**TINGLEY BRASS BAND.
A CONCERT IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH**



Saturday June 18th

7:30pm to 9:30pm

With refreshments.

What would you like them to play?

Let us know your ideas.

**Ticket details will be available nearer the time,
but will be £6 each.**

Sharing Worship Experience

One of the things about visiting a different church is hearing the different music that is used, and already, even though I have only been at St Peter's Church for a couple of weeks, I have been able to share in singing some different worship songs.

This one I came across in the middle of January, it was new to me, but I felt I would like to share it with you.

The reason why I wanted to do this was because at this time of year when the weather can be cold and nasty, our more elderly friends may be reluctant to venture out and the colder weather may also make them uncomfortable and perhaps feeling their age more than they do in the summer months.

It was this song that made me think that however young or old our congregation is, we are all 'Children of God'. I hope you like it too.

Dawn x

You unravel me, with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance, from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my Mothers womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again, into your family
Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

You split the sea, so I could walk right through it
All my fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me, so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God

Albert's 'F is for February' Quiz

Alberts Quiz is back with a vengeance.....!

1. Which Hollywood actor set up a foundation to research Parkinson's disease, from which he suffers?
2. Who wears 'The Fisherman's Ring'?
3. What kind of animal is Beatrix Potter's Jeremy Fish?
4. What was the name of the killer in the film 'A Nightmare on Elm Street'?
5. What was the first song to be played on BBC Radio 1?
6. Who wrote the novel 'A Room with a View'?
7. In this novel which city provided the view?
8. What connects the discoverer of penicillin and the creator of James Bond?
9. Who did Edward Elgar replace on the English £20 banknote?
10. What are phalanges?
11. What is the alternative name for iron pyrites?
12. Which Clint Eastwood film introduced 'the man with no name'?
13. Which Spanish dance is named in the song 'Bohemian Rhapsody'?
14. How many yards are there in a furlong?
15. What name is given to the elected spokesperson of a jury?

Answers on P34.

Poetry Corner.

Emily was the third eldest of the four surviving Brontë siblings, Anne and Charlotte were her sisters and her brother Branwell. She wrote under the pen name Ellis Bell.

Love and Friendship

Love is like the wild rose-briar,
Friendship like the holly-tree
The holly is dark when the rose-briar blooms
But which will bloom most constantly?

The wild rose-briar is sweet in spring,
Its summer blossoms scent the air;
Yet wait till winter comes again
And who will call the wild-briar fair?

Then scorn the silly rose-wreath now
And deck thee with the holly's sheen,
That when December blights thy brow
He may still leave thy garland green.

Emily Brontë

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Brrrrr.... Nothing like a bit of a cold snap to remind us it's still winter!! It's not too late to look through seed catalogues and order seeds.

Here are a few jobs you can do in February:-

Sandra's Top Tip: February is the last month in which you can take hardwood cuttings from ornamental shrubs such as cornus, salix, roses & ribes; otherwise, wait until November.

1. If you have not already done so, dig a trench for runner beans and fill it with rotted compost or kitchen waste.
2. Chit your potatoes. Put them in a light, frost free place and watch them sprout!
3. Plant a few onion sets – leave some for early spring though!
4. This is the time to plant fruit trees. Dig a nice big hole and put plenty of organic matter at the bottom.
5. Fancy some garlic? Plant some now. (In pots if you like)
6. Tomatoes can be started off in a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill now, ready for later growing in the greenhouse.
7. Whilst it is too early to feed fruit in general, make an exception for strawberries. Apply a tomato feed to encourage spring flowering.
8. Place gladioli corms in seed trays and place them in a light, warm spot. This helps to create an earlier display.
9. Ensure light levels are adequate for house plants.
10. Do we have a plan of action for the coming seasons? If not, draw one up now.

Sandra

Bishop Nick's Blog...

Musings of a restless Bishop...

I don't have much time these days for doing the blog. All I manage to put up is scripts or journalism. I recently did a paper at a theological conference, but 5,000 words is too many for this medium.

Tomorrow I head off to Tanzania to visit one of our Anglican partnership links: three dioceses in the north. So, here's a quick blast on a theme.

Most Church of England dioceses have links with dioceses around the world (or the Anglican Communion for these purposes). My diocese comprises three historic English dioceses and each had long-established links: Bradford with Sudan and Southwestern Virginia (USA), Wakefield with Tanzania and Skara (Sweden), Ripon & Leeds with Sri Lanka.

All the richness and complexity of the Anglican Communion is there. In Sudan the church faces dreadful pressure because African Christians (as opposed to Arabic Muslims) are being persecuted and squeezed. The reasons are complicated, but the separation of South Sudan from Sudan (and consequent vindictiveness) has led to a ratcheting up of the pressure. Look back to the posts I wrote when visiting Sudan in January 2013.)

Tanzania faces political and economic difficulties, and bears the marks of many of the problems of Africa. It is also beautiful. The church is divided in one of the dioceses we shall be visiting.

I visited Sri Lanka (see posts [here](#)) in October 2014, learning a huge amount about the politics and tribal tensions that lay beneath the decades-long civil war. I also witnessed the unique contribution being made by the Anglican Church in promoting and working for reconciliation between scarred peoples. Rebuilding broken communities lies at the heart of the church's witness.

What often surprises me is how surprised others are when they hear about the reality of being a Christian in England and the west. They see the Church of England and English society as it was seventy years ago.

In the next couple of days I will meet the Tanzanians. I have had email correspondence with the Bishop of Skara. Why? Because these links are more than simply institutional connections; we are friends and brothers, able to be honest and open with each other. So, why write this now? Well, mainly because I am planning to bring the bishops together in 2017 to live, pray, talk and learn together. This is what the Anglican Communion is all about. And it is never boring. So, to Tanzania...

Bishop Nick

Brian's Humour Page

The Fast Surgeon

Sam and John were out cutting wood when John cut his arm off. Sam remained calm, wrapped the arm in a plastic bag, and took the arm and John to a surgeon.

"You are in luck," said the surgeon. "I am an expert in re-attaching limbs. Come back in four hours when I have completed the operation."

So Sam returned in four hours and the surgeon said, "I did it faster than I expected. Jon is down at the pub."

Sam rushed down to the pub and was amazed to see John playing darts.

A few weeks later, Sam and John were cutting wood again when John accidentally cut off his leg. Sam put the leg in a plastic bag and took it and John back to the same surgeon.

"Legs are harder," said the surgeon, "but I'll see what I can do - come back in six hours."

Sam returned in six hours and the surgeon said, "I finished early - John's playing football."

Sam went to the field and to his surprise found John taking free kicks and corners.

A few weeks later, Sam and John were cutting wood again, when John accidentally cut off his own head.

Sam put the head in a plastic bag and took it and the rest of John to the surgeon, confident that the skilful surgeon would do the job. "Gee, heads are really difficult to re-attach," the surgeon muttered, "but I'll see what I can do - come back in 12 hours."

Sam returned in 12 hours. "How did it go, Doc?" he asked. "I'm sorry. John died," the surgeon replied.

"He suffocated in the plastic bag, you idiot!!"

Brian

Diary for February and Early March 2016.

FEBRUARY 2016

Wed 3rd	10:00am	Morning Praise with Dawn
Sat 6th	9:30am	Church and Churchyard clean up
Sun 7th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd Arani Sen
	12:30pm	Baptisms
Mon 8th	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Wed 10th	10:00am	No Service.
	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St. Michaels
Sun 14th	10:30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion with Revd Graham Green
Wed 17th	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd. Glenn
Thurs 18th	11:00am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
Sat 20th	7:00pm	Film Night in the Parish Centre
Sun 21st	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd Chris Johnson
Wed 24th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Sun 28th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd Rosemary Asquith

MARCH 2016

Wed 2nd	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd. Glenn
Sat 5th	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
Sun 6th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd John Pinder-Packard
	12 Noon	Baptism Service
Wed 9th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Sun 13th	10:30am	All-Age Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion with Graham Greene
Mon 14th	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church



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

15th Morley Beavers

In January we have had great fun star gazing. We made a telescope out of toilet roll inner and black card we the punched holes in the card to make the constellations we chose to read about and study.

We also invested two new beavers.

On the 30th January we had our district outing to Eureka in Halifax. 11 enthusiastic Beavers and helpers caught the bus from the Parish centre at 10am to Leeds, then we walked a short distance to the train station. Many of the children had not been on a train before or been to a train station. They marvelled at the hustle and bustle of a busy station.

We found our platform (12c) and squeezed onto a very full train—and waited, and waited. After a while all the lights in the carriage went out, then came back on again. The driver had tried to 'reset' the train doors by switching off and on again, but it didn't work and one of the doors would not shut properly. So we had to all get off and rush around to platform 11. The conductor was already blowing his whistle as we all clambered on board just in time to set off for Halifax. The Beavers marvelled at the views, but said young Philip, the best bit was the tunnels.

Eureka was only a short walk from the station so we were soon inside and enjoying science made fun with interactive games and tests—like who could jump the furthest from a standing start. Afterwards we caught the train back to Leeds and then went for a bus, but it was late arriving—even so the Beavers were not worried (we adults, however, complained about the cold). We arrived back after 4pm and the Beavers were still buzzing with excitement. We collapsed on the sofa at home—exhausted!

We have a very varied programme for this next term so we are all looking forward to the next few weeks.

We are also looking forward to our visit to the Pantomime in February when we will be joined by the Cubs and Scouts and this is always a fun time.

Gail and Joanne

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

Funerals:-

Vincent DeGarrier from Tingley, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Joseph Walker from Morley, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Robert Cody from Tingley, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Quiz Answers: 1. Michael J. Fox. 2. The Pope. 3. Frog. 4. Freddy Kruger. 5. Flowers in the Rain. 6. E. M. Forster. 7. Florence. 8. The surname Fleming. 9. Michael Faraday. 10. Fingers. 11. Fool's Gold. 12. A Fistful of Dollars. 13. Fandango. 14. 220 yards. 15. Foreman.

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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: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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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