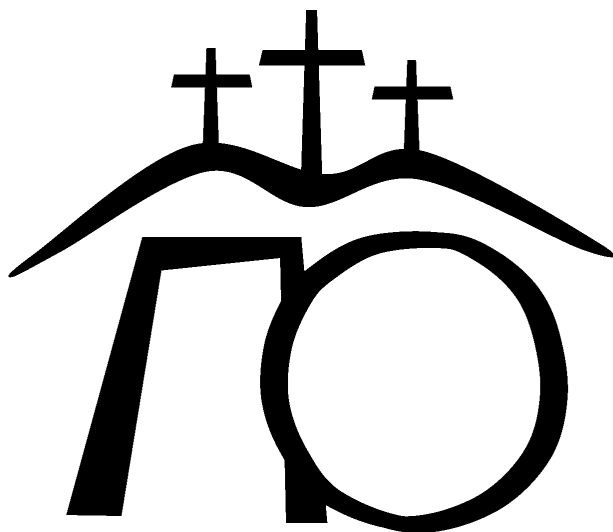


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

March 2018



www.stmarywoodkirk.org

This Month:

He is risen indeed!

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**
St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road,
Woodkirk, WF12. 7JL
01924 472375
E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
Gail Townsend 0113 2528710

**Lay Pastoral Minister
and Legacy Advisor.**

Churchwardens: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

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

Parish Centre Hire: Sally Shaw 01924 475048

Child Protection Officer: Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

Health & Safety Officer Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Electoral Roll Officer: Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

**Data Protection
and Legacy Officer** Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

**Magazine Editor &
Weekly News Sheet..** David Townsend 0113 2528710
Email: dave2408.townsend@gmail.com
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
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.

God proved His love on the Cross.
When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it
was God saying to the world,
'I love you.'
Billy Graham (RIP)
Billy Graham (RIP)

Vicar's Letter

March is here and the weather doesn't seem to be getting any better with freezing temperatures and snow showers expected. When I moved to St Mary's, I came from Lancashire and lived in a city called Lancaster. We never had snow very much and it always caused great excitement. I thought when I came here I would see snow everyday in the winter but alas that hasn't proved to be the case. Why do I still get excited about snow? Well it makes me feel like a kid again, it makes me see things differently, there is an eerie beauty in a snow covered field or graveyard and it also a challenge. How am I going to drive from a to b? How am I going to clear the church pathway to ensure everyone can safely walk into church?

This month is a busy month in church—it is Mothering Sunday on the 11th, a day when we get chance to show our appreciation for all those who have cared for us, looked after us and mentored us. On the 25th It is Palm Sunday when we remember Jesus entering into Jerusalem and the Palm branches being waved and strewn on the floor and of course it is Easter Week when we recall the events of the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, where Jesus first shared the bread and wine with His Disciples, the sadness of Good Friday when he laid down His life on the cross so that we may live, and the wonder of Easter Sunday when He is Risen!

Lent challenges us like the snow to see things anew, to look at our lives and be thankful for the blessings we have, and to work out the challenges of how we live our lives in the light of the Resurrection and the Risen Christ. And so we remember in each Eucharist the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup, we enter into the challenge of Good Friday, and we wait through the darkness and emptiness of Easter Saturday, until we see the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday when in awe and wonder we look afresh like little children at the mystery of the resurrection, a mystery of love, of life laid down by Jesus for each and everyone of us.

Take a look at our Holy Week Services (see pages 24/25) and consider whether you are able to take time out to attend the reflective services each evening, to ponder what our lives really mean, to ponder how we take up our cross and follow Jesus so that we may live a risen life which gives us more freedom than we could ever imagine.

It doesn't come naturally to us as human beings, we don't think like Jesus did, we like the Jesus who heals, who feeds, who saves, but we don't care much for the Jesus who suffers, for the Jesus who doesn't answer our questions, or doesn't heal our loved ones.

The way of Christ, self-denial, reminds us that our life is not our own. It belongs to God. It reminds us that we are not in control, God is. Our life is not about us. It is about God. There is great freedom in knowing these things. We are free to be fully alive. As long as we believe our life is about us we will continue to exercise power over others, try to save ourselves, and control our circumstances. Self denial is not about being out of control or powerless. It is about the choices we make.

Jesus chose to give in a world that takes, to love in a world that hates, to heal in a world that injures, to give life in a world that kills. He offered mercy when others sought vengeance forgiveness when others condemned, and compassion when others were indifferent. He trusted God's abundance when others said there was not enough. With each choice he denied himself and showed God was present. Jesus expects nothing less from his those who would follow him.

At some point those kind of choices will catch the attention of and offend those who live and profit by power, control and looking out for number one. They will not deny themselves. They will respond. Jesus said they would. He knew that he would be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes. It happens in every age for those who choose the path of self denial. When it happened for Jesus he made one last choice. He chose resurrection over survival.

"If any want to become my followers let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"

Revd. Sharon.

Prayerful Thought

I was inspired for this month's prayerful thought, by Pastor Jeremy from his sermon to us on the 4th February.

Pastor Jeremy talked about "WHY ME?" and for his scripture directed us to Romans Chapter 8 verse 28 which is;

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Pastor Jeremy talked about instances where he had thought 'Why me' and he talked to us about this, and really rather than being a negative, he asked us to consider this as a positive thing.

Pastor Jeremy went on to explain and used this sum to make the point;

If you take $-1+2-3+4-5+6-7+8-9+10$ the final total is $+5$

the point is, within that sum there are 5 minuses or negatives, and yet the final outcome is a plus, we have a positive ending but we have had to experience some negatives along the way.

The passage in Romans does not mean that those who love God will not suffer problems or tragedies in their lives but they will all work together to give a positive end.

It seemed appropriate to talk about this in the March magazine as Palm Sunday, when we will experience all that joy and positivity, followed by perhaps the most negative of negatives, minus of minuses as we remember Jesus being crucified on Good Friday, followed by the exuberant joy and delight of Jesus rising again on

Easter Sunday all happen in March.

When you think about Jesus you see that he had pluses and minuses in his life and ministry, he was rejected by his own townspeople, and yet he was followed by many thousands who wanted to see him and hear him speak, he was supported through his ministry by his disciples, but yet at the end, they all ran away or denied him. Jesus knew the sadness of death with the murder of John the Baptist, but then brought his friend Lazarus back from the dead.

I think all of us at some time, perhaps many years ago, perhaps recently, or even possibly right now, may be sat there reading this and thinking "God, WHY ME?".

Now if you are going through a bad time at the moment you may not feel like there is anything positive going to come out of your present situation, but again something Pastor Jeremy said resonated with me, he said " My present experience doesn't alone determine my final outcome of good" and I hope that gives you some hope in your present trouble, and I pray that the love of Jesus will support you through whatever difficulty you may be dealing with.

I would like to leave you with the summary Pastor Jeremy used and hope that you may remember it when negatives come along; he said that "it doesn't matter what we are going through now, if we live according to God's purpose we will receive a positive result, all will work out for good."

This Easter time my prayer for you is that you will receive that positive result according to God's purpose in your life.

Love and prayers
Dawn Tattersfield.



Fair Trade provides...

Thank you so much for those of you who were able to support our Fair Trade Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th February.

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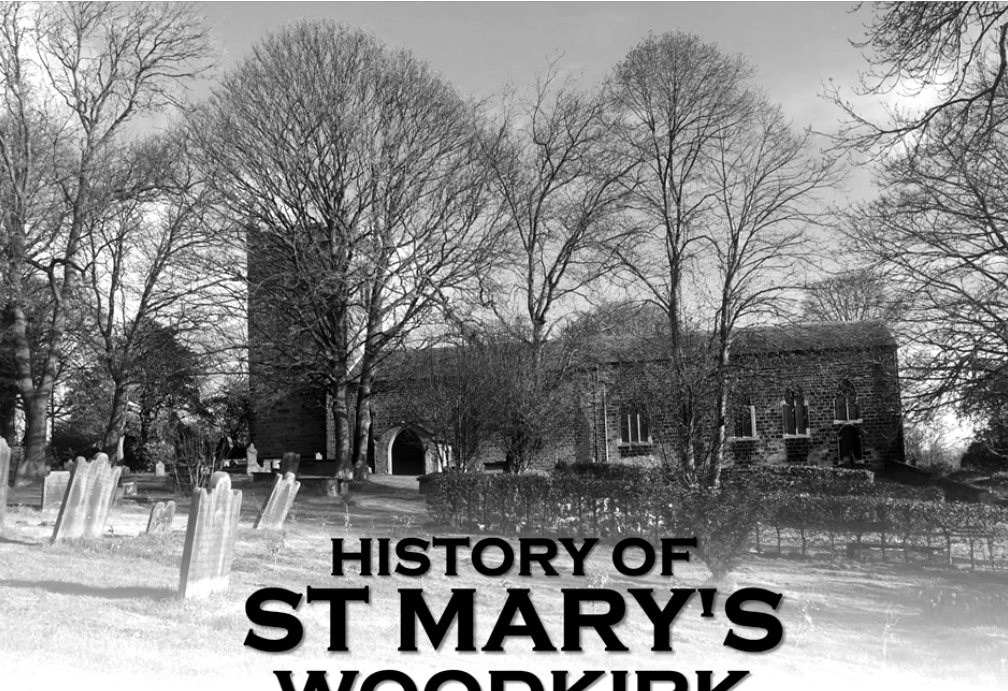
We raised a brilliant £105 and with this money we are purchasing 2 Goats, 2 lots of Chickens, a winter coat and 100 water purification tablets.

I wasn't sure what ethical gifts to get but felt goats for milk, chickens for eggs, a winter coat, self explanatory really, and the water purification tablets similarly. All these things, goats milk and cheese, eggs and chicken meat, a warm coat and clean water are readily available to us and in the main are possibly taken for granted, it therefore seemed appropriate to provide the monies for these gifts from our efforts.

My very grateful thanks to those who came, and also those who were unable to come but gave me donations. Best wishes.

Dawn Tattersfield





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MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther was a giant of history. Some believe he was the most significant European figure of the second millennium. He was the pioneer Reformer, the one God first used to spark a transformation of Christianity and the Western world. He was the undisputed leader of the German Reformation. In a day of ecclesiastical corruptions and apostasies, he was a valiant champion of the truth; his powerful preaching and pen helped to restore the pure gospel. More books have been written about him than any other man of history except Jesus Christ and possibly Augustine.

Luther came from hard-working stock. He was born in the little town of Eisleben, Germany, on November 10, 1483. His father, Hans, was a copper miner who eventually gained some wealth from a shared interest in mines, smelters, and other business ventures. His mother was pious but religiously superstitious. Luther was raised under the strict disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church and was groomed by his industrious father to be a successful lawyer. To this end, he pursued an education at Eisenach (1498-1501) and then at the University of Erfurt in philosophy. At the latter, he received a bachelor of arts degree in 1502 and a master of arts degree in 1505.

Luther's life took an unexpected turn in July 1505, when he was twenty-one. He was caught in a severe thunderstorm and knocked to the ground by a nearby lightning strike. Terrified, he cried out to the Catholic patroness of miners, "Help me, St. Anna, and I will become a monk." Luther survived the storm and made good on his dramatic vow. Two weeks later, he entered the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt. His father was furious over Luther's apparent wasted education, but Luther was determined to follow through on his vow.

In the monastery, Luther was driven to find acceptance with God through works. He wrote: "I tortured myself with prayer, fasting, vigils and freezing; the frost alone might have killed me. . . . What

else did I seek by doing this but God, who was supposed to note my strict observance of the monastic order and my austere life? I constantly walked in a dream and lived in real idolatry, for I did not believe in Christ: I regarded Him only as a severe and terrible Judge portrayed as seated on a rainbow." Elsewhere he recalled: "When I was a monk, I wearied myself greatly for almost fifteen years with the daily sacrifice, tortured myself with fastings, vigils, prayers, and other very rigorous works. I earnestly thought to acquire righteousness by my works."

In 1507, Luther was ordained to the priesthood. When he celebrated his first Mass, as he held the bread and cup for the first time, he was so awestruck at the thought of transubstantiation that he almost fainted. "I was utterly stupefied and terror-stricken," he confessed. "I thought to myself, 'Who am I that I should lift up mine eyes or raise my hands to the divine majesty? For I am dust and ashes and full of sin, and I am speaking to the living, eternal and true God'." Fear only compounded his personal struggle for acceptance with God.

In 1510, Luther was sent to Rome, where he witnessed the corruption of the Roman church. He climbed the Scala Sancta ("The Holy Stairs"), supposedly the same stairs Jesus ascended when He appeared before Pilate. According to fables, the steps had been moved from Jerusalem to Rome, and the priests claimed that God forgave sins for those who climbed the stairs on their knees. Luther did so, repeating the Lord's Prayer, kissing each step, and seeking peace with God. But when he reached the top step, he looked back and thought, "Who knows whether this is true?" He felt no closer to God.

Luther received his doctor of theology degree from the University of Wittenberg in 1512 and was named professor of Bible there. Remarkably, Luther kept this teaching position for the next thirty-four years, until his death in 1546. One question consumed him: How is a sinful man made right before a holy God?

In 1517, a Dominican itinerant named John Tetzel began to sell indulgences near Wittenberg with the offer of the forgiveness of sins. This crass practice had been inaugurated during the Crusades to raise money for the church. Commoners could purchase from the church a letter that allegedly freed a dead loved one from purgatory. Rome profited enormously from this sham. In this case, the proceeds were intended to help Pope Leo X pay for a new St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

This horrible abuse enraged Luther. He determined that there must be a public debate on the matter. On October 31, 1517, he nailed a list of Ninety-five Theses regarding indulgences to the front door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Nailing such theses to the church door was a common practice in the scholarly debates of the time. Luther hoped to provoke calm discussion among the faculty, not a popular revolution. But a copy fell into the hands of a printer, who saw that the Ninety-five Theses were printed and spread throughout Germany and Europe in a few weeks. Luther became an overnight hero. With that, the Reformation essentially was born.

It is possible Luther was still not yet converted. In the midst of his spiritual struggles, Luther had become obsessed with Romans 1:17: "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." Luther had understood the righteousness of God to mean His active righteousness, His avenging justice by which He punishes sin. On those terms, he admitted that he hated the righteousness of God. But while sitting in the tower of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Luther meditated on this text and wrestled with its meaning. He writes:

Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God, and said, "As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the Decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!" Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience. Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place, most ardently desiring to know what St. Paul wanted. At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, "In it the righteousness

of God is revealed, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me. Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory. I also found in other terms an analogy, as, the work of God, that is, what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us strong, the wisdom of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.

The time of Luther's conversion is debated. Some think it took place as early as 1508, but Luther himself wrote that it happened in 1519, two years after he posted his Ninety-five Theses. More important is the reality of his conversion. Luther came to realize that salvation was a gift for the guilty, not a reward for the righteous. Man is not saved by his good works but by trusting the finished work of Christ. Thus, justification by faith alone became the central tenet of the Reformation.

Justification by faith alone clashed with Rome's teaching of justification by faith and works. Thus, the pope denounced Luther for preaching "dangerous doctrines" and summoned him to Rome. When Luther refused, he was called to Leipzig in 1519 for a public debate with John Eck, a leading Catholic theologian. In this dispute, Luther affirmed that a church council could err, a point that had been made by John Wycliffe and John Hus.

Luther went on to say that the authority of the pope was a recent contrivance. Such religious superstition, he exclaimed, opposed the Council of Nicaea and church history. Worse, it contradicted Scripture. By taking this stand, Luther irritated the major nerve of Rome—papal authority.

In the summer of 1520, the pope issued a bull, an edict sealed with a bulla, or red seal. The document began by saying: "Arise, O Lord, and judge Your cause. A wild boar has invaded Your vineyard." With these words, the pope was referring to Luther as an unrestrained animal causing havoc. Forty-one of Luther's teachings were deemed to be heretical, scandalous, or false.

With that, Luther had sixty days to repent or suffer excommunication. He responded by publicly burning the papal bull.

This was nothing short of open defiance. Thomas Lindsay writes, "It is scarcely possible for us in the twentieth century to imagine the thrill that went through Germany, and indeed through all Europe, when the news spread that a poor monk had burnt the Pope's Bull." But though he was hailed by many, Luther was a marked man in the eyes of the church.

In 1521, the young Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, summoned Luther to appear at the Diet of Worms in Worms, Germany, in order to officially recant. The renegade monk was shown his books on a table in full view. Then Luther was asked whether he would retract the teachings in the books. The next day, Luther replied with his now-famous words: "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen." These defiant words became a Reformation battle cry.

Charles V condemned Luther as a heretic and placed a hefty price on his head. When Luther left Worms, he had twenty-one days for safe passage to Wittenberg before the sentence fell. While he was en route, some of his supporters, fearing for his life, kidnapped him and took him to the Wartburg Castle. There, he was hidden from public sight for eight months. During this time of confinement, Luther began his translation of the Bible into German, the language of the commoners. Through this work, Reformation flames would spread even swifter.

On March 10, 1522, Luther explained the mounting success of the Reformation in a sermon. With strong confidence in God's Word, he declared: "I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept . . . the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything." Luther saw that God had used him as a mouthpiece for truth. The Reformation was founded not on him and his teachings, but on the unshakeable footing of Scripture alone.

In 1525, Luther married Katherine von Bora. This amazing woman was an escaped nun committed to the Reformation cause. The two repudiated their monastic vows in order to marry. Luther was forty-two and Katie was twenty-six. Their union produced six children. Luther had an extremely happy family life, which eased the demands of his ministry.

Till the end of his life, Luther maintained a heavy workload of lecturing, preaching, teaching, writing, and debating. This work for reform came at a high physical and emotional price. Each battle

extracted something from him and left him weaker. He soon became subject to illnesses. In 1537, he became so ill that his friends feared he would die. In 1541, he again became seriously ill, and this time he himself thought he would pass from this world. He recovered yet again, but he was plagued by various ailments throughout his final fourteen years. Among other illnesses, he suffered from gallstones and even lost sight in one eye.

In early 1546, Luther travelled to Eisleben, his hometown. He preached there and then travelled on to Mansfeld. Two brothers, the counts of Mansfeld, had asked him to arbitrate a family difference. Luther had the great satisfaction of seeing the two reconciled.

That evening, Luther fell ill. As the night passed, Luther's three sons—Jonas, Martin, and Paul—and some friends watched by his side. They pressed him: "Reverend father, do you stand by Christ and the doctrine you have preached?" The Reformer gave a distinct "yes" in reply. He died in the early hours of February 18, 1546, within sight of the font where he was baptized as an infant.

Luther's body was carried to Wittenberg as thousands of mourners lined the route and church bells tolled. Luther was buried in front of the pulpit in the Castle Church of Wittenberg, the very church where, twenty-nine years earlier, he had nailed his famous Ninety-five Theses to the door.

Upon his death, his wife, Katherine, wrote concerning his lasting influence and monumental impact upon Christendom: "

lasting influence and monumental impact upon Christendom: "For who would not be sad and afflicted at the loss of such a precious man as my dear lord was. He did great things not just for a city or a single land, but for the whole world." She was right. Luther's voice sounded throughout the European continent in his own day and has echoed around the world through the centuries since.

Gail

Enterprising Young Priest

An elderly priest, speaking to a younger priest, said: "It was a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued: "And you told me that adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n' roll gospel choir."

"Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest. "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But that flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n' Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof."

Brian

A man who was completely innocent,
offered himself as a sacrifice for the
good of others, including his enemies,
and became the ransom of the world.

It was a perfect act.

Mahatma Gandhi



Mothering Sunday

Sunday 11th March

ALL AGE WORSHIP	10.30am
HOLY COMMUNION	12 midday
<i>Flower for all those who care for you</i>	

Palm Sunday

Sunday 25th March

HOLY COMMUNION	10.30am
<i>Come and receive your palm crosses</i>	

HOLY WEEK

Monday 26th March

REFLECTIVE SERVICE	7.30pm
<i>A quiet service in Holy Week</i>	

Tuesday 26th March

STATIONS OF THE CROSS	7.30pm
<i>Follow Jesus' Journey to the Cross</i>	

Wednesday 27th March

REFLECTIVE SERVICE	7.30pm
<i>A quiet service in Holy Week</i>	

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 28th March

STRIPPING OF ALTAR/ WASHING OF HANDS

7.30pm

This will be followed by vigil at the Garden of Remembrance until 10pm

Good Friday

Friday 29th March

SOLEMN SERVICE

2pm

We stand at the foot of the cross

Easter Saturday

Saturday 30th March

CHILDREN'S EASTER ACTIVITY DAY 10am-2pm

*Come and join our Easter activity morning which includes crafts, fun and games for children aged 3-11 (under 5 **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult.) Snacks and lunch provided.*

EASTER VIGIL

8pm

We experience journeying from darkness to light.

Easter Sunday

Sunday 31st March

HOLY COMMUNION

10.30am

Alleluia, He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Hospitality.

What if I told you one thing would make an enormous impact on every relationship we have?

I know that sounds like an oversimplification, but it isn't.

All relationships that are healthy have many things in common. Truth, love, acceptance, boundaries. But there is something of a lost art in relationships that I think can bridge the gap between people, especially in a divided culture like ours. **Hospitality.**

Hospitality is the ability to welcome people, to be warm towards people you know and people you don't. Hospitality is also the opening of your heart and life towards other people. It is being friendly and generous to those around you.

Simple? Yes. Easy? Hardly.

I think sometimes this is a lost art in churches and among Christians, and I think that hospitality has the power to build a bridge for the gospel in our culture.

How? In our culture some people are wary of Christians. In fact, in some places it is odd to be invited over to someone's house for dinner. And in other places it is normal, but to some of us our houses are now our fortresses, where we rest at the end of a long week.

But this and the rise of social media have left so many of us lonely and isolated. That's the power of opening up your home and sharing a meal with someone. In fact, we should put hospitality as one of the five things we wanted our kids to know when they left our home and one of the five things we wanted to be true about our family.

We think it is not only a Christian value but a bedrock of healthy families and relationships.

Don't believe me? Then think about the people you love to be with? The houses you love to be in? The families you love to go to or went to as a kid. My guess is they were hospitable.

So what does it look like practically to be hospitable? The first is to decide you want to be and care to be. This will mean opening up your home and life to people. Being willing to serve them and invite them in. If you're an introvert, this might mean one or two people instead of a big group.

The second thing is to do it. Don't jump in and say you'll go from never inviting someone over to three times a week. Start small.

If you have kids, talk with them about it. Pray for the people you are having over. And this can be carried out at our church with hospitality reaching out into our community,

That's the third key, intentionality. You have to plan it and think through what it will mean in your life and what it will look like. Again, I think hospitality has the power to change the relationships we have. It is that powerful. The bible gives us some insight into hospitality shown though the ages:- During His public ministry, Jesus and His disciples depended entirely on the hospitality of others as they ministered from town to town (Matthew 10:9-10). Likewise, the early Christians also depended on and received hospitality from others (Acts 2:44-45; 28:7).

In fact, travelers in ancient times depended heavily on the hospitality of strangers as travelling could be dangerous and there were very few inns, and poor Christians could not afford to stay at them, anyway. This generous provision to strangers also included opening one's home for church services.

Hospitality was indeed a highly regarded virtue in ancient times, especially for Christian leaders (Titus 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:2). The writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forget to "entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). Indeed, in the book of Genesis we read of Abraham's humble and generous display of hospitality to three strangers. Wealthy and aged, Abraham could have called on one of his many servants to tend to the three unannounced visitors. Yet the hospitable and righteous Abraham generously gave them the best he had. And, as it turned out, he had entertained the Lord and two angels (Genesis 18:1-8).

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus discusses the hospitable behavior of those who will inherit the kingdom: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:34-36).

In these days we often don't think much about entertaining strangers, but hospitality is still an important part of Christian ministry (Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9). By serving others we serve Christ (Matthew 25:40) and we promote the spread of God's truth (3 John 5-8).

God Bless Gail

Singing in Worship

I don't know about you, but one of the many things I love about coming to Church is that it gives me a chance to sing. I love singing but rarely sing other than in Church.

This got me thinking about how important singing together is, not as a choir would sing but just as part of our joy and worship with God.

I was thinking about this a few weeks ago when I looked at and then enjoyed singing the particular hymns set for that service.

The one that got me started was in the purple hymn book and was number 134 Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise. My first observation in the book that I had was that I noticed it wasn't far from hymn 153 but this wasn't because I counted the numbers, it was because the pages with hymn 153 on them were all crinkly and when I looked I realised why, hymn number 153 is Jesus Christ is Risen Today, one we sing on Easter Day when we are often sprayed with water and this has led to pages getting wet and therefore being a bit crinkled!

Going back to the hymn we were singing, number 134, I then thought about the words...

Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes...

and yet...

Most blessed, most glorious, almighty, victorious,

Unresting, Unhasting, and silent as light...

t'is only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Sometimes I sing along and then there is such an impact when I really consider the words.

Later on in the service we sang hymn number 4 in the purple book, which if you look at it, is All creatures of our God and King, which I hadn't remembered singing for quite a while. And again when you look at the words, they really are powerful...

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam...
Thou rushing wind that art so strong, the clouds that sail in heaven
along...

Thou rushing water pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear...

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others take your part...

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on Him cast your care...

Whether you are a good singer or not, and I know we have some wonderful singers in Church as being at the front, you can really appreci-

ate the voices as they come down the nave, I think God encouraged the early Church to use music. You can say so much in the words of a song, and even tough things like the death of Jesus at Easter can be remembered in song.

I attended a funeral quite a few years ago of a work colleague who was only in their 50's when they suffered a heart attack. This was my first experience of a humanist funeral and whilst it was different, music was still used effectively to celebrate the life of my colleague. No it wasn't hymns, but it was songs that meant something to him.

Some hymns conjure up certain images, some we hear a lot at funerals or weddings, then we have seasonal hymns in Church, Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc, some will resonate with us more so than others.

I sometimes think about what my favourite hymns are and why, but my list would be so long, there are so many wonderful hymns I like singing. However, like me, I hope as you raise your voices in praise during worship on a Sunday morning, you'll think about the words you sing and be uplifted, encouraged and reminded of God's great love for us.

Love and singing! Dawn

George & Jemima

George gets transcombobulated

George pops up trying to pronounce a word

George Trans....Transfi....Transfusion....No that's not it. What is that word Ah! I got it Translucent. Nah still not right. Yeh, I think I've got it this time....Transparent No er..Transfunction oh no er..Translation. Oh now I'm really Transcombobulated. Oh I'll never get it.

Jemima pops up

What's all this noise and shouting out silly words for George? What on earth are you on about?

George Oh hello Jemima. I'm trying to remember what we are supposed to be learning about in Sunday school next week. I know the word but I can't spit it out.

Jemima Well I was at last weeks class and you know I'm the one who always listens and takes notice, so give me a clue and I will try to help.

George Oooh! get you. Do you think you could get off your high horse for long enough to talk to little old dumbo me?

Jemima Aw come on George, don't be like that, I really do want to help.

George I'm sorry Jemima, but I'm so Transcombobulated at the moment.

Jemima Transcombobulated George? What kind of a word is that?

George That's just it, I don't know.

Jemima OK George, let me help. Can you remember what the theme was?

George Something about Jesus and Moses and some other bloke stuck up a mountain.

Jemima Right George, I'm with it now. I think the word you are looking for is Transfiguration.

George It might be the word I'm looking for Jemima, but whether I can say it properly is another matter. Anyway what's Transfigitilation mean?

Jemima Transfiguration George.

George Translucitation, that's what I said.

Jemima Stop it George, we'll try it again later. Transfiguration means change in form or appearance, kind of like changing clothes, except your whole appearance changes. Like when Jesus and three of his disciples went up on the mountain. While they were there Moses and Elijah talked to Jesus and Jesus' whole face shone like a bright light.

George Wow! That must have been really cool to see. Sounds a bit spooky to me though.

Jemima I suppose it does sound a little spooky George. According to The Bible it says the disciples fell on their faces and were filled with awe.

George I've never had my face filled with awe, is it like mud?

Jemima Shut up George and listen. Don't forget, Jesus was right there. He came and touched them and told them not to be afraid.

George Was he covered in that awe stuff as well?

Jemima Shush, I haven't got to the loud voice bit yet.

George Blimey. What loud voice? you're really spooking me out now Jemima.

Jemima Don't be frightened George. Anyway, I transgress.

George Aw not another trans word to learn.

Jemima No listen George. A loud voice came down from heaven saying "This is my beloved son, listen to him"

George What did that mean?

Jemima That meant that Jesus, as God's son, is the one we should listen to & obey.

George So Jesus is God's son?

Jemima You bet he is. God said it and that proves it.

George So are we supposed to obey God or Jesus?

Jemima Yes.

George Huh! We are supposed to obey God & Jesus?

Jemima They are one and the same, so Jesus has just as much authority as God.

George OK it was all starting to make sense until you said authority. Why do you keep using so many new words?

Jemima Authority means they have the right to tell others what to do. In other words they have the power to give instructions. You see George, it's really important we know what the instructions are and who is giving them.

George Is that why we need the Bible then?

Jemima Yes George, its like our instruction book from God and Jesus.

George So then the story of Transfiguration teaches us that God & Jesus are the ones we should obey, right?

Jemima Did you just say Transfiguration George?

George What..... who.....
where.....when...yeh...yeh...yipeeeee! I managed to say Trans fibula....Transsipita...Transport. Oh now I really am Transcombobulated

Jemima Say goodbye George.

George Goodbye George.

Both Bye Bye everybody, bye bye.



St Mary's Playgroup Woodkirk

Sessions are:

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

Ofsted Registered: 320725

Enquiries: stmarysplaygroup12@hotmail.co.uk



ALBERT'S 'ANGELS' QUIZ

1. Which four actresses played "Charlie's Angels" in the 1970's TV Series?
2. What does the word 'Angel' mean?
3. Which 1938 film starring James Cagney & Humphrey Bogart as gangsters introduced the "Dead End Kids"?
4. Which angel announced the forthcoming of Jesus' birth to Mary?
5. Which British pop group had a 1970's hit with "Angel Eyes"?
6. In Revelations 12:7-9 what did the angel Michael fight against?
7. Which former 'Take That' member had a 1997 hit with 'Angels'?
8. Who was awakened by an angel in the night and led out of prison? (Acts 12:7)
9. In which 2015 film starring John Hannah did Jenn Murray play the title role?
10. In Luke 2:13-14 what did the angelic hosts sing to the shepherds?
11. In 1961 who won the all British final of the Wimbledon Ladies Championship?
12. The angel Michael's protection of the people of Israel is mentioned in which book of the Old Testament?
13. Which Anthony Gormley Statue stands above the A1 motorway near Gateshead?
14. Where was Jesus when Angels came to help him? (Matt 4:11)
15. What name is given to the circle of light around an angel's head?
16. Which angel was sent by God to warn Noah of the flood?
17. What was the name of Mohammed Ali's boxing trainer?
18. Who are the four archangels named in the Bible?
19. The actress Mae West said, "When I'm good, I'm very, very good but when I'm bad I'm better" in which 1933 film?
20. Which angel was 20 years old last month?

Albert

Answers on Page 40

Sandra's Seasonal Suggestions

Things should be on the go now. Plenty to do in the potting shed (I should be so lucky!) I pot up in the greenhouse or I sit outside if it's warm enough. Oh! for a garden large enough for a greenhouse AND a potting shed! Here are some jobs to be getting on with this month.

Sandra's Top Tip: Put grow bags and sacks/bags of compost in the greenhouse or conservatory, so they have time to warm up before being put to good use.

1. Try growing on plug plants in your greenhouse. They are a cheaper alternative to larger plants and there will be more of them!!
2. Plant some more onion sets and also some shallots.
3. Plant first early potatoes if it is mild and if your soil is workable.
4. Sow some sweet peas to grow alongside your runner beans.
5. Spring prune fruit trees like peaches and nectarines.
6. Cover prepared seedbeds with fleece, cloches or clear plastic sheeting to help warm up the soil in readiness for spring sowings.
7. Prepare trenches for planting soon. Celery requires good water retention and drainage so incorporate plenty of well rotted manure or compost.
8. Sow peas in guttering or old toilet roll holders at two week intervals.
9. Now is the time to make sowings of broad beans, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, spinach, leeks, herbs, basil, coriander, summer cabbage and cauliflower either in the coldframe or greenhouse.

Mice can be a problem at this time so place controls near crops in the ground, new sowings and near to any stored vegetables.

Sandra



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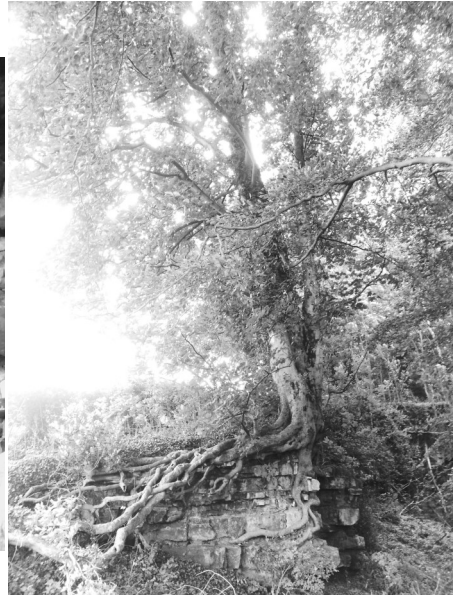
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Are you able to help the Church by using the Insurance above? It's great way to donate. You can do it anytime between now and September 2018.

David.



'This Tree'

Behold a world of greenness stilled
 And 'Yes' is green this Joy-full day.
 By "Seven times Seven" is Christ our Lord
 And 'Yes' is green, A'verde Green.

'Twas 'Yes' the Word the ancients heard,
 When word made flesh did climb the 'Tree',
 And hung that day on Calvary,
 'This Tree ' became 'One' destiny.

And 'Yes' was heard and was the word,
 Our hearts did hear beyond the tree,
 'My soul did hear within my Dream
 The Word that speaks eternally ____'

'A World beheld in greenness stilled'
 Ah 'Yes!' tis Green this
 Joy-full day ____
 And 'Well- beheld'

'This Tree'

John Sheridan@Easter 2016

Poetry Corner

' The February Rose that Blooms for me '

To

"Aurora"
(The Shriven Heart)
The rose that 'Buds'
At Gardens heart,
Upon thy Sacred tree ____
Its fragrance fills my
Shrivelled Hart,
As LIFE be-comes
À'more in me

T'is Arabesque;

O perfume fine,
It's silence blooms
E'er graced the dawn
Sweet petals tight,
In perfect closeness
Be-jewelled drop'd,

Lets Waters bathe,

Thy tears as mine
My tears,
Thy tears ?
O Perfect JOY !

These secrets of my
shriveled Heart,
Are plain for all to see;
Sweet scent be-full,
This Shriven Hart
Gives thanks to thee
This day ____

Thy Rose hath bloomed
In gardens heart
Upon Thy 'Sacred Tree;'
And blooming so,
In 'Timely Flush'
Thy Cross for me
Will bare ____

John Sheridan (c)
12th February 2018

Drama of the time: words reflect the THEATRICAL as we think about the Church history re: Mystery Plays; the notion of the Contemporary and feel to the drama unfolding ? obvious references to a staged dramatic event ... Language of the Theatre.

* * * *

Good Friday;
'A Very Public Affair'
Behold a world in greenness stilled;
Come seasons,
come times,
my sorrows ful-filled.
In life this place tis a desolate pot,
To fill with dread
And brimful slop shop's tears begot.
In Death,
O Skull Shaped stone where Adam lyes;
Where Adam lyesa 'bounden here,
Beneath this tree where love did come
To Golgatha by Calvary.
Tis here for us love hangs and dies
Beneath deaths darkest pressing skies.
In Greeness,
Time, as in life, is stilled;
And death becomes this darkest day,
While seasons fleshed,
Dark Glass I've searched.
Thy Pascal lamb that hangs right FAY
Brings life anew upon
'My Way'
On earth,
As love re-freshed;
Upon thy face,
Doth Yes !

(cont)

Reflect in brighten'd hours,
 Thy Love filled Holy,
 Mirror'd Glace.
 Behold !
 Tis "Spiegel in Spiegel's " Eternal play;
 So last on first and first off last,
 Sits time well set ...
 Set's staged, the cast,
 Its scrip unseen;
 When curtain be-falls this wearied frame,
 And raps the bloodied tambourine,
 There sounds a cracking and clacking of wood'
 As death doth rattle and Cast-a-nett,
 And Yes ! Tomorrow's another day...
 Come Taste my Flesh, my Holy Blood,
 In Greeness stilled,
 My 'Passions Play'

John Sheridan

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Farrah Fawcett, Cheryl Ladd, Jaclyn Smith, Kate Jackson
 2. Messenger 3. Angels with Dirty Faces 4. Gabriel
 5. Roxy Music 6. A Dragon 7. Robbie Williams 8. Peter 9. Angel
 10. Glory to God in the Highest Heaven 11. Angela Mortimer
 12. Daniel 12:1 13. The Angel of the North 14. In the wilderness
 15. Halo 16. Uriel 17. Angelo Dundee 18. Gabriel, Michael, Uriel,
 Raphael 19. I'm no Angel 20. The Angel of the North

Albert Shaw

Church Mouse Tales

As I wandered through the church, I noticed my friend Hubert, the Black Canon, sitting quietly in a Quire Stall. Silently I crept up and settled down beside him. We sat there for some time in silence, absorbed in our own thoughts, looking into the beautiful church and enjoying the quiet reflection. I was sure he hadn't noticed me.

'Do you know how you came to be here?' he asked without looking around.

'Here?' I asked quietly wondering how he knew I was there.

'Yes, here in Church.'

'No, I don't remember how...'

'I found you.'

'Found me?'

'Yes, I found you outside on a gravestone. You were a tiny little thing, days old. I thought you were....anyway you didn't look well.'

'Oh - I didn't know that.'

'No, I suppose you wouldn't remember', he agreed, 'so I looked around for a sign of any of your family but couldn't see anything. Then an Owl hooted in a tree and I decided you would be safer inside. I wasn't sure if you would make it, but it turns out you are a tough little cookie.'

'Oh er - thanks. I think.'

'It took a while for you to recover your strength, but once you were on your feet - well there's been no stopping you.'

'Well, thank you for saving my life Hubert', I said, touched by his kindness.

'It has been a lonely life here,' Hubert went on, 'with no other Monks around, I have spent many a long decade on my own. So I would like to say thank you to you - for saving my life too.'

'It's a pleasure', I replied. 'Seems like we are a couple of lifesavers?'

'Yes,' agreed Hubert, 'maybe we should do the summer season on the beach?'

Misha.



Diary for the coming weeks

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

March

- 2nd Fri 7.00pm St Michael's—World Day of Prayer
3rd Sat 9:30am Church & Churchyard Clean up
4th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion
12:30pm Holy Baptism
7th Wed 10.00am Holy Communion
7.00pm Wardens Meeting
8th Thur 12.00noon Churches Together Meeting
9th Fri 7.30pm Social Group Meeting
11th Sun 10:30am All Age Service—Mothering Sunday
12 Noon Holy Communion—Mothering Sunday
12th Mon PCC
14th Wed 10.00am Holy Communion
15th Thur 11.00am Lydgate Lodge—Holy Communion
17th Sat 10.00am St Mary's Open Day for Church and Churchyard
18th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion
19th Mon 7.30pm Mission Group
21st Wed 10.30am Holy Communion
7.30pm Deanery Synod—St Georges, Leeds
25th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion
12.30pm Holy Baptism
29th Thur 7.30pm Maundy Thursday
30th Fri 2.00pm Good Friday
1st Sun 10.30am Easter Day Holy Communion

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Myiah Daubney Edmondson



DEATHS



We give thanks for the lives of:-

Margaret Ester Jackson
Joan Margaret Blakeley

WEDDINGS Please pray for all
couples who married at St Mary's,
especially: No Weddings in March



May...

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

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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
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

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on 07791 324221

Baptisms held at 12.30pm on 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays

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contact our Coordinator, Gail Townsend (0113 2528710) email:
gail@stmarywoodkirk.org