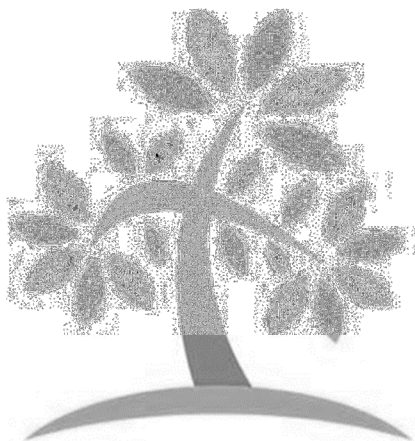


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

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



Friends of
Woodkirk Churchyard

March 2017

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

**Don't Worry—be happy; Mow, mow, mow the
Grass; The Board Meeting; Refresh Yourself;
Imagine; St. Peter**

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:	
Brian Gledhill, Julie Hyde, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Dave Townsend, Barbara Tate, Liz Aveyard, Gail Townsend, Glyn Jennings.	
If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 50p really helps to keep it going!	

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Engaging with each other

Engaging with the Community

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

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Contact: 07791374818

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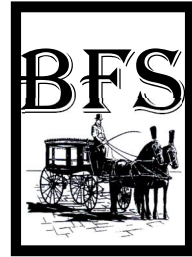
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Welcome!

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 — Light through the Darkness.

As we approach Easter, Christians, are preparing to make a journey to Jerusalem with Jesus. This period of time is called Lent. It is a time we'll hear hard truths about the nature of faith commitment and self-sacrifice and sometimes we find this too much to bear. But God wants us to persist, hang in there, and above all, in Lent, to "listen to him" - for Jesus will speak to us afresh of our lives, of our faith and of our service.

Lent should not be the same movie rerun every year, which we watch grudgingly with tired, cynical eyes. Each Lent is new and different. We are a year older; we've experienced more; our faith has grown, wavered or diminished; there have been births, illnesses and deaths, marriages, divorces, successes and failures. We are not the people we were this time last year or the people we will be twelve months from now - but it is to the people we are today that Jesus speaks.

Many people today think faith is irrelevant, that it has no meaning or purpose, and would question why the need to come to church, let alone take a period of time to review their life and their relationships. Yet I want to say that here at St Mary's we welcome all, the faithful, the faithless, and those who are somewhere in the middle. Why? because following Jesus is a hard road to take. If we look at the lives of the Disciples they misunderstood more than they understood. It takes time to explore what a Christian is and what a Christian is called to do and to be.

One of the Disciples, Peter did not initially emerge with great credit. At the Last Supper he refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet, in the garden of Gethsemane he falls

asleep, and in the high priest's courtyard he denies knowing Jesus. Peter may have heard Jesus but he clearly hasn't listened, for the lesson is a hard one and takes a long time to learn.

Belonging to a church gives a sense of community, builds friendships and allows time for us to listen to God. There are no expectations from other people - the only expectation is that there is an opportunity to experience God for yourself - and for your understanding to grow.

The words of Jesus will not be comfortable, but they will contain hope. Through the darkness of Lent there is a glimmer of light, the light of the resurrection. For no matter how dark and hopeless things may seem, God can bring light, life and hope to our lives. It is that assurance that allows us to dare to go to Jerusalem again, that allows us to relive the events of Holy Week and to "listen to him".

Revd Sharon



Don't Worry—be happy.

One morning Death was walking into a city when a man stopped him and asked what he was doing. Death answered, "I'm going into the city to kill 10,000 people." The man replied, "That's terrible that you would kill 10,000 people." Death responded, "Taking people when their time has come is my job. Today I have to get my 10,000." Later, as Death was coming out of the city, the man met him. Again, he was furious. He said, "You told me this morning that you were going to take 10,000 people, but 70,000 died today." Death answered, "Don't get mad at me. I only took 10,000. Worry killed all the rest."

Worry has an uncanny knack for killing people. For many people, worry has become so ingrained in their personalities that once the old worries are gone they search for new ones. They've become dependent on worry as a lens through which to view life, and they've forgotten any other way to live. Is there reason to be worried today? Most people would say there is. High energy costs, a worsening economy, rogue nuclear nations, threats of terrorism, widespread job layoffs, and tension in the Middle East—all these make for uncertain times. Economic stress is taking its toll on many people and even those families where both parents go out to work are struggling to make ends meet.

Fortunately, in the midst of a world of "worry-warts," Jesus isn't worried. Even better, He has a definitive Word for you. He says, "*Don't worry, be hopeful.*" Now there are some passages in the New Testament that are difficult to interpret, but this is not one of them.

First, worry is a pointless exercise - Jesus promises to meet your needs because He cares for you. Jesus wants His followers to stop worrying over food, drink, and clothes because He will meet their basic material needs. Now, I need to put forth two disclaimers. First, don't worry doesn't mean don't plan for the future! Over the years, many people have mistakenly assumed that this is a prohibition against career

ambition, financial planning, and life insurance. But this is not what Jesus is saying. Jesus is pro-planning! He wants you to work hard and plan for your future. To do otherwise is to be foolish. Second, don't worry doesn't mean don't be concerned.

If you're not concerned about your children playing near traffic, you're a terrible parent. If you're not concerned about your health, you're a fast-food junkie. You need to have some degree of *healthy* concern. Otherwise you won't meet deadlines or go in for medical checkups. There's a difference between concern and worry. Concern is when you can do something to help a situation, so you do what you can do. Worry is when you can't do something, but you don't want to leave it up to God. In other words, worry is concern gone haywire.

Secondly, worry is a demonstration of faithlessness. In Jesus' day, the pagans pursued food, drink, and clothing because they didn't know God as a loving Father. They were tormented by anxiety because they believed their future was in the hands of Fate and Fortune. Jesus is saying that worry is practical atheism. When you and I worry, we are behaving just like unbelievers. Do I ever worry? Of course I do. I have many responsibilities and pressures. Yet, my desire is for worry to be a small town I pass through, not a place to hang my hat. I want worry to be a momentary phase, not a lifestyle.

After providing two reasons not to worry, Jesus says, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness." This is a present tense command. The word "seek" was used to describe the activity of a hunter who hides in a blind to hunt birds. He is hunting for food, not just for sport. He focuses his whole mind on those birds. His eye always looks for them. He keeps his bow and arrows ready. The birds will be within shooting range for only a moment, so he is constantly alert. Just as a bird hunter makes birds the centre of his attention,

you are to make God's kingdom your top priority.

This means if you are to be anxious about anything, it should be the affairs of God's kingdom.

Jesus now moves from a command to a promise. He states that *if* you fulfill the condition of seeking first God's kingdom and His righteousness "all these things (material necessities) will be added to you". Jesus specifically limits this promise to those who obey. Rather than a blanket promise, this is a conditional promise that applies to disciples who are sold out to Christ. Those committed to building their own temporary financial kingdom receive no such assurances. This promise is hopeful upon seeking first God's kingdom. This is not a license for laziness. One element of seeking first God's kingdom and His righteousness is working. Disciples are promised survival, not affluence.

Is this promise always fulfilled? Does God always provide for the needs of His children throughout the world? When Christians seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, they will become world Christians, and He will meet the needs of those in poverty in other parts of the world. God is not saying that there will never be anyone who starves. These are maxims that are generally true but not exhaustively true. This statement is much like the book of Proverbs in the sense that it states general principles. They are not meant to explain every individual particular occurrence. Sometimes God will provide a time of need in order for believers to trust Him, turn to Him, or to improve their character.

Jesus hammers the death nail in worry. For the third and final time He says: "So do not worry about tomorrow". Jesus then gives two reasons you should not worry. First, "tomorrow will care for itself". The problem with worrying about tomorrow is you never run out of tomorrows. You must learn to live life one day at a time. God only gives you help you need for today. He doesn't give you tomorrow's help today. So don't worry about what you are going to do tomorrow, because when you get to

tomorrow, God's grace will be there to meet you and give you what you need.

A second reason not to worry is: "Each day has enough trouble of its own". Jesus is saying something quite interesting: You won't sink under the burden of today's crisis, but tomorrow's agenda puts you over the weight limit. Have you ever tried to carry too many bags of groceries at the same time? I have. I'm a "one-tripper." I carry in all the bags at one time. It doesn't matter how many there are. I will strap five or six plastic bags to each wrist and load myself down. I know what you're saying, "He's a manly man!" Yes, indeed! But there's only one problem. Recently, a gallon milk jug fell out of my arms and exploded on our garage floor. I have also spilled eggs and bruised fruit. I leave spills all over the place. The lesson is: Don't carry too much baggage at once. Learn to make multiple trips instead of one. Jesus tells you to carry today's bag today and make a fresh trip tomorrow.

Tomorrow will have trouble. It is unavoidable. No Christian should ever be caught in what I call the "then syndrome." "Then things are going to be trouble-free." "When I get married, then I'll be beyond trouble." Yeah, right! "When I have children, then I'll be trouble-free." Okay, scratch that one. "When I get a promotion, then I will be happy." Nope! It is futile to try to live a problem-free life. You can spend all your time and energy fortifying the castle of your life, but there is always a place that goes unguarded.

Tomorrow will have its challenges and trials, no matter how hard you try to prevent them. Leave tomorrow alone. When that day dawns, God will give you the grace and the strength you need for it. At the present time, you have the grace and the strength He has given you for today. Your calendar gives each day its own number. Live them in that order, just as God arranged them. Stay in one square at a time. Someone said, "Worrying doesn't rob tomorrow of its sorrow, it robs today of its strength."

Revd. Sharon

Ride On

As you may know, we have been 'saving up' for a while to buy ourselves a 'Ride-on' mower so we can try to tackle the grass in the churchyard during the growing season now that the Payback team and many other Volunteers have worked hard to clear such a large area.

Well—good news! We are now the proud owners of a Countax Ride on mower which we hope will be a good addition to the growing band of helpers who are coming along to clear all the brambles and undergrowth, making the churchyard look amazing.

We started with a Sponsored Walk back in October to help raise funds, but we must give a special thankyou to Alice Kelly and also Jean Douglas and her Father George for their generosity in supporting the 'Friends of Woodkirk Churchyard'.

If you have been inspired by the work going on you can get involved in many ways:

Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/woodkirkchurchyard> where you can see the progress and make a donation if you so wish.

Or:

Come along on a Saturday morning—there will usually be someone around—and get involved.

Or:

Take a few pictures yourself and spread the news about great things going on at St. Mary's.

David.



Our new Mower has arrived

How's your imagination?

On the fourth Sunday of January our old style pew sheet, if you read it, was titled 'Part III Direction for life' and it went into detail about a method of Ignatian prayer called contemplation. However, although that was interesting, it was the first two sentences of that paragraph that prompted me to write this article:

Can you imagine what it would have been like to be a character in one of the Gospel stories? Or could you imagine being there yourself?

Now I may be a lay reader and have studied theology, but I bet some of you can recollect a lot more bible stories than I can. The funniest thing though, was that I found it much easier straightaway, to think about Gospel stories I would definitely NOT have wanted to be present at.

I wouldn't want to have been present at the story of the Good Samaritan, (Luke 10: 29-37) what if I'd been one of the people who walked by on the other side of the road?

I've always liked the story of the healing of the paralysed man (Luke 5: 18-20), when his friends can't get him close to Jesus so they lower him down through the roof, but would I have been stood outside amongst the crowds tutting at the effrontery of these people.

What about the story of the Prodigal son? (Luke 15: 11-32) I wouldn't want to be either of the brothers, one lives it up and has a great time, but ends up starving and the other brother is full of resentment.

It took me a little while longer to consider which stories I might have liked to have been present at:

The first one I thought of was the woman at the Well (John 4: 5-26). Can you imagine, a very hot and dusty place around noon. Every day, she turns up and here is a man, but also a Jewish man. It was against the social rules of the day for Jesus and the woman to speak, but they do, and Jesus offers the woman 'living water'.

The second one I thought of was the story of Zacchaeus, (Luke 19: 1-10) possibly because I am not very tall myself and would have probably had similar feelings about climbing the tree in order to see Jesus coming by. I'm going to finish with the two stories that I think are really the ones I would have

liked to have been present at;

The Road to Emmaus

It is only on looking at this story a little closer for this article that I noted that this story took place later on Easter Sunday (Luke 24: 13-35). Here are two followers of Jesus, one we find out is called Cleopas, Jesus joins them, but they do not know that it is Jesus. They are upset about what has happened in Jerusalem and after they explain to Jesus, he then talks to them about everything, and when he looks like he might leave them, they ask him to join them, and it is then that they realise, as he breaks bread, that they are actually with Jesus. What a wonderful experience, to have enjoyed time talking through the scriptures with Jesus, they recognise "Were our hearts not burning within us whilst he talked and opened the scriptures to us", and then being able to rush back to the other disciples and tell them they had also seen Jesus.

And

Jesus and the disciples enjoy a barbeque!

Well it's not called that, it's called Jesus appears to seven disciples, but I like my title better!

This story (John 21: 1-14) happened some time after Jesus' death, the disciples were perhaps feeling quite bereft, their friend had gone, they were leaderless and probably still frightened of persecution by the Roman authorities. They are sat around not really knowing what to do and so they default to what they know, they decide to go fishing.

Unfortunately, they are out all night and fail to catch anything, but a man calls to them from the shore asking if they have caught anything. I can imagine them somewhat grumpily replying that 'No, they hadn't caught anything', I can almost hear their disgusted harrumph. Then this stranger (as they do not recognise him as Jesus) tells them to throw their net over the other side of the boat. Now I'm not sure I would have immediately done that, how could throwing my net just to the other side of the boat make a difference, but of course they do so and find their nets aren't big enough to catch all the fish. Then John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) recognises Jesus, and as he says this, Peter recognises Jesus also and is so overjoyed he jumps straight into the water to go to meet Jesus. The others follow in the boat with all the fish and then enjoy

fish from the fire and bread, sharing time with Jesus. My imagination feels an early morning on a hit day, when the temperature is pleasant, sat on the shore, with the sun slowly rising, the calm lapping of the water, perhaps chirruping of birds, sat by a fire waiting for the fish to cook, looking forward to a lovely freshly cooked breakfast and bread sharing time with their friends with Jesus present with them. Sounds like the perfect start to a day to me.

So how about you? How is your imagination?

You may know a lot of bible stories, you may know very few, perhaps the stories I've mentioned, may strike a chord with you too. Perhaps you can find five minutes later today, or later this week, to think about a bible story and what it would have been like to be a character, or be present in one of the Gospel stories?

Happy imagining.

Love Dawn

Prayerful Thought—Refresh Yourself.

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed?

Is it something you feel often?

We rush around trying to keep up with everything.

I remember at times having work deadlines, personal deadlines, things coming up to do with church, my theology studies, trying to keep in touch with friends and sometimes I felt like wanting to stop the world and get off, like on a merry go round, and I don't have children, so how folks manage with all those things, plus children, plus I'm sure lots of other things besides I really can't imagine.

The funny thing is though, that taking out some of these things we still fill our time with 'stuff' that stops us doing the things we might really want or like to do.

I was lucky enough to finish work through choice about 18 months ago and even though I have taken the element of 'work' out of my life, I still don't seem to have that much additional time available, the old adage used by many retired people about wondering how they ever found time to go to work certainly applies to me.

I do recognise that my evenings are now mostly leisurely spent with my husband whereas when I was working, I probably used up a couple of evenings a week

preparing things for Girls Brigade or working on my theology studies, and I do feel that on a weekend, whilst busy, I seem to have a bit of flexibility and have managed to meet up with my sister a few more times than we used to which is nice, but I still seem to have deadlines for things for the voluntary work that I do and I have added things to my schedule as I prepare sermons and assemblies.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm certainly not complaining about all these things, in fact they are my choice to do. I could just as easily stop doing them and then the deadlines would not be there, but the fact is I don't want to. It is great sometimes to have a list of things to be done, mainly because it's a lovely feeling when you can cross something off that list.

But one of the main issues I have with myself is that I am not very organised, I seem to almost lurch from one thing to another and I feel that if I could get organised it would help me schedule better.

I preached a sermon in February and it was probably one of the first ones that Rev Sharon has asked me to do that was a, shall we say, more difficult passage to preach on. It was on the sermon on the mount when Jesus reinforces the old laws by adding to them, read it at Matthew Chapter 5, v21- 37.

I'm not going to go through my sermon here but one of the points that remained with me afterwards, was "Before you offer yourself, go and be reconciled" I'm not perfect, I'm sure I'm a long way from that, but I do try and remain friends with people, and if I know that I have hurt someone by something that I have said or done, or NOT said or done, then I will speak to them, or go and see them and sort it out. But my thought really is not so much that aspect of going and being reconciled, but in thinking about how busy I am and how little spare time I have, I have been feeling that I need to go and be reconciled to God. I always find time to do my washing and ironing, but how often do I make sure that I have spent time with God?

I come to church most Sundays and that is lovely, sharing in worship with my church family, and I have also been attending morning prayers some days which again is great, but I still find it difficult to sit and share time with God when I am at home.

If God was like one of my friends, I would send him a text and arrange to meet for coffee, or perhaps get a few friends

together with God and share a meal one evening. I may send a card or a letter to let Him know that I am thinking about Him, or I might contact Him with a quick email, but I don't.

Somehow sitting quietly for even a few moments and having a quiet time with God is something I still find difficult to do.

I remember when I was on placement with the lovely people at Gildersome and Drighlington, I attended a service of alternative worship called 'Refresh'. It was on a Sunday teatime and consisted of some lively hymns led by their excellent worship music group with led prayers but open petitioning and I remember feeling at first a bit out of my comfort zone. However, I also remember, before I left my placement, plucking up the courage to say a prayer to God out loud at a service and feeling really good about it. I refer to this because when I am at morning prayer, I sometimes lead the prayers, which are said out loud, and after being a bit faltering at first, I am now much more comfortable when leading prayers.

I feel that I need to apply this principle to my desire to spend more time with God. When we do something less regularly, we become less confident in it, we need to practice in order to gain confidence.

I cannot stop the world and get off, life continues apace with all its wonders and opportunities, and if we are to experience the wonder of the life God had given us then we need to embrace the pace of things, but it is also important to ensure that we fit God into our everyday. No I may not be able to send God a text message like I do my friends, but what is to stop me making a cup of coffee and sitting quietly having some time with God, surely if I am afraid my friends will not speak to me if I don't contact them, shouldn't I be slightly more afraid of how God might react if I don't contact Him.

Like I found with petitioning God in open prayer, I need to practice spending time with God, then perhaps I will feel more confident at it, and will be able to build up my relationship with God, and in building up my relationship will feel less overwhelmed and more able to cope with the daily merry go round that is 21st Century life.

With love and prayers.

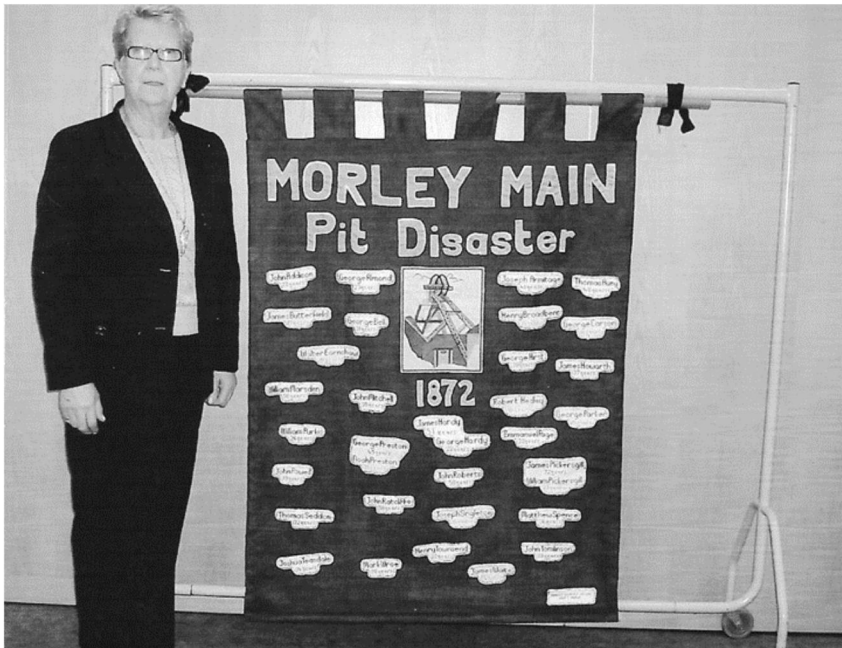
Dawn x

Morley Main Pit Disaster - Commemoration Banner

Mavis Darley was reading in last months magazine about the grave of the two brothers killed in the Morley Main Pit disaster. She goes on:-

The two names are on a Banner made by Morley Elderly Action Craft Group in 2013. All 30 men killed in the disaster are named on the Banner.

The Banner was taken to Caphouse Colliery where a service of dedication was held down the pit. The service was attended by some of the descendants of the men killed in the disaster, Councillor Any Dalton, who commissioned the Banner, members of the Coalboard, M.P. Ed Balls and ladies from the Craft Group. The Banner is now hanging in Morley Town Hall.



Mavis with the Banner

George & Jemima Forgiveness Matters

George pops up. mumbling, moaning & groaning to himself.

Jemima Blimey George, you sound in a good mood today, what's up?

George. Go away Jemima I don't want to talk to anybody today.

Jemima. Oh thanks George, that's not very nice, does that include me then?

George. Yes, go away, leave me alone, I'm not happy.

Jemima. But I'm supposed to be your best friend George, please don't send me away.

George. Oh I'm sorry Jemima, you just caught me on a bad day.

Jemima. I'm a very good listener George, do you want to tell me what's bugging you?

George. Well, I suppose so. It all kicked off a couple of weeks ago when we went back to School after the Christmas holidays.

Jemima. Why, what happened?

George. Well Jemima, ya know that Leeds United football shirt my Nan & Granddad bought me for Christmas?

Jemima. Yeh! what about it?

George. Well, last week at school, Mr Charlton our games teacher told us that we could wear any football strip we wanted as a special treat for football practice on that day.

Jemima. Yeh, go on.

George. So I decided I would wear my Leeds United top. So I packed it neatly in my school bag and put it in my locker when I got to school until it was time to change into my football kit for training.

Jemima. And?

George. So after we had had our school lunch it was time to get changed for football and I went to my locker to get into my new Leeds United shirt (getting upset)

and I couldn't believe what someone had done to my shirt (sob, sniff, sniff)

Jemima. Why, what happened?

George. (sobbing) Somebody had crossed out Leeds United with a felt tip pen and then wrote Huddersfield Town in it's place. (really sobbing now)

I mean come on Jemima, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN anybody but Huddersfield town.

Jemima. Blimey George, that's awful. Me being a Manchester United fan and all!

George. WHAT!! YOU A MAN U FAN. AHHHHHHH!

Jemima. Calm down George, calm down. I can imagine what you must feel like. It's like me having a Man U shirt and someone scrawling Man City across it.

George. Yeh! you see Jemima, even you would be upset.

Jemima. So do you know who did it then George?

George. Yeh! course I do.

Jemima. Who?

George. Jimmy blooming Smith, the school idiot.

Jemima. That's not very nice George, calling him the school idiot.

George. Well he is, and I don't care.

Jemima. So what ya gonna do about it George?

George. Oh, don't you worry, I've got a few things up my sleeve.

Jemima. Such as?

George. Oh I'm not telling you Jemima, you'll grass on me.

Jemima. Grass on you, what's that mean?

George. Oh sorry Jemima, I forgot you're posh. You will tell on me.

Jemima. No I won't. Tell me what you are gonna do.

George. Ya know that new bike that Jimmy Smith got from his Mum & Dad for Christmas.

Jemima. Yeeeeees

George. Tell you what I'm gonna do.

Jemima. No George, don't George, forget it George.

George. Hang on Jemima, I haven't said anything yet.

Jemima. It's the yet bit that's bothering me.

George. Jimmy comes to school on his bike every day and leaves it locked up in the bike compound.

Jemima. Well at least it's locked up so no one can steal it
George. Who said anything about stealing it (hee hee)
Jemima. I don't like where this is going George.
George. At playtime tomorrow I'm gonna sneak round to the bike compound and let Jimmy's bike tyres down, and then I'm gonna hide his bike pump so he can't blow em up again.

Jemima. Aw give up George, you can't do that.
George. Course I can, and for good measure I might put treacle on his bike saddle so his bum sticks to it (ha Ha)

Jemima. Stop, stop, stop it George, that's enough.
George. No it isn't, he shouldn't have wrecked my Leeds shirt.

Jemima. So you think that doing all those things to Jimmy's bike will make everything alright George?

George. It'll sure make me feel a lot better.
Jemima. And how do you think Jimmy will feel?
George. Blooming miffed like me I hope.
Jemima. Yes George, it probably will make Jimmy miffed, but do you think that's a good thing?

George. Well, no not really I suppose.
Jemima. You see George, if you and Jimmy were to keep doing bad things to each other, then it could go on forever, and I'm sure you don't want that do you George.

George. I suppose not Jemima, but what do you suggest?
Jemima. Do you remember the talk in Sunday School last week about being angry with a brother or a sister?

George. I'm not angry with my brother & sister, I'm angry with Jimmy Smith (Der)

Jemima. No George, everyone are brothers & sisters in God's eyes, and everyone who is so angry with a brother or sister, is kind of, in a way guilty of murder.

George. Woooooh, hang on a minute Jemima, I was only going to mess with Jimmy's bike, I wasn't going to kill him.

Jemima. No George it's just a figure of speech. The Lord

said "if you carelessly call a brother "idiot" then you might find yourself hauled into court. Or thoughtlessly yell "stupid" at a sister then you are on the brink of Hellfire.

George. (sounding worried) Ya starting to scare me now Jemima.

Jemima. I'm sorry George, but I'm trying to explain that the moral fact is that words kill.

George. (sounding really worried) So am I going to court or to the brink of Hellfire?

Jemima. No George, not if you conduct yourself properly by making things right.

George. Please tell me how to make things right Jemima, please, please, please.

Jemima. Go and talk to Jimmy Smith and tell him what you were planning to do to his bike. Forgive him for messing up your Leeds United shirt and tell him you both have to stop now, or this could go on forever. Tell him you both cannot bear grudges against each other. I'm sure Jimmy will understand. This way George, you will have made things right.

George. So if I do that then I won't go to court or to the brink of hellfire?

Jemima. No George, just keep going to Leeds United instead and all will be fine.
Say goodbye George.

Both. Goodbye everybody, goodbye.

Brian.

Our new diocese – how's it going?

A message from Bishop Nick

So much has been achieved since the Diocese of Leeds was created just two and a half years ago. Bringing together three very different dioceses was a hugely complex procedure, but we are all now part of a large, coherent body, whose benefits are being increasingly revealed.

The bishops and archdeacons are working closely with their areas, and the combined spiritual wealth of 656 churches, over 240 church schools and three cathedrals has brought increased creative energy.

We now have a central office in Leeds (complete with a charitable coffee shop that's open to all), a new parish share system, new governance and further delegation of authority from the diocesan bishop to the area bishops.

Some of the challenges we face include: getting the right balance between one diocese and the five episcopal areas, tackling the anticipated fall in clergy numbers, growing our churches and maintaining parish share. And it remains vital to reach children and young people with the Gospel in order to build future generations of strong Christians.

At the heart of all we do are the values captured in our diocesan strap line, 'Loving, Living and Learning'. It's a useful list to check against everything we do. What does that mean for you and your church?

+Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

Loving, Living, Learning

We aim to:

Love God, the world and one another.

Live in the world as it is, but, drawn by a vision of something better, we want to help individuals and communities flourish.

Learn when we get things wrong, by listening and growing together.

15th Morley Beavers

On February 3rd we had a wonderful evening at the Pantomime (Peter Pan). We were joined by Cubs & Scouts with some of their parents and Leaders.

It was one of the best Pantomimes we have seen and the children loved singing along with the cast. The whole entourage made it a night to remember.

This month we also made pancakes which were very messy but fun.

The Beavers are also looking forward to a visit to 'The Deep' Sea-life Centre, in Hull for a sleepover.

We are looking forward to the next few weeks when we have lots of badge work to complete and lots of fun things planned over the next few months.

In March we will be taking part in a sponsored walk around Ardsley Reservoir for Comic Relief. We are hoping to have parents joining us too.

We would just like to add it would be very nice to see more Beavers at Church Parade, this is always the second Sunday of the month and our numbers have been dwindling over the last 6 months. This is also our way of supporting the Church for all the help they give us as a Scouting Group.

Gail, Joanne and Jess

St. Peter

Simon Peter as he is also known, is a very special Saint to me. He represents a man who I can relate to in my Christian life. He does not get everything right - quite often putting his foot in it, always asking questions - even on the night of the betrayals he let Jesus down.

I often question myself on Good Friday:

Would I be strong enough to stand up and say Yes I Am One Of His Followers?

So I would like to share his story with you.

The New Testament indicates that Peter was from the village of Bethsaida in the province of Galilee. Along with his brother Andrew, they were the first to be called by Jesus to follow him. Originally a fisherman, he worked with his brother and James and John sons of Zebedee. Jesus called Peter to play a leadership role and was with Jesus during events witnessed by only a few apostles, such as the Transfiguration.

According to the gospels, Peter confessed Jesus as the Messiah, was part of Jesus' inner circle, thrice denied Jesus and wept bitterly once he realised his deed, and preached on the day of Pentecost.

According to Christian tradition, Peter was crucified in Rome under Emperor Nero Augustus Caesar. It is traditionally held that he was crucified upside down at his own request, since he saw himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus. Tradition holds that he was crucified at the site of the Clementine Chapel. His remains are said to be those contained in the underground Confessio of St. Peter's Basilica, where Pope Paul VI announced in 1968 the excavated discovery of a first-century Roman cemetery. Every June 29 since 1736, a statue of Saint Peter in St. Peter's Basilica is adorned with a papal tiara, ring of the fisherman, and papal vestments, as part of the celebration of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. According to Catholic doctrine, the direct papal successor to Saint Peter is the incumbent pope.

Two general epistles in the New Testament are ascribed to Peter, The Gospel of Mark was traditionally thought to show the influence of Peter's preaching and eyewitness memories.

Peter's life story is told in the four canonical gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, New Testament letters, the non-canonical Gospel of the Hebrews and other Early Church accounts of his life and death. In the New Testament, he is among the first of the disciples called during Jesus' ministry. Peter became the first listed apostle ordained by Jesus in the early church.

Peter's original name was Simon, the son of John, but Jesus said he should be known as Cephas (Greek for Rock) hence Peter, or Simon Peter, as he is often referred to in the New Testament, and the famous saying "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church"..



Ruins of ancient Capernaum on north side of the Sea of Galilee

In the Bible it is recounted how Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus at their home in Capernaum. This passage clearly depicts Peter as being married. His faith was so strong he was willing to leave his family to follow Jesus even though he would not know how long he would be away or what the future had in store for him. Yet he is no mere figurehead: his character comes across strongly from the texts in the New Testament: Enthusiastic: when he wants to make tents so that they can stay at the scene of the transfiguration; Impulsive: when he tries to walk across the waters of the lake to Jesus;

with a streak of weakness as shown by the triple denial after Jesus' arrest.

This character is supported by an artistic tradition, from early times, which represent him as a burly and thickly bearded, often contrasted with a thin, ascetic, sparsely bearded Paul. After the resurrection, his triple denial is forgiven and, in Jesus' final speech in John's Gospel, mirrored in triple commission: Fed my Lambs ...tend my lambs...Feed my Sheep.'

At Pentecost he is the first to address the crowds, astonishing them by the transformation from the cowed group hiding in an upper room and telling them that 'God has poured out his spirit that you see and hear' (Acts 2:33) and is convinced that the good news must be taken to the Gentiles, though the dream related in Acts 10: 9-16, in which God effectively overturns the Jewish purity laws in which he has been educated. He puts his new conviction into effect by baptising the Roman centurion Cornelius and the members of his household. He then leaves James in charge of the Church in Jerusalem and undertakes a series of missionary journeys.

As the church grew, so it aroused fears in the empire and incurred persecution. King Herod Agrippa has James killed and Peter arrested and imprisoned. He was dramatically rescued, after which he seems to have withdrawn to safety for a time. He is next heard of in Antioch. The First Letter of Peter is written from "Babylon" (meaning Rome) and his Second Letter is also thought to be written from Rome. Whatever his status was in Rome, it now seems that the tradition that he was martyred there is correct. This, added to the way he is portrayed in the New Testament keeps his name as the head of the lists of Bishops of Rome. He is patron of fishermen and regarded as holder of the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gail

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

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

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

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

Sandra

Brian's Funnies...

The Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor (*Revd. Sharon? Ed.*) was visiting the homes of her parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to her repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, she took out a business card that she had printed: "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it for just such an occasion, and posted it through the door. When the offering was being processed the following Sunday, she found that her card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message: "Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for her Bible she checked the citation:

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Would you Adam and Eve it...

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest.

It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Brian

Is it Fair?

It will be—at our **Fair Trade Coffee Morning** being held in Church on Saturday 11th March 2017, 10.00am to 12.00 noon!

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.

Come along and enjoy fellowship and a cuppa, delighting in the fact that not only are we supporting millions of farmers in developing countries who aren't paid what they deserve but we'll also be raising much needed monies for our local foodbank to help it continue its excellent work with the most needy families in our local area.

Hope to see you there.

Dawn

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

Church Mouse Tales

'You know', began my friend Hubert, the Black Canon in a conversational manner—never a good sign in my books, 'You know we had a visitor last month', he went on in a voice that was far too full of calm and reason.

'Er, yes...' I replied tentatively.

'Well I'm happy to report that we have another one this month...'

'Another one!'. I exclaimed in dismay. 'This is becoming a habit. Next thing we'll be accused of being a welcoming church...'

'Be that as it may', he went on, raising his eyebrows, 'we should extend our hand of friendship to this poor unfortunate creature...'

'...and what', I asked quite bluntly, 'has befallen this hapless soul?'

'Well, it seems his home has been disturbed and he may even loose it.'

'Oh well, that isn't good, what can we do to help?'

'Now that's more like it Misha', he smiled, 'I knew you would take the right path when it came down to it. He's been through the mill and I've invited him into the porch out of the rain where his fur can dry off a bit.'

'Fur?' I repeated with misgiving in my voice.

'Oh er yes, didn't I mention it—he's a Stoat.'

'STOAT!' I yelled. 'I can't believe it! Do you know their dietary requirements? Where did you say he was?' I glanced around nervously.

'No, no—don't worry', went on Hubert. 'He wont harm you—he promised.'

'Oh well that's fine then—everything's great.'

'Yes, you have nothing to worry about. Now come down off that chandelier and come and meet him.'

I feel a holiday coming on.....

Misha



Alberts 'George's' Quiz

1. In 1931 George Arliss was the first George to win which award?
2. Whose last words were allegedly 'Bugger Bodnor' ?
3. What is the capital city of Guyana?
4. The artist George Stubbs is best known for painting what?
5. St. George is the patron Saint of what?
6. Name a British Prime Minister with the name 'George' ?
7. Who was the comedy partner of Gracie Allen on TV?
8. What was the stage name of the singer Clive Powell?
9. By what name is George O'Dowd better known?
10. Which singer's Christian names are George Ivan?
11. By what name was the writer Mary Ann Evans better known?
12. What was the pen-name of the writer Eric Arthur Blair?
13. What was the first Christian name of our Queen's father?
14. 'My Sweet Lord' and 'All those Years Ago' were hits for which Beatle?
15. In which sport was Bobby George a leading contender?
16. Who won the 1970 best actor Oscar for his role in 'Patton'?
17. Who directed the 1977 film 'Star Wars'?
18. Who composed the Opera 'Carmen'?
19. Who kissed the girls and made them cry?
20. Which George composed the Oratorio 'The Messiah'?
21. Was the George the most talented footballer ever?
22. Did this George come from a coastal town between Liverpool and Southport?
23. Was this Boxer George in charge of a gang of workers?
24. Did 1940's film star George like to float on a platform of logs?
25. In which film did George Lazenby play James Bond?

Diary for the coming weeks

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

5th Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

7th 7:30pm Lent Group

8th 10.00am Holy Communion Healing

11:00am Lent Group

12th Sunday 10.30am All Age

12 noon Holy Communion

13th 7:30pm PCC Meeting

14th 7:30pm Lent Group

15th 10.00am Holy Communion Gods Goodness

11:00am Lent Group

16th 11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

19th Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

21st 7:30pm Lent Group

22nd 10.00am Holy Communion BCP

11:00am Lent Group

26th Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

12:30pm Baptism

28th 7:30pm Lent Group

29th 10.00am Holy Communion Iona

11:00am Lent Group

April

1st 9:30am Church & Churchyard Clean up

2nd Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

12 Noon AGM

4th 7:30pm Lent Group (Ends).

5th 10.00am Holy Communion Healing

11:00am Lent Group (Ends).

Answers to Albert's Quiz:-

1. Best Actor Oscar 2. George V 3. Georgetown 4. Horses 5. Farmer 6. Grenville, Canning, David Lloyd 7. George Burns 8. Georgie Fame 9. Boy George 10. Van Morrison 11. George Elliot 12. George Orwell 13. Albert 14. George Harrison 15. Darts 16. George C. Scott 17. George Lucas 18. Georges Bizet 19. Georgie Porgy 20. Handel 21. Best 22. Formby 23. Foreman 24. Raft 25. On Her Majesty's Secret Service (OHMSS).

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

From December:

Jesse Joseph Wainwright son of David & Sarah Wainwright

Evie Florence Richards daughter of Ian & Sarah Richards.

And from February:

Valentina May Black

Hugo Ralf Mottershead



DEATHS

We give thanks for the lives of:-

Peter Crookes

James Priestly

Deborah Taylor Cusworth



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

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Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising 2015:

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Half Page £60.00

Full Page £100.00

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

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

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

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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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