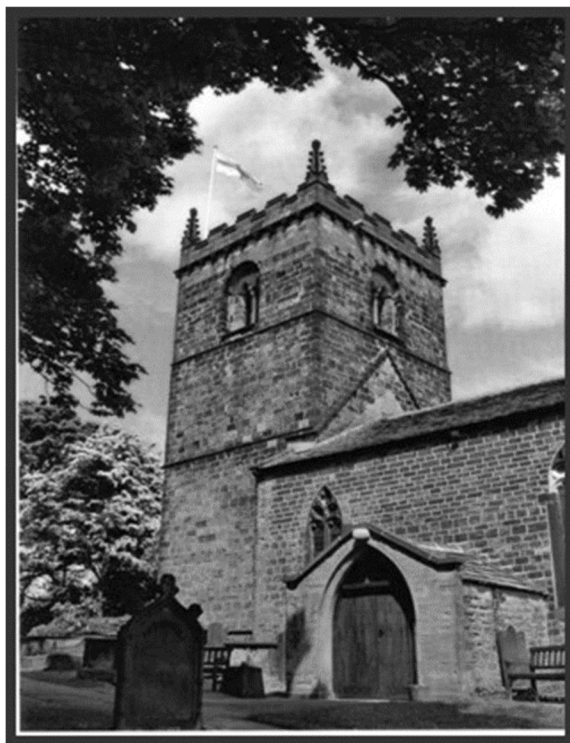


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

May 2017



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

**APCM in focus; Mary Magdalene;
Prayerful Understanding; News from
the Churchyard front.**

Who's who at Woodkirk

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

In this Month's Magazine:

Features:

- Vicar's APCM Report p10
- Dying Matters p15
- Prayerful Thought p16
- Christian Aid Week p18
- Sponsor a Bible p19
- Mary Magdalene p20
- Help with prayer p23
- Why Bother with Yorkshire? p25
- Churchyard News p28
- The Annual Parochial Meeting Reports p30 on



Also this Month:

- Brian's Humour p24
- Poetry Corner p26
- Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions p27
- Cuddly Toy Appeal p40
- Alberts Quiz p41
- Church Mouse Tales p40
- Diary for the next six weeks p42
- Quiz Answers p42
- From the Parish Registers p43

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Engaging with each other

Engaging with the Community

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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.

Whatever you are, be a good one.

Abraham Lincoln

Vicar's Report

This is my first ever Vicar's report so here goes.

I have now been at St Mary's for 8 months and the very first thing I would like to do us to pay tribute to all those who shouldered the burden and workload during the Interregnum. The Wardens, Pastoral Minister and PCC should be congratulated on their hard work and excellent efforts and this was clearly evident both at my interview and at my Induction Service in June last year where I was warmly welcomed along with my family and members of my previous congregation. The Spirit of Hospitality was clearly evident and thanks to all of you who made it possible.

Personally I would like to thank everybody here for the warm welcome that has been given to me and for the support you have given whilst settling into a new Parish especially as I am hindered by being a Lancashire lass.

Upon the arrival of a new Vicar, there are always challenges, both for the Vicar and the Congregation, there is always a period of settling in, and I did in fact have a whole five days before the Garden Party was upon us. So in a blind whirlwind the gardens were taken over, the kitchen was taken over and I was busy saying hello and thank you to people who were strangers and who have been contributing to this event for years! It all felt quite bizarre. However, it was a success and we raised much needed funds. So again I say thank you to all concerned.

Strangers have now turned into friends and I believe we have built relationships together that are based on mutual trust and respect. As you know my leadership style is one of openness and consensus where possible and this can only be achieved if those relationships are based on trust. We have a faithful congregation and a hardworking PCC and it is up to all of us to work together, to seek God's will and to draw people to God. Each and every one of you has a role to play and you will note I am deliberately not singling any one person or group out. We are first and foremost all Christians, called by our Baptisms to action, with the authority of Jesus given

to each of us. We are all important to God, we are all unique, and we all have our differing gifts and talents, but the call remains the same, to serve our community and each other, to go and tell the good news, and to have an active faith.

I place great value on everyone who volunteers for a role and it is my place to encourage and equip, to support and to nourish, to protect and to love each of you in this place.

So where are we up too?

In PCC we have reviewed existing policies, procedures and practices of the Parish eg safeguarding, health and safety, and a more stringent financial policy to protect those who handle the cash. Financially, St Mary's is struggling although we have paid our Parish Share for the last two years but our accounts hold now a minimum amount of cash in the sum of £20,000. Bishop Paul has been informed that we will not be able to pay our parish share this year, as we need time, time to sow seeds and to grow. Our Treasurer has produced a budget for this year, the first time ever, and whilst there is still insufficient money coming in on a weekly basis - it is more now than it was last year - so we estimate that we will in fact be able to pay one third of our Parish Share instead of nothing. My thanks go to the Treasurer for all her hard work.

Numbers at church on Sunday mornings have increased slightly and the re-imagining of All Age Worship has helped to encourage families in particular to feel more at ease as the service is both shorter and meets the needs of both children and adults. In the future the aim will be to have more family events as numbers of families increase.

There have been a number of special services that have taken place which have been well supported and received. Some have been challenging for many people. Services over Christmas were well attended and appreciated by many.

We have established a Christian presence in both Hill Top Primary Academy and Westerton Primary Academy and I am hopeful after

visiting Year 6's in Blackgates Primary that next year we will have a monthly or twice monthly worship there too. There is still work to be done to reach Woodkirk Academy.

We have a new Reader, who has been put to good use developing her skills in leading, preaching and teaching.

Our Pastoral Minister, offers Holy Communion to those who are no longer able to attend church and has helped me with end of life care and support, and also offers a funeral ministry to those who have lost loved ones.

Our Baptism Team, visit families to book their Baptism and to explain its significance, support them on their journey and follow up by participating in the Baptism Service itself. Baptisms are now done individually with a more modern style liturgy with the focus being on making this Service more welcoming to those who have no experience of church therefore it is family and child friendly and participative. This has resulted in more baptisms and a greater amount of donations being given. Baptism families are invited back to the next all age worship service to receive their Baptism Certificate and Bibles. Greater work needs to be put into how we can maintain contact with these families - apart from the six monthly invite to a party to celebrate their baptism.

We give thanks to our Organist and her Deputy when he is needed for all their hard work and creativity in choosing hymns, serving our wedding couples and funeral families and not forgetting their entertainment on Christmas Day.

We also offer thanks to our Flower Lady who each week expertly puts together beautiful arrangements of flowers which she does prayerfully and which beautify our church for worship.

The development and restoration of the graveyard has probably been the single most talked about and mission based opportunity in the past six months. Our gardening team may be small but they have worked tirelessly along with the Community Payback Team to whom I offer our grateful thanks for all that they have done and are continuing to do.

There are many unsung heroes who tirelessly give of their time - St Mary's Guild who are responsible for cleaning the brasses and altar linen, the Cleaning Team who keep our church so clean and presentable, the Sides-people who offer welcome and the Tea Persons who offer hospitality, to the readers and intercessors on our rotas - thank you for serving God and this church.

We have an active Mothers' Union where I recently spoke at one of their meetings, and have had the pleasure of leading two or three of their services this past year. Thank you all for your concern for families in this church and in our community.

Links have been made with Uniformed Organisations, and relationships have begun to grow and because of this one of the achievements of the Christmas period was the Nativity Service where for the first time in many years, the Nativity was spoken by the children themselves.

Throughout all of this the PCC have been working in the background to ensure the smooth running of the church. Our church wardens are fully invested in what they do and work hard in their respective areas of expertise, for those who hold the extra burdens of PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod Reps thank you to all of you.

As we look to the future we will experience very shortly our first Easter together. It has been very pleasing to see many of you be involved in the Lent Groups and to "do theology" together. It's a risky business sharing our feelings but if we are to grow in faith then we have to have a safe space to talk and I think we have achieved that. If we can't speak to each other then how are we to share our faith with others?

Four groups have now been set up to look at various aspects of church life.

The IT group are busy developing a new web site for St Mary's, and responsibility for the web site, St Mary's Face book page, Twitter account and the new Friends of Woodkirk Cemetery Face book page have been shared among the group - this has worked well as we now have much more interaction with those who make comments or ask

questions. This work will be ongoing.

The Mission Group is busy taking an overview of the possibilities for mission in this Parish, and challenging our understanding of mission. This will be an ongoing long term project seeking God's will and praying. The delivery of prayer cards to the streets in our Parish has begun and many of you have helped by delivering those cards so thank you.

The Social Group is being challenged to understand social as not just social events but as social action and are looking to create events that are more community minded and our focus will be initially on this year's Garden Party which is being reimagined - so watch this space.

The Gardening Group oversees the work in the churchyard and in future will think about developing a long term strategic plan to manage the churchyard and to develop it further.

All these groups are in their infancy and as yet I would say to some extent experiential as they seek to wrestle with the challenges that our faith demands of us.

What the future holds for us as a church is unknown but as I am a cup half full sort of person and believe passionately in God's providence I believe we are held safe in God's hands whilst we seek a future that honours him and seeks to do his will. The one thing I would ask is that we all take time to pray each day for this church, for our community and for each other.

While I said I am not going to name or single anyone in this Report - be assured I do know you by name and I am honoured and privileged to be your Vicar.

Revd. Sharon

Be part of Dying Matters Awareness Week

Every year the Dying Matters coalition holds an Awareness Week; in 2017 it's 8-14 May.

There will be a public conversation about coping with dying, death and bereavement.

It's a great opportunity for the church to be part of that conversation, share our experiences and the Easter message of Christian hope. Find out more here: <http://bit.ly/dyingaware>

Taking Funerals Seriously 2:

Fresh Perspectives, the Church of England's bi-annual conference around funeral ministry returns in June 2017, with a wider look at death, grief and funerals, and fresh perspectives on cultural change around funerals, including trends from other countries which are finding their way to the UK.

The conference includes a wide range of thought-provoking workshops and plenary sessions, given by national and international speakers.

Also included is a special visit to the National Funeral Exhibition, the funeral industry's showcase event.

More details here: [http:// bit.ly/funeralshowcase](http://bit.ly/funeralshowcase)



Prayerful Thought

Hello again, I can't believe Easter is behind us and we are now into May.

I hope you had a lovely Easter. I really enjoyed the services I attended, some were different to what I had experienced before, but were prayerful, focussed and enabled me to think about the Easter story afresh, from the joy of Palm Sunday through a sombre Holy week leading to the despair of Good Friday and the glory of Easter Sunday. Who needs the roller coasters of Blackpool Pleasure Beach or Lightwater Valley when it's all there in church?

I found an interesting piece in the UCB Word for today book for the Wednesday after Easter which was very thought provoking, and so I thought I would share it with you. It said;

Max Lucado, an American Christian author, writes: 'It begins as a drop of water...Someone gets your parking space, pulls in front of you on the motorway, a waitress is slow and you're in a hurry, the toast burns...Get enough of these seemingly innocent drops of anger and you've got a bucket full of rage...We trust no-one...bare our teeth at anyone who gets near...become walking time bombs that, given the right amount of tension and fear, could explode...We can't deny, anger exists. How do we harness it? Jesus said about the mob that killed him, "Father forgive them...they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34) He saw this bloodthirsty death hungry crowd not as murderers, but as victims...He saw in their faces not hatred, but confusion...He regarded them not as a militant mob but "like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). They were a stir crazy mob mad at something they could not see, so they took it out, on all people, God.

They didn't know what they were doing, and for the most part, neither do we. Much as we hate to admit it, we're shepherdless sheep...We can't answer our own questions about love and hurt...can't solve the riddle of aging...don't know how to heal our own bodies or get along with each other.

Max Lucado's point is that uncontrolled anger won't better our world...sympathetic understanding will. Once we begin to operate not from a posture of anger but of compassion...we realise the lights are out...a lot of people are stumbling in the darkness...So we light candles.

This really made me think.

When I was younger, I had a very quick temper, now it takes quite a bit to really make me lose my temper, but I recognised the first bit of Max's article. Anger builds up like drops, I could see myself in the image of someone getting my parking space, or chopping in front of me on the motorway and once we start feeling those drops, it's usually something quite trivial that will tip the balance and make us 'explode'.

It's not easy to subdue feelings of anger, that is the point of them, they make you angry, but if you are able to stop and think, you usually realise that well maybe someone has taken a parking space you had your eye on, or yes you had to let that car in front of you as you approached the roadworks on the motorway, when you and those around you have queued patiently, but really, is it such a 'big deal'? Yes your child has been very rude, or has pushed you to the very limit of your patience, but losing your temper and yelling at them isn't really going to help is it?

"Uncontrolled anger won't better our world...sympathetic understanding will."

"Try not to operate from the stance of anger but from compassion"

"We realise the lights are out and people are stumbling in the darkness"

It is often said when we refer to losing our tempers that we "saw red", perhaps we should say, we saw black, the darkness of anger shutting out the light of understanding and hope.

Do you feel that you can't do anything to help in this world of ours today? Don't you believe it! You can (metaphorically) light candles in the darkness by praying for situations in our world, and can try your hardest to control your anger. If you feel those drops starting to fill your bucket, light some candles that will evaporate them. Think about how reacting with understanding, compassion and love will be more useful than ranting at the news or shouting at your child.

We can never be like Jesus because we are human and he was from God, but if Jesus can say "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" then perhaps in our small ways, we can do our bit by not giving in to those little drops of anger.

With love and prayers

Dawn x

Christian Aid Week 14-20th May 2017

A Message from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dear Colleagues

I'd like to ask your church to welcome the stranger by getting involved in Christian Aid Week this year.

Christian Aid was established at the end of the Second World War as the churches' response to the refugee crisis in Europe. Now we face another refugee crisis, which is part of a bigger global problem.

Today, 65 million people are displaced, forced to leave their homes because of war, conflict or disaster.

Churches across the world are often at the forefront of providing support, hospitality and welcome. In this country, local churches are showing practical love to refugees in their communities and beyond.

There is, however, much more to be done. Christian Aid Week (14-20 May), this year celebrating its 60th anniversary, is a moment when we can put Jesus' command to love our neighbour into action. It is an opportunity for us to invite our churches and the wider community to join together in demonstrating God's abundant generosity to those in greatest need. We are called to be good news for people like Nejebar, whose story is the focus of Christian Aid Week.

Nejebar and her husband Noor had to escape from Afghanistan because Noor's life was threatened by the Taliban. They made it to Greece, but with the hardening of borders, they remain there in limbo in a refugee camp with their five children. The youngest aged 5, is unwell and not growing properly. The lack of medical facilities and the language barrier make it difficult to get the right help.

When we put our faith into action and act together, we have the power to make lasting change in the lives of people like Nejebar and thousands more with similar stories. Raising money to provide

essential humanitarian relief and medical and legal services is a crucial part of that story. We also need to speak up for refugees at home, using our voices to make the case for refugees to be supported to have a permanent, safe place to call home.

I commend Christian Aid Week resources to you. They include ways to engage your wider communities, either through the traditional door-to door-collection or the new Big Brekkie. They also include materials to use in your prayers, preaching and worship, and envelopes for a church collection. They put a human face on this global issue and offer ways to help us all get involved, in the knowledge that our actions, however small, can have a profoundly significant impact. You can find the resources at caweek.org or phone 08080005005 to order them.

Will you and your church join Christian Aid Week this year?

Yours faithfully,

The most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

Sponsor a Bible

At each baptism the child or parents are given a copy of the Children's Bible to take home.

If you would like to Sponsor a Bible for one of the Baptism Families they cost £10 and will go to the child's family.

Please see Liz or contact the editor if you would like to sponsor a bible.

David

Mary Magdalene—This month Part 1 of 2.

Mary of Magdalen, was a Jewish woman who, according to texts included in the New Testament, traveled with Jesus as one of his followers. She is said to have witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Within the four Gospels she is named at least 12 times, more than most of the apostles. The Gospel of Luke says seven demons had gone out of her, and the longer ending of Mark says Jesus had cast seven demons out of her although nowhere in the Gospels is this woman identified with Mary of Magdalene. She is most prominent in the narrative of the crucifixion of Jesus, at which she was present, and the witness in all four gospels of the empty tomb, the central fact of Jesus' resurrection. She was also present two days later, immediately following the Sabbath, when, according to all four canonical Gospels, she was, either alone or as a member of a group of women, the first to testify to the resurrection of Jesus. specifically name her as the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection.

Ideas that go beyond the gospel presentation of Mary Magdalene as a prominent representative of the women who followed Jesus have been put forward over the centuries

Who was she? From the New Testament, one can conclude that Mary of Magdalene (her hometown, a village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee) was a leading figure among those attracted to Jesus. When the men in that company abandoned him at the hour of mortal danger, Mary of Magdalene was one of the women who stayed with him, even to the Crucifixion. She was present at the tomb, the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection and the first to preach the "Good News" of that miracle. These are among the few specific assertions made about Mary Magdalene in the Gospels. From other texts of the early Christian era, it seems that her status as an "apostle," in the years after Jesus' death, rivaled even that of Peter. This prominence derived from the intimacy of her relationship with Jesus., Beginning with the threads of these few statements in the earliest Christian records, dating to the first through third centuries, an elaborate tapestry was woven, leading to a portrait of St. Mary Magdalene in which the most consequential note—that she was a repentant prostitute.

Confusions attached to Mary Magdalene's character were compounded across time as her image was conscripted into one power struggle after another, and twisted accordingly. In conflicts that defined the Christian Church—over attitudes

toward the material world, focused on sexuality; the authority of an all-male clergy; the coming of celibacy; the branding of theological diversity as heresy; the sublimations of courtly love; the unleashing of "chivalrous" violence; the marketing of sainthood, whether in the time of Constantine, the Counter-Reformation, the Romantic era, or the Industrial Age—through all of these, reinventions of Mary Magdalene played their role. Her recent reemergence in a novel and film as the secret wife of Jesus and the mother of his fate-burdened daughter shows that the conscripting and twisting are still going on.

But, in truth, the confusion starts with the Gospels themselves. In the gospels several women come into the story of Jesus with great energy, including erotic energy. There are several Mary's—not least, of course, Mary the mother of Jesus. But there is Mary of Bethany, sister of Martha and Lazarus. There is Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and Mary the wife of Clopas. Equally important, there are three unnamed women who are expressly identified as sexual sinners—the woman with a "bad name" who wipes Jesus' feet with ointment as a signal of repentance, a Samaritan woman whom Jesus meets at a well and an adulteress whom Pharisees haul before Jesus to see if he will condemn her. The first thing to do in unraveling the tapestry of Mary Magdalene is to tease out the threads that properly belong to these other women. Some of these threads are themselves quite knotted. It will help to remember how the story that includes them all came to be written. The four Gospels are not eyewitness accounts. They were written 35 to 65 years after Jesus' death, a jelling of separate oral traditions that had taken form in dispersed Christian communities. Jesus died in about the year a.d. 30. The Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke date to about 65 to 85, and have sources and themes in common. The Gospel of John was composed around 90 to 95 and is distinct. So when we read about Mary Magdalene in each of the Gospels, what we are getting is not history but memory—memory shaped by time, by shades of emphasis and by efforts to make distinctive theological points. And already, even in that early period—as is evident when the varied accounts are measured against each other—the memory is blurred.

Regarding Mary of Magdalene, the confusion begins in the eighth chapter of Luke:

Now after this [Jesus] made his way through towns and villages preaching, and proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God. With him went the Twelve, as well as certain women who had been cured of evil spirits and ailments: Mary surnamed the Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and several others who provided for them

out of their own resources.

Two things of note are implied in this passage. First, these women "provided for" Jesus and the Twelve, which suggests that the women were well-to-do, respectable figures. (It is possible this was an attribution, to Jesus' time, of a role prosperous women played some years later.) Second, they all had been cured of something, including Mary Magdalene. The "seven demons," as applied to her, indicates an ailment (not necessarily possession) of a certain severity. Soon enough, as the blurring work of memory continued, and then as the written Gospel was read by Gentiles unfamiliar with such coded language, those "demons" would be taken as a sign of a moral infirmity.

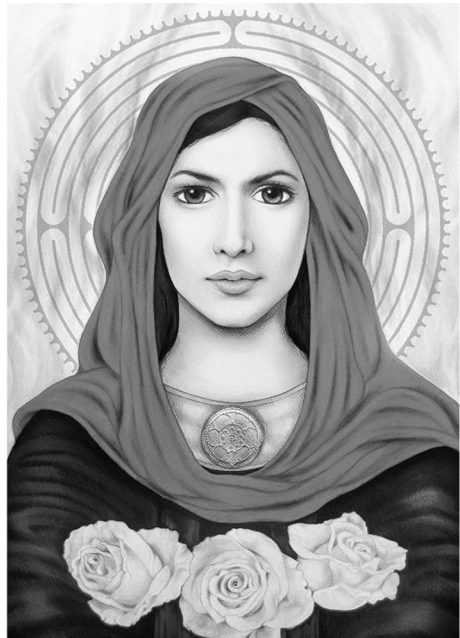
This otherwise innocuous reference to Mary Magdalene takes on a kind of radioactive narrative energy because of what immediately precedes it at the end of the seventh chapter, an anecdote of stupendous power:

One of the Pharisees invited [Jesus] to a meal. When he arrived at the Pharisee's house and took his place at table, a woman came in, who had a bad name in the town. She had heard he was dining with the Pharisee and had brought with her an alabaster jar of ointment. She waited behind him at his feet, weeping, and her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair; then she covered his feet with kisses and anointed them with the ointment.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who this woman is that is touching him and what a bad name she has."

But Jesus refuses to condemn her, or even to deflect her gesture. Indeed, he recognizes it as a sign that "her many sins must have been forgiven her, or she would not have shown such great love." "Your faith has saved you," Jesus tells her. "Go in peace."

Gail.



Help with prayer through our Lent Course.

Were you able to join in with either of the Lent groups run over the five weeks leading up to Palm Sunday. If you did, you may remember something from week four, and if you didn't then no worries, as I'm going to refer to it

Our Lent Course this year followed a 'York Courses' programme entitled;

"Receiving Christ in five different ways" It consisted of a course booklet and a CD that we worked through each week and the CD was the thoughts of Rev Ken Howcroft, President of Methodist Conference 2014-15, Margaret Sentamu, wife of the Archbishop of York, and our own Bishop, Rt Rev Nick Baines.

The five ways we heard about how we received Christ were;

- Receiving Christ as Children of God
- Receiving Christ in the stranger and the needy
- Receiving Christ in Holy Communion
- Receiving Christ through prayer and fellowship, and
- Christ in you, the hope of glory.

It is something from week four that I want to share with you.

As you will know if you have seen some of my articles, I often refer to prayer and how it can be difficult to find time to pray, or not knowing how to start prayers, what to say to God etc. Well in week four it suggested a framework which we might find helpful and it is this that I would like to share with you, as it is very simple, but I thought I would try using it.

It is a framework known as Acts, an acronym to help us in our daily prayers.

Adoration - Come consciously into God's presence with praise. You might repeat a short Bible passage that you have learnt by heart (memorising a few scripture passages is a rewarding discipline). Or you might read a Psalm or a praise passage from the New Testament (e.g. Ephesians 1: 2-3)

Confession - In your imagination, move from the holiness and majesty of God to the details of your own life. Bring to God your own shortcomings and regrets. Read a few verses of reassurance

and forgiveness (e.g. 1 John 1: 8-9)

Thanksgiving - Thank God for His great gift of forgiveness and move on to express gratitude for other gifts and blessings.

Supplication - Pray for friends, family and neighbours. Pray for your church. Pray for those who have power and influence. Pray for the sick, the needy and the hungry. Make a list of things to pray for, or perhaps seven lists, one for each day of the week.

Silence - Now keep still and silent. Ask God to guide and direct you throughout the day, or to protect you during the night. Give yourself time and space to listen to the 'still small voice of calm'. Invite Jesus into the deep privacy of your heart and mind.

Perhaps you will find this framework helpful too.

With love

Dawn

Brian's Funnies...

Country Boy...

Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church.

"When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.

"You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a more worldly fellow.

"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.

"The path to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on.

"That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.

"You mean the aisle," Charlie said.

"Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued.

"Pew," Charlie retorted.

"Yeah," recalled Joe. "That's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."

Brian



Why Bother with Yorkshire?

The first of the St Wilfrid Conversations explores the idea of regional identity partly from a theological perspective.

Bishop Nick Baines and **Sir Gary Verity** will be in conversation with each other and the audience.

Saturday 13th May, 10.30-12.30
at Ripon Cathedral. Free entry.
Contact judithbustard@riponcathedral.org.uk
for more information.

Poetry Corner

Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard (abridged).

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.
Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds;
Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tow'r
The moping owl does to the moon complain
Of such, as wand'ring near her secret bow'r,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Here rests his head upon the lap of Earth
A youth to Fortune and to Fame unknown.
Fair Science frown'd not on his humble birth,
And Melancholy mark'd him for her own.
Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,
Heav'n did a recompense as largely send:
He gave to Mis'ry all he had, a tear,
He gain'd from Heav'n ('twas all he wish'd) a friend.
No farther seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,
(There they alike in trembling hope repose)
The bosom of his Father and his God.

Thomas Grey 1751

SANDRA'S SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few tips for May.

This is a busy time in the garden whether you are growing flowers, fruit or veg. Hope these suggestions help.

Keep on top of weeds as warmer weather approaches. (Hopefully!)

Cut back hardy fuchsias. Prune old growth, then prune out any dead, dying and diseased growth. Cut back side shoots to their base to help give a good new shape.

Pinch out tips of sweet peas. Pinch out the top 1in (2.5cm) of the main shoot to a leaf bud where two new shoots will form.

Turn compost and keep moist.

On warm days water containers and grow bags in greenhouses or poly tunnels twice a day. Damp down floors in late morning to increase humidity.

Sow runner beans in cold frame or direct into a prepared trench.

Sow French beans directly into soil.

Carry on sowing successional crops such as lettuce, radish, rocket, spring onions, peas, etc.

Keep onions and shallots free from weeds.

Net strawberries against bird raids and pack straw around them to protect from slugs and mud splashes

Sandra

Churchyard News

Good News! The Payback Team have re-emerged and are back on song. We have started mowing in earnest now and so far we are just about keeping on top of things. Nettles and brambles are fast growing and seem to grow by the foot as soon as you turn your back. Having 2 good strimmers makes a world of difference though and the Payback team bring at least one with them too.

Many people are doing a little here and there to help and it all adds to the collective effort, in fact we were in the churchyard the other Saturday and Ben Senior dropped by to say he can come and do some mowing on weekends, which is great.

The daffodils are finishing now but we need to leave them until they wilt as the bulb 're-generates' during this time. Once they are down we can mow over them. We managed to get rid of about 1 ton of logs in April as a colleague from work heard about our efforts and was happy to remove them for their wood burner.

In April we also invested in a new small mower - a Mountfield with a 40cm cut width. This is so that we can get around the Cremation plots—the old Hayter we have (it must be 30-40 years old) has finally given up the ghost so we needed a new one. This has only been possible thanks to your kind donations and really makes a difference to have the right equipment for the job.

As we slowly clear away the brambles and nettles we have discovered several sunken graves which are 2 or even 3 feet deep. These we will need to fill in as they are a bit of a hazard, especially as the footfall in the Churchyard has increased—with people coming to have a look both at what we are doing and examining the newly uncovered graves which have been hidden for so many years. There are many stories to tell in our graveyard. Why not come and have a look?

David.



The Churchyard Uncovered



Our new Mower

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

Report of the fabric of the church by the Churchwardens to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 2nd April 2017

The following work took place in the church building over the past year:

In June 2016 bad weather broke the window in the tower base. Thankfully this was covered by insurance (it cost £1974) and after quotes were obtained, Jonathan and Ruth Cooke (who renovated the Monk's Window) came and performed some impressive logistics to repair what is a very difficult to access window. As always they did an outstanding job.

The quinquennial took place in July 2016 which takes a look at all the church building to check it is in good repair and prioritises jobs that need doing. Although most of the church is in good repair, it highlighted an issue with the roof needing repair. Due to the work being done on a listed building we have to obtain the permission of the Archdeacon which has been done. The work will commence asap.

As part of the quinquennial report, some electrical issues were identified to ensure regulations are being adhered to. Also lights in the void in the roof have been fitted as recommended. These have been resolved.

These are the only two high priority jobs that were identified.

Within the next year we will be prioritising the pointing of the church building, ensuring that it is done with the correct approved formula.

A new light was erected outside the porch to replace a faulty one in January 2017.

Brian Gledhill
Neal Pinder-Packard

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Woodkirk

Deanery of Armley, Diocese of Leeds

At the Annual Meeting of Parisioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on 2nd April 2017

The following were elected as **Churchwardens**:

Brian Gledhill

Neal Pinder-Packard

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod**:

Glyn Jennings

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council**:

Sandra Gledhill

Barbara Tate

2017-18 Membership of the Parochial Church Council:

Vicar:

Revd Sharon Wilkinson, Chair
(Ex-officio)

Lay Reader:

Dawn Tattersfield (Ex-officio)

Churchwardens:

Brian Gledhill (Ex-officio)

Neal Pinder-Packard (EX-officio)

Dearery Synod Reps:

Glyn Jennings (Ex-officio)

Gary Mortimer (Ex-officio)

Lay Members:

Liz Aveyard

Sandra Gledhill

Barbara Tate

Dave Townsend

Gail Townsend

PCC Secretary's Annual Report 2017

The PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month and have been held in Church.

The evening begins with members sharing refreshments then the meeting begins with opening prayers which are led by different PCC members each month. We have excellent attendance throughout the year from our dedicated Church council members.

There are a number of standing items on the agenda:

Attendance and Apologies

Approval of minutes

Matters Arising

Treasurer's Report

Health and Safety

Correspondence

Any Other Business

In the first few meetings, prior to the arrival of Rev Sharon, the PCC continued to take care of the church buildings and financial stewardship as well as being involved in the preparations for the licensing service including invitations for the event.

Rev Sharon was warmly welcomed to her first PCC meeting in July and the PCC discussed feedback on Rev Sharon's licensing service and also the Church Garden Party which Rev Sharon had opened.

After the summer break the PCC started again in September covering a wide variety of aspects of church life. Excellent progress was being made in the clearing of the churchyard with regular help provided by the community payback team who were a great asset, adding to the sterling work of Rev Sharon and the churchyard clean up team. A social event linking in to a sponsored walk by the scouts was being planned to raise monies towards the purchase of a ride on mower adding to a generous donation by a church member in memory of her husband.

September also saw the official licensing of Lay Reader Dawn Tattersfield as she finished her three years of study. Rev Sharon supported Dawn at her service at the end of September and then Dawn was officially accepted as Lay Reader at St Mary's on Sunday 25th September at the main morning service, with a

thanksgiving service being held in the afternoon.

The scouts sponsored walk was a great success and culminated in a harvest supper and quiz in the parish centre. Rev Sharon was also working hard with the PCC in looking at areas for development including the church website and facebook page.

The quinquennial inspection had highlighted one or two areas where work was needed on the fabric of the church, however, it was recognised that the church and parish centre were in good order.

A small but dedicated group of church members represented St Mary's at Country Baskets, carol singing in December and helped raise over £360 for Martin House Hospice with the other churches in the area.

The Christmas Fayre was held in December and was better attended than last year, it was also a financial success raising over £1000.

As Rev Sharon led the church for her first Christmas, all agreed that the services had been prayerful and enjoyable, and all services had been well attended.

In the New Year Rev Sharon introduced the idea of smaller dedicated working groups formed from not only PCC Members but others from the church family and well as interested volunteers. This idea was warmly supported by the PCC and so from February four groups were set up, these were;

IT Group (Website/Facebook etc

Social Group

Graveyard Planning, and

Mission Group

All these groups have now started to meet, with feedback being provided to the PCC.

As we come around again to our Annual Parish Council Meeting, we look back on a busy year. A year that saw us welcome Rev Sharon to St Mary's and a year that has been full of the activities and fellowship of an active and friendly church family.

Dawn Tattersfield
PCC Secretary
April 2017

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

Treasurer's Report for 2016

I'm sure, these days that every Treasurer's report can start with the words 'It's been a difficult year' but it has.

To operate the Church and pay our Parish Share we need an income of almost £1,000 per week, our current income is about half that. The Parish Share alone is over £30,000. However, we have paid our Parish Share in full for the last two years (albeit the final payment for 2016 being made in January 2017) due to several years of Gift Aid Refunds.

Looking ahead, we need a new boiler in Church and some roof repairs need to be made.

The final retention payment for the Re-ordering has been made and all other bills have been paid

We were very fortunate to welcome Rev Sharon in the middle of the year and once she got in the driving seat our income has increased, we hope that with God's help 2017 will be a better year.

Thank you for all the support and help I have received over the past year, particularly from Gary who submitted all the Gift Aid Returns and is always there when I have a query.

Barbara Tate

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

St Mary's Playgroup Annual Report: May 2016 – April 2017 **May 2016**

- At the beginning of the summer term places within the playgroup were 19, 19, 18.

Ofsted authorised Becky to be a Committee Member with no voting rights in order to continue as Responsible Person.

The Committee agreed it would not be viable to renovate the rear outdoor area due to the cost of it (cira £15,000) and the issue of planning permission. It was agreed that we should look at renovating the front area instead.

June 2016 - Quotes were received in respect of the front outdoor area - to dig out the existing garden, build a raised flower bed, lay artificial grass and fencing. Hollybush Conservation quoted £3,812 inc VAT. Jason Beanland quoted £900 inc VAT. Jason Beanland was instructed to start work over the summer holidays.

September 2016 - At the start of the Autumn term our numbers were 12, 10, 12 having lost a number of children to the school nurseries, gradually increasing to 18, 17 & 20.

The outdoor area was completed and monies paid. We applied again to Awards for All for funding for the outdoor area but as it was a work in progress our application was rejected.

December 2016 - Staff were busy preparing and making the Christmas candles and calendars which the children sold. Mums and Tots also did a raffle. The total raised was £461.

January 2017 - Caroline renewed her food hygiene certificate online.

February 2017 - The policies are currently being updated. All staff to attend a safeguarding course in the very near future.

March 2017 - Westerton and Hill top are offering Easter places at nurseries resulting in us losing 5 children who we would have otherwise received funding for. The numbers now for the start of the Summer term are 14, 19 and 20, with three children receiving funding on Thursdays.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk Mothers Union Report to Annual Parish Church Meeting 2017

Mothers Union meet on the third Monday of each month at 2.00pm, with occasional evening for some events.

Brenda Dixon is our enrolling member and new members are always welcome. (There are no enrolling requirements ie you do not have to be a mum!)

We enjoy entertaining talks from a variety of speakers. We always have a beetle drive in the summer which is open to everyone.

We end the year by going out for a meal together.

Last year we enjoyed an outing to Chatsworth House, which everyone enjoyed and we are hoping to follow up on the success of this visit with a similar outing this year in June.

The Mothers Union provide Baptismal Cards for the newly baptised in church, these are sent out by member Margaret Longden. Other cards are also sent by member Audrey Bourne.

The Mothers Union does not accrue monies, and surplus is donated to charities after rent has been paid and yearly subs which go directly to Mothers Union Head office to support their ongoing work.

Sally Shaw, Minute Secretary

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk Mums and Tots Group Report to Annual Parish Church Meeting 2017

Mums and Tots meet at 9.15 am to 11.00am on Wednesdays during term time, the group being led by a dedicated team of volunteers. Attendance fluctuates but an average of eleven adults and fifteen children enjoy time together.

The children play in a safe environment. The adults enjoy meeting together, sharing fellowship. We enjoy a drink and biscuits during the session.

We charge £2 for one adult and up to three children, the money is split between playgroup and church. Last year the group raised £1068.50. Those who attend are grateful for the reasonable charge for this time together.

The group is run under the church charity and not independently as some groups are.

Sally Shaw and Tracey Coates
Supervisors

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk Good Companions (Over 50's group) Report to Annual Parish Church Meeting 2017

The group meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

We are a group of about a dozen members who enjoy one another's company. We have chance to have a nice chat and we also take part in activities for example a quiz, play games, share poetry etc. Occasionally we go out for a meal together.

Half way through the session we share tea or coffee and biscuits or cake. We also have a raffle the monies raised by this pays for the rent of the meeting space and any outstanding monies are out towards our meals out.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

15th Morley (St Mary's Woodkirk) Scout Group APCM report for Scout Troop - 2016 to 2017

Leaders -Scouts - Trevor, Gareth, Jason and sectional assistant Helen.

Meeting place St Mary's Woodkirk Church Hall Fridays 8.00 to 9.30pm.

Scouts report.

Scouts - 23 (20 male, 3 female)

Last Summer 12 of our scouts went to Walesby Forest International campsite in Nottinghamshire for a full weeks camp, bivvying out under the stars one night.

Attended the Public St George's Day Parade late April 2016, reaffirming our promise and taking in the activities and pageantry of the occasion.

Late May 2016 scouts completed one of the orienteering courses at Oakwell Hall, Birstall, practicing their navigation skills.

Mid June our Scouts and some Meerkat explorers attended the District Aldwark canoeing w/e gaining their Time on Water badges and winning the District general Knowledge shield again.

Over June/July 2016 scouts practiced for the Campercraft w/e in mid September at Silverwood Camp site and it paid off by Woodkirk scouts winning the Cooking Shield yet again, the first aid shield and the entertainment shield. Well done scouts.

Over the autumn / winter months some scouts have completed their Yorkshire Challenge Silver Award camping out in 8 of the 12 months of the year and our scouts recently went to Sconce campsite, Baildon on 24/26 March 2017 completing a night hike over the moors and building a Monkey Bridge, Catapult and flagpole for their Pioneering badge after winter troop nights practicing their rope knots and lashing skills.

Most scouts attended the world wide October JOTI 2016 (Jamboree on the Internet) talking to scouts across the world with an o/n stay at Carlton HQ.

Jan /Feb scouts took part in the District Bowling (coming 2nd) and District Swimming gala.

On 4 March 2017 a team of our scouts took part in the District Metro Run based on the Monopoly Board format gaining points

for each Train/bus station name logged. Well done our scouts for amassing 1365 points to win 1st place.

Skip would like to take the opportunity to thank all our leaders, sectional assistants, occasional helpers and young leaders who work and help across the sections as a team effort to create the opportunities for our young scout association members.

Also a thank you to our support group of parents for their continued and valued help in providing back up at section and group events and to our Church Sponsors for the use of the Parish centre.

Skip , Gareth, Jason and Helen

Beavers Report for 2016/2017

We now have 20 Beavers and a waiting list. We have just had 8 Beavers move into cubs. Badge work now takes up a lots of our time and so far we have completed our safety challenge, promise challenge, activity, eating and creative badges.

We have attended group camps and activities plus we attended a film night with Cubs at Tingley Scout Hut.

We also took part in the Monks walk with the Cubs and Scouts which we all enjoyed and were very pleased to get to the end and enjoy a hot supper laid on by the Church.

We had a wonderful Christmas party and a trip to the Panto, with the Cubs and Scouts.

This year had a sponsored walk around Ardsley reservoir for Red Nose day. We have lots of Badge work to complete before the summer holidays and also a sleepover at the Deep at Hull with other Beaver Groups.

We will be having our annual BBQ at the end of the summer term and then after the holiday we have lots planned. We were hoping to take the Beavers out visiting in the future, but that will be up to the parents giving us a helping hand.

Gail, Joanne Jess and Skip

Church Mouse Tales...

In this season when many things end and others start, I wondered about my friend Hubert the Black Canon.

'Were you ever promoted?' I asked one day on a whim.

He stopped and thought for a moment.

'Well', he said thoughtfully, 'I was once in the running to be Abbott down at Nostell Priory.'

'Oh', I said, 'that sounds important—what happened?'

'It was between me and another Monk, Brother Athelston. We were both being considered for the job as it were. I had got myself quite worked up about it really—it became more important than anything else. When I thought of all the kudos of being such a highly ranked cleric I thought it would be a great boost to my ego.'

'But you are still here, Hubert—so what went wrong?'

'I had a moment of clarity. It would mean leaving here and spending my time doing things I know I wouldn't enjoy. I knew then it was wrong for me. In the end its not about self promotion—its about being the best you can be.'

'....and besides you have a little mouse to take care of' I pointed out.

'Yes, that too, Misha', smiled Hubert. 'That too.'

You know sometimes I think he actually likes me.

Misha

CUDDLY TOY APPEAL—MORE NEEDED...

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 low.

Thank you.

Sandra Gledhill

Albert's People and Places Alphabet Quiz

Albert's 'En Party' Quiz

All answers start with the letters 'en'. Just solve the clues...

1. Provide someone with the opportunity or means to achieve something?
2. Perform or a story or play?
3. In Coronation Street which character was played by Violet Carson?
4. This could be a type of paint, something covering teeth or a bathroom surface?
5. All together in France?
6. A 2007 Disney film starring Susan Sarandon?
7. A dish comprising a meat filled tortilla with chilli sauce?
8. Part of a country that is entirely surrounded by a foreign territory?
9. Again! Again! Entertaining the French?
10. Verbally support somebody?
11. Gradually move onto someone else's territory?
12. An alphabetical book of facts?
13. Morse's first name?
14. A leaf vegetable similar to chicory?
15. Not Welsh, Irish or Scottish?
16. Could be Kinetic, radiant or nuclear?
17. Foe?
18. Betrothed and not available on the telephone?
19. The machine used to crack Nazi codes?
20. Take delight or pleasure in?
21. Join the armed forces?
22. Is this a poultry choral group?
23. Lowest commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy?
24. Famous Five authoress?
25. And finally....?

Albert

Answers on P42

Diary for the coming weeks

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

May

3rd	Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion with Revd Glenn
6th	Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard Clean up
7th	Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion with Revd John P-P
10th		10.00am	Morning Praise with Gail
		7:00pm	All Age Planning
14th	Sun	10:30am	All Age Service
		12 noon	Holy Communion
		7:30pm	PCC Meeting
15th	Mon	7:30pm	Mission Team at Vicarage
17th	Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion—BCP
18th	Thu	11:00am	Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge
20th	Sat	TBC	Baptism
21st	Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
		12:30pm	Holy Baptism
		1:30pm	Holy Baptism
24th	Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion—Iona
27th	Sat	2:30pm	Wedding
28th	Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
31st	Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion—Healing

June

3rd	Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard Clean up
4th	Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
		12:30pm	Holy Baptism
7th	Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion—God's Goodness
Sat 10th		10-2pm	Garden Party
		2:00pm	Wedding

Answers to Albert's Quiz:- 1. Enable 2. Enact 3. Ena Sharples
4. Enamel 5. En Bloc 6. Enchanted 7. Enchilada 8. Enclave 9. En-
core 10. Encourage 11. Encroach 12. Encyclopedia 13. Endeavor 14.
Endive 15. English 16. Energy 17. Enemy 18. Engaged 19. Enigma 20.
Enjoy 21. Enlist 22. Enquire 23. Ensign 24. Enid Blyton 25. The
End.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-
Phoebe Baker



DEATHS

We give thanks for the lives of:-



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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Wallpaper Hanging

Tel: 01132 189324

Mob: 07855 169672

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Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

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To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 015

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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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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