

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Alone we can do so little
together we can do so much

FEBRUARY 2017



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

Morley Mining Disaster Grave
uncovered; Valentine, Martyr at
Rome; St Mary's Guild; Prayerful
Thought.

Who's who at Woodkirk

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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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St Mary's Church Woodkirk

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Engaging with the Community

If we can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact Rev'd Sharon (see p2).

Nicola Waites -Childminder

Contact: 07791374818

nicolawaites2@gmail.com

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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.

We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill

Vicar's Letter

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

Well a New Year has begun. We have made our New Year resolutions and more than likely we have broken them, forgotten them or put them away until next year! I gave up making them a long time ago!!

Instead of resolutions I have aims, It seems to me to be a bit more realistic, as it allows me to fail. It is always my intention to keep the aims but sometimes I need to get it wrong a few times before I find my feet and begin to achieve the aim.

Sometimes I wonder if it is just a psychological permission I give to myself to fail knowing that I can try again.

In Church during December we had a Nativity Scene set up beneath the Altar. When it came time to take it down and pack it away baby Jesus was to be placed back in the safe for another year. There is something very symbolic about putting baby Jesus in the safe (and not in a good way)!

God at Christmas gave himself to us as a gift. He became one of us. He lived among us. He exemplified his teachings and he lived a very human life, and died an excruciating death! Two weeks later—we forget about Him, and lock Him away not even with the crib set, but in a safe where he can't get damaged!!

The Jesus, I know, would have risked His life for his brothers and sisters. The Jesus, I know would not have been in a safe place. The Jesus, I know, would have experienced life to the full, out among the ordinary people of the time, challenging those in authority. The Jesus, I know, gave His life for YOU and for ME.

This year baby Jesus is not in the safe, symbolically, he is in church. By church I mean the people, you can find baby Jesus among His people.

The question and challenge I am posing is that when we gather together is there an expectation we will experience God? Will we be open to being changed by that experience? Are we willing to be made uncomfortable?

These are valid questions for those who are members of the church but they are also valid questions for those who are spiritual and yet would claim that they do not believe in God and that there is no need to go to a church building.

While all of that is in fact true, there is a very communal aspect to worship, and to spirituality.

Watch this space as we look to develop opportunities to meet with our local community and discuss matters of spirituality and faith.

If you have a question, if you are searching this New Year for a deeper meaning to your life, then why not give St Mary's Church a visit or simply contact me at the Vicarage

and come for a cup of coffee (see p2 for contact details).

Just like those aims I mentioned at the beginning of the letter, God continually invites us to a life of abundance and a life of peace. We naturally shy away from things we don't understand immediately and sometimes we need a few opportunities to explore and hear God's word.

May His blessing be with you and your loved ones this year.

Rev'd Sharon

Hill Top Primary Academy

St Mary's was pleased to have all the staff and children of Hill Top Primary Academy for their Christmas Celebration and worship.

Westerton Primary Academy

A wonderful evening was had by all when a selection of staff and children from Westerton Primary Academy came to St Mary's to celebrate Christmas with their Christmas Concert.

We are privileged to have good relationships with both schools and I am hoping that there will be a regular page in our Parish Magazine in the future which reports the good work all the Staff from both schools do with their Children.

Review of Christmas Community Activities

Singing at Lydgate Lodge

Chocolates and Christmas Crackers for all!



Nativity

Children from our Uniformed Organisations and Playgroups contributed to telling the Christmas Story. St Mary's was full and parents and children had a good time.

Singing at Country Baskets

St Mary's raised £85.00!!



Christingle Services

Our two Christingle Services were well attended with over 300 parents and children building their Christingle Oranges in the Service. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended the services and those who filled their candles £370.00 was raised for the Children's Society.



South Leeds Foodbank

On behalf of South Leeds Food Bank, can I say how grateful we are for all the food donations you bring on a regular basis. There is rarely a week goes by that I don't have bags to bring home from Church on a Sunday morning. Your donations are appreciated by all of the volunteers and recipients. Some of the stories we hear are harrowing and besides giving out food we try to signpost our clients to agencies who can help them. So many people are affected by Benefit changes and delays and it seems that any change in circumstances means that benefits stop, even having a new baby means that benefits can stop for several weeks.

At Christmas we were given Advent Calendars and Selection Boxes and at Easter we usually have lots of Easter Eggs so hopefully children don't miss out. It is good to be able to give out treats as well as essentials.

Your donations are essential to our being able to carry on helping those in need.

Thank you.

Barbara

One of my favourite prayers

Dear God

Help me to take the right path in life and help me to know right from wrong.

Show me the way to get through life and its problems no matter how hard they are.

Help me to build a life I can be proud of and show me the way to make a happy life.

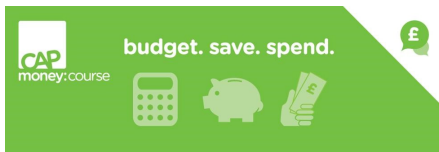
I put my trust in you as you are a God who loves us all no matter who we are.

Written by Craig Adams (when he was a young offender).
Glyn

CAP Course

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) are leading another course at West Ardsley Methodist Church on 1st, 8th and 15th March 2017. There will be a shared meal on the first evening. This course is not just for those in debt, or on low incomes etc. Each of us can gain some greater insight into the way we manage our money.

Sharon



Morley Mining Disaster Grave discovered.

The Community Payback team, as well as a growing number of volunteers, are making huge strides in the Churchyard, clearing back the dense brambles, undergrowth and unwanted Elder trees from around the Gravestones.

One Grave which must have been buried for decades has just been re-found, which is of two brothers, James and William Pickersgill, who were killed in the Morley Main Colliery Mining disaster of 1872.

The explosion at Morley Main Colliery occurred on Monday 7th of October 1872. Thirty-three miners lost their lives and it was reported that the majority of the miners had died of suffocation as the explosion had destroyed the ventilation in that part of the mine, also hampering the rescuers in bringing the bodies to the surface. James was 32 years old and was married with six children. His brother William was just 17.

Almost all of the bodies were taken to the Royal Hotel in Morley Bottoms. At the inquest it was said that due to inadequate supervision, miners had been taking tobacco underground. Some of the dead were found to have matches in their pockets whilst others had lamp keys, presumably in order to open the lamps and light their pipes. However, many of the families pointed out that most of the miner's helmets had 'open' lamps anyway and blaming them for the disaster was a way of avoiding their own responsibilities.

Morley Main Colliery was owned by William Ackroyd & Brothers of Birkenshaw and had been opened in 1855. The pit head was at the side of Albert Road, close to the Miners Arms. The colliery closed in July 1909.

A song was written by Keith Marsden from the Folk Group 'Cockersdale', from Bradford entitled 'Morley Main', the lyrics of which he wrote as if through the eyes of a widow of the disaster:

*They came to call for me last Monday Morning
When I was hanging washing on the line
They looked down at their feet a lot and wouldn't meet me
eye,*

*And only said "you're wanted at the mine".
I know that he was dead but funny, I could only think
How fresh the clothes would smell if it stayed fine*

*And they say it wasn't such a big disaster
It only made the papers for a day
I'm sure the wives who're weeping will find comfort in your
news,
So tell them that and then see what they say
And ask them who's to feed the children, where they'll find
the rent.
And ask how much the owners mean to pay.*

*They carried all the bodies to the Royal
All laid in rows as neatly as can be
Some were burnt, some were crushed and some had only
choked*

*But none of them was very nice to see
And it was only by the belt he always used to wear
That I could tell which one belonged to me..*

*They'll find some lying weasel for the inquest
Or some poor lad who's frightened for his place
Who'll claim he smelled tobacco just an hour or two before
And swear the men were smoking at the face
For it only takes a single match to shift the owner's blame
And some dead miner bears the whole disgrace.
There'll be enough insurance for the funeral
A proper place to rest at least he's due
Some money from the Parish or perhaps they'll start a fund
But after that I don't know what we'll do
For I don't suppose at twenty nine I'll find another man
For younger widows they'll be looking too.*

A picture of the Gravestone
can be seen. It is located
about 100 yards directly
away from the main
Church door, lying
flat to the ground.

David



SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Brrrrrr.... Nothing like a bit of a cold snap to remind us it's still winter!! It's not too late to look through seed catalogues and order seeds. Here are a few jobs you can do in February.

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

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

Sandra

Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269

The commemoration and celebration of Valentine has nothing to do with lovers, doves or Roman courting rituals. However, it has much to do with two separate people both called Valentine, two separate basilicas and a single road - the Flaminian Way.

Valentine of Terni was a bishop in the third century who was taken to Rome and martyred in 273. His remains were taken back to Terni for his burial. An eighth-century basilica named after him is found on the Flaminian Way, a road linking Rome and Terni.

Valentine of Rome was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century but under the authority of Claudius II. His death occurred on the Flaminian Way. A basilica bearing his name is also found on this road. This basilica was completed by Pope Theodosius between 642 and 649.

The two stories have understandably become confused over time, and whereas some have even suggested that the two Valentines are in fact one person, one source even suggests that three individuals may have been conflated.

There has been much speculation and misunderstanding surrounding these martyrs. Indeed, even the choice of 'c.269' as the date of death is at best highly speculative since the Valentine commemorated today is most

probably Valentine of Terni. The two events have become in effect one commemoration amidst confusion caused by the paucity of historical information.

Although few facts can be gleaned for either Valentine, it can be said that truth exists in both stories. Both Valentines serve as a reminder of the difficulty of living as a Christian in an era of persecution.

The present-day 'retail custom' of sending cards and flowers declaring love only clouds the commemoration and may owe its existence to John Donne who was the Dean of St Paul's in 1621. Donne wrote a marriage song for Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of James I who married Frederick V, Elector Palatine on St Valentine's Day in 1632. His marriage song merged the religious commemoration of Valentine with fertility symbolism.

28th February 2017

Shrove Tuesday

FRIVOLITY & INDULGENCE

1st March 2017



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

The Book of Job.

Job is one of the most complex books of the Bible. Job is Part Three of the wisdom literature of the Bible, which is made up of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and finally Job. In Proverbs, we are told that God is wise and just. Throughout the book the following theme emerges:

The wicked will be punished and the righteous rewarded.

In other words, you get what you deserve. Ecclesiastes has a more tempered, humble, and borderline cynical view of the world and justice in particular.

This is where the book of Job enters the scene:

If any of you have read the Book of Job you will know it is easy to get lost in the long speeches of Job's friends and Job's replies to their speeches. One of the observations is that Job is on an emotional roller coaster. At times he is convinced God is just and good. Other times he accuses God of being "reckless, unfair and corrupt". His emotional outbursts allow us to see him as a real, flesh-and-blood character who responds to the suffering he undergoes. It helps us to think of him, not as a one-dimensional character who had this incredible tenacity to endure hardship, but as a real person who honestly didn't deserve the suffering he was experiencing.

Job asks God to come explain his actions (or lack thereof) concerning him. Instead of addressing Job's situation

particularly, though, God takes Job on a virtual tour of the universe. God asks Job if he understands how the world works, or how to take care of it and keep it running. God finishes his curious answer by talking about two massive beasts and how they are stunningly strong and dangerous, yet are a part of His good world.

The intention behind God's response seems to be to

demonstrate to Job that he couldn't comprehend the complexity of the reality God manages even if he wanted to. It's much too big for him. Job is left in a place of humility. He never learns why he is suffering—only that God is wise and just and that we can't see the whole picture of what God manages from our limited perspective. If we could see and comprehend the whole thing, perhaps we would understand why we are suffering.

By the end of the book, we see that God has given Job double of what he had before. However, we should not think of this occurrence as Job passing a test and God rewarding him for it. Job was not being punished in the first place and him getting everything back is not a reward. In the end, we do not know why God decided to give him this gift.

God blessed the last part of Job's life more than the first part; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand asses. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And after this Job lived for a hundred and forty years.

We see that Job is now the kind of person who, no matter what comes, good or bad, he can trust God's wisdom. He is a tried and tested person of faith, and perhaps this experience has gotten him a little closer to understanding the deep complexities of the universe. Job done.

Gail.

The



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dren's Society helps change children's stories, working towards a country where all children are free from disadvantage.

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They do this through their extensive network of frontline services, supported by an army of volunteers. Together, they tackle child poverty and neglect head on, from helping families trapped in debt, child runaways and young carers, to stopping child sexual exploitation.

On Christmas Eve we held our two Christingle Services in aid of the work carried out by the Children's Society. The collections raised a total of £370.00 which has now been sent to them. Many thanks for the donation from the Church towards the oranges and a great big thank you for everyone who came along to make the 300 Christingle oranges.

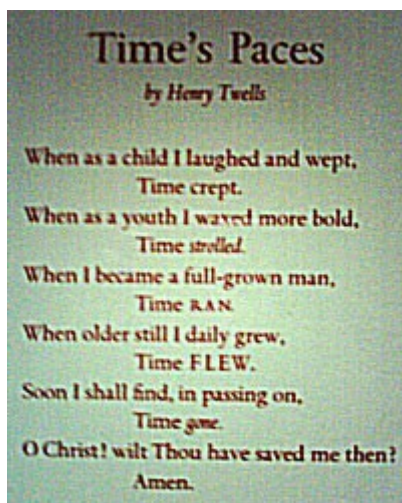
Susan Walshaw

Time's Paces (Lines on a Clock in Chester Cathedral)

When as a child, I laughed and wept,
- Time crept.
When as a youth, I dreamt and talked,
- Time walked.
When I became a full-grown man,
- Time ran.
When older still I daily grew,
- Time flew.
Soon I shall find on travelling on -
- Time gone.
O Christ, wilt Thou have saved me then?
Amen

Henry Twells (1823-1900)

(Poem fixed to the front of the clock-case in the North Transept of Chester Cathedral)



Prayerful Thought

Well, as I sit here reflecting on the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States of America, the media are focussing on his first 100 days, and this gave me an idea to look back and reflect on my first 100 days as a licensed lay reader. In actual fact, from my official licensing to the end of January it's 129 days, but who's counting!

It really is over four months, and I have looked back at the article I wrote for the October magazine to help me reflect on what I was doing and how I was feeling then, to what I am doing and how I am feeling now. It's been an interesting exercise.

I remember feeling a little scared prior to the official licensing, it was all so real, and I guess my feelings came from recognising that things would not be the same afterwards, and we are always nervous when we think of change.

We are constantly told to embrace change and that it is good to change, and I know that is right, but I also cannot help, like everyone does, feeling nervous about it.

It has also been good to look back at the promise I made which was to..."endeavour, as far as in me lies, to promote peace and unity, and to conduct myself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his church and for the spiritual welfare of all people. I will give due obedience to the Bishop of Leeds and to his successors and the minister in whose cure I may serve (Rev Sharon), in all things lawful and honest."

It is perhaps a bit soon after making that promise to say, well yes, I've done that, but on reading my promise again, I would like to think that I have made a reasonable start.

I must admit, that although I am still me when I wear my lay reader robes, they do make me feel different, they

are 'robes of responsibility' I think, and when I wear them, it is because in that service, I have been given some responsibility, to lead or to preach, or in some cases both lead and preach, and the responsibility is that I do my best.

It is important that I lead with confidence and that the sermon I preach will be interesting to those present in church, and perhaps may also make people think.

Many of you have been very kind and spoken to me, encouraging me and supporting me, and I can tell you, it is very much appreciated.

Rev Sharon and I meet regularly to discuss my progress and sometimes to talk about other tasks I can consider, however, sometimes, Rev Sharon doesn't warn me, but asks me in church prior to a service whether I would mind doing such and such, whatever it is.

Sometimes, if it is leading a part of the service or doing something within it, I am quite happy to do so, but sometimes, as we all do from time to time, my reaction is a startled "I can't do that!" But of course with Rev Sharon's support and guidance I find that of course, I can do that!

I remember referring to the book of Esther in my article and three things we can learn from her, the first one was 'When you first start out, God won't give you all the details' and I think Rev Sharon has been taking this point to heart!

But joking aside, I was at morning prayer a few weeks ago, during Epiphany. We were working our way through the Old Testament book of the prophet Amos, just what we needed on a cold dreary January morning! But there is also a daily reflection on that days reading and on this particular day it spoke about that old children's television programme some of you may remember called "Watch with mother" which started off by asking "Are you sitting comfortably?"

What the reflection went on to say was that really, if we are

sitting comfortably, we are not undertaking our duties as God's people properly, if we are within our 'comfort zone' we are not challenging ourselves to be better disciples or in trying to tell people about God.

There is nothing wrong in sitting comfortably and taking stock of where you are, but it shouldn't be our general state, we should be thinking about what we can do, because it is when we think about what we can do, that we put ourselves forward to try different things. Even if you don't get to church as often as you would like, or are not as active

as you once were, perhaps you can challenge yourself in a different way, using a different way of prayer, there is always something we can do.

I am gaining in confidence each time I lead and preach in church, but there is always an undercurrent of 'edginess'. I like that, because it keeps me on my toes and doesn't allow me to become complacent. We are all learning, none of us is perfect, we can all challenge ourselves to be better disciples for God.

I sincerely thank all of you for your continued support and encouragement of me in my lay reader ministry and I look forward to continuing to work hard to fulfil the promise I made last September.

With love and prayers

Dawn x

CUDDLY TOY APPEAL

I would like to make an appeal for some more soft/cuddly toys to be 'won' at the Garden Party. They do not have to be new but preferably in good, clean condition please.

We have done so well in the past year or so with some very generous donations. All the toys were 'won' at the Christmas Fair so our present stock is nil.

Thank you.

Sandra Gledhill

St Mary's Guild Needs You!

St Mary's Guild was set up in the 1900's and consisted of a group of women who looked after the Sanctuary ie cleaned the brasses and silver and generally kept things clean and tidy.

In those days women took no part in the performing of the Services and, therefore, it was considered an honour to do this work.

When I came to Woodkirk, I was admitted to the Guild during a short ceremony.

The Guild consists of six teams of two people who clean on a rota basis.

In the present church set up, where women have been integrated into all aspects of church life, there is no reason why it has to consist solely of women. Having said that the work needs to be done whether by men or women. We could do with a few more teams as we have lost some of our members due to health issues.

The way forward may be different but at present this is how it works.

As the Treasurer I have the relevant record books and money. The books are quite interesting to look through.

As you will gather there is a cost—we pay £2.00 per year towards the cost of cleaning materials and any other items required for the Altar.

In 2013, we bought a new Altar Cloth which took most of the accrued money. Our balance at present is £66.36 and subs of £2.00 are now due for 2017.

Sally Shaw

Albert's "Occupations" Quiz

- 1 Which Welsh born actor starred in the films "Zulu" & "The Cruel Sea"?
- 2 Which Tom played Dr Who on TV from 1975 to 1981?
- 3 Which American author's novels include "The Big Sleep" & "The Long Goodbye"?
- 4 What type of goods did a chandler trade in?
- 5 What did a costermonger sell?
- 6 Was "Mick the Miller" a boxer, a wrestler, a horse or a greyhound?
- 7 In children's comics who was "the strongman's daughter"?
- 8 Who wrote children's stories about Peter Rabbit?
- 9 Which British Prime Minister sounded like someone who worked on a roof?
- 10 Was Elsie from Coronation Street a leather maker?
- 11 Was this superhero an army officer's servant?
- 12 This occupation could be that of a farmer or a 1960's girl dancer.
- 13 Might this maker of wooden chests be "Open All Hours"?
- 14 In which industry could you find a fuller or a mercer?
- 15 What name is given to the electrician in charge of a film set?
- 16 Oliver Mellors had what occupation in the novel "Lady Chatterley's Lover"?
- 17 Which film star became Governor of California in 2003?
- 18 In the film "Terms of Endearment", Jack Nicholson play a retired what?
- 19 What was Casanova's occupation at the time of his death?
- 20 According to the name of the novel and film, who "always knocks twice"?

Albert

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.'

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.'

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 he got 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.

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 ten

The vicar answered, 'You mean the commandment 'Thou shalt not steal' changed your mind?' 'No,' retorted Henry, 'the one about adultery did. As soon as you said that, I remembered where I had left my old hat.'

Is it Fair?

Hot drinks will be served and there will be a cake stall and a Fair Trade Stall. All proceeds will go to the South Leeds Foodbank.

Hope to see you there.

Church Mouse Tales

It's always nice to have visitors- well I thought so, but my friend Hubert, the Black Canon wasn't so impressed.

'Who is it this time, Misha?' he asked in his best complaining voice.

'Well, he is a travelling Minstrel'. I explained tentatively.

'A Minstrel?' he exclaimed, 'I hope he's not going to make an awful din.'

'I'm sure he is quite good...' I offered, mentally crossing my fingers that he would be able to string a couple notes together.

'Humph!' Hubert's expression matched his mood.

Just then a few notes quietly drifted in on the breeze. The soft serenade from the strings of a Lute produced a most harmonious sound like spring time in a beautiful garden. A golden voice now began a verse, with its melodic lilt and charming timbre we both stood still and listened with gladness in our hearts.

'What is that?' whispered Hubert, his voice now softer as he tilted his head in appreciation.

'That's our visitor - Blondel', I explained.

'Blondel!' let out Hubert so loudly I nearly flipped over.

'Er yes, he is....'

'Well why didn't you say so!' he continued. 'I haven't seen him since - well since King Richard the Lionheart's time.'

'Since when?' I asked.

'You remember when King Richard was imprisoned in a tower and a travelling Minstrel discovered where he was.....'

'er - no, actually I'm only four years old....'

'What good times we had. I must go and see him- there's nine hundred years of history to catch up on...' he practically ran from the room.

Perhaps having visitors isn't such a good idea after all, I sighed.

Misha



Diary for the coming weeks

February (Morning Prayer will take place at 9.00am Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri.)

1st Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion Iona
2nd Feb	19.30pm	Holy Communion Candlemas
4th Feb	09.30am	Graveyard Planning Team Church
5th Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism
6th Feb	19.00pm	Wardens Meeting Vicarage
	20.00pm	IT Meeting Vicarage
8th Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion Healing
12th Feb	10.30am	All Age Worship
	12.00 noon	Holy Communion
	15.30pm	Baptism Party Church Hall
15th Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion God's Goodness
19th Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion
20th Feb	19.30pm	Mission Group Vicarage
22nd Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
23rd Feb	19.30pm	Deanery Synod St Mary's Beeston
26th Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism
27th Feb	19.30pm	Social Planning Group Vicarage
28th Feb	12.00 noon	Sandwich and Pancakes Vicarage
1st March	10.00am	Ash Wednesday
	19.30pm	Ash Wednesday (St Michael's will join us)
5th March	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism
8th March	10.00am	Holy Communion Healing

Answers to Albert's Quiz:- 1. Stanley Baker, 2. Tom Baker, 3. Raymond Chandler, 4. Candles, 5. Fruit & Vegetables, 6. Greyhound, 7. Pansy Potter, 8. Beatrix Potter, 9. Margaret Thatcher, 10. Tanner, 11. Batman, 12. Tiller, 13. Arkwright, 14. Textile Fabrics, 15. Gaffer, 16. Gamekeeper, 17. Arnold Schwarzenegger, 18. Astronaut, 19. Librarian, 20. The Postman

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Ella Rose Jennifer Gray

Joshua Peter Everitt



DEATHS

We give thanks for the lives of:-

Claire Woollin

Shirley Dobson

Joseph Auty

Harold Spur

Diane Valery Shillito



WEDDINGS Please pray for all couples who are to be married at St Mary's in 2017



May there always be work for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine upon your window pane.
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.
(Traditional blessing)

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.**

Andrew Roper

Painter & Decorator

Wallpaper Hanging

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

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Leeds, LS27 0DZ**

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Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising 2015:

Quarter Page £30.00

Half Page £60.00

Full Page £100.00

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To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 015

Did you know?

We place our Parish Magazine on our website each month therefore YOUR Advert reaches many more people.

St Mary's Church engaging with the local community and supporting local business owners.

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CONSULTANTS

CHRISTINE BENNETT
RACHEL STONES

RESIDENCE
3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

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

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