

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

January 2016



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

**Decisions; Repentance; Full or Empty?
The Posada; Christmas—was it good
for you?**

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!

In this Month's Magazine:

Features:

- Prayerful Thought P9
- Christmas Service Roundup P12
- George and Jemima Repent P14
- Full but Empty P17
- A Prayer for New Year P21
- The Posada Journey P22
- The Christmas Carol Singers P23
- Januarys through the Ages P24
- A Masterpiece P27

Also this Month:

- Poetry Corner P28
- Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions P29
- Church Mouse Tales P30
- Brian's Humour Page P33
- Diary for the next six weeks P32
- Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths P38

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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.

"Hope Smiles from the threshold of
the year to come:
Whispering: 'It will be happier'..."

— Alfred Lord Tennyson

Prayerful Thought. Have you decided?

Dawn takes a fresh look at new years resolutions...

Hi there

Well here we are again at the start of another new year.

None of us know what our year will have in store, just as, at this time last year, we couldn't have predicted what happened throughout 2015. But one thing is certain, if we want things to happen, we have to make decisions.

Decisions, decisions!

I wonder how many decisions we make daily, let alone over a week, a month, or over the year?

Are you good at decision making?

Sometimes I seem to be able to make decisions quite easily and other times I procrastinate 'umming' and 'ahhing' over what, when I look closely, seem fairly trivial things.

It isn't always the case, as some decisions you do need to take by yourself, but generally, if you can talk things through with someone you trust, then the burden of that decision doesn't seem so heavy.

All of us will have decisions that we will need to make this year, hopefully some nice ones like where to go on our holidays, or whether to splash out on a new car perhaps or some home improvements.

But one decision we have already made was of course our decision to become a Christian and follow Jesus, and in so doing, joining the church family here at St Mary's.

I was delighted over Christmas that so many friends made the decision to come and support our numerous Christmas services, it was lovely to see so many in the church to celebrate this wonderful time of year.

Looking ahead, we know that one major decision facing St Mary's during the next few months will be momentous, as we will be looking to advertise and hopefully appoint a Vicar to take us forward after the departure of Rev Amanda and Derek. This is not the decision of one or two people - you have had your input by telling us what St Mary's means to you - and these comments were incorporated into our 'Parish Profile' (which is the job description and specification that goes out to those who express an interest in applying for the job), then our Church Council have also had input into the process, and we

will have two representatives from the PCC joining the recruitment panel that will actually interview any applicants we receive.

So, is there anything we can do that will help us through our year and any difficult decisions we may have to make. How about sharing them with Jesus?

Jesus had to make decisions throughout his ministry. He decided who to have as disciples for a start; and did he choose the rich, the powerful, the really clever? Not especially, he chose fishermen, simple people who were hungry to hear what he had to say and who laid down their nets to follow him when he called them. (Matthew 4:20). We hear about Peter's decision to help the man lame from birth in Acts 3:1-10.

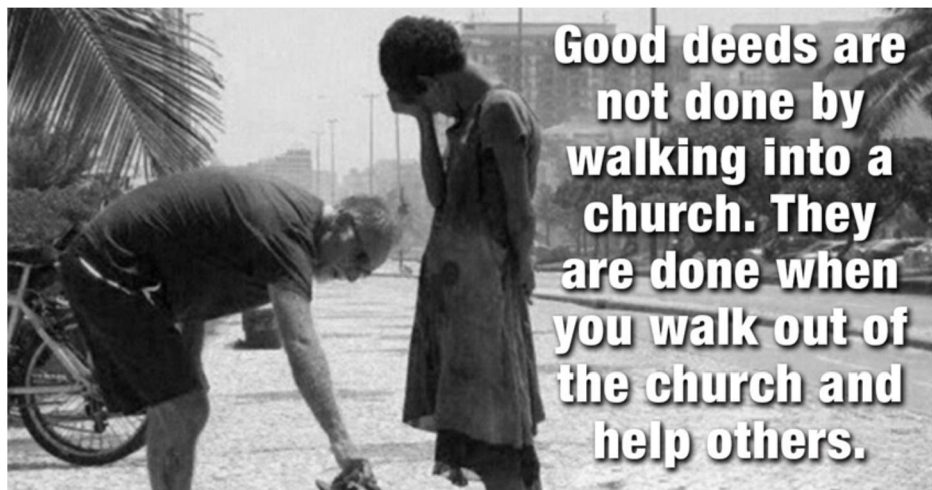
Many people changed after they had an encounter with Jesus, one of the most memorable was Zacchaeus. We read about his story in Luke 19.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, a position that carried power and status as well as wealth. Now we do not know whether Zacchaeus was a law abiding tax collector, but the bible story tells us that during his time with Jesus, Zacchaeus says "...look, half of my possessions Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."

Jesus influenced others, and he can help us today, but only if we include him in our plans. People often pray to God in times of anguish or trouble, but what if we share with him in our decisions too? Can we make a quick decision right now? It won't cost us anything, yet it has the potential to change our lives...

Decide to make Jesus a part of this year with you, who knows then, this time next year when you look back, you will see where Jesus has helped and perhaps guided you through the decisions you have made.

Dawn.



Christmas at St Mary's 2015.

Dawn looks back at our Christmas services.

I am sure I have been in a church at Christmas through a time of vacancy before, but I must have been a child or not part of the church council etc and so it passed me by. This year at St Mary's it definitely hasn't passed me by as I both attended and played a part in a number of events, and I felt very privileged to do so.

Firstly, I was able to attend, and give a small talk to both Westerton Primary School and Hill Top Primary Schools' Christmas Concerts. It was lovely to see the church full of children, staff, family and friends and to recognise how hard all the children had worked to make the concerts such a success. I was able to tell the children about our POSADA and their journey around the parish during advent.

On Sunday 20th December our service was taken by our friend and Archdeacon Paul Hooper. It was a lovely service and in his talk Paul referred to the recent journey of British Astronaut Major Tim Peake who had gone to the International Space Station. Paul talked about the plan that Tim had, the jobs he was going to do whilst he was in space and likened it to the jobs that Jesus had to do during his time on earth. George Ford played at the service which was also lovely.

That afternoon I attended the Carols by Candlelight Service which was led by Neal with support from others and readings by friends from our church family. We followed a more traditional service pattern and it was lovely to see quite a few new faces amongst our congregation, many of whom left saying how much they had enjoyed it.

Over this time, I had been trying to get over a cold that had left me with very little voice (David, my husband, was delighted!). I had to try and rest my voice, and could not sing all the lovely Christmas carols with my usual gusto! We had now got to Christmas Eve, and I, along with Gail as well as help from Susan and Liz were taking the two Christingle services, we really weren't sure about what sort of numbers we would have attending, but we had many trays of Christingles ready to give out. The 3pm service was well attended with approximately 140 people in church. We told the Christmas story with children bringing the figures up to the altar, then I told a story about a glow worm and a dragonfly which encouraged the children to try and spend time with Jesus. Gail, with the help of volunteers from the congregation, explained what the different parts that make up the Christingle mean. We also sang lots of our favourite carols. The 5pm service was just as well attended with slightly fewer children but a total congregation of about 120. Brian did a sterling job providing the music.

I must tell you, as Gail told the congregation during those two Christingle services, standing at the front of the church as we lighted the candles and turned out the lights to sing Away in a Manger, it really was

a wonderful sight.

I was able to come back to church for the first communion of Christmas at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve when Revd Chris Johnson led our service, which was lovely, and our organist Sammy played all our carols beautifully. Our congregation must have been about 80.

I came back to church on Christmas Day morning for our all age communion led by Revd Rosemary Asquith who brought presents to be opened. We were a small gathering of about 16 people but we enjoyed fellowship together on this beautiful crisp and clear morning, and yet our treats were not quite over. Sammy and her fiancé treated us to a wonderful rendition of a medley of carols, composed by Dan and played as a duet on the piano. It was wonderful and we all agreed we could have sat there for the rest of the morning just listening to the wonderful music.

I haven't really done justice to the full content of the services I attended, I hope those of you who attended any of them enjoyed them as much as I did, but I did want to say what a real privilege it was to be part of it all, and to say a huge thank you to all those who had any part in any/all of the services.

These things do not happen by themselves and we are so lucky to have a brilliant team of folk working hard to limit any disruption to our ability to provide services during our time of vacancy.

The really big thanks go to Gail who was at all the services I was at, as well as being in church for other maintenance issues and all the many other things she does for us, and also to Brian, he not only worked hard prior to Christmas to make sure that we had clergy to take our services but organising the organists wherever possible and providing music himself when the organists were unavailable.

I went to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the West Yorkshire Playhouse just before Christmas. The play differs slightly from the movie, and one of the changes is a new song. Taking into account what I have just referred to, the song, entitled 'Teamwork can make a dream work' seemed a fitting end to my article.

The lyrics include...

Teamwork, can make a dream work, if we all pitch in and try.

Teamwork can make a dream work, and no mountain is too high!

*If the same great dream, is beating in each heart,
there's no stopping what a fighting team can start.*

For, all together, a team can weather, any storm they may get through.

*Yes, teamwork, can make a dream work,
can make the greatest dreams come true.*

We all, whether we have a designated role to undertake, or whether we attend services, or pray for the life of our church, are a part of St Mary's Team.

Dawn

George and Jemima

George pops up with a paintbrush in his hand singing "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine".

Jemima pops up. Hey George! Whatya doing?

George. Oh Hi Jemima, I've been really busy. This morning I got up at 5.am and repainted all of the parish centre rooms, now I'm repainting our new puppet wall and yesterday I repainted all of my Mum's kitchen and the day before I repainted our whole living room, and when I'm done here I'm going to repaint the vestry, cause boy does it need repainting.

Jemima Blimey George, your making me tired just listening to you! But George, I have to ask... What's with all this repainting? What are you doing this for?

George. I'm getting ready for Jesus.

Jemima. You're what?

George. I'm getting ready for Jesus! Jemima, apparently you have never heard of John the Baptist.

Jemima. Of course I have George, John the Baptist was the prophet who told everyone that Jesus was coming.

George. Yes! And he also told the people they had to do something in order to get ready for Jesus.

Jemima. Yeah! What's that?

George. He told them that they first had to repaint! So I'm repainting everything because I want to be ready for Jesus.

Jemima. Repaint? (Laughs hysterically) George...John the Baptist didn't tell everybody to repaint.... the word is repent! In order to get ready for Jesus, we have to repent!!!

George. Huh? Repent? What does that mean?

Jemima. Well, it has nothing to do with a paintbrush!

George. You mean I've been doing all this work for nothing? (Drops the paint brush)

Jemima. Well, it was nice of you to help everybody George, and the new brick wall looks awesome, but yes, I'm afraid that Jesus doesn't need you to repaint anything in order to get ready for him.

George. Well, what am I supposed to do then? What's repent mean?

Jemima. It's when you're so sorry for doing something bad that you stop doing it right away because you know it makes Jesus sad.

George. You mean like when I put itching powder in my dad's pants drawer and I asked Jesus to forgive me, which I can tell you is more than my Dad did. Is that what repent means?

Jemima. Yes! Repent means to turn your back on something you are doing that isn't pleasing God.

(As Jemima quotes the following scriptures, every time she says the word, "repent" George jumps up and turns his back on her)

Jemima. Now listen to these quotes from the Bible George. Matthew 4:17 says, Jesus began to preach and said REPENT for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And in Acts 2 Peter says REPENT and be baptised in the name of Jesus. And in Acts 17, God commands that people everywhere should REPENT.

Jemima. George, what are you doing?

George. You said that repent means to turn your back on something, so instead of repainting.... I'm repenting!!!!

Jemima. Oh boy. Well at least now you're on the right track

George. So why did John the Baptist tell everybody to repent in order to get ready for Jesus?

Jemima. Because Jesus loves us and when we do bad things it separates us from him and that makes him really sad. He wants to be with us all the time.

George. Thanks Jemima. Now I want to be like John the Baptist and help all my friends repent so they can get ready to meet Jesus too. How do I do that Jemima?

Jemima. Well first you always pray for them and next, tell them about when you turned your back on doing bad things

George. You mean like REPENT
(turns his back in Jemima again)

Jemima. Exactly! - And when you repented, tell them that Jesus became your very best friend.

George. Cool! Well it looks like I won't be needing that paintbrush anymore. I have to go and call Jimmy and Barney. They were going to come over this afternoon to help me paint the vestry. Blimey that shabby vestry will never get done.

Jemima. Hey George, fancy coming to my house for tea.

George. Sure, what are you having?

Jemima. Well. I thought since you want to be like John the Baptist, I'd make you something special. Something that he ate all the time because he lived in the desert you know...

George. Yeah? What's that? Beef jerky?

Jemima. No...not quite. How do you fancy a honey and grass hopper sandwich?

George. UGH! are you kidding? he didn't really eat that did he?

Jemima. Yeah, he did. But I'll tell you about that some other time...OK?

George. OK. Like I said I have to go and call Jimmy and Barney to come over and repaint, I mean REPENT. But before I go (talks to the kids out front) OK all you children, I want you to stand up and face the door at the back of church and when I say one, two, three I want you to jump in the air and yell REPENT! Ready? 1.2.3 REPENT
Good job kids, see you soon.

Both say Bye Bye

FULL, BUT EMPTY

Gail looks at the meaning of following God.

Isaiah 2: v 5 - 21

Why is it imperative that Israel learn to walk in the light of the Lord? Because there was no future or hope in their present condition and way of life. Isaiah now depicts the foolishness of humanity attempting to exalt itself. The cause of the problem is given as human pride and supposed self-sufficiency. If they refuse to repent and acknowledge God and walk in His ways, God will humble them. The effect of their prideful self-sufficiency will be their humiliation for trusting in the works of their hands.

The achieving of wealth became an end in itself (instead of using it for the purposes of God) and Israel placed their confidence in themselves and what they could achieve instead of in GOD. As a result of their attitude and practices the nation will be brought low, but the God they refuse to walk with will be exalted without them. They decided to be full of the world which made them empty of God. You cannot prepare for a good future if you continue to live in rebellion against God.

O house of Jacob, come let us walk in the light of the Lord. For Thou hast forsaken the ways of your people O house of Jacob, because they are filled with influences from the east, and they are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they strike bargains with the children of foreigners.

God had abandoned His people not because He no longer loved them but because they had become like the pagans around them. You cannot prepare for a good future if you continue to live in sin. Rather the expectation of a good future should motivate them to deal with their present sinful condition. If they will not change their ways (and they won't) then restoration can only come about after utter humiliation needed to destroy their false hopes.

What is the underlying cause of their condition? The first underlying condition was following man-exalting religion. They were following the religious practices of other nations. The exact sense of they are full from the east is unclear. It probably indicates that Israel has borrowed the superstitious ways of Assyria and Babylonia, the great ancient eastern civilizations. Divination like the Philistines meant claiming to know and control the future by the power of demons (sorcery) or by interpreting omens.

As if this is not enough it continues, with the children of foreigners they clap hands. It seems to refer to the making of alliances

with foreigners that involved recognition of the foreign gods. The prophet is saying that Israel has borrowed pagan religious practices from the east to west.

The use of divination and omens or magic was strictly forbidden to Israel, for by these practices the pagans sought to gain control of their own destinies and to manipulate the gods. As has always been the case with the human race, they saw achievement of national and personal security as the paramount aim, and believed that manipulation of the gods through formula or magic was the way to achieve that aim. But God called the Hebrews to commit their security to Him in faith and to give their attention to justice and righteousness.

This was the dilemma Israel faced throughout her history. Listen to God or listen to the nations? The prophet says they have listened to the nations. Having made charge that Israel is following pagan religious practices, Isaiah details some other pagan ways Israel is following. These practices begin in verse 7. Their land has also been filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land has also been filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.

Everything that could make Israel monetarily great she had. Uzziah's long peaceful reign during the Assyrian lull before Tiglath-pileser III (745 B.C.) had given an opportunity unlike any since Solomon's time to amass wealth and power. Israel was thus at the height of prosperity and military prowess and armament. [Judah had great material wealth (silver and gold) and military strength (horses and chariots) which they no doubt mistakenly thought came to them because of their own efforts.] When God's people are filled with the fullness which the world offers, they become empty toward God. Having given up the riches of the promises of God the nation took the man made idols and treasures of the world in His place.

This is very reminiscent of Deuteronomy (17: 16-17), where the accumulation of military power and wealth is forbidden to the king on the grounds that they will turn the king away from God. This is exactly what happened to Solomon. The desire for this world's security led to assimilation of this world's gods. The third evil item Israel was filled with was false worship seen in verse 8. Their land has also been filled with idols; they worship the work of their hands, that which their fingers have made. Unless that wealth and power they accumulated were understood to be gifts of God and not the work of human hand and idolatrous practices, they would prove the end to be a curse.

For manmade religion is ultimately the creation of God in man's image for the purpose of achieving human ends. It is thus the utmost

exaltation of mankind.

But idolatry and manmade religion is eventually proven as foolishness. How foolish to worship (prostrate themselves) what humans have made. If worship is in any way the image or product of humanity, then the world is without any sense or ultimate purpose. Though few people worship carved images today, worshiping objects that symbolize power or pleasure continues. We pay homage to cars, homes, sports stars, celebrities, money, etc. Such idol worship is evil because one, it insults God when we worship something He created rather than worshipping Him. Second, it keeps us from knowing and serving God when we put our confidence in anything other than Him. Third, it causes us to rely on our own efforts rather than on God.

In verse 9 the prophet pronounces their fall from sinful heights because of their emptiness of God. So (for this reason) the man has been humbled, but do not forgive them.

You cannot prepare for a good future if you continue to live in sin. They who bow down to the idols of this world cannot expect God to fill them up. Isaiah has said that Israel is full of the world's best wisdom, which is: that it is through wealth, power, and control of one's destiny that human beings become great. But in fact that will not be so. They will be humbled and brought low.

They poured themselves out in sin and brought themselves low. It will not be easy to escape such full defilement. Do not forgive them could express the prophet's deep despair over his people's condition, or the certainty of God's judgment. If it is the prophet's thought, he seems almost afraid that God might relent and, in violation of His own justice, forget their sins. As such, this phrase exposes the problem of sin. It cannot be simply forgotten, it must be punished; otherwise, the whole chain of cause and effect upon which the world is built would be broken. But the punishment for playing god can be no less than banishment from God, a denial of God's purpose in creating human beings, which is for fellowship with Himself. What might the solution be? Only in the second part of Isaiah will we find the answer (43:1-7; 44:21-22; 52:7; 53:12; 59:15-21; 53:1-6).

Enter the rock and hide in the dust from the terror of the Lord and from the glory of His majesty. (v10). The haughty eyes of the people shall be brought low, and the pride of everyone shall be humbled, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. (v11)

Their eyes will be cast down in shame; their former self-exaltation will come to nothing. They will hide in the rocks and crannies (v19-21). Why will this be so? Certainly because the true source of greatness will appear in that day. The God from whom their self-worship has

alienated them will appear, and there will be no more cause to glory in human greatness than there would be to praise a flashlight in broad daylight. [But the exaltation of mankind devalues humanity in another way, a way that has appeared in modern existentialist philosophy. If man is the center of things then life is without meaning or value, for each of us knows that we do not contain the meaning of life within ourselves.

Having striven to become sovereigns of the universe we have become meaningless victims of a vast cosmic bad joke: able to conceive of meaning when there is none. Thus, even before the appearance of God, our quest for total self-sufficiency has reduced us to nothing. How much more will that be true when we see Him in the splendour of His might? It will be true terror to meet the Holy God having lived our lives for ourselves.

We cannot prepare for a good future if we continue to live in rebellion against God. The compiling of earthly wealth must not be to make us self-sufficient and secure. We must always accept our dependence on God and find our security in Him. No matter how well prepared we think our future is, unless we acknowledge all as a provision of God, its end will not hold the hope for fulfilment. It is God who gives us the power to make wealth and there is no sufficient security outside of Him.

Should we look to things, people or assets in place of God our last days on earth will be insecure ones no matter how secure we attempt to make them. Let us try and live our lives as Psalm 103 tells us (As mortals our days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to his children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments (Psalm 103 v15-18).

Gail

A Prayer for New Year

This prayer was 'shared' by one of my 'Facebook Friends' and I thought I would like to share it with you too.

New Year Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread
Give me gentle wisdom that I may help a friend
Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend
The year ahead is empty help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy and happiness it brings
Amen

Happy New Year to you all.

Dawn



The Posada at Woodkirk...

The Posada is an annual event at St. Mary's which replicate the journey made by Joseph and the pregnant Mary on her Donkey towards Bethlehem. We use a small set of wooden figures in a cardboard box, and each day the box travels from house to house in our area. The recipients 'take in' Mary and Joseph and keep them safe for the night in their home. Next day they take them to the another home and say a prayer for their safe journey as they pass them on. This continues until finally the posada comes into Church for the start of the first Christingle. This year young Thomas brought them in on the last leg of their journey. Below, the Posada is passed on by Margaret.

David



Margaret Wilcock hands the Posada figures on to Lisa and her 3 children.

Carol Singing at Country Baskets.

Back in December a bunch of highly trained professionals gathered at Country Baskets for an hour of uniquely harmonised Christmas Carol singing to the local customers as they shopped for their Christmas fayre. Anyway, that was after St, Mary's choir and (later) Sally had done our stint. Even so we managed to raise over £30 for the Martin House Hospice, all donated from generous customers who begged us to stop, but we persevered until they paid up. Next year we might do 2 hours and really make 'em suffer.

David



The Professionals: Sandra, Gail,
Brian, Barbara and Dave.

Januarys through the Ages...

What was going on in January in the same year these centuries past?

January 1st 1916:

The British Royal Army Medical Corps carries out the first successful blood transfusion using blood that had been stored and cooled.

January 7th 1816:

Sir Humphry Davy tested the Davy lamp for miners at Hebburn Colliery. The lamp provided a test for the presence of gases. If flammable gas mixtures were present, the flame of the Davy lamp burned higher with a blue tinge. Lamps were equipped with a metal gauge to measure the height of the flame. Miners could place the safety lamp close to the ground to detect gases, such as carbon dioxide, that are denser than air and so could collect in depressions in the mine; if the mine air was oxygen-poor, the lamp flame would be extinguished before the air became unbreathable, allowing time to escape. A modified version of this lamp has been used in the Olympic Flame torch relays.

Hebburn Colliery opened in 1792 and eventually operated three pits. It closed in 1932. 200 miners were killed during the life of the colliery, the youngest being only 10 years old.

January 1716:

The town of Crieff, Scotland, is burned to the ground by Jacobites returning from the Battle of Sheriffmuir.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688–89 resulted in the Roman Catholic Stuart king, James II of England and VII of Scotland, fleeing to exile in France under the protection of Louis XIV. James became known as the Pretender to the throne and his followers known as Jacobites.

James' daughter and her husband, who was also James's nephew, ascended the British throne as joint sovereigns William and Mary. They were childless and were succeeded by Mary's younger sister, Anne. Queen Anne died in 1714. Since Anne also had no children, George, her second cousin was made King George I. Throughout these changes Jacobite unrest and conspiracy continued. James made John Erskine, Earl of Mar commander of the Jacobite army, and they engaged in battle with King George's men under the Duke of Argyll at Sheriffmuir in November 1715.

On 22nd December 1715, 3 days before Christmas, the Pretender finally landed in Scotland at Peterhead, but by the time he arrived at Perth on 9th January 1716, the Jacobite army numbered less than 5,000 and were in a demoralized and ragged state. In contrast, the Duke of Argyll's forces representing the Hanoverian Crown had acquired heavy artillery and were advancing quickly. The Jacobites decided to burn a number of villages in between Stirling and Perth, including Crieff, so as to deprive Argyll's army of supplies, but these were the acts of a beaten army.

On 30th January the Earl of Mar led the Jacobite army out of Perth, finally dispersing somewhere between Perth and Montrose. On 4th February 1716 the Pretender wrote a farewell letter to Scotland, sailing from Montrose the day after.

January 3rd 1616:

In the court of James I of England, the king's favorite George Villiers becomes Master of the Horse (encouraging development of the thoroughbred horse); on April 24 he receives the Order of the Garter; and on August 27 is created Viscount Villiers and Baron Waddon, receiving a grant of land valued at £80,000. In 1617, he will be made Earl of Buckingham. After the Earl of Pembroke, he is the 2nd richest nobleman in England.

During 1516: (not much happened in January).

The predecessor of the Royal Mail, known as the "Master of the Posts", is established by Henry VIII of England. Meanwhile the fall of the Nantan meteorite possibly observed near the city of Nantan, (China) caused much consternation, probably because it weighed about 10 tons.

January 27th 1416:

The Republic of Ragusa (now Dubrovnik) is the first state in Europe to outlaw slavery.

January 28th 1316:

Revolt of Llywelyn Bren against English rule in Wales. He was a nobleman who led a revolt in Wales during the reign of King Edward II of England in 1316. The revolt would be the last serious challenge to English rule in Wales until the attempts of Owain Lawgoch to invade Wales with French support in the 1370s. Hugh Despenser the younger's unlawful execution of Llywelyn Bren helped lead to the eventual overthrow of both Edward II and Hugh.

January 1216:

The First Barons' War: The war resulted from king John's refusal to accept and abide by the Magna Carta which he had sealed on 15th June 1215. A group of rebellious major landowners (commonly referred to as barons) led by Robert Fitzwalter and supported by a French army under the future Louis VIII of France, sacked Berwick-on-Tweed and raided southern Scotland. Louis made further advances and entered London, with King John fleeing to Winchester.

It seemed that Prince Louis of France was set to be king of England but on 18th October 1216, John contracted dysentery and died at Newark Castle, Nottinghamshire, and with him the main reason for the fighting. Louis now seemed much more of a threat to baronial interests than John's nine-year-old son, Prince Henry.

Unlike John, Henry agreed to rule by the Magna Carta (with some clauses omitted). It was re-issued in his name. So it was that Henry became King Henry III of England in 1216 and Louis became King Louis VIII of France in 1223.

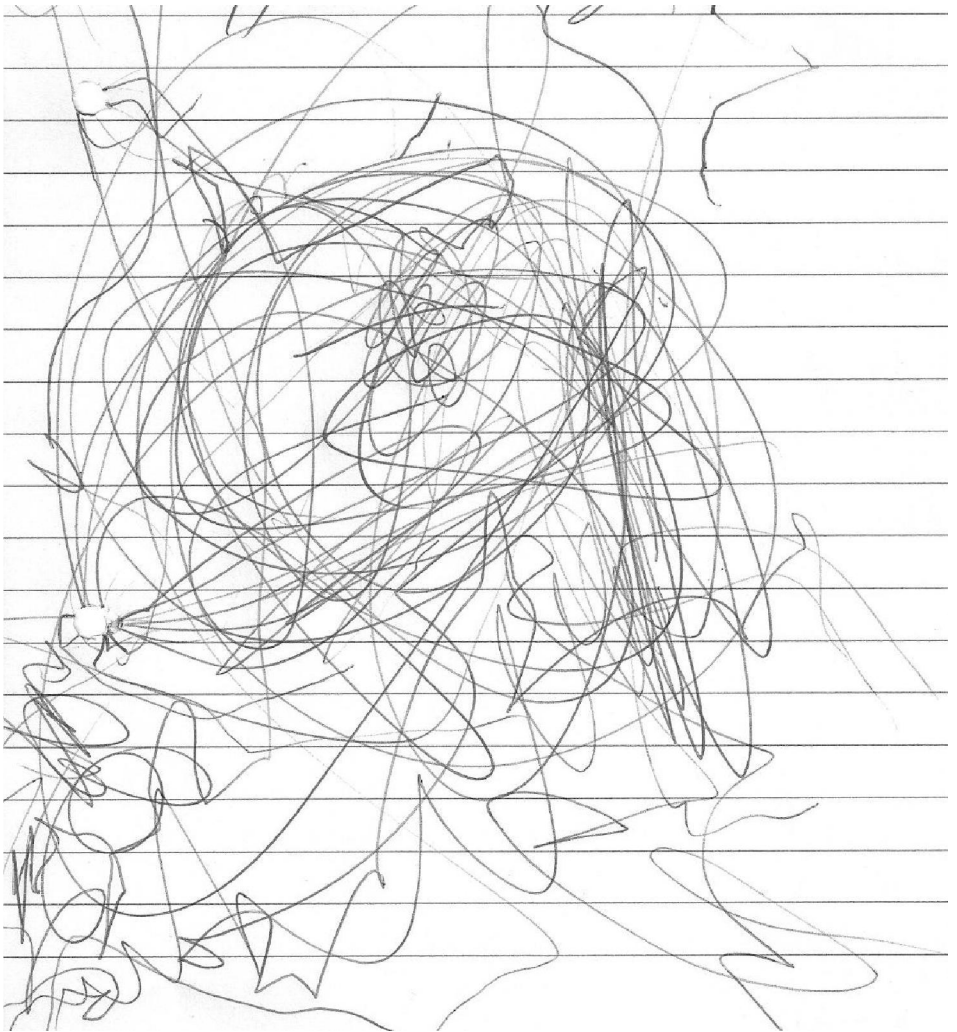
David



Coat of Arms of King James

The Weather,

by Thomas Pinder-Packard, aged 2 and a bit.



Thomas produced this Masterpiece in Church on Sunday 3rd January.

Poetry Corner.

A brief history of time.....

The Woodkirk

Church beside a babbling brook
Plaster hid from Henry's look
Lightning bolt from Heaven above
Mended by a Chantrell's love

Canons firing prayers not guns
Mystery pageants just for fun
Stephen's charter earned not won
Are the Ridgeleys Father and Son?

Newman rebel to the core,
Nutter wants it even more.
Hammond through the first World War
Watches over for a score

Medieval, long and low
Tower built with Woodkirk stone
Windows ancient, 'modern' too
Fancy that we've got a loo!

History from the Light Brigade
To the modern Brudenell age
Terraced gardens with a pond
Can the tunnel still be found?

Reredos, eagle, screen and font
Are they there or have they gone?
Pews removed but new ones made
From the cradle to the grave

We step inside, and look around
The welcome of our hearts surround
What is old and what is new?
Oh yes, old friend, I am with you.

David

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

January is a month for taking stock, preparing for Spring and trying to keep warm! It won't be long before spring is here and things start to take off. This is the time to check that your tools are in good order, that your soil is as well prepared as possible and to check your supply of seeds is ready. Here are a few suggestions for this month.

1. If not already done and the ground is not too hard, dig in some manure into your beds.
2. Harvest root vegetables such as leeks, parsnips, turnips and celeriac. Also harvest Brussels sprouts and any other crops remaining.
3. Feeding wildlife? Fat balls for robins and great and blue tits. (Remove the nets first) No milk or bread for hedgehogs – please buy specialist food. Watch out for foxes. Ensure your bin bags and lids are secure.
4. Sow early carrots and garlic in situ under cloches.
5. Did we dig a trench for runner beans? If so, keep adding kitchen waste.
6. Mid winter could possibly be the best time to wash out old pots and trays. Use warm soapy water and rinse with a solution of diluted disinfectant.
7. If planning on growing potatoes then save egg boxes as they will come in handy to help chit your potatoes in the next few months.
8. If you grow tomatoes in your greenhouse border then this is a good time to change the soil to avoid pest and disease problems.
9. Trim back sage to give it a new lease of life.
10. Order seed potatoes.

Tip of the month. Next month kick starts the sowing season so make sure you pick up plenty of pots, trays, labels, pens and most importantly - seed compost and seeds at the garden centre.

Sandra

Church Mouse Tales.

Finally, it's official! After many years of battling against the odds, fighting the establishment and pleading with officialdom, I'm in! I have obtained permission from the highest authority in the land – well Hubert, the Black Canon, anyway, to rest my weary head in a bed of straw. Not just any straw, mind you, only the proper Nativity Scene straw in the Altar frontage! Glad tidings!

So I declare, let nothing you dismay, as I am indeed honoured and privileged to be allowed such an accolade and I was, until recently, looking forward to many hours of comfort and joy (comfort and joy). But Hubert, even as the snow lay deep and crisp and even, added a proviso, that has left me more moany than a frosty wind. I am required to Sing! Every day!

I complained until Hubert shot me a look that could turn water to stone, then he turned and left abruptly.

'Where are you going?' I called through the deep mid-winter.

'The Orient' he called back mysteriously. Days later, he returned, like a king, from field and fountain, moor and mountain, and thrust a tiny Hymn book into my paws. 'A gift', he said, 'from afar'. 'Thank you', I said meekly.

So now I can, if it's not too late, wish you a Happy New Year in my best alto....

Misha



Brian's Humour Page

9 months later...

Jack decided to go skiing with his buddy, Bob. So they loaded up Jack's minivan and headed north. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.

"I realize its terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained. "I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house."

"Don't worry," Jack said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn. And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light."

The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

But about nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend. He dropped in on his friend Bob and asked, "Bob, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up north about 9 months ago?"

"Yes, I do." said* *Bob *

"Did you, err, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?"

"Well, um, yes," Bob said, * *a little embarrassed about being found out, "I have to admit that I did."

"And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?"

Bob's face turned beet red and he said, "Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy. I'm afraid I did." "Why do you ask?"

"She just died and left me everything."

Brian

Diary for December and Early January 2016.

JANUARY 2016

Sun 3rd	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd Graham Green
	12:30pm	Baptisms
Wed 6th	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd Glenn
Sun 10th	10:30am	All Age Service
	12 Noon	Holy Communion with Revd Graham Green
Mon 11th	7:30pm	PCC meeting in Church
Wed 13th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail
Sun 17th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd Chris Johnson
Mon 18th	2:00pm	Mothers Union meeting in Parish Centre
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 Rosemary Asquith
	6:00pm	Church of the Nazarene Service in aid of Christian Unity.
Wed 27th	10:00am	Morning Praise with Gail.
Sun 31st	10:30am	All-Age Communion Service (Candlemass) With Ven. Paul Hooper.

FEBRUARY 2016

Wed 3rd	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd Glenn
Sat 6th	9:30am	Church and Churchyard clean up
Sun 7th	10:30am	Holy Communion with Revd Paul Ainsworth
	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

The Wish List...

In a New Year's day message on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, Bishop Nick Baines looks ahead to some notable anniversaries, challenges and hopes for 2016.

It doesn't seem that long since we were doing this last year: looking back at the old and wondering what the new year will hold.

Many people in my part of the world will be hoping for better weather and, if that fails, at least better flood defences. The Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard was surely right when he said, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

Well, looking forwards tells me that in Europe, 2016 won't be boring. Among other things, we'll commemorate the centenary of the Somme – where a whole generation of young men (vast numbers from northern towns and cities) was sacrificed on the altar of violence.

Then there's the likely referendum on membership of the European Union which should remind us of where the drive for union began a century ago. And let's not forget the European football Championships in the summer – where we can only hope the goals go in the right direction.

Tomorrow is always an unknown country. This month the Primates of the Anglican Communion will meet in London and make decisions about how to belong together in the future. The divisions are no secret. The outcome is, obviously, unknown. What is certain, however, is that the future might not look exactly like the past.

Every human community has to comprehend difference of opinion and competing priorities. Yes, we can walk away from the discomfort of conflict; or, we can face reality and harness it for honest conversation. Difference matters.

Later this month I will be visiting Tanzania. What we take for granted when we talk about God, the world and us gets challenged by looking through the eyes of a very different people. This also means exposing our own prejudices and discovering just how much of our theology turns out actually to be cultural assumption.

We either face difference hopefully - or we simply wish it away. Hope is not the same as wishful thinking; hope refuses to let go in the face of even fierce discomfort.

Writing about the prophets, one Old Testament theologian titled a book 'Texts that linger, words that explode'. Well, maybe relationships sometimes explode, but words have a habit of hanging around – the conversation always has further to go. The texts that linger form a conversation that can't be silenced.

A hopeful 2016 is one that faces reality and keeps talking.

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

Baptisms:-

In December we welcomed 2 new members to our church in Baptism;

Lilly Mae Holmes, and Scarlett Grace Holmes. Daughters of Shaun and Louise from Tingley.

Weddings:-

Michael Johnson and Mollie Molloy from Alverthorpe were married at St Mary's Woodkirk on 28th December.
Congratulations from the Church Family.

Funeral:-

liene Taylor from Tingley will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

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Nominal Cost is £50 for 3 hours.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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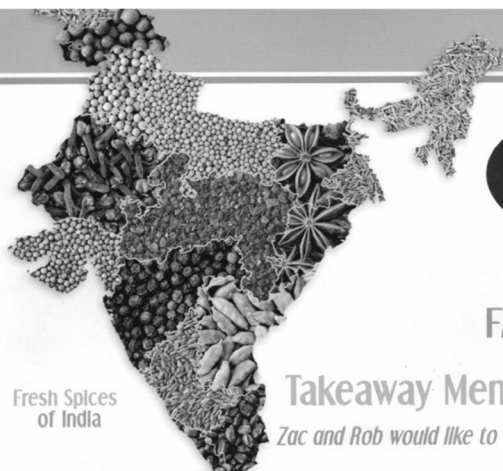
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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm Becky Schofield 07811 146958
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Rainbows	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393
Brownies	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
Keep Fit Class	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
Young at Heart	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Beavers	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
Cubs	Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm Marianne Ingham 07778 542302
Scouts	Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
Explorer Scouts	Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Services

Every Sunday, the main Service is at 10:30am as follows:-

1st Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion (with Hymns, 1 hour approx.)

12.30pm Baptism Service

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age (Family) Service. (Fun Service with theme)

12:00pm Holy Communion (Fewer Hymns)

3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Communion (with Hymns, 1 hour approx.)

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion (with Hymns, 1 hour approx.)

12:30pm Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

5th Sunday (4 times per year)

10:30 All Age Holy Communion

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion (without Hymns)

3rd Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

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

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