

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

The Angel of the East?

FEBRUARY 2018



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

*A Hard Month; A Narrow Door;
A Child of God; A Feast; A Challenge;
An Angel and 2 Prayers.*

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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 60p really helps to keep it going!

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Engaging with the Community

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

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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.

**SOMEONE WHO DARES TO WASTE ONE
HOUR OF TIME HAS NOT DISCOVERED THE
VALUE OF LIFE."**

CHARLES DARWIN

Vicar's Letter

I can confidently say that this has been the worst January in my life. To cut a long story short, my daughter was taken ill and gradually over one week lost her ability to walk, move her arms, her speech was slurred and her eyes were blurry with double vision (these are just some of the symptoms). On the second stay in hospital she was diagnosed with Miller Fisher Syndrome a variant of Guillain Barre Syndrome. What this means is that her immune system was attacking her own nerves which caused the above symptoms. There is only one form of treatment Human Immunoglobulins - a five day course which thankfully she did respond too and after three weeks in hospital, she is home now but her full recovery will take much longer.

So the question I want to consider is this...How does faith impact on those life events that challenge us, scare us and are out of our control?

Psalm 46:1 tells us, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Regardless of our circumstances, God is with us and for us. Our God is not far off.

This doesn't necessarily mean our troubles will disappear, but it does mean that God will walk with us through our trials.

Like a good friend, God promises to stick with us and provide encouragement, hope and a reminder of our potential *through* and beyond our current situation. In order to actually trust God we must first understand the nature of God and how he often works in our lives. God is sovereign over all, and his love and wisdom exceed anything we're fully capable of grasping

Romans 8:35-39 states, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This passage makes it clear that God is all-powerful, nothing can hinder his love for us, and his desire that we live victoriously in our lives. It's important to remember, however, that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). This often means that his timetable is different than our timetable. Even our answered prayers may look different than how we expect or hope they will look. Regardless of when or how God sees us through our hardships, we must trust that he is the one that ultimately knows what's best for us. Don't allow fear to drive you away from God-cling to him in your difficulties!

All these things I knew, I rested in God, trusted in God, and spoke to God and I knew that there were many congregations praying. All I knew is that I felt held and safe with God.

The support from my congregation (and others) and the support I had from all around me such as family and friends meant that at the end of the day I could rest in God's grace and love, as could my daughter.

It hasn't always been like that. It has taken time for my faith and understanding to grow. Time to learn to pray - to talk to God (even when I felt silly or shy) but I thank God that He persevered with me so that my faith and understanding increased.

Faith does the impossible because it lets God undertake for us, and nothing is impossible for God. How great - without qualification or limitation - the power of faith is! Prayer throws faith on God and God on the world. Only God can move mountains, but faith and prayer move God."

With grateful thanks to God and all.

Rev. Sharon.

Children of God.

Hi there

Well we're into February already! Time's marching on again. But let's not dwell on that, as I want to remind you, whether you are getting on in years, whether you are in your youth, or somewhere in between, we are all 'Children of God'.

I had been thinking about this well known phrase during Christmas as many people say; "Well Christmas, it's for the children isn't it?" and I thought in a way, no it's not, Christmas is for everyone, but then when I thought about it, if we are all children of God, then YES, Christmas is for ALL God's children!

Then on the first Wednesday morning service after Christmas I was reminded about this as the first reading was from 1 John 2:29 – 3:6 which is:

'If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him, purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or knows him.'

That sounds good to me, God has lavished great love on us so that WE should be called children of God.

I looked in a little bit more detail and discovered that St Paul uses the phrase 'Children of God' five times in his letters to the Romans and John uses the phrase five times in the first of his three books.

I looked a little deeper into 1 John and discovered that it is generally acknowledged that it is written (along with 2 & 3 John) by 'the disciple who Jesus loved', John the son of Zebedee, who was also the writer

of the Gospel of John.

I got a bit confused then as I read a little bit more about the background to John's three letters, because it went into some detail about why John wrote them, explaining that it was in response to a number of issues being brought up in the early church.

There was some pressure to incorporate other ideas into the faith, like with most new things, people wanted to cling onto some of their old familiar rites like particular foods or circumcision, which Jesus had said were no longer necessary.

However, it also went on to talk about 'Gnosticism' (which was where some people, known in those times as mystics, believed that they had received special revelations from God making them better than others).

I'm not sure if I understood fully really, but it seemed like there were those who thought themselves better than a lot of people, possibly because they had read a lot more than 'normal' everyday folks like you and me, and they were forgetting the simplicity of Jesus' message.

The message John declares over and over again is that:

- God is Light: he calls all who follow him to walk in the light of his commands, and
- God is Love: he requires his people to love one another.

God is love, and God loves us. He loves us unconditionally, as our passage says, 'see what great love the Father has lavished on us', but people find this hard to understand, and John tells us why, '...the world doesn't know [because] it did not know Him.

If we have hope in Jesus we shall be like him, we are purified by him.

As Christians we are called to love one another, that is quite a challenge. Oh there are lots of people we can, and do, love, our families our friends etc, but what about those whom it is difficult to love.

I have mentioned before, I run a Girls' Brigade Company over in Castleford, and I have lost count of the times when girls' have fallen

out, never to speak to each other ever again, one week and then they come the following week arm in arm, best friends forever their arguments and fallings out a thing of the past.

Jesus asks us to be like children, only by being like a child will we enter the kingdom of heaven, well I'm pretty sure he didn't mean that we should fall out with our friends, I think it is more like the ability to forgive wrongs and try our best to love all those with whom we come into contact.

God knows we are not perfect, that's why he sent Jesus to us, but what he asks of us is to try our best to love one another as God loves us.

So don't worry about those new years' resolutions, let us try this year, however young or old we are to love as God loves us and be 'children of God'.

And if you feel like skipping down the aisle at church on a Sunday, then I'm not going to try and stop you!

Love and giggles!

Dawn





The History of St. Mary's

Open Day

Saturday March 17th

10:00am—2:00 pm

- Come long and find out more about your Church—its History and Heritage.
- See the Graveyard now it has been restored and all the overgrown vegetation removed.
- Look for relatives or friends buried in graves which have been lost.
- Enjoy a Cuppa and a sandwich.

Food Bank News

On behalf of Leeds South and East Food Bank, can I thank you all for your support, both financial and with Food during 2017.

Our Christmas appeal resulted in donations of 4 tonnes for which we are very grateful. St Mary's donated 97kilos along with cash from the Schools Carol Services.

Food is still going out faster than it is being donated. There have been times when we have had to close our branch early because we have run out of food. We give out enough food to last a family three days (in actual fact it will last longer). We also like to include treats, especially where there are young children. Occasionally we have fresh bread, fruit and vegetables which are donated by Amazon and Morrisons.

As Signposters, we try to help our clients in other ways, besides giving them food, we pass on leaflets for organisations who can help them with Gas and Electric tariffs; debt problems; Grandparents clubs; Children's clubs and lots of other organisations that I had no idea existed and sometimes, most importantly, we just listen to them.

Our client list seems to grow every month and I pray that you will continue to support our efforts in 2018.

Barbara Tate



St. Mary's Fair Trade Coffee Morning
Saturday 10th February 2018
10.30 am to 12 noon

Once again we are holding a Fair Trade Coffee Morning at St Mary's, Church to continue to raise the profile and importance of buying fairly traded goods.

There will be Tea or Coffee and cakes as well as biscuits, a cake stall, a raffle and hopefully other goodies too.

We normally hold our coffee morning during Fairtrade Fortnight but unfortunately (or fortunately for me!) I will be away on holiday so we're getting our coffee morning in early!

If you would like to make a cake/scones/biscuits etc, could I ask that you include at least 1 fair-trade ingredient (easier now as a lot of sugar and Cadbury chocolate is fair-trade).

I do hope you will be able to come along look forward to seeing you there.

Many thanks.

Dawn Tattersfield



The Lost Art of Feasting

We might suppose that overstuffed bellies would hardly need any instruction on feasting. So many of us have grown so accustomed to having so much to eat. Then here comes Christmas. Just put it on autopilot. Fasting is the discipline today that is grossly under-served; no need to consider feasting. Not so fast. It's true that fasting is sadly overlooked, and too often forgotten. And yet, perhaps counterintuitively, true feasting is also in decline through familiarity and lack of spiritual purpose. Most of us have never given any serious thought to what it might mean to feast with Christ-honoring intentionality.

We've grown dull to the wonder of ample food and drink through constant use, and overuse. When every day is a virtual feast, we lose the blessing of a real one. When every meal is a pathway to indulgence, not only is fasting lost, but true feasting is as well.

The Bible is replete with the goodness of food and the holiness of feasting. God in his goodness made his creation edible. He made trees "pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Genesis 2:9), and created us to eat his world: "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food" (Genesis 1:29). Then after the flood, he extended the gift to eating animals: "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything" (Genesis 9:3). But distinct from the kindness of God in everyday food is the special grace of a feast.

In the Old Testament, God structured the seasons and years of his chosen people with fast days and feast days. Then he sent his Son as the great culmination of his nation's feasts. Now those who make up God's multinational people through Christ are no longer under obligation to practice Israel's ancient feasts and rituals (Colossians 2:16). They were "a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ" (Colossians 2:17). Christians are free to feast — or not to feast:

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. (Romans 14:5–6)

But what we're not free to do is feast in a way that dishonors God. And forgetting him altogether is profoundly dishonoring. As Christians, we want to learn to feast in such a way that we're tasting God's supernatural goodness as we enjoy natural tastes.

Feasting is not first about the food. It is foremost about the Godward celebration of some specific occasion together. Good food and drink, in abundance, come in alongside our corporate focus to accentuate the appreciation and enjoyment of God and his kindness. The heart of feasting is not the food itself, but the heart of the feasters. A true feast is bigger than the food — infinitely bigger. The center is God and his greatness and grace toward us in Christ.

For Christians, feasting is not the same as mere indulgence. There is nothing particularly Christian about eating and drinking more than usual. What makes feasting a means of God's grace for nourishing our souls is explicitly celebrating Christ together in faith. Whether it's Christmas or Easter, a birthday or anniversary, when we feast as Christians, we celebrate the bounty and kindness of our Creator and Redeemer. Feasting in Christ is no mere physical event, but deeply spiritual.

Good preparation for a good feast typically begins before the feast day — not only in our planning, but in our pattern of eating. When our normal daily consumption is characterised by sufficient restraint, then feasting is something we can rise to on special occasions, by faith and in good conscience, rather than being the baseline of everyday eating. If you've so overindulged leading up to the feast that you feel a need to count calories at the feast, something is not right. Daily restraint both keeps our stomachs primed for times of fasting (so we're not miserably

famished) and makes possible a kind of special indulgence on feast days.

But exercising self-control in eating and drinking as a habit of life is only a prerequisite to good feasting. For a big Christmas dinner to honor God — and feed not only our stomachs, but our souls — we need a few simple, but significant, steps to make it holy. As we finish our preparations for Christmas dinner and come to the table together, how can we treat this shared meal as a means of God's grace for our souls and not simply an exercise in eating? How is a Christian feast distinct from any old Christmas?

Important as it is to make careful arrangements for the starters, sides, mains, and desserts, we don't just plan for the food and drink, but to make much of Jesus at the culminating point. The night before, or morning of, perhaps the man/woman of the house gives a few moments reflection to what words will be spoken before a prayer of blessing for this wonderful meal, remembering what we are celebrating. Also planning with Christ at the center may mean having an open door, and extending invitations, to uncomfortable people. True feasting is not about being socially comfortable, but having the heart of Jesus to ask, "Who should we invite to dinner?" "When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (Luke 14:13)

With invitations in place and preparations made, it's time to gather around the table. Have someone lead by expressing the purpose of the feast, whether it's to express universal gratitude to God, or celebrate God's sending his Son to save us (Christmas), or his resurrection from the dead (Easter), or thanking God for someone's life (birthday) or marriage or (anniversaries). This should be fittingly formal or informal, depending on the context, the size of the gathering, and the culture of the family or group.

And it does not need to be a speech. Keep it short, but clear. Perhaps a text of Scripture read or recited to join hearts and hungry tummies together, accompanied by a heartfelt word about this occasion and its spiritual purpose.

This is the moment when the grace of Christ is made most explicit. This word (along with the prayer) moves the feast from mere eating and drinking to doing so "to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31)

and for the strengthening of our souls, not just feeding of our stomachs.

Then we eat, receiving the food, and fellowship, with thanksgiving. Don't feel the burden to keep Christ ceaselessly in your consciousness, such that you don't enjoy the tastes and engage with the company.

God made us finite, for rhythms of life, for moments when we intently focus on God (in the word and prayer), and other moments where our conscious focus is eating, drinking, and other people, even as God remains in our field of vision, and is the explicit recipient of our thanksgiving.

Gail.



Christingle Services

Hello there

I just wanted to write and say how wonderful it was to see so many people, young and old, at our Christingle Services on Christmas Eve.

A wonderful team of folks got together on Saturday 23rd December and got stuck in making 300 Christingles, are you good at maths? Well we had 300 oranges each needing 4 cocktail sticks, so how many cocktail sticks did we have to load with raisins and marshmallows?

Yes 1200 in total, that was a lot of raisins and marshmallows, but we all had great fun (and managed to munch a few marshmallows too!

Many thanks to all those who came and helped out, it certainly was a case of many hands make light work.

Then of course we came to the two services, both services were really well attended with lots of children with their parents. We were able to build the nativity scene with the children bringing up the figures and we sang carols and learned about the Children's Society and it's excellent work.

Well I would like to say another big thank you to everyone who came and joined in, as well as giving generously to the collection, I paid in £304.69 to the bank which all goes towards the work of the Children's Society.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that adding this amount to what you gave so generously in your collection boxes realises over £1000 mostly in small change which is wonderful and proves that we CAN make a difference.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Dawn

Christmas Fair in Pictures



The Café—always a favourite.



Teddies and Chocolate—What's not to like?

The Narrow Door

Luke 13: 22-30

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

A narrow door? What is Jesus taking about? I always thought the door to heaven would be very big! Not until I really thought about it did I begin to understand or let's say I think I do....

I like to compare it with what we see on the TV when Harrods or any big department store have a sale - the doors seem big until you try and get lots of people through them all together. We need patience. God will open the door for us when he is ready. Let us try and live our lives as God wants us to - by his laws. Try and give thanks for all the wonders he has given us here; if we live our lives according to Gods will, we will not be one of those whom he will turn away. We will be welcomed into his kingdom with open arms. Remember we are here to serve each other - let us not rush to be one of the first to try and beat down the door!

For he says those who are last, will be first and those who are first will be last. Jesus is telling us it is best to serve and

let other go before us. Let us not get crushed in the rush to get through the door. If we stand back we will see it is big enough to let us all through when the time is right.

If we live our lives in our love for God, we will not be the ones hearing the weeping and gnashing of teeth. We will be able to take our places at the feast in God's Kingdom.

Gail



Are you up for a challenge?

Did you make any resolutions this year? Have you kept any up? Well whether you did or didn't I wonder if you are up for a challenge this Lent?

This is not something you have to do, however, it may help you focus, if you fancy it?

How would you like to read the whole of the New Testament? Think you don't have time, well, you'll never know unless you make a start. It is something I am hoping to do.

The Bible Society provided a 40 day listening plan and it is broken down with so many chapters per day, it suggests if you have the facility that you can listen to a reading of the bible it would take approximately 28 minutes per day, that might be over a nice cup of coffee, or perhaps a cup of tea (or maybe something a little stronger) once the kiddies are tucked up in bed! (40 days is Valentine's Day to Easter Saturday excluding Sundays).

Well here goes, let's see how we get on...

Day 1 Matthew Chapters 1 – 7
- 28

Day 2 Matthew Chapters 8 – 12
Chapters 1 - 8

Day 3 Matthew Chapters 13 – 18
Chapters 9 - 16

Day 4 Matthew Chapters 19 – 24
Chapters 1 - 9

Day 5 Matthew Chapters 25 - 28
Chapters 10 - 16

Day 6 Mark Chapters 1 – 6
Chapters 1 - 10

Day 7 Mark Chapters 7 - 11
Chapters 11 - 13

Day 8 Mark Chapters 12 - 16

Day 9 Luke Chapters 1 – 4

Day 23 Acts Chapters 23

Day 24 Romans

Day 25 Romans

Day 26 I Corinthians

Day 27 I Corinthians

Day 28 II Corinthians

Day 29 II Corinthians

Galatians (All)

Day 30 Ephesians

(All) & Philippians Chapter 1

Day 10 Luke Chapters 5 – 8
– 4 & Colossians (All)

Day 11 Luke Chapters 9 – 11
(All) II Thessalonians (All)

Day 12 Luke Chapters 12 – 16
1 - 3

Day 13 Luke Chapters 17 – 20
Chapters 4 – 6, II Timothy (All) &

Day 14 Luke Chapters 21 – 24

Day 15 John Chapters 1 – 6

Day 16 John Chapters 7 – 11
Chapters 9 - 13

Day 17 John Chapters 12 – 15
Peter Chapters 1 - 3

Day 18 John Chapters 16 – 21
Peter (All) & I John

Day 19 Acts 1 – 6

Day 20 Acts 7 – 11
– 5, II John (All), III John

Day 21 Acts Chapters 12 - 16
Revelation Chapters 1 – 5

Day 22 Acts Chapters 17 – 22
Chapters 6 – 14

Day 40 Revelation Chapters 15 - 22

Day 31 Philippians Ch 2

Day 32 I Thessalonians

& I Timothy Chapters

Day 33 I Timothy

Titus

Day 34 Philemon &
Hebrews Chapters 1 -
8

Day 35 Hebrews

Day 36 James (All) and I

Day 37 I Peter 4 – 5, II

Chapters 1 - 3

Day 38 I John Chapters 4

(All) & Jude (All) &

Day 39 Revelation

If you do manage to get through these 40 days, you will have achieved reading through the New Testament. It isn't Bible Study, just reading, but it may well help you, and hopefully may encourage you, once you have read through it, to perhaps look into a little more depth at some of the chapters or passages that have interested you. (Perhaps keep a notepad with you to jot down points of interest).

I'll update you with my progress in the March magazine, let's see how we get on.

With love and prayers

Dawn Tattersfield

Brian's Funny Bone

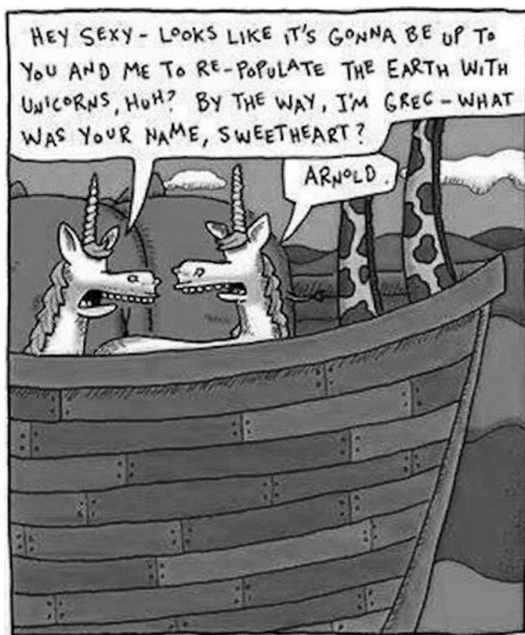
A man left for work one Friday afternoon. Instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend hunting with the boys and spending all his wages.

When he finally got home on Sunday night, he was confronted by his very angry wife.

After two hours, she stopped nagging and said: 'How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?' He replied: 'That would be fine with me.' Monday went by and he didn't see his wife. Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results.

Thursday, the swelling went down just enough for him to see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

I stopped at a friend's house the other day and found him stalking around with a fly-swatter. When I asked if he was getting any flies, he answered: 'Yeah, three males and two females.' Curious, I asked how he could tell the difference. He said: 'Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone.'



New Year Prayer 1

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.

Amen

New Year Prayer 2

May God make your year a happy one
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes
Not by making your path easy
But by making you sturdy to travel any path
Not by taking hardships from you
But by taking fear from your heart
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows
Not by making your life always pleasant
But by showing you when people and their causes need you
most
and by making you anxious to bethere to help
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

Amen

With thanks to Dawn (1) and Alice (2).

ALBERT'S 'ABC ANSWERS' QUIZ

(All answers begin with A, B or C)

1. Which actress has the same name as William Shakespeare's wife?
2. Is Indonesia a) an archipelago, b) an isthmus or c) a peninsula?
3. Which scientist's last words are unknown because his nurse couldn't speak German?
4. Which eye complaint, caused by an irregular shaped cornea, affects focus of the lens?
5. Which sea separates Italy and the Balkan Peninsula?
6. Kerry Katona was once a member of which all-girl group?
7. What was the name of the merchant in 'The Merchant of Venice'?
8. In 1966 which company introduced the Spider sports car?
9. Pete Best was a drummer with which group - a) Arctic Monkeys, b) Beatles or c) Cream?
10. Stella Artois beer originated in which country?
11. In which Olympic sport are beards forbidden?
12. Stanley Matthews played for which football team between 1947 and 1961?
13. What is the Japanese art of growing miniaturised plants?
14. 'I Don't Like Mondays' was a 1979 hit for which band?
15. Which English football league team has the shortest name? No abbreviations allowed!
16. Which German tennis player won the Wimbledon men's title 3 times in the 1980s?
17. Which country has the longest coast line?
18. The TV soap 'Hollyoaks' is set in which city?
19. Which British light heavyweight boxer retired in 2009 having won 46 consecutive fights?
20. Which body of water separates New Zealand's north and south islands?
21. Ryan Giggs has just been appointed manager of the Welsh football team to replace who?
22. The coriander is a member of which vegetable family?
23. Which was the third country, after the USA and Russia, to send a person into space?
24. Film star Clint Eastwood was once mayor of which Californian town?

Answers on Page 36

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

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

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

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

Sandra



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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.

Kelly's Eye

Thankyou (I think)

Thankyou for your Portrait
I think it's very nice
I've put it in the attic
To scare away the mice!

Something for Dessert...

A couple are in a restaurant when suddenly the man slides off his chair and under the table. Noticing this, a waitress approaches the woman.

'Excuse me Madam', she whispers, 'I think your husband just slid under the table.'

'No', the woman replies frostily, 'my husband just walked in the door'.

Mrs McDougall is being re-housed

A pensioner's flat - all shining and new,
six storeys high & a beautiful view.
A snug living room, one bedroom for me;
it's cosy & warm. The family agree -
This house is too big for me now I am old,
expensive & draughty & bitterly cold.
But, oh, what a heartbreak to leave it behind,
The neighbours all know me - they're friendly & kind.
All my most precious memories are there -
When I sit at the fire in my shabby, old chair,
I hear distant echoes of children at play,
The voice of my man at the end of the day.
The carpet is worn at that spot on the floor,
Where he turned round to smile as he entered the door.
I even remember the day that it came -
No, life in a new place just won't be the same.
The garden with roses he planted for me,
A lavender bush and an old apple tree.
His wee wooden shed at the end of the lawn,
completed the day little Sandy was born
Just think, gran, they say, what a new house would mean -
cheaper to heat and it's easier to clean.
Maybe I'll go, for they mean to be kind -
But they'll never know just what I'm leaving behind.

Alice

Poetry Corner

The Oxford Store

Come;
Come Agnus Dei
To Pilgrim come;
thou angel brighte
My footfall tires,
Pray make my tread
àmore élite.

Come visit me
'My Apples-Tun.'
To thee Bright star,
the Appl'd One ...
My soul must seem a ruinous
gate
To all by whom's perceptions be
That grace of fullest clearest
sight,
desirous be upon my state;

My Crown;
Engaged to thee
Eternally _

Where wand'rings rest,
This pilgrim's day on Peddar's
way,
thy sheep and lamb
Flocked journeys end
And thus
Process to Walsing-ham ...

To hear Confess,
Thy Hart's re-pare ...

Pray rest thee souls in
Fragranc'd Thymes,
as gather'd winds
drye Angel Air,
whilst pon the breeze
Thy Sage he Rhymes _
doth Scribe as thus:

Comes Christ;
tis Christmas day!

Blest seasons fest
let's fayre commands
With gladding ease,
His hands
As thus
Thy makers 'Will'
Doth well appease ...

And 'Leafs' his 'Token',
As 'Thee,
thyself .. .'
Lets days 'anew'

Revive.

John Sheridan - 2017

There is a pub in Walsingham called 'THE OXFORD STORE' - the Oxford Store is an ancient breed of sheep bred especially to feed and clothe large numbers of people during the late 19th century.

*The ruins of St Mary's Church on the Pilgrim Way which runs
through the Sandringham estate
photo by IAN RILEY*



The sunlight glinting through the far right window takes
on the appearance of an Angel.

Taken from Christian Arts Magazine

With kind permission Ian Riley

Noah's Ark Complaints Department



YOU ONLY
BROUGHT
TWO ANTS?

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Anne Hathaway. 2. Archipelago. 3. Albert Einstein. 4. Astigmatism. 5. Adriatic Sea.
6. Atomic Kitten. 7. Antonio. 8. Alfa Romeo. 9. Beatles. 10. Belgium. 11. Boxing. 12. Blackpool. 13. Bonsai. 14. Boomtown Rats. 15. Bury. 16. Boris Becker. 17. Canada. 18. Chester. 19. Calzaghe (Joe). 20. Cook Strait. 21. Chris Colman. 22. Carrot. 23. China. 24. Carmel.

Albert Shaw

Church Mouse Tales

There I was lounging in the old Organ loft, having a quiet moment and thinking to myself it's a bit of a 'in the middle' time of year. You know—not exactly winter but then again not really spring either. Someone has decided to remove all the straw from the altar—which would be fine—in another month or so. The snowdrops are out—but the daffodils haven't really got going. It's not an 'A' rated month you would have to say—more of a 'B' really. Today seemed especially to be a 'B' sort of a day. I was thinking this when I heard footsteps on the stairs.

It was my friend Hubert, the Black Canon. The top of his shiny head appearing first, followed by his rather red face as he negotiated the final step, not without some effort.

'I was wondering where you were,' he announced between breaths.

'Well I'm here, having a ponder'. I explained without moving from my comfy spot looking out over balcony into the church.

'What is it furrowing your brow this fine day?' he asked with a little smile.

'It's a 'B' day' I proffered casually.

'A Bidet? he asked quizzically.

'Yes', I agreed, 'definitely a 'B' day.'

'Well I hope you enjoy it'. He looked a little perplexed.

'That's the point', I replied, 'they aren't for enjoying. You just have to get on with it.'

'Well er yes, quite so.' He shuffled uncomfortably from one foot to the other. 'Alright for feet washing', he muttered.

'Well that would pass the time', I agreed, 'but not what I would call a 'B' day activity. I mean it wouldn't be number one on my list....maybe number two....'

Hubert's face had gone red again.

Misha.



Diary for the coming weeks

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

February

3rd Sat 9:30am Church & Churchyard Clean up

4th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion

12:30pm Holy Baptism

7th Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

11th Sun 10:30am All Age Service

12 Noon Holy Communion

12th Mon 7:30pm PCC Meeting

14th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion (Ash Wednesday)

15th Thur 11:00am Lydgate Lodge Holy Communion

18th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion

12:30pm Holy Baptism

21st Wed 10:00am Holy Communion

25th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion

12:30pm Holy Baptism

28th Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

March

3rd Sat 9:30am Church & Churchyard Clean up

4th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion

12:30pm Holy Baptism

7th Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

11th Sun 10:30am All Age Service

12 Noon Holy Communion

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Farrell Joanie Tru Jeffers

Miles Henry Dilworth



DEATHS



We give thanks for the lives of:-

Michelle Louise Pringle

Edith Pirog

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



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
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Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

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What's on

Mothers' Union	3 rd Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm Becky Schofield 07811 146958
Girl Guides	Tuesday 7:30pm Vikki Springett 07841 513530
Toddler Group	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Rainbows	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393
Brownies	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
Keep Fit Class	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
Young at Heart	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Beavers	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm 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