

DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Christmas



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

*Generation Stories; Graveyard
Stories ; WW1 Stories; Quaker
Stories; Saintly Stories.*

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Brian Gledhill, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Dave Townsend, Barbara Tate, Liz Aveyard, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill.

If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 50p really helps to keep it going!

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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers.

Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. May God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by Post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £12 a year to cover magazine costs including post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Call Margaret on 01924 473064. It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far. Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site & Twitter

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at: www.stmarywoodkirk.org
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.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS.**

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Vicar's Letter

Well here we are again at the beginning of Advent, a period of waiting and preparation, as we wait for the most important event of the year, the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. I wonder if we are really excited by this moment and truly recognise its significance.

Two recent events in my life have made me stop and think some more about Jesus' birth and God's love for us.

Whilst away on holiday I heard a sermon at a small church in Marana, Arizona given by Pastor John Fruth.

It was the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, a custom that we do not keep in England, but is similar to our Harvest Festival celebrations in respect of being thankful for the fruits of the earth and giving thanks to God for His many blessings. Families gather together on that Day and are thankful for each other. It is a major holiday event one which I appreciated and enjoyed as we gathered together at my friend's son's house on Thanksgiving Day.

Pastor John's sermon talked about how a new baby in a family immediately becomes an heir. He or she is included in all future plans and how you would do anything for them and give them any opportunities and how you would love them unconditionally. He then talked about how we are God's children and therefore heirs to all His love and blessings. However, Pastor John correctly pointed out that if we were asked to give our inheritance to a stranger then it is most unlikely we would do so and so it is with God and His children. We cannot earn our inheritance with our family or with God. It is freely given.

Why did this impact me so much? Well, I have just found out that I am going to be a Nana, my youngest son Matthew and his partner Lucy, are expecting their first baby in June. When I found out I was beyond excited, when I went to see them I was moved emotionally by what was to come. That little scrap barely formed had changed me and undoubtedly was already a part of our family. It made me wonder about how God perceived His children, the joys and disappointments we are to Him, and the overwhelming love He has for us when we become His children.

I know that I want to make time in my busy schedule to get to know this baby, to be a part of his/her life, to see them regularly so that they

know who I am and so that they know how much I love them.

How much more then does God want the same for us. He waits for us, and longs for us to come to Him, to commit to Him alone, to spend time with Him and yet we struggle to be still, to stop and to take time out to spend in conversation with Him let alone to read or study His word in the Bible.

Advent is a time when we can and should make the time to be with God, to wonder at the virgin birth and to give thanks that God's salvation plan was put into effect that first Christmas Day with the birth of God's Son, our Lord and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is right to be excited about such a significant event that changed the course for all mankind at its fulfilment in the power of the cross.

"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Wishing you and yours a peaceful and blessed Christmas and I hope you will join us at one of our many services this Christmas time.

Revd. Sharon.

The Journey

I'm not quite sure why, but I've been thinking of journeys and travel and I remembered something I had discovered one day when doing a bit of Internet 'Surfing' which I thought I would share with you.

Life is like a train ride.

We get on, we ride, we get off, we get back on and we ride some more. There are accidents and delays, at certain stops there are surprises. Some of these will translate into great moments of joy, some will result in profound sorrow.

When we are born and we first board the train, we meet people whom we think will be with us for the entire journey. These people are our parents. Sadly this is far from the truth.

Our parents are with us for as long as we absolutely need them, they too have journeys which they must complete. We live on with the memories of their love, affection, friendship, guidance and ever presence.

There are others who board the train who eventually become very important to us in turn. These people are our brothers and sisters, friends and acquaintances whom we will learn to love and cherish.

Some people consider their journey like a jaunty tour, they will just go merrily along. Others will encounter many upsets, tears, losses on their journey. Others still will linger on to offer a helping hand to anyone in need.

Some people on the train will leave an everlasting impression when they get off. Some will get on and off so quickly they will scarcely leave a sign that they ever travelled along with you or ever crossed your path.

We will sometimes be upset that some



passengers whom we love will choose to sit in another compartment and leave us to travel on our own. Then again, there's nothing that says we can't seek them out anyway. Nevertheless, once sought out and found, we may not even be able to sit next to them because that seat will already be taken. That's OK, everyone's journey will be filled with hopes, dreams, challenges, setbacks and goodbyes. We must strive to make the best of it no matter what...

We must constantly strive to understand our travelling companions and look for the best in everyone. Remember that at any moment during our journey any one of our companions can have a weak moment and be in need of our help. We too may vacillate or hesitate, or even trip...hopefully we can count on someone being there to be supportive and understanding.

The bigger mystery of our journey is that we don't know when our last stop will come. Neither do we know when our travelling companions will make their last stop. Not even those sitting in the seat next to us. Personally, I know I'll be sad to make my final stop...I'm sure of it.

My separation from all those friends and acquaintances I made during the train ride will be painful. Leaving all those I'm close to will be a sad thing. But then again, I'm certain that one day I'll get to the main station only to meet up with everyone else. They'll all be carrying their baggage...most of which they didn't have when they first got on this train. I'll be glad to see them, I'll also be glad to have contributed to their baggage...and to have enriched their lives just as much as they will have contributed to my baggage and enriched my life.

We're all on this train ride together. Above all we should all try to strive to make the ride as pleasant and memorable as we can right up until we each make the final stop and leave the train for the last time.

All aboard! Safe journey, Bon voyage!
(And thank you for contributing to my 'baggage' and for enriching my life).

Love and prayers

Dawn

St. Hilda of Whitby (614-680)

“The life and death of Abbess Hilda” forms Chapter 23 of Bede’s fourth Book in his *Ecclesiastical History*, which is the principal source of information about her life.

He explains her life fell into two equal halves, thirty-three years spent “most nobly in secular occupations” and thirty-three dedicated “even more nobly to our Lord in the monastic life”.

She was the daughter of King Hereric, a nephew of Edwin of Northumbria, and was baptised, together with Edwin, by Archbishop Paulinus of York, when she was thirteen.

Bede provided no details of the next twenty years of her life, before she decided to become a nun. She then went to East Anglia, where a cousin was King, intending to sail from there to Gaul, to learn the monastic life at Chelles, where her sister Hereswitha was a member of the community. She spent a year in East Anglia, and then was summoned back north by Aiden, Bishop of Lindisfarne, who, evidently unwilling to lose her from his province, gave her a plot of land on the north bank of the River Wear, where she gathered some companions and “observed a monastic life” for a year.

She was then elected Abbess of the Monastery at Hartlepool, which the previous Abbess, Heiu, had left to move to Tadcaster. Hilda worked to establish a regular way of life there. It was a double Monastery with monks and nuns coming together for choral liturgy but otherwise living separately, this was a fairly common arrangement at the time, under the general control of an Abbess, who was usually of noble birth. She “followed the instructions of learned men” in establishing a Rule, which was probably an Irish form based on that of St. Columbus. After some years at Hartlepool, she established another double monastery on the coast of Yorkshire at Streanaeshalch (meaning “bay of the beacon”) - modern day Whitby. She applied the same Rule there (this being before the Rule of St. Benedict was in general use), and Bede finds it worth commenting that the effect was to mirror the life of the early communities, so that “no one was rich, no one was needy, and nothing was considered to be anyone’s personal property”. Hilda remained Abbess there for the rest of her life.

She encouraged study of Latin and of the scriptures, as well as charitable works. Five of the monks went on to become bishops – “all of them men of outstanding merit and holiness,” according to Bede. It was probably owing to the prestige of the Abbey that it was chosen as the site for the Synod of Whitby in 663/4. Hilda - brought up in the Celtic tradition - acquiesced in the decision, promoted by one of “her” five

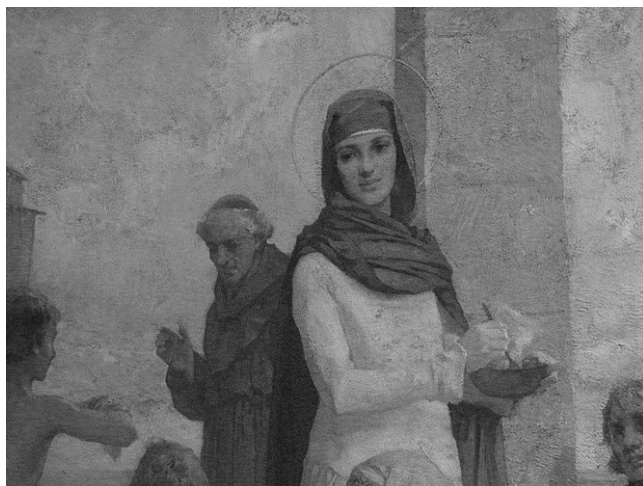
bishops, Wilfrid to adopt the Roman date of Easter and other customs. Fifteen years later she agreed with the decision to divide Wilfrid's huge diocese into three (two parts going to two other bishops also trained at Whitby), so she may not entirely have forgiven him.

She was generally known as "Mother" on account of her "wonderful devotion and grace", and her influence spread far and wide. Kings and others came to seek her advice, and knowledge of her became an inspiration to others living at a distance. For the last seven years of her life she was seriously ill, racked with what Bede calls a "burning fever", but she did not allow this to interfere with her activities, until in the final year "the pain passed into her innermost parts". She made her last Communion and instructed all her nuns to keep the peace of the gospel among themselves and with others.

The date of her death was probably 17th November 680. Bede tells how a devout nun named Begu, in a monastery Hilda had founded, thirteen miles from Whitby, had a vision in which she heard a passing bell and saw Hilda's soul being carried up to heaven surrounded by angels. She summoned all her companions to gather in choir to pray at the very time of her death.

The original Abbey at Whitby was destroyed by Danish raiders in the eighth century and was re-founded in the eleventh, rebuilt in the thirteenth in Gothic style, and finally dissolved by Henry VIII in the 1530s. Considerable ruins of the church remain, providing a prominent landmark for sailors.

Gail



St. Hilda

What lies beneath...

As you may have noticed—pretty much all of the graveyard has now been uncovered for the first time for many years. It is now possible to stand outside the Church door and see right across to the far side, with only tall trees and a few shrubs blocking the view. What a marvellous achievement by all those involved.

This has uncovered many graves which were previously buried and seemingly forgotten. Back in February we reported on a grave of two brothers, James and William Pickersgill, who were killed in the Morley Main Colliery Mining disaster of 1872.

This month we have found two graves—both of Innkeepers and their families. Years ago there were two White Bear Inns less than a mile from the church. The New White Bear and the Old White Bear were both where Tingley roundabout is now. Both are gone.

In fact The Old White Bear was built in the early 19th Century when there was just a simple crossroads and demolished when Tingley Roundabout was modified for the Motorway in the early 70's. Our first grave remembers three sisters - 11 year old Lillian, 9 year old Elsie and 3 year old Beatrice Sharp who all tragically died within a year of each other between March 1898 and March 1899. Their parents were George and Sarah Ann Sharp whom we believe were the Innkeepers of the Old White Bear at the time.

What happened to these three little girls is not clear but there were many diseases around back then which were not routinely vaccinated—Cholera, Smallpox, Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis to name but a

few. This was obviously a very sad time for the family and it seems that pretty soon they moved on and the Old White Bear passed into the hands of Alonza and Florence Chappell, who we know were in residence during the Great War. We know this because their son, Ernest appears on our War Memorial. He was killed in action in France



in 1918 and we have been able to track down Ernest's story and you can read this in more detail on Page XX. Later the Old White Bear's upper rooms were used as a Wrestling Gym run by former 3 time British Heavyweight champion Ernest Baldwin in the late 50's and early 60's.

As you might expect, the New White Bear was built after the Old White Bear sometime around the mid-19th Century. It can be seen on 1854 Ordnance Survey maps. It was rebuilt in 1937 on the same site and then renovated in the 1970s at the time of motorway/roundabout alterations. It has previously been a Schooner Inn and a Beefeater as well as others. In fact our son, Simon was Head Chef there in the 1990's.

Our second Grave is George and Lydia Askew who were Innkeepers at around the same time as the Sharp family over the road in the Old White Bear. They both died relatively young in comparison to today—both before the age of 50. Perhaps these relatively early deaths were more common at that time, due to the aforementioned diseases, but we don't know for sure. Their Mother Eliza Rudd lived much longer—reaching 70 years and is also buried in this family grave. Probably they lived together at the New White Bear. Both of these local pubs are gone but some of the people who passed through them are remembered in our graveyard. Perhaps you know of a grave with a history? If so let me know.



David

James Nayler “the Mad Quaker” of Ardsley.

By Colin Burland

We now think of ourselves as being a religiously tolerant nation, but not long ago we certainly were not. A particularly grim example of intolerance was acted out in London in December 1656, when a Quaker called James Nayler was submitted to a series of physical punishments so cruel and barbaric that it is almost a miracle that he didn't die right there and then.

The incident that led to Nayler's trial and punishment had happened on the twentieth of October of the same year, when Nayler and his friends, including Martha Simmonds, Hannah Stranger and Timothy Wedlock, staged a demonstration in Bristol which achieved national notoriety but proved disastrous: Nayler re-enacted the arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, while women disciples threw down palms before him and others walked alongside singing, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Israel”. The perceived ‘horrid blasphemy’ seemed to be enhanced by the fact that Nayler may have cut his hair and beard in such a way that he resembled Jesus Christ. Parliament was outraged by this blatant, sacrilegious imitation and Nayler was brought to London to be tried, not in an ordinary court, but in Parliament itself. On 16th December 1656 he was convicted of blasphemy in a highly publicised trial before the Second Protectorate Parliament. Narrowly escaping execution, he was whipped at least 300 times on his way from Westminster to the City and later was branded with the letter B for Blasphemer and had a red-hot poker bored through his tongue. The thousands who witnessed the execution of the sentence exhibited their respect by removing their caps. There was no reviling, and nothing thrown at Nayler, but all stood silent and sympathetic. He was then sent to Bristol, and whipped from the middle of St. Thomas' Street to the middle of Broad Street. From there he was taken to Bridewell prison in London where he endured two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

He was born in Ardsley 1618 the son of Goodman Nayler who was said to be a “sowgelder by profession”, but it is reasonable to assume that James' father was an independent farmer of at least modest means. Ardsley Hall, supposed to be his birthplace, was a very substantial house.

In 1642 Nayler joined the Parliamentary army, and was almost certainly in action when the Parliamentary forces took Sandal Castle in 1643. His enthusiasm, courage and resolution brought him advancement to the rank of Quartermaster in the crack regiment of

John Lambert's cavalry until 1650. He fought at York, Marston Moor and Dunbar.

The army was a hot-bed of religious zealots. Preachers of several persuasions, more Independent than otherwise by 1647, continually assailed the troops with sermons which fell for most part on willing ears. At Dunbar a cavalry officer reported "When I came thither I found it was James Nayler preaching to the people, but with such power and reaching energy as I had not then been witness of. I could not help staying a little though I was afraid to stay, for I was made a Quaker, being forced to tremble at the sight of myself. I was struck with more terror before the preaching of James Nayler than I was before the battle of Dunbar, when we had nothing else to expect but to fall a prey to the swords of our enemies".

James was not yet himself a Quaker, but was clearly preaching doctrines which were recognizably Quaker. It is essential to understand that the Quakers did not officially adopt non-violence until January 1661, after Nayler's death, and that during the 1650's their early converts outraged other congregations, Anglican and Nonconformist, with public attacks on them during services and sermons.

The Quakers defied social convention by refusing to doff their hats in the presence of superiors, addressing everyone with the familiar "thou" instead of the polite and formal "you", and treating all women as equals. They refused to pay tithes to the church, swear oaths, or acknowledge the validity of any of the Christian sacraments.

After the Civil War James was invalided out of the army possibly due to tuberculosis and by the summer of 1651 he was once more at home with his wife and family. Financial necessity may have forced him to move to a somewhat more modest farm at nearby Woodside in the Kirkhamgate/ Wrenthorpe area of Wakefield. That same year he joined the congregation of Christopher Marshall's Independent Church at 'Woodchurch' (Woodkirk). There is no evidence to suggest that James took an active part in the work of the Church.

He first met George Fox, the founder of the Quaker movement in 1652. When Fox paid a visit to Christopher Marshall's Independent Church at Woodkirk 'the people bid me to come up to the priest, and when I came up to the pulpit...they rushed me out and fell a-punching and beating me.'

It cannot be stated with any certainty whether Fox's visit played any part in James leaving the Woodchurch congregation, but shortly after he was brought before the Church at a meeting held at Haigh Hall, and was excommunicated.

Some biographers claim that James was dismissed from the Church because of sexual misdemeanours, but I believe they are incorrect. Victorian writer, S. Baring-Gould, in his book 'Yorkshire Oddities', suggested that "Nayler relaxed his religious exercises on visits to a Mrs Roper at Horbury, a lady whose husband had been for some time absent. When this lady became a mother by James Nayler, the Rev Mr Marshall thought it necessary to expose him, and Nayler, indignant with his Independent minister, joined the sect of the Quakers".

James denied this accusation several times during his trials stating: "All that knew me, in the army and elsewhere, will say I was never guilty of lewdness, or so reputed. I abhor filthiness. See if any can accuse". Always truthful, James never admitted any involvement with Mrs Roper but said "It might be she kissed me. It was our manner."

After experiencing what he described as 'the voice of God calling him from work in his fields in Wakefield', James gave up his possessions and began seeking a spiritual direction, which he found in Quakerism after meeting George Fox. By the mid-50s James, along with George Fox, became the chief pamphleteer and preacher of what was to become the Society of Friends; he attracted many converts and was considered a skilled theological debater.

At the peak of his career he preached against enclosure and the slave trade. On several occasions, Fox expressed concern that the ministry of Nayler and his associate Martha Simmonds was becoming over-enthusiastic and erratic. Though the substance of the disagreements is unclear, by 1656 Fox and Nayler were hardly on speaking terms. On 23rd September 1656, Fox visited Nayler in his prison at Exeter; when the prisoner refused to kiss his hand, Fox pushed his foot toward him, "It is my foot." It was clearly not a gesture that looked toward reconciliation, Fox never apologised, and the differences remained.

By 1659, when Nayler left prison, the Quakers were causing alarm and hostility throughout England. As their numbers grew to perhaps as many as 60,000, their revolutionary demands served only to provoke retaliation. George Fox and his followers would not be satisfied until they had won complete freedom of religious practice, the state church was dismantled, and the death penalty for theft abolished. And if the political and religious establishment had good reason to fear the Quakers, in popular mythology they were now associated with every kind of criminality from witchcraft and sodomy to matricide. There was a state of paranoia against Quakers, comparable to the anti-Catholic hysteria of early 1640's. Hundreds of Quakers were in prison by 1660, most of them for refusing to pay tithes.

When Nayler left Bridewell prison in 1659 a physically ruined man; he repented of his actions and was formally [but reluctantly] forgiven by Fox, who apparently required his former associate to kneel before him and ask forgiveness.

In October 1660, while traveling to re-join his family in Wakefield, he was robbed and left near dead in a field, then brought to the home of a Quaker doctor in Kings Ripton, near Huntingdon. A day later and two hours before he died on 21st October, aged 42, he made a moving statement which many Quakers since have come to value deeply:

“There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end. Its hope is to outlive all wrath and contention, and to weary out all exaltation and cruelty, or whatever is of a nature contrary to itself. It sees to the end of all temptations. As it bears no evil in itself, so it conceives none in thoughts to any other. If it be betrayed, it bears it, for its ground and spring is the mercies and forgiveness of God. Its crown is meekness, its life is everlasting love unfeigned; it takes its kingdom with entreaty and not with contention, and keeps it by lowliness of mind. In God alone it can rejoice, though none else regard it, or can own its life. It is conceived in sorrow, and brought forth without any to pity it, nor doth it murmur at grief and oppression. It never rejoiceth but through sufferings; for with the world’s joy it is murdered. I found it alone, being forsaken. I have fellowship therein with them who lived in dens and desolate places in the earth, who through death obtained this resurrection and eternal holy life.”

I was particularly drawn to write about James Nayler because of the parallels in my own life. I was born in East Ardsley just along the road from Ardsley Hall, his possible family home. I spent my early childhood in Kirkhamgate, next door to a farm belonging to a Mr Naylor [possibly a descendant of James], and also attended school and worked in Wakefield. I too was brought up an Independent and attended Chapel in Morley, but later became a Quaker. However, I have lived in much more tolerant times and have had a much easier existence. Naylor lived during a time of bitter, deep religious divisions and extreme insecurity, confusion and uncertainty. By the time of his death, if the majority had a religious attitude in common it was antagonism towards the growing number of Quakers, who were regarded as the principal threat to both church and state. James Nayler was a very brave, determined and passionate man; not “mad”.

With thanks to Colin once more for this marvellous story. Editor.

Secrets of the War Memorial—Part 2.

Following on from Philip Stephenson's recollections last month, another name—this time from World War One— Ernest Chappell is remembered. Born in 1899, Ernest went on to enlist in the West Riding Regiment and became a signaller...

He was the only child of Alonza and Florence Chappell (nee Whitehead), Old White Bear Inn, Tingley. He was an apprentice printer at the "Wakefield Express" Office, Wakefield.

Ernest Chappell's mother, Florence ("Florrie") later ran a fish and chip shop in Alverthorpe and lived in the village until her death in 1952. She is buried with her husband Alonza (they married in 1898) in St Paul's churchyard, Alverthorpe.

Signaller Ernest Chappell was killed in action, aged 19, in the Pas-de-Calais region of France between Arras and Cambrai. He enlisted in Wakefield and went to France only a few months before he was killed. In the Wakefield Express Saturday, September 28th 1918 under the page 3 heading of "Local Hero in the Great War" was a photo of "Signaller ERNEST CHAPPELL, Tingley, West Riding Regt. (killed)."

He was entitled to two separate campaign medals – British War Medal; Victory Medal – according to his Medal Index Card from the National Archives.

Alonza Chappell, his father (a wool spinner by trade), had also joined the army in 1918 (when he was 42), and returned to his unit in Ripon after only a few days' compassionate leave. He served in the Labour Corps; Private 563679. He died in 1924 and is buried at St Paul's churchyard and cemetery, Alverthorpe, Wakefield. On his (and his wife's) gravestone there is a memorial inscription to their son, Ernest Chappell.

In the Wakefield Express Saturday, 28 September 1918 was the



following entry:

ROLL OF HONOUR CHAPPELL – In ever loving memory of Signaller Ernest Chappell, West Riding Regt., killed in action 31 August 1918, only and dearly loved son of Mr. and Mrs. Chappell, Old White Bear Inn, Tingley. We long for household voices gone, For vanished smiles we long; But God has lead our dear one on, And He can do no wrong.- From Father, Mother, and Friend Eliza, with many thanks for all letters and expressions of sympathy received.

[note: "Eliza" may have been his girlfriend]

Information kindly supplied by the 'We Will Remember Them' section from www.wakefield.gov.uk website from an original story by Neil Shuttleworth. Also many thanks to Wendy Jewitt Library Officer: Information and Culture, Wakefield Council who took the time to reply even when the e-mail address was playing up.

David.

Have Faith.

However black the clouds may be
In time they'll pass away
Have faith and trust and you will see
God's light makes bright your day.

With thanks to Alice for supplying this verse of hope.



ST. MARY'S WOODKIRK CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Parish Centre at St Mary's, Woodkirk,
Dewsbury Road, W1127JL

10_{am}-2_{pm}

**Saturday 9th
December**

FOOD AND DRINK

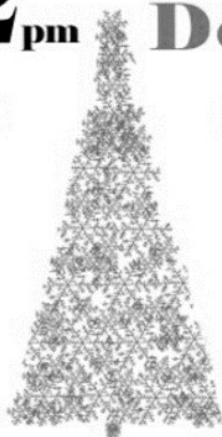
CRAFT STALLS

RAFFLE

SANTA'S GROTTO

FUN AND GAMES

TOMBOLA



All welcome!



For further info: ☎ 01924 472375 • ✉ Vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org • <https://www.stmarywoodkirk.org/>



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When it feels irreplaceable, trust



Terms and conditions 1. To celebrate our 130 year anniversary we are offering to make a charitable donation of £130 when a new Ecclesiastical Insurance plc Home Insurance policy (a "Policy") is purchased directly from us and your insurance cover commences on or before 30th September 2018, on the following terms and conditions. 2. One charitable donation will be made per Policy issued. 3. Quotation requests for a Policy must be made online or by telephone, quoting TRUST130. This charitable donation offer cannot be redeemed in any other way. 4. Underwriting terms and conditions apply and we reserve the right to not provide a quotation or offer to insure if the property that is the subject of the quotation does not meet our underwriting criteria. 5. The charitable donation is conditional on the named insured under the Policy notifying us of a church in the United Kingdom which is part of the Anglican Communion to receive the donation (the "Nominated Church"). Donations will be made by us directly to the Nominated Church, within 30 days of the Policy start date. 6. "We" and "us" in these terms and conditions refer to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc.

Are you able to help the Church by using the Insurance above?
It's great way to donate. You can do it anytime between now
and September 2018.

David.

Prayerful Thought

Well, I must tell you, I was inspired to write this month's prayerful thought whilst listening to a Girls' Brigade friend leading closing devotions after a meeting!

I can't remember the whole of what she said (sorry Julie!) but the theme was 'worth', I shall elucidate...

If you have spent any time at all over the past few weeks I'm sure you will have seen many advertisements for many different things, but the one I would like you to think about is L'Oreal the French beauty and cosmetics company.

The reason I thought of this was, that their 'strapline', which usually involves some gorgeous creature, predominantly but not exclusively female, urging us to purchase one of many different beauty, skincare or hair products...

"Because you're worth it"

This made me think of verse 31b of Chapter 10 of Matthew which is...

" you are worth much more than many sparrows!"

Now you may think you haven't done much in your life, you're not rich or famous, you don't perhaps live in a big house or drive a 'flashy' car. Perhaps your life's journey includes some of the following;

Went through school, perhaps got a good job, maybe went to university, perhaps a 'standard' job, got married, stayed unmarried, had children, didn't have children.

You may feel blessed, you may not feel blessed, you may have suffered great loss or sadness, but hopefully you will have had some great joys too.

But whatever your life path, however long or short, let me tell you that God doesn't measure in worldly material prices.

Remember that God knows you down to every hair on your head, and He knows the plans HE has for YOU, (Jeremiah 29: 11)

Even though you may not be aware of it, or may not even believe it.

A character in one of my favourite films says something about feeling like she has lived a rather small life, not meaning empty but just not, as she saw it, with a big impact.

What I would like you to think about as you are bombarded with media advertisements at every turn, is that YOU are WORTH it. you are loved unconditionally by God and He has plans for you.

I hope you have a blessed Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at some of our Christmas Services sharing this special time of year together in worship and praise for God sending His son to us as a baby in Bethlehem.

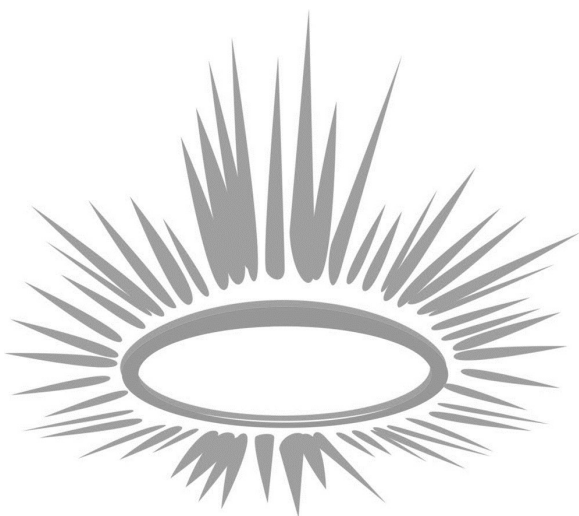
Oh, and you know how they say..."You learn something new every day!"

Well I looked up what
L'Oreal meant, and
guess what...

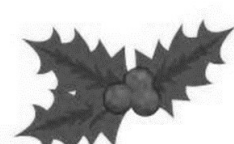
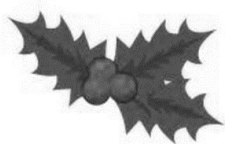
It means "Halo".

Love and prayers

Dawn Tattersfield.



*For it is good to be
children sometimes,
and never better
than at Christmas,
when its mighty
Founder was
a child Himself.*



A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY

The Parish Centre at St Mary's, Woodkirk



10^{am}-2^{pm}

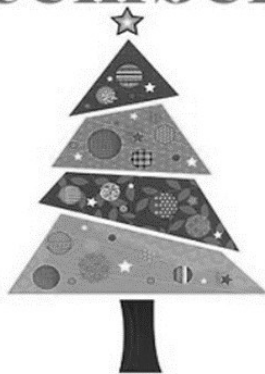
**Saturday 16th
December**

**CHILDRENS
CRAFT ACTIVITIES**

**FESTIVE FUN
AND GAMES**

**LUNCH AND
SNACKS PROVIDED**

FREE EVENT



Suitable for ages 3-11*

*Please note that under 3's MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult



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ALBERT'S 'SNAKES ALIVE -ITS NUMBER FIVE' QUIZ

1. Name the five members of the Famous Five stories by Enid Blyton.
2. Which five countries are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council?
3. What are the five events of the modern pentathlon?
4. Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynne, Roy Orbison & Tom Petty were members of which musical group?
5. Which boy band's members were Gary, Howard, Jason, Mark & Robbie?
6. Name five English football clubs whose names start and end with the same letters.
7. What were the stage names of The Spice Girls?
8. Name the Five Great Lakes.
9. Which five countries comprise the Nordic Council?
10. Name the five boroughs of New York City.
11. Who were the five members of The Jackson Five?
12. Name England's five Tudor monarchs.
13. What were the names of the five Marx Brothers?
14. Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee & Charlie Bucket are children in which story?
15. What are the colours of the five Olympic Rings?
16. Who were the five members of cinema's Rat Pack?
17. Name the first five books of the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.
18. Which are the five Classics Races of the English Flat Racing Calendar?
19. Name the five elements that have only four letters in their names.
20. Name the five Cinque Ports on the English South Coast

Answers on Page 34

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

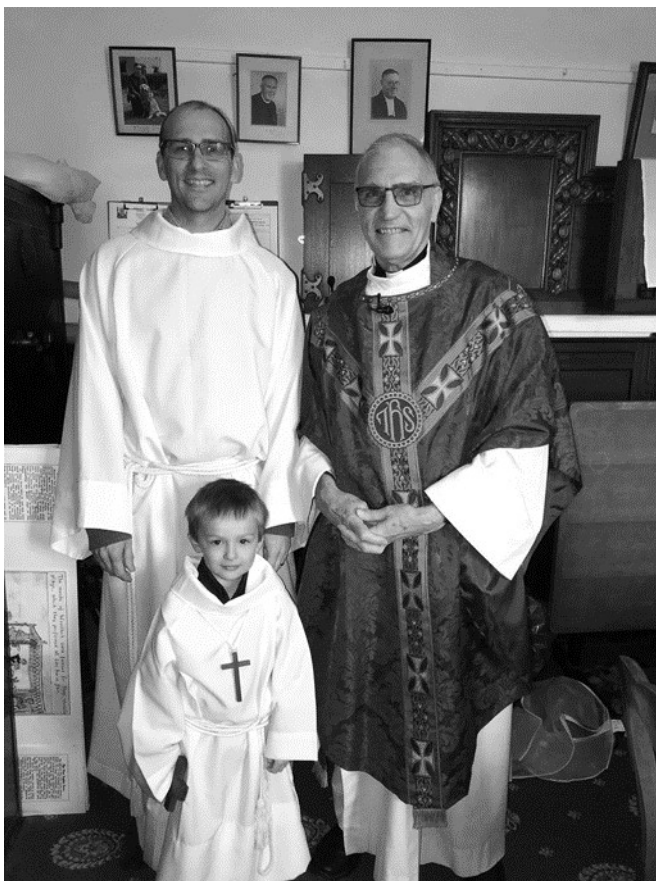
December is all about tidying up and preparing for the worst of the winter weather. You might even think about insulating your coldframe if you have any plants in there. Look in your garden for colourful branches, conifer stems, seed heads and cones. With a little florists wire and some imagination you can save money by making your own wreaths and swags.

1. Get on with your winter digging if the ground is not frozen or too water logged.
2. Get hold of some well rotted manure and dig it in. Remove weeds at the same time but don't add lime.
3. Earth up spring cabbages and winter brassicas.
4. Harvest Brussels Sprouts from the bottom up.
5. Dig your Runner Bean trench – leave it open to the elements for now.
6. Dig up the last of your beetroot and carrots before the frost ruins them. Store in boxes of almost dry sand.
7. Prune fruit trees but remember to burn all prunings as they might be infected with disease or aphid eggs.
8. Order seed catalogues.
9. Clean pots and containers. Thorough cleaning will reduce problems with sowing, propagation and germination rate.
10. Check indoor plants for pests.

Sandra

It's a Family Affair...

At one of the November services when Revd. Sharon was on holiday we were looked after by 3 generations of the Pinder-Packard family. Father John (literally); Son Neal and Grandson Thomas all gathered to Celebrate, preach and serve for us. What a lovely way to enjoy a Sunday morning.



The Alternative Christmas Carols

Nancy explains – These were sung by our Sunday School ‘gang’ during World War Two when we worshipped at St. Mark’s Church, Glodwick, Oldham. It was fun:

Good King Wenceslas looked out
Of his bedroom ‘winder’
All at once he did fall out
On to a red hot cinder

Brightly shone his b_m that night
Tho’ it hurt most cruel
When a peasant came in sight
With a poultice made of gru-uel.

While shepherds washed their socks by night
All seated on the ground
A bar of sunlight soap came down
And they began to scrub.....

Nancy writes: My sister who taught at one of Batley’s Primary/Junior Schools in the 70’s and 80’s gave me this one:-

We 3 kings of Orien – tar
One in a taxi, one in a car
One on a scooter, tooting his hooter
Smoking a big cigar.

All this from a Sunday School teacher certified by the Bishop of St. Albans no less!

These brought happy memories of fellowship and fun.
Cheers
Nancy

Getting Warmer...

WOMEN across the UK are being asked to attend a one-day thermostat awareness course to learn how they work.

The courses, run by the Department of Energy, are compulsory for anyone who has committed two or more thermostat misuse infractions in a 72-hour period and are projected to save the UK millions of pounds in bills.

Instructor Dr Thomas Booker said: "This is a thermostat. It can sense the temperature".

"When set to, for example, 21 degrees, it will regulate the temperature of your home at 21 degrees by turning the heating off or on without – and this is important – any need for manual adjustment.

"If you are feeling a little cold and adjust it upwards to, say, 30 degrees, it will not provide a short-term boost of heat but will begin heating the entire home to tropical temperatures. The opposite will happen if adjusted down, though that is, of course, entirely theoretical.

"The way to operate a thermostat is simply to choose the temperature you're most comfortable with and to leave it alone and not touch it. Let me repeat that: pick a temperature, do not touch it and leave it alone."

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Anne, Dick, George, Julian & Timmy the dog. 2. China, France, Russia, UK & USA. 3. Fencing, Riding, Running, Shooting, Swimming. 4. The Travelling Wilburys. 5. Take That. 6. Aston Villa, Charlton Athletic, Liverpool, Northampton Town, York City. 7. Posh, Scary, Baby, Sporty, Ginger. 8. Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario. 9. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden. 10. Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens. 11. Jackie, Jermaine, Marlon, Michael, Tito. 12. Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I. 13. Chico, Groucho, Gummo, Harpo, Zeppo. 14. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. 15. Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red. 16. Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Junior, Peter Lawford, Joey Bishop. 17. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. 18. The Derby, The Oaks, The St Leger, The 1000 Guineas, The 2000 Guineas. 19. Gold, Iron, Lead, Neon, Zinc. 20. Dover, Hastings, Hythe, New Romney & Sandwich.

Albert Shaw

Church Mouse Tales

As the festive spirit began to overtake us, I was discussing elatedly with my friend Hubert, the Black Canon the joys of Carol Singing. 'In fact', I went on excitedly, 'I hear the gang are Carol Singing at Country Baskets – and I am planning to go along too!' Hubert's expression changed from smiling and happy to a more worried demeanour.

'Really?' he said in his best uncertain voice.

'Yes, I rather fancy a good Carol sing,' I enthused. 'Why are you looking so worried?'

'Well it's not for me to be a critic...' Hubert began slowly.

'Are you casting doubt on my excellent Alto?' I queried with some angst.

'Well – come to the doorway with me', he beckoned.

Now, give me your best 'Good King Wenceslas', he asked patiently. I broke into song and then stopped.

'The pigeons seem to be flying away rapidly', I observed.

Hubert kept quiet.

'Perhaps I'll give it a miss this year,' I conceded.

'Your cousin Blondel is a better singer – he could go in your place?'

'Good idea Hubert', I agreed deflatedly, 'anyway I'm thinking of taking up the organ...'

Eyebrows tell you so much about a person – don't you think?

Misha.



Handle with Care...

There was an old lady who was mailing an old family bible to her brother.

'Is there anything breakable inside?' asked the postal clerk.

'Only the Ten Commandments', she replied.

Alice

Brian's Funny Bone

If you're being chased by a police dog, try not to go through a tunnel, then on to a little seesaw, then jump through a hoop of fire. They're trained for that!

If they make it illegal to wear the veil at work, bee keepers are going to be furious.

One of my earliest memories is seeing my mothers face through the oven window. As we played hide and seek and she said "your getting warmer".

My sisters got hayfever...now she's got diabetes though. I tried to cheer her up—you know—flowers and chocolates.

So I phoned up the spiritual leader of Tibet, he sent me a large goat with a long neck—turns out I phoned dial a lama.

My wife... its difficult to say what she does... she sells seashells on the seashore.

I'm very English really. I even ordered a book on the internet, 'how to have absolutely nothing to do with your neighbours'. Unfortunately I was out when it was delivered.

I don't trust the press. Sometimes they wear badges that say 'press', but if you press those badges they just fall over all surprised..

To the man on crutches, dressed in camouflage, who stole my wallet ... you can hide but you can't run.

My grandfather invented the cold air balloon... But it never really took off.

I recently bought the box set of 'Doctor Who' and watched it back to back. Couldn't see a thing.

The pollen count, now that's a difficult job. Especially if you've got hay fever.

I hate sitting in traffic, because I always get run over.

"A lot of people like cats. Take the Pope, for example: I read recently that he was a cat-oholic!"

The school had a big problem with drugs..... especially Class A.

Brian

Poetry Corner

If You Look for Me at Christmas...

If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.
Love Jesus

Author Unknown

With thanks to Sharon.

Diary for the coming weeks

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

December

2nd Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard Clean up
	11:00am	Country Baskets Carol Singing
3rd Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
	12:30pm	Holy Baptism
6th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
7th Thur	6:00pm	Blackgates School Carol Singing
9th Sat	10:00am	Christmas Fair
10th Sun	10:30am	All Age Nativity
	12 Noon	Holy Communion
13th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
15th Fri	9:00am	Hill Top School Carol Singing
16th Sat	10:00am	Children's Activity Morning
17th Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
	12:30pm	Baptism
	4:00pm	Carols by Candlelight
20th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion
21st Thur	11:00am	Carols & Communion at Lydgate Lodge
23rd Sat	10:00am	Making Christingle Oranges
Christmas Eve:		
24th Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
	3:00pm	Christingle for the Under 7's
	5:00pm	Christingle for the Over 7's
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

25th Mon	10:30am	Holy Communion
27th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion
28th Thur	5:00pm	Wedding
31st Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion

January 2018

3rd Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion
6th Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard Clean up
7th Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
	12:30pm	Holy Baptism
10th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
14th Sun	10:30am	All Age Service
17th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion
21st Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
24th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion
28th Sun	10:30am	Holy Communion
	12:30pm	Holy Baptism
31st Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion

February

3rd	9:30am	Church & Churchyard Clean up
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Bobby Brian Martindale
Anna Sophia Greenwood
December:
Ella Rose Sherwood
Summer Louise Sherwood
Oscar James Lee
Maddison Marie Burns



DEATHS



We give thanks for the lives of:-

Joan Shelton
Henry Smith

WEDDINGS Please pray for all
couples who married at St Mary's,
especially:

Ian David Stansfield &
Gaynor Fiona Chiverton



May...



The light of God surround you
the love of God enfold you
the power of God protect you
the presence of God watch over you

Parish Centre Rentals

**We have space for Groups
who may be interested in
using the Parish Centre on a
Monday or Wednesday**

evening.

Nominal Cost is £50 for

3 hours.

Contact: Sally Shaw

**01924 475048 for more
information.**

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**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.**

To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

Quarter Page £30.00; Half Page £60.00; Full Page £100.00

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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 Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877
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