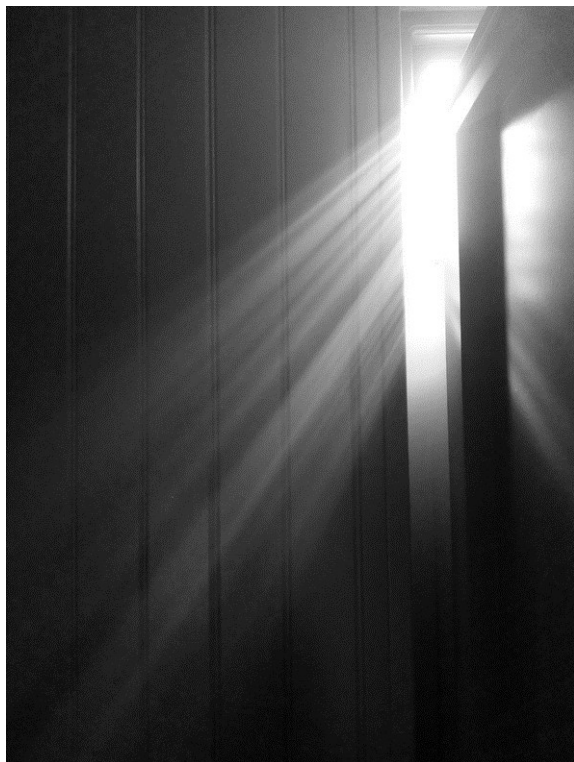


# Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

It's Family Fun Day 23rd June

**June 2018**



## ***This Month:***

*Memory Café opens; Clear Messages;  
Bible Messages; Messages from afar.*

[www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)

# Who's who at Woodkirk

**Vicar of St Mary's:** **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**  
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01924 472375  
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Gail Townsend 0113 2528710

**Lay Pastoral Minister  
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**Deputy churchwardens:** Gary Mortimer  
David Townsend  
Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

**Verger:** Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

**Organist:** Samantha Marks

**PCC Secretary:** Dawn Tattersfield

**PCC Treasurer** Barbara Tate

**Social Chairman:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

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**Child Protection Officer:** Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

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**Electoral Roll Officer:** Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

**Data Protection  
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Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.  
Mobile: 07745 301746  
Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet  
by Thursday evening please.

**Deanery Synod reps:** Brian Gledhill & Gary Mortimer

## **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,  
Charlotte Sykes, Pernoe Liburd.

If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 60p 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](http://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](https://twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk)

### **Wheelchair Access**

A wheelchair is available to help people move easily between the church and Dewsbury Road. Just ask.

*It is better to be hated for what  
you are than to be loved for what  
you are not. Andre Gide*

## Letter from America

*Revd Sharon reflects on a different landscape...*

Welcome to Spring and Summer, at least for a few days. The weather has been wonderful these past few days, and I understand it has been good for the last two or three weeks. I, on the other hand, have been to stay with a friend in Marana, Arizona where the weather is quite different – daily it has been between 94-104 degrees Fahrenheit! Far too hot to work or for me to be out in the midday sun!

It is always good to be back home and the things you notice. Firstly, the bright green of our grass compared to the dusty desert, secondly the abundance of growth in the churchyard, compared to the fragile balance of life in the desert, thirdly the business and noise of family life and church life compared to the quiet solitude of being on holiday.

It is true that as human beings we encompass life in all its forms, and often we can have too much of one (business and nosiness) or too much of the other (quiet and solitude). How do we strike a balance so that we can slow down and ponder the bigger questions in life? How do we notice that for some people the quiet and solitude is turning into loneliness?

I spent some of my time in Arizona building two raised flower beds – 28ft x 11ft – two layers of beautiful red brick, filled with fresh new soil. It was quite therapeutic working with family members to get them done over a period of three or four days – it was impossible to work once 11.00am was reached as it was simply too hot! There was a sprinkler system within these two flower beds which will enable my friend to be able to grow flowers in the desert. Without the preparation of the ground this would be impossible.

As I write this letter, it is Pentecost, where we recall and remember the gifting of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. This same Holy Spirit is given to Jesus' followers today and it is this Holy Spirit that guides us, prompts us, teaches us, challenges us and prepares us for God's work. It is given to us by God's grace, freely in order that we might always have an advocate with us. It is this Holy Spirit that makes it possible for us to change and to be transformed so that we can grow and without this preparation by the Holy Spirit this would be impossible.

As Christians we strive to have a balance in our lives where we give of ourselves to others and yet acknowledge the need to take time to be with our heavenly Father in prayer. This enables us and strengthens us.

Take a look at the people around you. Who are the ones that have too much quiet? And who are the ones who never sit still? Can you be that person who changes their lives? Can you visit or invite someone that is lonely for a cup of tea? Can you create a quiet space and invite someone for a meal who is too busy?

There is a God given beauty in all of our landscapes and there is a God given beauty in each of us. Sometimes we just need a little help.

Best wishes

Sharon

## Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café at St. Mary's.

In a joint venture with Syke Road Fish & Chip Shop a memory café is being set up at the church for those who are suffering or worried about memory loss..

The café will be open in church on the first and third Wednesday of the month for people who have been diagnosed with dementia and their carers.

The very first meeting will be on **June 6th from 1pm to 3pm** and is free. It offers the opportunity to meet others who are facing similar challenges and enjoy a cuppa and some cake.

## Belated Happy Birthday

It was Revd Sharon's birthday last month and she was not at the All Age service to sing happy birthday to.

So here is a sneaky picture of the cake her family and friends gave her on a recent trip back to Lancaster.

Many Happy returns from all at St. Mary's.



St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

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## **A Crisp, Clear Gospel Message**

For me, it all starts by communicating ten words, “Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.” This is the crisp and effective message that transforms lives and secures our eternal destiny. There is a power in this Gospel that is awesome. It is imperative that we are confident in the message we share and that we communicate it as clearly and simply as possible. As often explained, “The Bible is 66 books, but the Gospel is ten words—Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.” It is the reading of the Gospel that makes our sharing effective. In order to share the Gospel, it is crucial that we have a clear understanding ourselves.

We also need to have a heart to communicate the “good news” of Christ to others.

It’s been said that too many speakers are like Christopher Columbus. When he started out, he didn’t know where he was going. When he got there, he didn’t know where he was. When he got back, he did not know where he had been. If you understand what you are about to say, that will not be the situation. What is clear in your mind will become clear in theirs. To communicate and not just speak, you must understand that every Gospel message must tell those you speak to three things:

1. You are not alone
2. Christ died for you and rose again
3. You have to trust Christ

This way, they know that, God is the remedy, and their need—to trust Christ. When those three truths are objectively explained, you have communicated—not just spoken.

When talking to others make your point crisp and easy, make clear the Gospel message. Presenting your message in this fashion allows them to hear what God said first. God’s Word is alive. That’s why to take a particular text and explain it in a way that is powerful and relevant lends force to your message. However, not everyone you meet has a Bible with them or know where to find texts you are talking about. Carefully direct them

to the passage. Also remember they probably aren't familiar with many stories from the Bible.

Let them see your enthusiasm for the Savior. Enthusiasm is contagious. Get excited about the message God has given to you and what Christ did on the cross. If you are not enthusiastic about your Savior, they won't be interested in knowing Him.



As Christians we have a responsibility to show others the message and that Jesus Christ is for everyone—believers and unbelievers. God's job is to bring people to Christ. We can do our part and God will do the rest..

Gail

# Prayerful Thought "Sharing and Caring"

Hi there

As I write this article we have been able to share in the wedding celebrations of HRH Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and I was preparing a sermon to be preached for Pentecost, and it made me think about sharing.

## **Are you good at sharing?**

Sharing is something we learn as we grow up. As small children it can be difficult for us to accept that we should share, but hopefully, in the main, it is something we do, perhaps sometimes with poor grace, but we share nonetheless.

And as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, carers, important adults in the lives of young people, we can share our knowledge and experience, hopefully to teach and encourage.

The story of Pentecost, is told in Acts Chapter 2;

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."*

And it reminds us about the importance of sharing. Just think about that Pentecost for a moment...

Jesus had gone back to Heaven to be with God, He had promised the disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. At this time the disciples were waiting, they were all together, probably wondering what this 'Holy Spirit' was, was it a person, a ghost, and Angel?

They probably weren't expecting a strong wind and a tongue of flame, let alone, suddenly the ability to be able to speak to different people in their own languages, but that was what



happened.

The story goes on and tells us that some people thought the disciples were drunk, and Peter shouts to them and says no, were not drunk it's only 9 o'clock in the morning! and then goes on and refers to a prophecy in the book of Joel which talks of this event;

*"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."*

But of course it doesn't stop there does it? Because what happens next is that the disciples go out and share their knowledge and love of Jesus and so starts the Church. If those disciples had not travelled and shared the stories of Jesus we would not know the love of God in our lives, we would not know about the wonderful stories of Jesus.

I'd never really thought about it before, but whilst we share our love with our families and friends, sometimes in our society, it is difficult to share knowledge. There was the old saying "knowledge is power" and in business and work knowledge and the protection of knowledge enables people to have an 'edge', they don't want to share too much of what they know for fear that someone else may be able to use that knowledge and be better than them.

Thankfully the disciples had been taught well by Jesus and recognised the importance of sharing their knowledge wherever they went, not always an easy task when there were many different cultures and faiths. But they persevered and today, we are able to live a Christian life and worship freely in our church because the knowledge and love of God has been shared by our own ancestors down the ages to us, and because clergy have come through the centuries to lead and guide us at St Mary's.

So what does this mean for us? Well we must do our bit, it is up to us, young or old, to share the knowledge and love of Jesus

with our families and friends. I don't think many of us will have to speak in different languages in order to do that, however, we may need to tell the stories in a different way. You wouldn't expect to be able to talk to someone of your own age in the same way as you would your grandchild.

But it is the task Jesus has left each and every one of us, to learn about God and share that knowledge with others, and to share the love God gives us freely, with those we come into contact with.

I'm not talking deep and meaningful theological discussion here, although if you can then by all means... but just being helpful and friendly, smiling when you go out and meet other people, being kind and helpful, even if you don't always feel like it.

Jesus knew that he had to die on a cross for the sins of mankind and yet he never shouted at them or hated them for it, he continued to love them right up to the end, surely we can be kind and friendly to those with whom we come into contact.

Remember, Pentecost was about sharing the knowledge and love of God, the disciples did it, your parents or grandparents did it, and you can do it too, just remember to share.

I'll leave you with this little poem which might help you start your sharing...

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile then I realised it's worth,  
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!!

Love and smiles  
Dawn Tattersfield.

## GEORGE & JEMIMA TAKE THEIR PICK

Both pop up

George. Hi Jemima, what wonderful things have you got planned for today?

Jemima. Oh hello George, nothing planned as such, more like a worrying day for me.

George. YOU worry? YOU the great Jemima has worries? What on earth have you got to worry about?

Jemima. Well, I've got to do a project for school and I don't know how to go about it.

George. What project?

Jemima. I have to go pick a plant or some flowers or something and I have to pick two friends to help me, and I'm stuck with who to pick. I don't want to upset anyone who I don't pick, if you know what I mean.

George. Aw come on Jemima, it can't be that bad, just pick two favourites and don't worry about the rest of 'em, because mark my words, you won't be anybody's favourite anyway.

Jemima. Oh thank you very much George, that's not very nice.

George. Aw come on Jemima, ya know I'm only kidding, in fact, you would be my favourite all the time.

Jemima. Oh thank you George, thank you, thank you, thank you. THANK YOU.

George. OK, OK, don't get carried away.

Jemima. GEOOOORRRGGE!

George. WHAAAAAT!

Jemima. So if I'm your favourite, you will do anything for me, YES?

George. Well, I suppose so, we do get on very well together.

Jemima. YES we do George, we get on very, very well. So if I asked you to do something for me, will you?

George. Aw go on then, what can I do for you?

Jemima. Be one of my picks to help me pick a flower, pretty please, pretty please, go on, go on, go on George, pretty, pretty, pretty please. (snuggling up to George)

George. (Jumping back) WHAAAAAT! Me, pick flowers? Me? I'd rather pick my nose than pick flowers. In fact

I'd rather pick YOUR nose than pick flowers.

Jemima. (really upset) Thanks again George, now I'm more upset & worried than ever.

George. Well, Jemima, think about it. You asking me to pick flowers is like me picking you to play in goal for Leeds United. Ya wouldn't do it would ya?

Jemima. Oh, I don't know, I would probably save more goals than that idiot that's in goal for them now, ha ha.

George. Yeh you probably might, but ya know what I mean don't you?

Jemima. I suppose so. I'll just have to make the choices myself.

George. Yeh, that's the spirit. Go Jemima. Go Jemima rah rah rah. Sorry, got carried away.

Jemima. It's not just about picking a plant or a flower though is it George?

George. (frustrated) Why, what's up now?

Jemima. Well George, think about it. I'm going to plant my little flower outside.

George. I thought I was your little flower.

Jemima. Shut up George, I'm really worried about it.

George. Oh, here we go again. What's to worry about now?

Jemima. I've been thinking about all the things that could go wrong.

George. I know I may regret asking this, but what on earth could go wrong?

Jemima. It might not get enough water, or maybe it will get too much water. And it needs sunlight too, but not too much sun, or it will dry out. Then there's the soil to worry about too. What if the soil doesn't have the stuff the plant needs. I'll have to find the right food for the plant, but I have to be sure not to give it too much food because that could hurt it too. Even if I get all this water and sunlight and the food right, it could still be eaten by a rabbit or a squirrel or dug up by a dog or something. I really want to keep it inside, but if I do, it can't really grow and be happy and no one will be able to enjoy it. (sniff, sniff, blubber, blubber)

George. Blimey Jemima, all that trouble over a plant. Why don't you just have a baby instead, it would be a lot less bother.

Jemima. (still sobbing) I'm sorry George.

George. Right. Settle down Jemima and stop blubbing. Let me tell you a story. I think today's Gospel Story may help. In the gospel story we hear Jesus praying for his friends right before he is arrested, right before Good Friday and Easter. Jesus is asking God to look after his friends after he is crucified. Jesus knows that they will be in danger because of what they know about him and God and that the danger will be greater if they tell all the people about him. But Jesus knows that for them to be happy they have to tell the story. Jesus knows that his friends will only be able to share the amazing gifts of God if he lets them go out into the world. Just like your little plant Jemima, if you keep it inside it might be safer, but it won't grow for people to enjoy. So put it outside into the world too, to share Jesus story with others and to love everyone the way that God loves us. It's a hard thing to do, but we know that God is watching over us and loves us.

Jemima. Oh WOW, WOW, WOW George, very good. It's usually me who does the serious stuff.

George. (In Tommy Cooper voice) Thank you very much.

Jemima. GEEEOORRGE!

George. WHAAAAAT!

Jemima. Ya know you've always been my best friend.

George. YEEEESSSSSS!

Jemima. Will you help me pick a plant then?

George. OK then, but you're in goal tomorrow.

Both. Bye bye everybody, bye bye.

## READING THE BIBLE

Most of my life, I have approached the Bible informationally, not relationally. When I approach the Bible informationally, my goal is to elevate my knowledge. But when I approach the Bible relationally, my goal is to elevate my affection and love for God. Growing in knowledge is important, but knowledge without relationship is dangerous. That was one of the big issues Jesus had with the Pharisees. They had biblical knowledge but their heart was far from God.

In recent years, when I sit down with my Bible, I try to remind myself that this is not just a book with great truth and accurate information. Behind the book, is a personal God. I am meeting with the God of the universe, not just reading a book. And he wants a relationship with me, which makes the Bible different than any other book ever written.

Hebrews 4:12 ) says

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

The Word of God is alive and powerful because God is at work in it and through it. He energises His Word and applies it to my life.

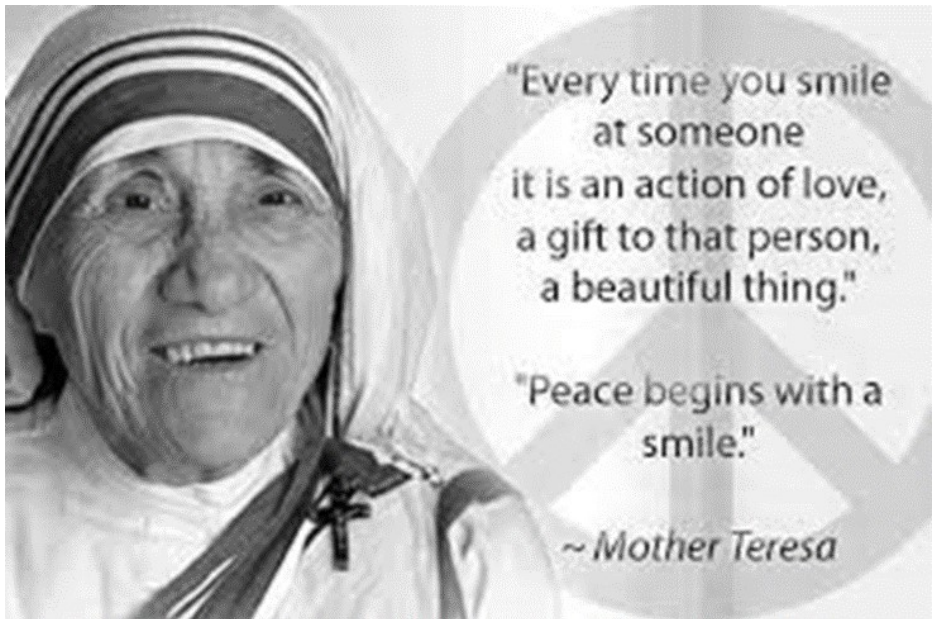
So, before I start reading Scripture, I usually start with a simple prayer... "Lord, today I want to meet with you and I want to deepen my relationship with you. So, speak to me. I am listening." I am reminding myself to read the bible relationally, not just informationally. The irony is that I can come to the Bible looking for truth and actually be disconnected relationally from the truth-giver.

There is an old story about a group of at a dinner gathering. At the dinner was a well known priest. That night he was asked to recite the 23rd Psalm. He masterfully recited that most well known of Psalms and everyone in the room was impressed. There was also an older priest there that night and someone asked him if he would also recite the 23rd Psalm. But instead of the people being impressed, they were moved. Afterward, someone commented, the first priest knew the Psalm and the older priest knew the shepherd.

That's how I want to read the Bible. So, I to pursue a love relationship with God. I suspect there are some of us who need to return to our love for Jesus. We need to be reminded that our first priority is the Great Commandment love the lord they God with all your heart.

A minister once asked Mother Teresa how to best live out his calling... "spend one hour a day in adoration of your Lord and never do anything you know is wrong, and you will be all right." This month may we all grow in adoration of the Lord Jesus.

Gail



## Brian's Point of View

After re-pointing a large part of the East Wall of the Church last year, Brian has continued now further along the Vestry outside wall replacing the incorrect mortar with the right stuff. This is long painstaking work and requires the right skills to complete to a high standard. Luckily Brian has these skills in abundance and is well on with the work, saving a fortune in the process.

Here is Brian at the vestry wall.....pointing.....





# St Mary's, Woodkirk Reading Group

**Join us for informal discussion and  
reflection of chapters of our chosen book!**



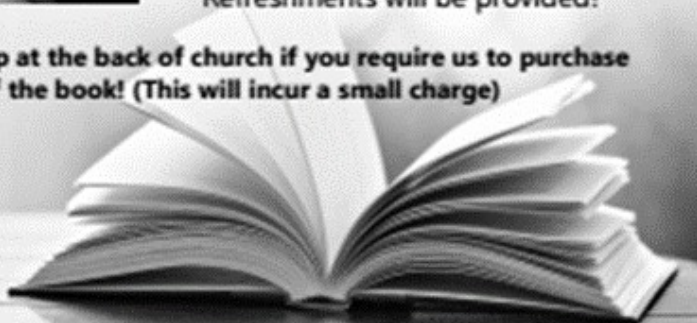
We will meet every Wednesday  
at 11am (after 10am service)

Beginning on  
**Wednesday 13th June.**

Our first book will be  
**Oriel's Diary:**  
**An Archangel's Account of**  
**Life of Jesus**  
By Robert Harrison

Refreshments will be provided!

**Please sign up at the back of church if you require us to purchase  
you a copy of the book! (This will incur a small charge)**



## Christian Aid Appeal

### Sponsored Walk

On Friday 18th May at 9.30 am Dawn set off on a 4.5 mile circular walk from church heading across the field to Hey Beck Lane then up past Hill Top School, where she was joined by hubby David, then onto Haigh Moor Road to Ardsley Reservoir where she was then joined by Rev Sharon, Lizzy and 2 canine companions, Taylo and Rosie for a circuit of the Reservoir. She then carried on down Rosedale onto the footpath through Haigh Wood coming out at the British Oak, along Westerton Road along Church Lane down ABC steps and back to church.

See the pictures opposite.

It took just over an hour and a half.

Dawn was welcomed back to church by friends who had gathered at a coffee morning raising money for Christian Aid.

Dawn and Sally wish to thank everyone who has supported their Christian Aid efforts this year which have helped us raise over £250.

Thank you so much.

Sally and Dawn

Dawn is now doing a swimming challenge to raise monies for Guide Dogs. She has pledged to swim 100 lengths and hopes to do it over two-three days. The aim is to try and raise £100.



Dawn and  
Sally



Sharon, Rosie  
& Taylo



# The Paradox of Choice

Everywhere you go these days people are overloaded with, and sometimes paralyzed by, choices. Not only is the number increasing, but the speed at which choices are coming at us also is accelerating. We suffer from option overload. The average grocery store carries more than thirty thousand products. Scanning the shelves of my local supermarket recently, I found 85 different varieties of crackers. .

This option overload poignantly illustrates the increasing complexity of our world. It begs the question “in a world that is increasing in speed and complexity, how do we move toward simplicity”?

May be the first step on the road to simplicity is to get clear about who we are and who we are not. We must do the hard work of finding our identity only in Jesus and being true to how God uniquely designed us. Let me now share with you 2 additional steps on the road to simplicity.

## 1. Own your life

The first step to simplicity is responsibility. I need to “own” my life. I have to face the fact that the life I’m living is the result of the decisions I’ve made. Much of the complexity and clutter that exist in my life is because I have allowed them to be there. I know that we all face circumstances we don’t control, but we have more control than we are often willing to admit.

I love the words of Henry Cloud, “You are ridiculously in charge of your life”.

At least for me, the first step toward simplicity was taking full responsibility. I had to own my stuff and admit that when it comes to simplicity I am my own worst enemy. Most of the complexity and clutter was my own doing—saying yes to too many requests, not having healthy boundaries, not knowing my limits, and always trying to please everyone contributed to a cluttered life. I was not the victim, I was the perpetrator.

## 2. Identify the higher yes

Once you are clear about your purpose and your identity and what you value, you have to put a firewall around them. And one of the best practices is to learn to say “no”.

Part of our challenge is that we want to do it all. We can do almost anything we want, but we just can’t do everything we want.

Every “no” needs to be rooted in a higher “yes”. The higher “yes” is your purpose, your values, your calling and your talents. It’s the “must do” of your life.

When values you get clear, decisions get SIMPLE.

Let me share with you an equation for simplicity.

Clarity + Courage + Calendar = Simplicity

The order is important.

1. Clarity = what matters to you.

What are the things you really value? What are the “must do’s” of your life?

2. Courage = the resolve to make change.

Will you have the guts to move toward simplicity? Will you have for resolve and discipline to recalibrate your life around that which is most important? It takes courage to eliminate the nonessential.

Here are some questions to think through changes you might need to make:

- Where are you overextended?
- What are you spending time and energy on that’s not a core value or priority in your life?
- What are you doing simply because it is an expectation others have put on you?
- What step could you take that would bring greater simplicity to your life?
- What do you sense you need to stop doing?

3. Calendar = the discipline to execute.

This is where your values and priorities get operationalised.

Your calendar is far more than a tool to keep you organised and a way to get to meetings on time. It is a primary tool for helping you become who you want to become.

Your calendar can be a bit like a junk drawer. It can get filled with all sorts of random things that clutter your life

Those that I have seen get the most traction are those that have great clarity, great courage and resolve, and great discipline to execute the plan.

Gail

## ALBERT'S 'POT LUCK' QUIZ

1. Who did the Vicar of Dibley tell a joke to at the end of each episode?
2. Which is the 6th largest country in the world?
3. What fruit is contained in Banoffee Pie?
4. Which German Football Club's ground is called the Allianz Arena?
5. What colours appear on the Greek flag?
6. What is the capital city of Romania?
7. Which Football team is managed by Sean Dyche?
8. Troika pottery is a product of which county?
9. How many loaves did Jesus use to feed 5000 people?
10. What do the initials of author H.G. Wells stand for?
11. What is the capital city of Uganda?
12. What was Elvis Presley's first movie, in 1956?
13. In which country is the resort of Agadir?
14. Holly Valance found fame in which TV soap?
15. In which year was the Berlin Wall built?
16. What is the longest word in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
17. Which Mythical creature was said to rise from the ashes?
18. What was the nationality of composer Frederic Chopin?
19. What is the national airline of Australia?
20. What is the currency of Nepal?
21. Which European country produces the most olive oil?
22. What is the highest female singing voice?
23. Who had a hit with 'Brown eyed girl'?
24. Which city has a medieval street called 'The Shambles'?

Albert

Answers on Page 37

## Poetry Corner

As some of us start 'trolleyfalloloping' off on our summertime adventures, I thought I'd share this with you! Dawn x

### Holiday Journey

My granddad bought an Austin Seven, in thirty three or so,  
(The sort with starter handle that you turned to make it go),  
And once or twice, in summer, Dad would borrow it and we,  
Would take the car, and have an expedition to the sea.

It didn't have a boot, and so we always had to pack,  
The wherewithal to make the tea, in boxes in the back,  
And I and sister Sheila had to share the tiny seat,  
With food and cups and primus, on our laps and round our feet.

Then Mum in front, would put the towels and swimsuits on the floor,  
And Dad would hand the baby in, and firmly lock the door,  
A final check, a handle's turn and we would be away,  
Restricted but excited on our one day holiday.

Between the boxes we would peer at scenery passing by,  
Though the Austin Seven was very low, and hedges very high,  
The roads were very narrow then, and very soon you'd find us,  
With charabancs and motor cars, all queuing up behind us.

For though Dad drove it very well, with so much in the car,  
Its maximum was only about thirty miles an hour,  
We'd have to keep on pulling in, to let the queues go past,  
But in spite of all the hold-ups we'd reach Scarborough at last.

And there we'd spend a simple and most pleasurable day,  
Till at last the time would come, when we'd pack everything away,  
And again the Austin Seven would go trundling down the road,  
Holding up streams of traffic, with its cramped and sleepy load.

But while modern children travel far by Eurostar and plane.  
To Turkey or to Italy, to the Greek Islands or to Spain,  
And future kids may holiday to Jupiter or Mars,  
They'll never have a journey, as enjoyable as ours.

## THE LIFE OF DAVID

We discover that the life of David occurs in the midst of a quest Israel was on to find a king. Israel yearned for a king who could give them stability, guarantee their prosperity, and ensure their security.

Saul seemed like the perfect choice for Israel. He was a good leader, charismatic and promised to provide Israel with everything they desired. In the end, of course, he bitterly disappointed them. The next king God gave to them was of a fundamentally different type. He was, literally, the last man in a room of seven brothers whom you'd choose to be king. He was small. Unimpressive. He smelled like sheep. But he had a mighty trust in God. David was God's choice to be Israel's king, because God was David's choice to be King.

Even David, however, would disappoint Israel, and bitterly. David's life ends as a string of tragic failures—an adulterous, murderous relationship with Bathsheba, severe parental failure with Absalom, and the blasphemous sin of counting of the people in opposition to God's instructions. In one of Israel's most crucial hours, David failed them as a husband, father, and leader.

David's life ends with 70,000 Israelites dying for *his* sin, with David wishing he could die in their place but unable to.

David's life, however, points us forward to another King who was coming—the Messiah—who was in some ways like David, but in many more ways *unlike* him. Unlike David, who sent innocent Uriah to die to cover up David's own sin, Jesus, the truly innocent one, would die for ours. Unlike David, who neglected Absalom his son when Absalom needed him most, Jesus would pursue us, His children, even when it cost Him His life. And unlike David, whose people had to die for his sin, Jesus would die for ours.

Jesus was the “truer and better David,” the real Hope of Israel.

The truth is that all of us, like Israel, are searching for some type of King. David's life shows us that all kings but Jesus will disappoint.

The main purpose of David's story, is to point us forward to the Messiah who is coming. Old Testament characters often gave signs and pictures of what the Messiah was like, but just as often showed us what He would be like in how they failed. He would do what they, being mere men and women, were never able to do.



Most approaches to David's life tell you, "Do you want to be a man after God's own heart? Then be humble like David. Be courageous against your giants like David was against Goliath. Forgive your enemies like David forgave Saul. If you do these things, God will feel about you like He did about David."

David certainly is, in some ways, worthy of our emulation. Yet he failed in some of the most important ways.

Jesus, the Messiah, is the hero in David's story. He succeeded where David failed. And He gave His perfect life for us so that when we fail we could be forgiven and accepted. God's favour is a gift that is given to us because of what Christ did for us, not what we are to do for God. That knowledge is what gives us real courage, real humility, and real generosity.

Interestingly, almost all of the Old Testament stories end like David's did—with a befuddling sense of disappointment. Moses, the Lawgiver, is not allowed to go into the Promised Land because he broke the laws of God. The Temple that Ezra builds is so second rate that people who remembered the first one wept when they saw it. David, Israel's greatest king, turns out to be a desperate sinner who can't even save himself, his family, or his people. At the end of his life he repeats all of Israel's sins and laments his inability to save them.

The whole message of the Old Testament is that we need a Lawgiver who not only keeps the laws Himself but can redeem us when we break them; we need a Shepherd who will not abuse his sheep but die for them; we need a Father who will not neglect his children but will lay down his life for them; we need a King who will not use His people but serve them. *That* role can't be filled by Moses or Nehemiah or David; it's only filled by Jesus Christ. He is the King we are searching for. And that is good news for many of us who have lost our way and made a mess of our lives, because that means we can hope in His work on our behalf. He can rebuild our lives where we have destroyed them. He can give hope where we feel hopeless.

God is not looking for our perfect record; He is looking for us to receive the gift of salvation He provides. And that means that the same God that saved and used David is the God who can save and use us.

Gail

## Church Mouse Tales

One day last week I ventured toward the front door to have a look out.

'Don't go out there!' exclaimed my friend Hubert, the Black Canon.

I spun around quite a-fluster at his outburst.

'What on earth is the matter?' I asked, 'is the cat waiting to pounce?'

'No, no – it's worse that that I'm afraid – the payback team haven't been coming!'

'Oh, well er – that doesn't seem quite so bad', I wondered what all the fuss was about.

'You don't understand – it's a jungle out there', Hubert looked worried.

'I know, I know – modern society with all its excesses, too much booze, too much noise, too many parties.....'

'No, I mean....'

'It's Ok Hubert, I'm a mouse of the world – I'll be fine. See you in a while...'

'...but...'

I went out into the churchyard whistling a happy tune.

Some hours later I staggered back in.

'Where have you been?' asked Hubert 'I was getting worried.'

'I got hopelessly, completely lost,' I replied indignantly. 'Why didn't you tell me it's a jungle out there....?'

Misha x



## Guess Who?

See if you can guess who it is in the picture below?

A regular church goer—she still comes to church today.



I will print the answer next week—but only if someone gives me another picture to replace this one.....

David



# St Mary's Playgroup Woodkirk

Sessions are:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday  
9:30am - 12.00pm (term time)

Ofsted Registered: 320725

Enquiries: [stmarysplaygroup12@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmarysplaygroup12@hotmail.co.uk)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Woodkirk Brownies

It has been another busy year for the Woodkirk Brownies. We returned in September and enjoyed a recycled fashion show and made gadgets as part of our work towards the Designer badge. In the autumn term our new Brownies enjoyed a Promise night wearing their pyjamas, eating gingerbread and bringing their favourite teddy. We also enjoyed a Harry Potter night, an evening of remembrance with Revd. Sharon and worked on the Christmas Challenge badge.

Spring term saw a visit to the pantomime in Morley, a jewellery night and a Fairtrade evening. On March 1<sup>st</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Woodkirk Brownie unit turned 40! Unfortunately we were all snowed in so had to wait until the 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate with pop and cake! Sally happily came in and showed us the scrap book from past events and meetings.

This term we have been working on the Royal Wedding Challenge badge to celebrate the Wedding of Meghan and Prince Harry. Some of our brownies joined over 100 Brownies in Mirfield for Calderfest an afternoon of crafts and activities including, making coloured sugar dib dabs, flip flops, wild flower seed shakers, decorated pebbles and decorated water bottles. We will end the summer term with the Seasons badge.

This year our annually subscription bill came in at £834.00 this has resulted in us putting some activities on hold. I would really like to order a personalised badge to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday but we will need to look at fund raising for this.

If you would like to know more about girl guiding please go to the girl guiding website <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

Hannah Tombling

Leader

**QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. Alice 2. Australia 3. Banana 4. Bayern Munich 5. Blue & White 6. Bucharest 7. Burnley 8. Cornwall 9. Five 10. Herbert George 11. Kampala 12. Love me tender 13. Morocco 14. Neighbours 15. 1961 16. November 17. Phoenix 18. Polish 19. Qantas 20. Rupee 21. Spain 22. Soprano 23. Van Morrison 24. York

Albert

## Diary for the coming weeks

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

### June

1st Fri	1pm	Wedding
2nd Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
3rd Sun	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion with Archdeacon Paul</b>
5th Tue	12pm	Churches Together—Vicarage
6th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion.
	1:00pm	Forget me not Café (to 3pm)
9th Sat	3 pm	Wedding
10th Sun	10:30am	<b>All Age Service</b>
	12:00pm	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	5:00pm	Joint Café Service—Tingley Methodist
11th Mon	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in church
13th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion:
	11:00am	Book Club in Church
14th Thur	9:30am	Archdeacon's visitation
17th Sun	10:30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	12:30pm	<b>Baptism</b>
20th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion.
	11:00am	Book Club
	1:00pm	Forget me not Café (to 3pm)
21st Thur	11.00am	Lydgate Lodge—Holy Communion
23rd Sat	10-2pm	Family Fun Day
24th Sun	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	12:30pm	<b>Baptism</b>
27th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion
	11:00am	Book Club

### July

1st Sun	10:30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	12:30pm	<b>Baptism</b>
4th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion.
	11:00am	Book Club
	12:30pm	Forget me not Café (to 3pm)

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

No Baptisms in May



### DEATHS



We give thanks for the lives of:-

Doreen Gibson  
Ian Fenton  
Eileen Bolland

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

Faye Robinson  
Mark Chadwick



May...



The blessings of the Lord guide you,  
Protect you and be with you....  
On Easter and always!!

## **Parish Centre Rentals**

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

**evening.**

**Nominal Cost is £50 for**

**3 hours.**

**Contact: Sally Shaw**

**01924 475048 for more  
information.**

**Andrew Roper**

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**Contact: The Editor (see page 2)**

**Annual Fee for Advertising:**

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# BENNETT OF MORLEY

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### CONSULTANTS

**CHRISTINE BENNETT**  
**RACHEL STONES**

RESIDENCE  
3 HOLLY COURT  
TINGLEY

## What's on

<b>Mothers' Union</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month 2:00 pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
<b>Playgroup</b>	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm Becky Schofield 07811 146958
<b>Toddler Group</b>	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
<b>Rainbows</b>	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393
<b>Brownies</b>	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
<b>Keep Fit Class</b>	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
<b>Young at Heart</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
<b>Beavers</b>	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877
<b>Cubs</b>	Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm Marianne Ingham 07778 542302
<b>Scouts</b>	Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
<b>Explorer Scouts</b>	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: Revd. Sharon Wilkinson

01924 472375

### **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@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:gail@stmarywoodkirk.org)