

# Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

**September 2016**



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*This Month:*  
Remembering Alfred Mills  
St Giles  
Prayerful Thought  
Churchyard Update

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## Who's who at Woodkirk

<b>Vicar of St Mary's:</b>	<b>Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.</b> St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road, Woodkirk, WF12. 7JL 01924 472375
<b>Lay Pastoral Minister:</b>	Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790 Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001
<b>Deputy churchwardens:</b>	Gary Mortimer Glyn Jennings David Townsend
<b>Verger:</b>	Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
<b>Organist:</b>	Samantha Hawkins
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Dawn Tattersfield
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Barbara Tate
<b>Social Chairman:</b>	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
<b>Parish Centre Hire:</b>	Sally Shaw 01924 475048
<b>Parish Centre Manager:</b>	Glyn Jennings 01924 470272
<b>Parish Legacy Officer:</b>	David Townsend
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<b>Magazine Editor &amp; Weekly News Sheet:.</b>	David Townsend 0113 2528710 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.
<b>Deanery Synod reps:</b>	Glyn Jennings & Gary Mortimer
<b>Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:</b>	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](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.

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*The beginning of anxiety is the end of  
faith, and the beginning of true faith is  
the end of anxiety.*

*George Mueller*

## **Reverend Sharon's First Newspaper Article**

The Olympics has been a major event on our televisions for the past two weeks and we can give a big cheer for Team GB as they currently lay second in the medal table. Athletes dedicate their lives to training and for some there is glory but for others only heartbreak. Many young adults will have received A level results last week and there will be others awaiting the outcome of their GCSE's this week and again for some there will be pleasure and joy but for others disappointment and sadness. Neither outcome should define the people we are or the people we become but sadly it often does.

God tells us that we are made in his image and that He has a plan for our lives and sometimes, in fact more often than not, His plan is not what we had in mind for ourselves. We are reluctant to accept God's offer of grace in our lives or His offer to live our lives in abundance. We live in a world where material things are more important than reading God's word, or living the life God wants for us. There is not time, space, or stillness to experience God who constantly tries to reach out to us.

The most important thing is to remind ourselves that God is present with us whether we are joyous or whether we are disappointed and that He promises to be with us at all times and that if we call upon Him then He will lead us once more onto the path He has chosen for each of us.

**Offered in trepidation.....**

## **Gift Aid**

HMRC in their wisdom has changed the wording required on gift aid donations.

The main change is a statement that if the total Gift Aid amount in a year exceeds the amount of individual tax paid, it will have to be refunded to the Revenue.

I have printed off the new declaration required (they are on the Hymn book desk) and will need a new declaration from everybody who has Gift Aid Planned Giving envelopes, or standing orders.

If anybody needs me to post out a new Declaration please contact me on **barbara-tate@talktalk.net**

Thank you for co-operation. If we get an inspection by the Revenue and we don't have the relevant forms, we'll be in trouble!!!

**The Treasurer (or the one who is to be obeyed!)**

## **Yorkshire Swan Sanctuary**

Once \_\_\_\_\_ again the  
Yorkshire Swan \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary are again in  
urgent need of old towels, sheets , blankets etc to use in their  
intensive care units for injured Swans / Cygnets and surprisingly a  
large number of orphaned baby hedgehogs. St Mary's always come  
up trumps each time an appeal has been made and it is greatly  
appreciated. As always Liz Aveyard will be collecting over the next  
few weeks and is happy to collect if needed.

**Liz**

## **Prayerful Thought September 2016**

Hello again

Have you ever run, or even won a race? I don't think I have won one, but I do remember running in a cross country run at school and coming 4<sup>th</sup>! It must be quite exciting seeing a finishing line, or a chequered flag, whenever I catch the news when there has been a grand prix race, there is a flourishing wave of a huge chequered flag to welcome home the winning driver.

Well that got me thinking about 'endings and beginnings'.

We have endings and beginnings every day, mostly we don't think about them really as that, but every morning when we wake up it is the 'ending' of night and the 'beginning' of day, we 'end' our breakfast, we 'begin' our lunch etc, but I was thinking of other endings and beginnings.

There are some things we don't mind when they end like periods of illness, or exams for our children or grandchildren, or a soggy and wet period of weather that has stopped us getting out and about or out into the garden perhaps. But then there are some things we don't want to end, times of family gatherings, big family get togethers, summertime and light nights.

For me personally, I am (at last!) coming to the end of my three year period of training to become a lay reader at St Mary's. Some of you have been asking me about how I am getting on, and I have said, with some sense of relief, that I have now completed all my essays, and I will be licensed in September. But then of course, this 'ending' will lead to a new 'beginning' as I will then be able to take opportunities to preach in church sometimes.

Also, we have, happily, come to the 'ending' of our period of vacancy, and this now leads to a new 'beginning' as Rev Sharon has been inducted as our new vicar.

I developed this theme at Westerton Primary School at the end of last term, just before the schools broke up for their summer holidays with some children moving up to the high school, all classes moving up, and new classes coming in, a time of endings and beginnings.

I was thinking about a bible story that I could link with this, and thought about Noah and the flood. For those of you who are not familiar with the story of Noah, God recognised that Noah was a good man, but sadly those around Noah were not, they spent their time fighting and stealing. God called Noah and asked him to build a big boat, called an ark, and told him to take his wife and sons' and his son's wives into the ark with two of each creature from the earth, a male and a female. Once Noah did this, God sent a great flood which washed away all the bad people. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water rose higher and higher. The ark began to float. Soon nothing could be seen from the window but water.

The ark drifted across the quiet sea. One day, it stopped moving. It had come to rest on top of a mountain. But there was still no dry land to see. Noah sent out a dove, but that evening, the dove came back, tired and wet. She had found nowhere to land. A week later, Noah sent out the dove again. This time she came back with a green leaf in her beak. Noah said, Look, she must have found a tree. The water is going down. A week later, he sent out the dove again. This time, the dove did not come back. She had found enough dry land to live on.

Noah and his family were able to leave the ark and released all the animals, and then Noah and his family thanked God by praying to him.

God then made something called a covenant which is like a promise that he would never again destroy the world and he put a rainbow in the sky to show he would keep his promise.

If we refer to our Bible, we can find another reference to beginnings and endings, look up the final book of the New Testament, in Revelation, chapter 22 Verse 13, it says;

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

We must trust God as Noah trusted God. As I told the children at Westerton School, it is helpful if we try and be positive in the face of change, and remember;

"Endings are new beginnings waiting to happen."

Love and prayers

Dawn

*A Church exists for the double  
purpose of gathering in and  
sending out.*

*Anon*

## Remembering Alfred Mills

I'd like in this article to briefly look at one of the men named on our War Memorial, focussing on the Battle of the Somme which was being fought exactly one hundred years ago. On the 29th September 1916 Alfred Mills, of Topcliffe Row died of wounds received during the Battle of the Somme.

Having a husband who's hobby has been the Great War over the past twenty years, I was somewhat surprised to learn that Alfred is buried in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery that we have not actually visited! On further investigation, I discovered the cemetery is many miles from the battlefield and is located on the coast between Dieppe and Boulogne. This immediately told me that Alfred Mills must have been wounded, brought out of the line and transported through various casualty clearing stations to a Base Hospital. Despite the effective casualty evacuation process, and all the care that was provided to wounded soldiers, he succumbed to his wounds and so never made it back across the channel to his home.

Thanks to David's knowledge, not to mention his ability to collate information from any number of books and electronic sources I can tell you that Alfred was born in Morley, the eldest of three sons' to Henry and Sarah Mills. In the 1911 census Alfred was listed as a 'Coal Hewers Trammer' and it could be that he was employed at Topcliffe Colliery (see photo next page).

After joining the army he was posted to the 9th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers, being sent to Egypt in December 1915 where he may have been involved in defence of the Suez Canal .

The Battle of the Somme opened up on 1 July 1916, and the fact

that  
was  
major  
would  
made  
high



this  
such a  
'push'  
have  
the

command look to pull many units back to France from less active sectors. Consequently, Alfred's battalion left Egypt, bound for France on 3rd July 1916 and were - by the 27th July 1916 - posted slightly to the north of the Somme area.

During August, the battalion would have become acclimatised to the weather and made familiar with trench warfare before becoming actively involved in the Battle.

By early September the 9th Lancashire Fusiliers (part of the 11th (Northern) Division), were involved in the Battle of Thiepval Ridge and particularly the capture of Mouquet Farm, (nicknamed Mucky Farm by the soldiers). This was an important position and the fact that the Germans were holding out here was preventing the British Army making progress elsewhere on the battlefield. Records tell us that on the 26th September 1916 a bombing party of the Lancashire Fusiliers seized the known exits of Mouquet Farm thirty seconds before zero hour and that they, and the 8th Northumberland

Farm thirty seconds before zero hour and that they, and the 8th Northumberland Fusiliers, reached their first objective, a German support trench. The records go on to tell us that the Lancashire Fusiliers had their right flank almost annihilated by fire from Zollern Redoubt and met stiff opposition in Midway Line, a trench that connected Mouquet Farm with the Schwaben Redoubt.

The casualties incurred in this attack were very heavy. The war diary reports about 400 casualties (meaning killed and wounded). Research tells us that in the region of 140 officers and men of the battalion were killed outright on this day, with others succumbing to their wounds over following days and weeks.

Within the war diary is a report on the attack - written a week or so later by the battalion's commanding officer. This bleakly states *"This account does not pretend to be exhaustive nor does it guarantee complete accuracy. The loss of all the company commanders and all but two of the officers who "went over" has made it impossible up to the present to collect accurate and adequate information on many details. The serious casualties alone speak for the violent nature of the struggle."*

Very few of the men killed on the 26th have known graves - the vast majority are named on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing.

Alfred must have been among the wounded as a result of the fighting that took place on the 26th September, and he was transported to a Base Hospital near Dieppe. Sadly, despite getting that far, Alfred must have succumbed to his wounds and died on the 29th September 1916. He is buried at Mont Houn Military Cemetery, Le Treport, a cemetery located close to the site of the base hospital where he died. Alfred was married and his widow lived in Topcliffe Row, Tingley.

Dawn Tattersfield (With thanks to David for his assistance).

## WAR OF THE ROSES

They make such a fuss up in Yorkshire  
About the puddings they make.  
They reckon it isn't that easy to do  
But I think it's all hype it's a fake.  
It's only some flour that's mixed up with milk  
A few eggs and salt thrown in too  
Poured in a bun tray and cooked for a while  
It ain't rocket science to do  
Now Lancashire Hot Pot's a different thing  
It has to be cooked and prepared  
You bake it all day on a slow constant heat  
Till it's ready and right to be shared  
The smell is a dream as the lamb starts to cook  
With the onions and carrots inside  
The potatoes on top start to crisp at the edge  
Hot Pot is Lancashire's pride  
Not some puffy cake thing that's made in a tin  
With a whisk and a great lump of lard  
No! Lancashire Hot Pot is hearty and fine  
'Cos us Lanky's are tough, and we're 'ard

(PS I love Yorkshire Puddings! And I am ducking!)



## What Price a Sermon?

One beautiful Sunday morning, Reverend Barnard announces to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons.....

A £100 sermon that lasts five minutes

A £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes

And a £20 sermon that lasts a full hour.

Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'

## Today's Hymn

Reverend Clive Morgan was completing his homily in St John's Church about the dangers of alcohol and the need for moderation and temperance. He announced at the end of the sermon in a loud, clear voice, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' With even greater emphasis he added, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' Finally, he intoned in an extremely serious manner, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' The Reverend Morgan then sat down. Jerry, St John's leading chorister stood up and announced with a smile, 'For our closing hymn this Sunday, let us sing together hymn number 109: 'Shall We Gather at the River.'

## Charity Begins at Church

After the church service, seven year old Brian said to the preacher: 'When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money.'

'Well, thank you,' the preacher replied, 'but why?' 'Because my daddy says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had.'

## A Miracle?

Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston when got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.





## Palm Sunday

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5 year old Craig stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Craig inquired as to what they were for.

'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father responded.

'Wouldn't you just know it?' Craig complained, 'the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up.'

## Board Meeting

'There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service,' announced Reverend Morris.

After the close of the service, the group gathered at the back of church for the announced meeting. However, there was a stranger in their midst. He was a visitor who had never attended their church before.

'My friend,' asked Reverend Morris, 'did you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?'

'Oh, yes,' came the rejoinder from the visitor, 'and after that sermon, I'm about as bored as you can get.'



The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'

### **Know your Ten Commandments**

Henry, who was very elderly, was unhappy because he had lost his favourite hat. Instead of buying a new one, he decided he would go to church and steal one out of the entrance porch when the worshippers were busy praying.

When Henry arrived at the church an usher intercepted him at the door and took him to a pew where he had to sit and listen to the entire sermon on 'The Ten Commandments.'

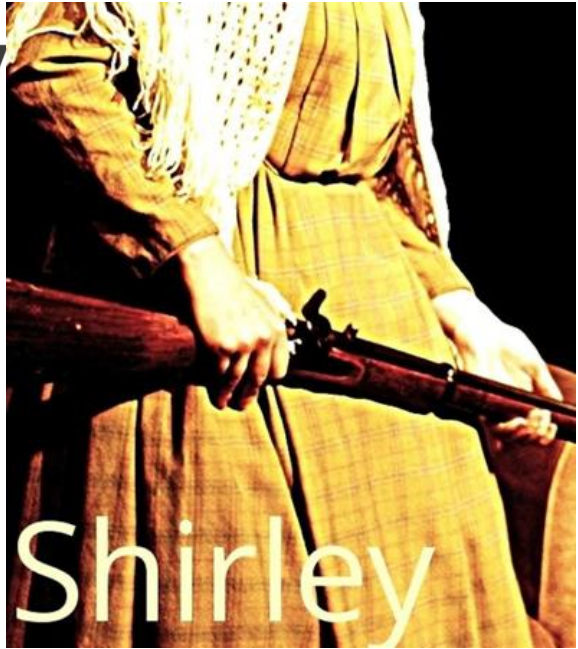
After the service, Henry met the vicar in the vestibule doorway, shook his hand vigorously, and told him, 'I want to thank you Father for saving my soul today. I came to church to steal a hat and after hearing your sermon on the 10 Commandments, I decided against it.'

The vicar answered, 'You mean the commandment 'Thou shall not steal' changed your mind?'

**Brian**



**Morley  
Arts  
Festival**



**Tuesday, 27th September, 7.30pm - 9.00pm  
St Mary's Church, Woodkirk**

Tickets Available from:-  
[www.morleyartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.morleyartsfestival.co.uk) (£3.00 plus booking fee)  
Morley Library (£3.00)  
St Mary's Church, Woodkirk (£3.00)

Presented by Manchester based theatre company,  
Dangerous to Know, Shirley is an unapologetic,  
all-guns-blazing conception of Charlotte Brontes  
1849 novel of the same name.

This performance will be script in hand

## **St. Giles(Gilles) whose life is celebrated on the 1st September.**

Giles became one of the most widely known and most popular saints of the Middle Ages. Giles was a hermit and it was said his name was originally Aegidius, he was born in Athens. Rejecting the wealth of the world, he sailed to the mouth of the river Rhone and went to live in the forest not far from Nimes. There he lived on the milk of a hind for a time. When King Wamba was out hunting he shot the hind with an arrow; on looking at the carcass he found the animal living beside the wounded Giles. The King was very contrite and gave alms to the Hermit. Giles asked him to spend the money on founding an Abbey; the King agreed on condition the Hermit became its first Abbot.

Toward the end of his life Giles went to Rome and offered his monastery to the Pope, who gave special privileges to anyone who visited it. The monastery was named after its Abbot, Saint Gilles and the area was called Provence - from the Latin Provincia Sancti Aegidii.

Giles died in about 710 AD and it is said he was warned in a dream he would die on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. His relics were kept at the monastery.

Saint Gilles was on the pilgrim routes to Compostela in Spain and the Holy Land, and it became an important place for the care of pilgrims. Giles always looked after the sick and wounded and was particularly concerned for lepers. He became the patron saint of beggars, cripples and sick people.

He was also popular in England, with 162 churches and 24 hospitals dedicated to him. They were built on the outskirts of towns as the sick

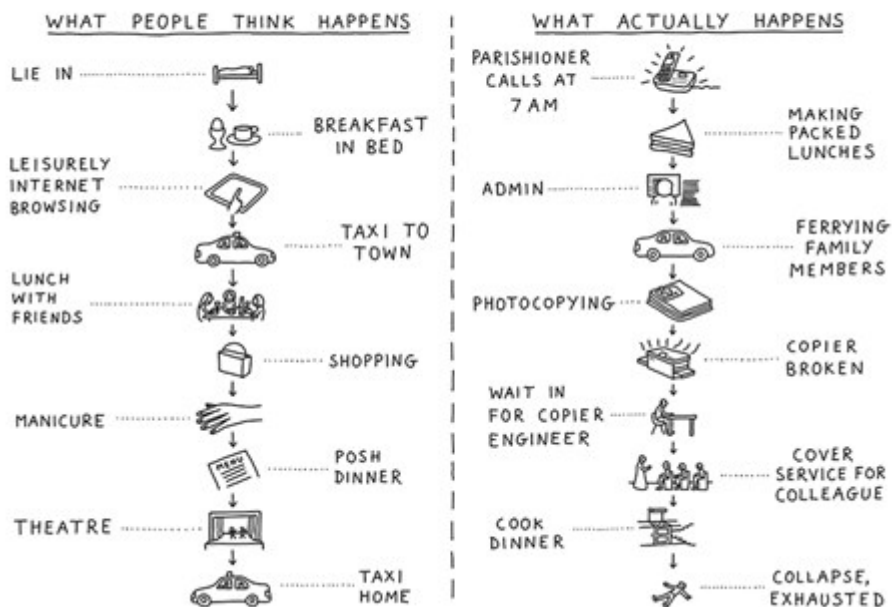
and people with loathsome skin diseases as well as leprosy were shunned.

Two famous churches are St. Giles, Cripplegate, in London and St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. In 1637 the Edinburgh congregation rebelled when English prayer books were first used there. This led to the Scots signing a covenant to keep their Calvinist faith. All this ultimately led to the Civil Wars (1642-1649).

The name Giles is Celtic and means 'servant'.

**Gail**

## THE VICAR'S DAY OFF



**Dave Walker**

[www.cartoonchurch.com](http://www.cartoonchurch.com)

## George & Jemima. George's Long Way Home

- George. Oh wow, thank goodness for that, never again, never again.
- Jemima. Hello George, what's the matter with you now?
- George. Oh Jemima it really is you, come here give me a hug. (George moves towards Jemima)
- Jemima. Gerroff me George what's wrong with you?
- George. Oh I'm sorry Jemima, but it's so good to see a familiar face.
- Jemima. A familiar face? how do you mean? Have you lost your marbles or something?
- George. No, but I lost my way.
- Jemima. Lost your way to where?
- George. To here.
- Jemima. To where?
- George. To here.
- Jemima. Where's here?
- George. Oh Jemima, please don't tell me you're lost as well.
- Jemima. I don't know what you're on about George, we are both here and here is where we are, and here is our home.
- George. I know that stupid, but what I'm trying to tell you is that I got lost getting here.
- Jemima. Blimey George, let's start all over again.
- George. (Moving towards Jemima) OK then, give me a hug.
- Jemima. I won't tell you again, gerroff me.
- George. OK Jemima let's both calm down and I'll tell you what happened.
- Jemima. Very well, proceed.
- George. What?
- Jemima. Carry on.

- George.** Well Jemima. I went to the shops on the high street this morning, a thing I have done many times before. I went into the paper shop to buy my comic and some bubble gum, but when I left the shop that's when it all went wrong.
- Jemima.** Oh George, how could anything possibly go wrong where you're involved?
- George.** Be quiet and listen, or I'll come and hug you again. eeee!
- Jemima.** Please resume.
- George.** What?
- Jemima.** Carry on.
- George.** Right then. As I was saying, I left the shop and as I walked along, I started reading my comic and I wasn't taking much notice of where I was going.
- After I had read a couple of pages of Desperate Dan, I looked over the top of my comic and couldn't recognise where I was, all the houses looked different and the streets were unfamiliar.
- Jemima.** That'll teach you to read and walk, you're just like those plonkers who text when crossing the road. Anyway what did you do next?
- George.** Well I thought I'd better ask someone for directions home.
- Jemima.** So whom did you ask?
- George.** Well the first person I stopped was a young man with earphones in his ears, he looked like he was doing a Michael Jackson impression as he danced along the pavement. I stopped him to ask for directions, but he just said, "buzz off shrimp"
- Jemima.** Wow! that wasn't very kind was it?
- George.** No it wasn't. So then I stopped another man and told him I was lost.
- Jemima.** Did he help you George?

**George.** No he didn't, he just said he was late for work and it wasn't his problem that I was lost.

**Jemima.** Blimey George, I bet you were getting quite upset by now.

**George.** Upset? upset? I was blooming livid.

**Jemima.** Surely there was someone around who could help you George.

**George.** Well by this time I was getting quite desperate and upset and I started to cry.

Say ahhh!

**Jemima.** ( to audience ) Everybody sayahhh..... AHHHHH!

**George.** Suddenly a lady came along and asked me why I was crying and she asked if she could be of help. I told her I was lost and couldn't find my own way home. She asked me for my address.

**George.** Well by this time I was getting quite desperate and upset and I started to cry.

Say ahhh!

**Jemima.** ( to audience ) Everybody sayahhh..... AHHHHH!

**George.** Suddenly a lady came along and asked me why I was crying and she asked if she could be of help. I told her I was lost and couldn't find my own way home. She asked me for my address.

**Jemima.** Wow George you mean you actually know your own address?

**George.** Stop taking the Mickey Jemima; it might be you next time.

**Jemima.** Sorry George, carry on.

**George.** No Jemima, I will resume.

**Jemima.** Ooo, get you clever clogs.

**George.** So the very kind lady wrote my address down and then she took me home. And here I am.

**Jemima.** And where is here?

**George.** Don' start that again.

**Jemima.** Doesn't all this remind you of a story we were told last week in Sunday School George?

**George.** Which story was that?

**Jemima.** The story of the Good Samaritan.

**George.** Oh yeh!

**Jemima.** You were pretty lucky someone came by to help you find your way home.

Or was it luck? See, that third passer by, the lady, most probably would have been a Christian and she would have known what The Bible says about

how we should treat others. You see *George*, as God's chosen people we are dearly loved.

We have to show kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. That Christian lady also knows what Jesus said to his Disciples "If you love one another, so other people will know that you love God". You have to show compassion first.

Who knows? you might just help point them towards home, their Heavenly Home. And that's what that kind lady did to you *George*, she pointed you towards home.

**George.** Yes *Jemima*, she sure did, and here I am.

**Jemima.** And where's here *George*?

**George.** Home *Jemima*. HOME.

**Jemima.** Good to see you here *George*.

**George.** Where's here *Jemima*?

**Jemima.** Say bye bye *George*.

**Both.** Bye bye everybody.  
Bye bye.

**Brian and Sandra**



Thank you to everyone who supported my Strawberry tea on 30<sup>th</sup> July to help raise vital funds for Breast Cancer Care & UK Sepsis Trust. We raised a total of £1016 on the day and with corporate matched funding through volunteers work places this will increase the total raised to approx £2200.

We had a great turnout to help support our causes. Over the course of the day we sold 40 portions of lasagne, 50 hot dogs, 58 pizzas, 35 jacket potatoes, 220 pieces of cake, 132 buns & 48 cream teas. We sold an enormous amount of raffle tickets and well done to those who won. We look forward to seeing you all at our 2017 event.

### **About the Charities**

**Breast Cancer Care** - Monies raised will help Breast Cancer Care continue to provide a unique range of support including reliable information, one-to-one support over the phone and on-line from nurses and people who've been diagnosed themselves. Every year around 58,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK so there's never been such an urgent need for their support services."

**UK Sepsis Trust** - Sepsis is a life threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. Sepsis leads to shock, multiple organ failure and death especially if not recognized early and treated promptly. Every year in the UK there are 150,000 cases of Sepsis, resulting in a staggering 44,000 deaths - more than bowel, breast and prostate cancer combined. The UK Sepsis Trust (UKST) was established as a charity in 2012 with the objective of saving 12,500 lives every year. They are committed to changing the way the NHS deals with Sepsis, to increasing public awareness and supporting those affected by Sepsis.

## SHARING THE PEACE

Of all the changes in our services that have come about in the last 50 years, none has caused so much friction as "Sharing the Peace".

The Peace has its roots in the Old Testament greeting *Shalom aleichem* — Peace be upon you — the words with which Jesus greeted his disciples on the first Easter evening (John 20.19). It would often have been accompanied — in the Mediterranean manner — by an embrace: hence the alternative name for this action in our service: "the kiss of peace". It is probably this semi-formal ritual while gathered for worship that St Paul had in mind when he told the readers of no less than four of his epistles to "greet one another with a holy kiss" (Romans 16.16; 1 Cor. 16.20; 2 Cor. 13.12; cf. 1 Thess. 5.26), and when St Peter said in his first epistle "greet one another with a kiss of love" (1 Peter 5.14).

Another relevant New Testament passage comes in the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus tells his audience to be reconciled with one another before laying their gift on the altar (Matt. 5.23f).

It is this association that accounts for the placing of the Peace immediately before the offertory. This is the earliest recorded position for the Peace, in descriptions of the eucharist as it was ordered in Rome in the second century (ref. Justin Martyr), in north Africa in the third century (ref. Cyprian) and in Jerusalem in the mid-fourth century (ref. Cyril of Jerusalem). But by the early fifth century, Saint Augustine makes it clear that in his north African diocese the Peace comes later, just before the communion itself: "Then, after the consecration [...] is finished, we say the Lord's Prayer [...] After this the "Peace be with you" is said, and the Christians embrace one another with the holy kiss. This is the sign of peace". This position just before communion is where the Peace became established in the mediaeval catholic Church, but by then it had become a brief symbolic greeting limited to the clergy.

In the first English Prayer Book, in the mid-sixteenth century, Archbishop Cranmer made a typically bold step when he removed

the Peace right to the end of the service and cut out altogether the element of physical greeting. Using some words of St Paul — “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds” (Phil. 4.7) — he bound up the Peace into the final Blessing. This combination of peace-and-blessing has become so ingrained that it still survives in this Common Worship service, despite the duplication involved, now that the Peace in its ceremonial form has (controversially) been restored to an earlier point in the service.

Which leads neatly into the £50,000 question: how in practice is the Peace best to be exchanged?

All that the official order of service requires is that the priest says “The peace of the Lord be always with you” and all reply “And also with you”. So here is the first answer: the Peace is exchanged purely verbally; and many of us would be happy to leave it at that. But the official order of service does allow an optional extra. The instructions say: These words may be added: Let us offer one another a sign of peace. All may exchange a sign of peace. But what is this “sign of peace” and how are “all” to exchange it?

Some physical action is presumably intended, not a mere repetition of the words "Peace be with you", but what action?

The evidence I have quoted from the New Testament and the early Church, shows that the original sign of peace consisted in an embrace and a "holy kiss". But for the staid English, a handshake is probably the most natural form of greeting, even among those who know each other well, and this too has a New Testament precedent. In a verse much treasured especially in the free churches, St Paul in one place tells his readers how the leaders of the Jerusalem Church "gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship" (Gal. 2.9). So the handshake is biblical! Having decided upon a suitable "sign" for the Peace, we still have to ask: how can it be exchanged by "all"?

At an early mid-week communion, where half a dozen is a large congregation, each of us can literally shake hands with everybody else; but in a congregation any larger than this it is hardly possible. A relevant instruction issued in 2004 says: "It is appropriate that each one give the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner. The Priest may give the sign of peace to the ministers but always remains within the sanctuary, so as not to disturb the celebration." (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*).

That seems to me sound advice, but unfortunately this instruction was not issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury, or even the Bishop of Exeter, but by the Pope, so I can hardly insist that any of you should obey it. I should also point out that when, in the 1960s, the Roman Catholic Church restored the sharing of the Peace to the laity, they kept it in its mediaeval position, immediately before communion, rather than going back, as we did, to the earlier tradition of having it just before the offertory. You can imagine the disruption caused by a *mêlée* among the faithful at the point of communion — something even less desirable than where it occurs here, at a place where there is a natural break between the ministry of the Word and the ministry of the Sacrament.

So, how should we share the peace here at St Mary's particularly on a Sunday morning? My own preference is that we simply share the peace with those immediately around us. I have indicated my own preferences, but what are they among so many?

So as someone here in an advisory capacity, rather than one with responsibility to take decisions, I will close by pointing out just two of the things that seem to me to feed the disagreement and strong feelings aroused by this subject. The first is temperament. Quiet introverts — whose ideal service is an 8 o'clock Prayer Book Communion or Cathedral Evensong, where you slip in at the start and slip out at the end, and nobody intrudes upon you and your devotions — such people need to work very hard to understand that for more outgoing types it is actually a positive contribution to their worship to break off and greet both friend and stranger in the Lord's name. And the sociable need to respect their more reserved neighbours. Secondly, problems are caused when we confuse a symbolic gesture with the thing being symbolised. In the middle of the service we are invited to share just a "sign" of peace and Christian fellowship, not to engage in the reality of the thing. There is plenty of time for that after the service. So the task for all of us, is to find an appropriate symbolic way to express that Peace of God "which passeth all understanding" — some simple formal sign — that is deliberately quite distinct from the depth and breadth of the experience itself, and in which both shy and gregarious members of the congregation can share with equal ease with minimal disruption to the flow of the service itself. I invite you to think about this, engage in conversation with others and let me know your own preferences.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Sharon**

# CHURCHYARD UPDATE



P



PTO

I am not sure these pictures will do justice to the work that has been done in the graveyard. It is with grateful thanks to the Community Payback Team that much of this work has been done. We actually managed to get the mower over the first 20ft last week!

I suppose I can be a stubborn sort of person and have been quite motivated in taking a lead on tackling head on the brambles in the graveyard but I could not have done this alone. There is a great team of volunteers, Dave, Gary, Brian and Glyn who also give of their time and who have also pushed back the grassy area in front of the church.

What has surprised me is how many people stop and talk to me when I work in the graveyard shifting rubbish. Many comment on how nice it is to see it being tended, others after a couple of conversations have volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to help bag up the rubbish. Talking of rubbish, all the rubbish bins on the property have been replaced and are emptied twice weekly.

I also need to thank my children Lizzy and Tom for all their hard work too.

Missionally, working in the graveyard has given many opportunities to build relationships with others and it appears to be bearing fruit. We have the promise of petrol lawn mower and possibly a petrol strimmer, and the offer of four young strapping lads to help on the first Saturday of the September.

We hope to make a facebook page soon to advertise the graveyard as a community project so watch this space!!

## **SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS**

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and that your garden was in good shape on your return. You may get some late sweetcorn to harvest and the odd apple that is ready for eating. Here are some jobs for this month.

1. Sow some winter lettuce.
2. Plant strawberry plants to increase your stock. Aim to replace plants after their third year.
3. Earth up celery and leeks.
4. Plant spring cabbage.
5. Lift main crop potatoes. Check they are ready by rubbing the skin. If it doesn't come off easily they are ready.
6. Plant tulips for next year.
7. Day lengths are now reduced and house plants slowing down so you need to water them less. It is important to make sure they do not dry out though. Lift a pot and judge whether it feels heavy (and therefore wet) or light (dry).
8. Start to clear away some of the crops that have gone over (ended) like runner beans and sweet peas.
9. Sow chervil, rocket, hardy lettuce, lamb's lettuce, winter radishes, pak choi, spring onions and carrots in pots to take under cover later.
10. Division of perennials can begin. Start with those varieties that are overcrowded, or the first to die down for the year.

**Sandra**

## Albert's 'S is for September' Quiz

1. In which European country is the Prado Art Gallery?
2. In the TV series "Bewitched" which witch twitched her nose to cast spells?
3. Which actress played Harry Potter's Deputy headmistress and was the Mother Superior in the 'Sister Act' films?
4. What is a Somnambulist?
5. Hypnos was the Greek god of what?
6. What name is given to the pouch worn at the front of a kilt?
7. Which giant creature's eyes can measure up to 20 inches across?
8. For which painting is the artist Edvard Munch best known?
9. What is England's highest mountain?
10. In which western film did John Cleese play a town sheriff?
11. Who had a hit with the song 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters'?
12. Which stretch of water separates the Isle of Wight from mainland Britain?
13. In the Bible who performed the 'Dance of the Seven Veils'?
14. In 1878 which organisation was founded by General William Booth?
15. What is the name of Tintin's dog?
16. A baby pigeon is called a what?
17. The butcher bird is an alternative name for which bird?
18. In the Bible who had a haircut and lost his strength?
19. Richard Harris had a 1968 hit with the song 'MacArthur Park', which female singer had a hit with the same song ten years later?
20. What is the secret identity of Peter Parker?

**Albert**

Answers on P42

# **Different Translations of the Lord's Prayer**

## **Translated from the Greek**

Loving Parent, source of all that is and is to come,  
May your Glory become known to all people  
May we be continually nourished in our daily lives by all you  
provide.  
Forgive for the times when we go wrong and neglect the right  
things,  
as we forgive all who offend us.  
Protect us from being led astray, and may our actions reflect your  
Glory.  
Amen

## **Contemporary English Version**

Father, help us to honour your name  
Come and set up your kingdom  
Give us each day the food we need.  
Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us.  
Keep us from being tempted.  
Amen

## **King James Version**

Our Father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
As in heaven, so in Earth.  
Give us day by day our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins  
For we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen

**Glyn Jennings**

## **Misha Explores!!**

Well now, I must tell you I don't often venture outside the church, there's plenty of room for me to explore inside, but over the last couple of months Hubert the black canon has had a big grin on his face and has been chanting in his deep and sonorous way about the churchyard and how it has been changing.

If you are a regular visitor to the churchyard yourself, and many folks are, you may have come across my friend Rufus the rabbit. Now sadly I hadn't seen Rufus in a while as I was a bit scared to venture out into all that long grass and brambles, but after hearing Hubert singing away I thought I would go and take a look.

Well do you know I couldn't take it all in.

There have been teams of folks, volunteers I think you call them, some of them I recognise, some of them I haven't got to know yet, but do you know, they are making some major progress in a lot of the churchyard, and I think it might be possible for me to pop out now and again to see my old friend Rufus (it will also give me a break from Hubert's chanting, which whilst it is pleasant, it's nice to get out and see the blue sky and listen to the birds twittering). It has also been lovely to see lots of people walking through the churchyard.

Now whilst these teams of folks have made amazing progress, I know, from how big the churchyard is, that if you want to give them a hand, they would be very welcome to hear from you. Just

contact Sharon the Vicar or Brian the Churchwarden (details in the contact pages) or pop along on the first Saturday of the month. (If you can't help personally, then a financial donation towards upkeep will help them to keep their mowers and trimmers in good order).

Anyway, mention sharp things reminds me to disappear sharpish! I need to keep away from things like that or I might end up without a tail and that would never do. I'm off to plan my next expedition further down the churchyard to see where else I can get to.

**Dawn**

### **An Invitation...**

My dear friends, I am delighted to tell you that I have completed my three years of study to enable me to become a Licensed Lay Reader at St Mary's Church.

However, I still have to go through a 'formal' Licensing Service which is being held in Huddersfield in September.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for me to invite the whole church family to this service, however, Rev Sharon has agreed to hold a Thanksgiving Service to which you are all very warmly invited.

The service is being held on Sunday 25th September 2016 at 4.00pm in Church with refreshments (tea and cake) being served afterwards.

You have all been so wonderfully supportive to me over these past three years that it would be really lovely if you could join me in this afternoon service. (You will also get to see me in my cassock and surplice!)

I look forward to seeing you then. With love and thanks **Dawn**

## Diary for September and Early October 2016

4th Sept	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism
7th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
11th Sept	10.30am	All Age Worship for adults and children
	12.00pm	Holy Communion
12th Sept	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
14th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
15th Sept	11.00am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
18th Sept	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism
21st Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Deanery Synod
25th Sept	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism
	4.00pm	Service of Thanksgiving
27th Sept	7.30pm	Shirley—Morley Arts Festival
28th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
2nd Oct	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism

Morning Prayer will take place at 9.00am Mon, Tues, Weds & Fri.

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**Quiz Answers :** 1. Spain 2. Samantha 3. Maggie Smith 4. A Sleepwalker 5. Sleep 6. Sporrán 7. Squid 8. The Scream 9. Scafell Pike (Cumbria) 10. Silverado 11. Simon & Garfunkel 12. The Solent 13. Salome 14. The Salvation Army 15. Snowy 16. Squab 17. Shrike 18. Samson 19. Donna Summer 20. Spiderman

**Albert**

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family

Harley Jayne Irwin  
Florence Jayne Evelynne Orme  
Isaac Darcy Nowell  
Maisie Grace McGurk  
Orla Rose Holden  
Harper Niamh Taylor  
Herbie Ray Hancock



## DEATHS

We give thanks for the lives of:-



John Vernon Hill  
Hilda Whitehouse  
Karen Pauline Smith  
Trevor Lewis-Ward  
Elaine Collinson  
Ronald Purcell  
Kenneth Cowling



### A Prayer

Wonderful Counselor, I bring my heart's concerns to you today.

I know that there are things that I must do and ask you for the strength and courage to do them.

I know that there are things that confuse me.

Grant me insight and wisdom in my decision making.

Some things are simply out of my control,

so I pray for the faith to let go and trust in you, O Lord.

**Amen**

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**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.**

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### CONSULTANTS

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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**

### **1st Sunday of the month:**

10:30am Holy Communion

### **2nd Sunday of the month:**

10:30am All Age Worship for adults and children

12:00pm Holy Communion

### **3rd Sunday of the month**

10:30am Holy Communion

### **4th Sunday of the month:**

10:30am Holy Communion

### **5th Sunday of the month**

10:30am All Age Holy Communion for adults and children

### **Wednesdays:**

10:00am Holy Communion

### **3rd Thursday:**

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

### **Morning Prayer 9.00am—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday**

To arrange for **Baptisms** please contact: Liz Aveyard  
on 07791 324221

### **Baptisms held at 12.30pm on 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays**

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