October 2018

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Harvest and Halloween



Patch the pumpkin
See page 11

This Month:

Vicar's letter, Heaven, The Sunflower in the Field, The faith of Queen Elizabeth II

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

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Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet

by Thursday evening please.

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Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Brian Gledhill, Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield,

Dave Townsend, Barbara Tate, Liz Aveyard, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill, Pernoe Liburd.

If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 60p really helps to keep it going!

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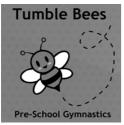
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Welcome!

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.

Vision is the picture of the future that produces passion Bill Hybels

Vicar's Letter

September has come and gone and the night's are now beginning to draw in. Schools are back, Harvest is approaching and Halloween will see out October in its own unique way and before we know it Christmas will be upon us.

This week a team of people from St Mary's went to Derby for some training on Leading your Church into Growth—a process that has already started within St Mary's as we begin to become more invitational and more outward looking as we move around in the Parish.

This month our two special invitational events will be the Harvest Service at 10.30am on the 14th October where we will be collecting non-perishable foods for the local Food Bank. This Service will be for all ages and I am hopeful that George and Jemima will make an appearance.

The second completely new event will be for families on the Wednesday evening of Halloween which is the 31st October and will be held at the Parish Centre between 4-7.00pm. This is a Christian alternative to Halloween and there will be fun, games and crafts for all the family. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Food and snacks will be provided and a good time will be had by all. (see next page)

There will be no charge for this but there will be a collection at the end for World Vision whose vision is of a world in which every child has the chance to live life to the full; where they are loved, protected and cared for, and enjoy good health and an education. Where they can live free from fear.

We take safeguarding seriously at St Mary's and all the Leaders who work with your children have been DBS checked and trained appropriately.

Happy Harvest and Halloween—why not carve a smile or a heart into your pumpkin and spread a little of God's love.... Sharon, Vicar



THIS HALLOWEEN, YOU'RE INVITED TO PUMPKIN HEROES

Wednesday 31st October 2018 4-7pm

The Parish Centre, St Mary's, Woodkirk
Dewsbury Road, WF127JL

Come join our alternative Halloween with fun, games and crafts for all the family*!

Food and snacks will be provided!

pumpkinheroes.com

World Vision UK is a registered charity no: 285908

PUMPKIN HEREEES

*All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

HEAVEN

For years, as I've read books on Heaven (most long out of print), I have thought Satan has really pulled a fast one on us. He cons us into believing he thwarted God's purpose for righteous mankind to rule the earth to God's glory. So we read Genesis I-2 about ruling over animals and earth and having dominion (and the implications about developing God-honouring culture, technology, art, music, sports and everything else) and we think, That may have been God's original intention, but now it's never going to happen.

So we think all we'll ever see of human society is the bad stuff with glimmers of what might have been, if only Satan and man and woman hadn't messed up God's plan. And now, we imagine, the best God will manage to do is snatch our spirits out of this world to live in a disembodied realm made for angels, while the earth he made for us is flushed down the cosmic toilet. So Earth is little more than an ill-advised experiment that ends in failure.

But in fact, God never gave up His plan for us or for earth. Romans 8 alone, even if we didn't have countless other passages in the prophets and gospels and epistles, is emphatic on the fact that Christ's redemptive work and the resurrection is not limited to us, but extends to the rest of His creation, which groans for the coming deliverance. As resurrected beings we will reign over a resurrected earth (with animals, culture, water, trees, fruit, buildings, etc.) with our resurrected Christ and each other for all eternity. As his stewards, and kings and queens under the King of Kings, we'll never exhaust the wonders of a universe created by an infinitely fascinating God. And certainly we'll never run out of things to do!

Yet how do we as Christian's view Heaven is it pathetically dull, drab, disembodied and utterly unearthly, or do we see it as a beautiful, loving and full of joy? Do we look forward to the joy of meeting out Lord in a beautiful kingdom, we do not know what lays ahead of us

when we die, but we can as Christians know that our Lord is waiting for us. Let us remember that God made the earth to be our home, and still intends for a renewed earth to be our home forever, the things of earth seem unspiritual to us. When we look at the beauty of creation and say "I see you in that waterfall Lord, and it makes me love you more," we feel a letdown. Because then we think, "My time in this world will soon be over; no more waterfalls, flowers, fruit trees and dogs; I feel like I was made to live here, but some people tell us we may be going to live in some nonphysical realm of angels ... that excited me.

Yet all along God promises that we will live on a new earth in a new universe, reigning to His glory. Things to do, places to go, people to see, to God's glory and our good. (This is so much better than the misguided guesswork, written in some books, which is a sort of self-therapy heaven without God and which everyone goes to as their default destination.

So, may we use the platform God has given us to help the body of Christ see that the purpose-driven life lasts forever, and the central purpose doesn't change. God's purpose for us and the Earth itself will not end but will be always going deeper and always spreading broader to the glory of God. We will behold wonders of God's new creation beyond our wildest dreams. As his image-bearers we will shape Christ-centred civilization with astounding and delightful features. Forever delivered from the sin and death that once plagued us and our relationships, we will worship and work and rest and serve and laugh and feast and celebrate to God's glory and our good.

Gail

Prayerful thought - The wonder of you

Well here we are in October, the kids are back in school and are beginning to settle in, routines are being re-established and we start looking towards autumn and winter.

I think I've mentioned before that the inspiration for my prayerful thoughts are quite surprising, but I don't think I've ever been as surprised as I was with this one! You see, I was inspired by Elvis, yes really!

I was in church with our lovely friends at the Memory café in September when they were visited by 'The King' himself in the form of a fabulous tribute artist called Dean Holland. He was dressed in a fabulous white leather suit with his hair in a quiff (I bet a few of you remember teddy boys in your youth, perhaps you were one, perhaps your granddad was one, ask him when you next go and see him!!) and he sang with both the power and the gentleness of the great man himself.

As I sat there, 'Elvis' went through song after brilliant song, including 'You're the devil in disguise' at which he admitted "I probably shouldn't be singing that in here should !!" but it sounded great. All the friends were singing along with songs they may not have heard for more than 20 or 30 years, but they could still remember the words.

The singing was infectious and it got me thinking of something in the bible where it mentions about 'if something was quiet then the stones would shout' and I couldn't think where it was. So I consulted my fabulous online www.biblegateway.com and discovered the passage I was looking for. It is in Luke chapter 19 verse 40 and it says "..."I tell you," he replied, "if they [the people] keep quiet, the stones will cry Out".

Now in the bible, strangely enough, this passage isn't about Elvis!, but it is about joy amongst the followers of Jesus. It is actually part of the Palm Sunday story as Jesus triumphally enters Jerusalem, the people

are waving their palm branches and shouting out Hosanna and Blessed is the name of the Lord, and the pious Pharisees were saying to Jesus "rebuke these people" [for this unseemly behaviour] and it is in response that Jesus tells the Pharisees, "If I were to silence them the stones themselves would shout".

I felt like that in church whilst listening to these songs and seeing the joy on the faces of all those present, there was great joy in the church and probably very happy memories of days perhaps a rather long time ago.

Then, as I carried on listening, Elvis sang the song, 'The wonder of you' and I'm sure I've never thought about it in this context before, but perhaps because I was sat in Church, the words suddenly had more meaning, particularly the following words:

I'll guess I'll never know the reason why You love me like you do, That's the wonder, the wonder of you.

I hadn't quite caught all the words being sung so I looked it up later and the whole of the lyrics are...

When no-one else can understand me, when everything I do is wrong You give me hope and consolation, You give me strength to carry on And you're always there to lend a hand, In everything I do, That's the wonder, The wonder of you.

And when you smile the world is brighter, You touch my hand and I'm a king,

Your kiss to me is worth a fortune, Your love for me is everything, I'll guess I'll never know the reason why You love me like you do That's the wonder, The wonder of you.

I'm sure some of you will remember Elvis in your younger days, I knew of him in the 70's just prior to, and up to his death in 1977, there were usually programmes on television showing him singing to

vast numbers of fans in Las Vegas. I was pretty sure that as Elvis came from Memphis in Tennessee, which I thought was squarely in America's 'Bible Belt' that he was a Christian, and I looked it up, and a website confirmed that he was, saying

"...that he loved Gospel music and held the message of Jesus close to his heart?...there was a time when he told his best friend, (who was close to death), that the only thing worthy of our time here on earth is that we follow Jesus. And when fans spread a massive banner that announced his status irrefutably as 'Elvis is King' – he paused a song he was singing, looked deep into the room, and with that charming smirk on his face, said 'there's only one king honey, and he is Jesus Christ'."

I doubt he managed to get to church as his fame would preclude him from 'normal' day to day activities, but I hope he managed to keep his faith to the end.

The thing is, the words "I'll guess I'll never know the reason why You love me like you do

That's the wonder, The wonder of you." Apply to us all if we apply them in a Christian context, because it is a wonderful thing that no matter what we have done or not done, whether we have a strong faith, a weak faith or no faith at all, that God loves us, he doesn't care what we've done or not done, he doesn't care if we've been to church or not over the past few weeks, months even years, the thing is God's love is unconditional, it's there for us no matter what, we just have to take time to say to Him, "Yes Lord, I want some of that unconditional love I want to learn more about this love you have for me."

So dust off those 'blue suede shoes', open up those suspicious minds, and think about those times perhaps when it feels like 'no-one else can understand you', or 'when everything you do seems to be wrong, remember God Loves You.

That's the wonder, The wonder of God.

Love and Teddy Boys. Dawn xx



From the old to the new!

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but he simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages telling about what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price and they wish to buy your goods. The sale can be made on the drums and you will make delivery by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums

And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches

were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum-heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known.

He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

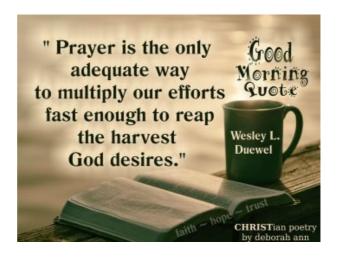
Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

This GEEK tool soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began.

And that's the truth.

Trevor Sykes





St Mary's Playgroup Woodkirk

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Archaeologists Believe They've Found the Site of Jesus' First Miracle

For hundreds of years, Christians have visited the "Wedding Church" in KafrKanna, a town in northern Israel near the Sea of Galilee, to commemorate the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine. The site of the actual event has been a topic of mystery and debate for centuries—perhaps until now.

The Gospel of John reports Jesus, his mother, Mary, and his disciples are invited to a wedding. When the wine runs out, Jesus delivers a sign of his glory by turning water into wine. John tells us the wedding was in the town of Cana. Based on a new discovery, archaeologists believe the Cana of biblical times may be a dusty hillside five miles further north. The location is the former site of Khirbet Qana, a Jewish village between the years of 323 BC and AD 324, where archaeologists have discovered a number of compelling clues. Excavations there have revealed a network of tunnels used for Christian worship, marked with crosses and references to Kyrie lesou, a Greek phrase meaning Lord Jesus. There is also an altar and a shelf with the remains of a stone vessel, plus room for five more. Experts believe stone jars held wine in biblical times. Dr. Tom McCollough, who is directing excavations at the site, said there were three other sites with a credible claim to being the Cana of scripture."But none has the ensemble of evidence that makes such a persuasive case for Khirbet Qana," he said. "We have uncovered a large Christian veneration cave complex that was used by Christian pilgrims who came to venerate the water-to-wine miracle."This complex was used at the beginning of the late fifth or early sixth century and continued to be used by pilgrims into the 12th Century Crusader period. Yes, I Want Access! No Thanks.

"The texts we have from this period that describe what pilgrims did and saw when they came to Cana of Galilee match very closely what we have exposed as the veneration complex." Dr. McCollough believes the discoveries at Khirbet Qana could also bolster the case for the historicity of the Gospel of John. "Our excavations have shown that this was in fact a thriving Jewish village located in the heart of much of Jesus' life and ministry. For the Gospel of John, Cana is in some ways Jesus' safe place or operational center. It is a place he and his disciples return to when they encounter resistance in Judea. There is an argument that this excavation warrants at least a reconsideration of the historical value of John's references to Cana and Jesus.

Gail



15th July 2018 was a very sad day in the history of St Mary's Church, Woodkirk. The branch of the Mothers' Union at St Mary's held a Service to close our branch. I cannot find out the exact date the branch was started, over 70 years ago at least.

For various reasons we could not attract new members and the few remaining ones are either too old or too busy to hold office.

I have been a member for forty very interesting and happy years. We were a very close branch, caring for others, St Mary's and the community. God bless the work of the Mothers' Union.

Brenda Dixon

Elvis Presley was definitely in the building recently - not quite Graceland, but St Mary's Church Woodkirk, where he entertained the Forget Me Not Friends at the Memory Cafe.

Professional Elvis tribute artist Dean Holland left the guests All Shook Up as he serenaded them beautifully with classic songs from the King of Rock and Roll. Elvis definitely Loved Them Tender, as some of the ladies were lucky enough to receive a scarf and a kiss from him!

The event was a smashing success and thoroughly enjoyed by the attendees.

Organiser Caroline Spillane has been running the Memory Cafe meetings for a couple of months now, and it continues to grow from strength to strength.

A team of volunteers, including Caroline, Jane Senior, Ann Rogers, Linda Cooper and Mary Chadwick kindly serve tea, coffee and cakes in the lovely church community space.

They are very thankful to St Mary's Church for providing the wonderful surroundings twice monthly for such a fantastic cause.

The team would love to extend the invite out to more local people who would benefit from this friendly social gathering - all generously put on for free at I-3pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

With local attendees coming from Tingley, Morley and St Mary's Church, the Memory Cafe is open to all and the volunteers would especially like to encourage more men to come along. To find out more details, please search 'Forget Me Not Friends Tingley' on Facebook, or contact organiser Caroline on 07790 037321

As for the delightful Elvis singer who was wonderful with the guests: thank you... thank you very much!

Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café

Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café is for people who are suffering memory loss or have been diagnosed with dementia, their friends and carers.

We meet in St Mary's Church on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month to chat, reminisce and have some fun. Refreshments are served and there is no charge.

October Dates **Wednesday 3rd October Remembering Brucie** (Good Game, Good Game!)



Play Your Cards Right and come along, it will be nice to see you... to see you nice

17th October How to Keep Fit and Eat Cake



For more information please contact Caroline 07790037321 or Jane 07067 640396. See our Facebook page Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café Tingley for news and updates

The Faith of Queen Elizabeth II

In the space of a few months a number of remarkable landmarks pass in the life of Queen Elizabeth II. On 9 September 2015, Elizabeth became the monarch who has ruled the Commonwealth for the longest period, surpassing her great-grandmother Queen Victoria. And 21 April 2016 marks her 90th birthday.

A pound coin in the UK bears an image of the Queen's head, surrounded by the words: ELIZABETH II D.G.REG.F.D.' It stands for: 'Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina Fidei Defensor.' These words are in Latin and they mean: 'Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith. The faith of which the queen is a defender is Christianity.

What does it mean for the Queen to be Defender of the Faith? It has a formal meaning, because it indicates that the Queen is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. But it also has a personal meaning, because her reign has been characterised by acknowledgement of her dependence on Jesus Christ. This has been central to both her public pronouncements and her private devotions.

The title Defender of the Faith was originally granted to Henry VIII in 1521. It was given by Pope Leo X in response to the King's support for aspects of the Roman Catholic Church. However, Henry expected that the Pope would reciprocate with approval for his intention to divorce. He did not. In the turmoil which followed, the Church of England was founded, with the King as leader instead of the Pope. Monarchs since 1536 have had the title Supreme Governor (originally Supreme Head). There have been breaks during the reign of Mary I in the 16th century and following the English Civil War during the 17th century.

Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the title upon her coronation on 2 June 1953. However, her personal faith in God was clear before that. On the occasion of her 21st birthday in 1947 she made a radio broadcast in which she said this:

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

'But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.'

In 2015, as part of the television broadcast she makes to the nation and the commonwealth, the queen said this: 'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and people of whatever faith or none.'

In 1990, she did something unusual for a sovereign who has never uttered a political thought, who has never given an interview: she wrote the foreword for a small book published by the Bible Union about her Christian faith for her 90th birthday titled *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves.* In her note, she mentioned the pace of change in lifetime—the tragedies, wars, and suffering as well as the triumphs, achievements and technological advances. As the book noted, "Many commentators have noted the depth of her trust in God but few have explored it."

As The Servant Queen stated, "The Queen is a woman who has looked in two directions for almost her entire life—upwards toward God, and outwards towards her people." She talks about service, and duty often. In 1980, she mentioned meeting people, "who, all in their own ways, are making a real contribution to their community. I come across examples of unselfish service in all walks of life and in many unexpected places...The very act of living a decent and upright life is in itself a positive factor in maintaining civilized standards."

In an era of increasing secularization, the Queen is talking more openly about her faith. In an analysis of her Christmas messages, the *Guardian* newspaper discovered that, starting in 2000, she was more overtly talking about her faith. One Vatican official told the

London paper that she is the "last Christian monarch." Perhaps it's because she's been sovereign for so long, starting when religion was an integral part of culture and society. Yet, for her, religious faith is very personal. She never takes Holy Communion in public, preferring to take it several times a year in private, including once at a service early on Christmas day, before the main church service at the church on her Sandringham Estate in England.

And, with the Queen, her faith extends from her public life to her private one. As *The Servant Queen* notes, she may be the most famous woman in the world, yet "she's almost never late for anything or anyone, regardless of their rank." That is a mark of disrespect.

It isn't just Christmas messages when she references her religious faith. In 1992, in the aftermath of her children's marital scandals and breakdowns, she gave her famous "Annus Horribilis" speech in which she stated that it was "not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure." In the middle of that major speech, she thanked all those who had prayed for her, Prince Philip and her entire family, saying those friends "whose prayers—fervent, I hope, but not too frequent—have sustained me through all these years, are friends indeed."

For commentators struggling to explain a devout monarch to audiences who rarely set foot inside religious buildings, perhaps the best explanation of her convictions belongs to Her Majesty. In the foreward of that Bible Union book on her Christian faith, she quoted the poem used by her father, King George VI, in his 1939 Christmas broadcast, just after the start of the Second World War:

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied,

"Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

Amen

The sunflower in the field.

I just had to share this with you...

I was on holiday recently driving through Luxembourg and Holland, both places were new to us and they were lovely, the weather was kind to us (considering the summer we had had and the fact that we went at the end of August we really weren't sure what it would be like!). Anyway, we were able to travel around seeing new places and enjoying the scenery.

It was on one of these days as we were driving alongside some fields, nothing too special, no amazing crops or anything, but what struck me was that the particular field I was looking at had either been cropped/cut or had a low growing crop in it, but what I noticed was that there was a single sunflower growing tall, all on its own.

I can't think of anything clever and theological to say about it, but it just seemed to me to be a bit of a metaphor for being a Christian today.

You see what I thought was that the whole purpose of this sunflower was to grow, I don't know if it had been amongst a whole field of sunflowers, or if it had been a seed left over from a previous year, or that even its existence was just some random seed excreted by a passing bird! We'll never know, but that seed's instinct, the only thing it is there to do is to grow and produce more sunflower seeds.

This seed had lived through weeding, possibly pesticides, being overgrown by whatever crop grew around it, and it was still there, tall and straight, watered by the rain, warmed by the sun, surviving, and surviving well. If you think about it, I drove past and probably only saw the field for a fleeting moment, but I recognised it as a sunflower. As I said above, I have no memory of what else was in that field, but I saw that sunflower and it made me smile and think of its resilience and

that sunflower and it made me smile and think of its resilience and desire to grow.

As some of you may know, I lead a Girls' Brigade Company over in the Castleford area, and have done so for over 30 years, and we have just resumed after the summer break. Now it's a well known fact that if you run any kind of youth group, you're never really very sure how many young people you're going to get back after summer, and in my experience, working with girls, there is an added hazard when girls move from Primary to Secondary school because although in year 6 aged 10/11 you may be an enthusiastic girl enjoying fun and fellowship in church, when you move to year 7 at the 'High School' it's no longer 'cool' to be anything to do with church and I can almost put money on that we'll lose a good 50% of the girls in that age group, which is really sad.

What if those girls could be like that sunflower, wanting to continue to grow and know the love of Jesus for them? Not to shrink back down into being the same height as everyone else, blending in, not wanting to be different?

Then I thought about us as Christians in our church and community, are we sunflowers?

Or are we in the field trying to blend in, not wanting to be noticed?

It's quite easy isn't it to be a sunflower amongst a whole field of sunflowers when we're in church amongst people like us, but what about when you go home or in your workplace, do you stand tall? Suddenly that's a completely different kettle of fish, and indeed it is. Our society, our media, would have us believe that no one wants to talk about church or God or Jesus, and in many many cases I know it is not possible to just start up a conversation about Christianity or your own faith, but do you hide the fact that you go to church? Do you show your faith in your words and actions or are you 'ashamed' or 'a bit scared'

about doing that?

I worked for over 30 years in Human Resources, looking after people, I had the whole range of situations, life and death, crime industrial strife, colleagues falling out in lumps, and working alongside hundreds of people who if asked would say they didn't have a faith. However, whilst never being over the top or overbearing about it, if asked, and sometimes more than you would think, I was; I did talk about my faith, and so people knew I was a person of faith, and on occasions did ask me to pray for someone.

This was years before I decided to go for Lay Reader training, I was just an 'ordinary' person coming to church, working in Girls' Brigade. I didn't have any special training, I just had conversations with people, and none of them were ever confrontational or stressful, they were just normal everyday encounters.

My prayer for us all, is that if we're feeling lonely, or that we are that 1 solitary sunflower in a field full of a crop that's all the same and wanting to blend in, that we feel the warmth of God's love for us. That He helps us grow in strength, and whether that helps us feel comfortable about talking about being a Christian amongst our friends, or just gives us confidence to come to church to be amongst other sunflowers and be nurtured and fed so we may grow stronger, then that's great.

However, if you're reading this as a person of no faith, then I say, God Loves You whether you know it or not, and just enjoy the mental picture of a field full of sunflowers, and hopefully that will make you smile.

Love and prayers

Dawn x

I want to be like a sumflower; so that even on the darkest days I will stand tall & find the sunlight.

Albert's October Quiz

- 1. In Wallace and Gromit, which one is the Dog?
- 2. How many sides does a dodecagon have?
- 3. What is the usual maximum number of rounds in a boxing match?
- 4. The river Sheaf runs through which English city?
- 5. In Greek mythology, who fell in love with his own reflection?
- 6. Which ex-cricketer won the 2nd series of I'm a celebrity get me out of here?
- 7. Equador has a border with Peru and which other country?
- 8. What is the capital of Venezula?
- 9. Which is Britain's largest National Park?
- 10. Which is the largest island in the Balearics?
- 11. The Hunter Valley is a famous wine growing region in which country?
- 12. In which city would you find the Bull Ring Shopping Centre?
- 13. How many floors are in the Empire State Building: 103, 113 or 123?
- 14. What is the sum of the first 5 prime numbers?
- 15. What is the year 2014 in Roman Numerals?
- 16. What nationality was Alfred Nobel?
- 17. How many people play in one Polo Team?
- 18. How many legs does a butterfly have?
- 19. In which county is Skegness?
- 20. In which George Orwell novel does room 101 appear?
- 21. St Andrew's Day falls in which month?
- 22. What is the capital of China?
- 23. If you were born on 13th August, what star sign would you be?
- 24. Who is the leader of the SNP?
- 25. Who was the last reigning tudor monarch

Poetry Corner For you, my friend

As you journey through life with its highs and its lows And the hopes and the fears that abound. You learn to endure the good and the bad With the help of your loved ones around. Through winter and spring, as the years roll away, And the moments of gloom may descend, Someone special will tell you, you matter to them— All it takes is the love of a friend. That friend will not notice the ravage of time And the toll that it takes on us all. Mistakes are forgiven, failings ignored; Just the good things, the best, they recall. If you're lucky enough to have such a friend, Let them know that you value them, too, For life goes so fast and it could be too late, For life goes so fast and it could be too late, So dear friend, I'll say now, I love you!

Anon

Hey Diddle, Diddle

Hey diddle, diddle
We are so little.
But our God created the moon!
The little dogs and cats,
The monkeys and the rats,
And the sun that shines at noon.



Adapted by Becky of www.thireadingmama.com

Church Mouse Tales

Misha the church mouse gets rock and rolling!

Well hi there from your friendly little church mouse. I hope you all had a lovely summer, I did, it was so warm outside I could go out and about on hot and sunny afternoons in the churchyard, with all the grass and flowers and trees, but then when it got a bit too hot, I could come into the lovely coolness of the church, I really had the best of both worlds.

Now usually at this time of year I start thinking about harvest, a lovely time when there are lots of goodies in church and the 'big folk' and all the little folks from school come and celebrate God's goodness and thank Him for all His many gifts to us, not just food!

Well, there I was the other day contemplating harvest when my thoughts were interrupted by this strange (well to me!) noise. It was music, and singing, but a little different from what I normally hear. It started when suddenly, of their own volition, my whiskers and tail started jiggling and moving and soon that sent my nose into a twitch.

I ran to find Hubert the Black Canon to see if he could help me identify what was happening, when I met him I noticed that he was moving differently too. "Hubert" I cried, "what on earth is happening, is it an earthquake, do we need to dash outside to safety?"

"Oh Misha my dear little friend" said Hubert, "there's no need to be frightened, it's just our lovely friends in the Memory Café, they're having a good old sing." "Oh, is that what it is?" I replied, "but they've sung before and it never sounded like this".

"Ah well" replied Hubert in that rather lofty voice he sometimes uses when he thinks he knows everything! "That's because they have a special friend today who is leading them, they were talking about a King!" "Well they normally mention a King in Church Hubert" I declared, "Oh yes indeed" he said, "but this isn't that King, it's someone they refer to as the 'King of Rock n Roll". "A King of rocks and rolls?", "No, no, no Misha, The King of Rock n Roll, a very famous chap called Elvis", "Oh you mean 'there's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis' kind of king?" "Well nearly, a very talented chap, and his singing is wonderful, he's got all the folks singing along to his most famous tunes, like 'Love me tender', Always on my mind', 'Return to sender' and 'It's now or never'. It really is a wonderful sound, although if my Abbot was here, I think he'd be a bit aghast, but I love it, it's great music and it gets me jiving up and down the aisle!" "Oh is that what that was, I thought you'd got ants in your habit!".

At that I scampered away before Hubert could get lofty with me again, and I found a little spot where I could hear this great music and see everyone singing along, they were having such a fabulous time, and I found that my little feet joined in with my nose, tail and whiskers, and I found myself jiving away in the organ loft.

I do hope our friend comes to see us again, it really was lovely. Now, what was I doing, oh yes, time to rest in my corner and dream about harvest.

Love Misha xx

Diary for the coming weeks

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

October

1st Mon 7.30pm Warden's Meeting

2nd Tues 7.30pm Morley Arts Festival in Church

3rd Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

1:00pm Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)

4th Thurs 7.30pm All Age Planning - Gail's

6th Sat 09.30pm Church and Churchyard Clean Up

7th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion

8th Mon 7:30pm PCC Meeting in church

10th Wed10.00am Holy Communion

14th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion—Harvest Celebration

12.00 Holy Communion

17th Wed10.00am Holy Communion

1:00pm Forget me not Café (to 3pm)

7.00pm Joint Deanery Synod, St George's, Leeds

18th Thur11.00am Lydgate Lodge—Holy Communion

7.30pm St Lukes Day—Healing Service

21st Sun 10:30am Holy Communion 24th Wed 10.00am Holy Communion 28th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion

31st Weds 4.00pm Pumpkin Heroes—Christian Halloween

Event

November

2nd Fri 7.00pm All Soul's Service

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

4th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion 5th Mon 7.30pm Warden's Meeting

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Gromit, 2.12, 3. 12, 4. Sheffield, 5. Narcissus,

6. Phil Tufnell, 7. Columbia, 8. Caracus, 9. The Cairngorms,

10. Majorca, 11. Australia, 12. Birmingham, 13. 103,

14. 28 (2+3+5+7+11), 15. MMXIV, 16. Swedish, 17. 4, 18. 6,

19. Lincolnshire, 20. 1984, 21. November, 22. Beijing, 23. Leo,

24. Nicola Sturgoen, 25. Elizabeth 1st.

Guess Who?

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



Seems this little girl may be the flower lady—don't be fooled!

Did you guess? Last month's little girl was our very own Reader, Dawn Tattersfield!







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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Noah Jake Dickson Robert Benjamin Rigby



DEATHS



We give thanks for the lives of:All those who have died within our Parish

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



May...



God bless you richly with His mercy and grace today and always.

Amen

Parish Centre Rentals

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

Nominal Cost is £50 for 3 hours.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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What's on

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9:30am to 11.25am

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 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:00pm

Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078

Beavers Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm

Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877

Cubs Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm

Marianne Ingham 07778 542302

Scouts Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927

Explorer Scouts Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm

Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Services

1st Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age Worship for adults and children

12:00pm Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month

10:30am All Age Holy Communion for adults and children

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion

3rd Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

Morning Prayer 9.00am—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

To arrange for **Baptisms** please contact: Barbara Tate on:
0113 253 1266

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