

# Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Autumn

**September 2018**



## ***This Month:***

*Invite a Friend; Malcom's Surprise;  
Prophets and Prophecies;  
Old Testament Characters*

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

# Who's who at Woodkirk

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Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

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Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

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**Organist:** Samantha Marks

**PCC Secretary:** Dawn Tattersfield

**PCC Treasurer** Barbara Tate

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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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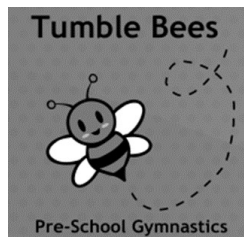
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## **Tumble Bees**

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booked through the website.**

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### **Welcome!**

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

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

### **Parish News by Post**

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

### **Web site & Twitter**

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at: [www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)  
Copies of the magazine can be downloaded from the web site from the middle of the month of publication.

We are on Twitter: [twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk)

### **Wheelchair Access**

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

**Prayer does not change God, but  
it changes those who pray.**

## View from the Pulpit

*Invite a friend....*

The Summer holidays are ending, September is upon us, the kids have gone back to school, and whether we like it or not we will be turning our minds to Christmas as we start to plan and save for presents, and discuss where we are going to be eating Christmas dinner this year. It is no different in this household, there are already discussions about who is hosting and who is not!

But what is going on in church between now and then?

In my last letter I talked about how difficult it is to do something out of our comfort zone, and for me that was going to Slimming World, but I went, I survived and I am still going (and losing weight – it really does work).

For others going to church is out of their comfort zone and as a church community we are hoping to begin a Season of Invitation, where church members over the next few months will be asked to invite a friend or neighbour to specific church events. It is hoped that by having a personal invitation and someone to go with that the whole experience will be a wonderful one of welcome and hospitality.

This Season of Invitation will begin on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September at the 10.30am Service with Back to Church Sunday. This Service is for All Ages, young and old, worshipping God together, in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Afterwards there will be tea, coffee and biscuits. If you prefer a more formal service of Holy Communion then that is held at 12 midday.

These special invitational services will run continuously from now to Christmas – why not look out for them? They will be advertised in our Magazine and on our Website and around the local area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the continuing upkeep of the Churchyard and for the donations which have enabled us to keep up with ongoing maintenance. Without these donations it would not be possible. If you would like to volunteer and help in the churchyard then we regularly meet on the first Saturday of each month at 9.30am just come along and you'll be made very welcome.

Wishing you a good month.

Sharon

## Malcolm Haigh – This is your life!

1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 was no ordinary celebration of Yorkshire Day for Malcolm as the Friends of Batley Library surprised him by organising a celebration of Malcolm's life work and contribution to the community of Batley and the writing of Malcolm's first book entitled, "The History of Batley 1800-1974" which was first published 40 years ago in 1978.

Family, friends, church members and many others gathered for this great event. Malcolm was truly surprised by the whole event as tribute after tribute was given in his honour.

Malcolm has dedicated most of his life to supporting Batley and working to ensure that his local knowledge of history is both known by the wider population through his books and through his involvement with local history groups and local education. Malcolm has always been an avid campaigner to ensure that Batley's heritage is maintained.

Malcolm has been and still is an avid supporter of Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Batley Cemetery, Dewsbury & District Ramblers, Batley Rugby league club.

Malcolm was asked to unveil a portrait of himself and was then presented with a "This is your life" book and a cake. A very enjoyable time was had by Malcolm and all his family and friends and thoroughly deserved!!

Rev. Sharon



## Does Your Soul Have A Backbone?

Over the last few years my single most consistent prayer has been for spiritual courage. Being a coward comes quite naturally to me. I don't like to fight. I don't like rejection. I am definitely not a fan of pain. All of these are essential qualities of a coward. Seriously, as I look in the rearview mirror at more years than I like to own up to, one of my regrets has to do with this issue of courage. My fear of people leaving, my fear of people not liking me and my fear of criticism often kept me from making courageous decisions. I could always justify my position in the name of "not going too fast" or "bringing people along" or "keeping unity," but the truth is, sometimes it was lack of courage. My courage often seemed to stumble over my need for people pleasing.

As I read Scripture and the history of the church, I am encouraged to see that God has used people who weren't naturally courageous. I believe Joshua was one of these. For decades Moses had been the unquestioned leader of the people; his leadership was all they'd known. The Bible says he knew God "face to face," and that "no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel." (Deut. 34:12)

And now God comes to Joshua and says, "I want you to take his place." How intimidating would that be? No wonder God says "Be strong and courageous" six times!

It's interesting that Joshua was about to lead Israel into war, yet God doesn't talk strategy or tactics. He talks character. He talks courage. Courage is an issue of willingness. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.

In recent years my willingness to be courageous in spite of my fears has been tested. And, while I'm not the child for spiritual courage, God has been answering my prayer for it. In some difficult situations I haven't run. My people pleasing does not always win the day.

As Martin Luther King Jr. began to receive threatening phone calls and letters, fear began to paralyze him. He had a defining moment one night with just him and God.

"It seemed as though I heard . . . an inner voice, saying 'Stand up for righteousness, stand up for truth. God will be at your side



forever.’ Almost at once my fears began to pass from me. . . . The outer situation remained the same, but God had given me inner calm.

Let his words soak in. Abiding in the Vine not only produces fruit, it makes us strong and courageous. As spiritual courage has begun to take root, I’m learning some key principles that help me in my quest to be courageous. What’s the right thing to do?

When faced with a situation where I’m tempted to do what’s politically expedient, I am forcing myself to wrestle with this question. And most of the time I have a clear sense about what’s right. Following through is not easy and there have been plenty of times I have taken the easy way out. Paul was very clear when he said, “Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.” Courage is like guardrails on a highway. You may not know where the road will twist and turn, but godly courage will keep you out of the ditches of sin and compromise and political expediency.

When confronted with a difficult decision, we can let the potential fallout stop us. I like to think I can quickly see potential problems, hurdles and barriers. I try not to let the problems cloud my ability to make the best decision. Once I feel the best and right decision has been made, then I can dig in and start to problem solve. God is faithful. When I’ve done what I believed to be right and acted with spiritual courage, God has been faithful to show up with provision and presence. It hasn’t been easy, but I am learning to really, deep down, trust him. In some ways, courage is a matter of trust. Do I trust that if I do what’s right, he will have my back?

This doesn’t mean everything will go smoothly just because I do what’s right and live with courage. Look at the life of Joseph. He suffered for doing what was right; nevertheless, his trust in God carried him through dark and lonely days. As Paul closes the book of 1 Corinthians he gives four imperatives that are as relevant today as they were in the first century.

Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13 NLT)

Gail

## House Box Collection Time



Hi there

Do you have a Children's Society Collection Box? If so, then it's the time of year when we get to empty them and send off what you have so generously collected to help the vital work of the Children's Society.

Could you please pass your boxes to me during September then I can empty them and pass them back to you for another year!

If you do not have a collecting box but would like one, please ask me and I can provide one. Because of the accounting of the monies, I will require you to complete a short form, but other than that, you only need to take a box, put any coins in it throughout the year and then pass it to me for counting and sending off once a year.

If you decide to take a box, you will be joining over 120, 000 other people who help change the lives of some of our countries most vulnerable young people. Last year over £1.6 million was collected in bits of loose change.

Don't think for a moment that your little bits of coins can't help, they can, as Tesco would put it...'Every Little Helps', and if you still doubt the impact a few coins make, see the Box Holder Newsletter on the noticeboard.

Thank you in anticipation of you returning your boxes to me, I hope to be inundated with boxes of coins in the not too distant future.

Dawn Tattersfield



## 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 at St Mary's on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month to chat, reminisce and have some fun. Refreshments are served and there is no charge.

### September Dates

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**


**Join us for reminiscence and memories of a Night Out in Batley**



**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Tea, Cake and Rock and Roll**



**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.**

## **GEORGE & JEMIMA LOAFING AROUND**

**George pops up singing**

**George** " I like bread & butter, I like toast & jam, that's what my Momma feeds me, cause I'm her little man, Oh Oh I like bread.....

**Jemima butts in** What's that silly song Gorge?

**George.** It's not silly, it's my favourite song about my favourite food. I like bread & butter, can't get enough of it and I want it all the time. Want it, Want it, WANT IT, MUST HAVE IT!

**Jemima.** Is that all you can think about George, bread & butter?

**George.** No, toast & jam as well. Must have it, give it to me Jemima, want it want it, NOW!

**Jemima.** Calm down George, calm down.

**George.** Sorry Jemima, got a bit carried away.

**Jemima.** That's alright George, just settle down.

**George.** OK, no problem ( long pause, sigh) ya haven't got a sandwich on ya have ya Jemima?

**Jemima.** No I haven't George, what's the matter with you, for crying out loud, are you possessed, are you off your crust?

**George.** Crust, crust, did you say crust, stop talking about bread, you'll set me off again.

**Jemima.** Oh crumbs George, pack it in.

**George.** Crumbs, ya see ya at it again.

**Jemima.** OK George, shush, shush, calm down.

**George.** OK, OK I'm alright now.

**Jemima.** Right George, lets get to the bottom of your fascination with bread. What's your favourite bread George?

**George.** Oh just bread, any bread.

**Jemima.** Do you know how many different kinds of bread there must be around the world?

**George.** Don't care as long as I get some.

**Jemima.** Have you ever had pitta bread George.

**George.** Wotta bread?

**Jemima.** Pitta bread, it's common in the middle east and Mediterranean regions. It has a pocket that can be used to scoop up foods.

**George.** WHAT! somebody's sewn a pocket onto a slice of bread-ughhhh.

**Jemima.** Oh you're priceless George.

**George.** I'll tell ya what I do like Jemima.

**Jemima.** What's that George?

**George.** Them things ya get with an Indian meal, them pijapas, tipajas, er pitajas.

**Jemima.** Chapati George, it's chapati.

**George.** Yeh, them's em, I like them.

**Jemima.** So you want bread all the time then George?

**George.** Yep. Want it, want it, must have it. Ya haven't got any pajapis on ya now have ya Jemima?

**Jemima.** No George, certainly not. Have you ever thought that you spend too much time thinking about what you want and not enough time thinking about what you really need?

**George.** How do you mean?

**Jemima.** Well, remember in Church this morning we were in The Gospel of John. Jesus has miraculously fed five thousand people with just 5 loaves of bread and two fishes.

**George.** Blimey, I bet they didn't get much ha ha.

**Jemima.** Shush George. Then Jesus crossed The Sea of Galilee and they followed him.

**George.** Why, were they still hungry?

**Jemima.** Shush. Jesus accused them of following him simply to get more of the magic bread.

**George.** Yeh, I would have followed him as well.

- Jemima.** Shush. The people had missed the point.
- George.** Good job they hadn't missed the boat ha ha. Sorry, carry on.
- Jemima.** The bread they really need is the sustenance that Jesus can offer, if they believe in him and his heavenly Father. He is the bread they need. Today, once again he says "I am the bread of life" and once again they don't get it.
- George.** No, I didn't get it either, I must have missed the boat.
- Jemima.** Listen George. He is promising them eternal life, eternal sustenance, and they don't buy it
- George.** I thought he gave em it, they didn't have to buy it did they?
- Jemima.** Lets imagine George that we are these local folks, we know we have been promised, someone sent from God, to save us and we hear about Jesus and what he can do. Like miracles, healings and great preachings.
- George.** And making lots of bread & fishes.
- Jemima.** Shut up George. So we go to hear him preach and teach and amidst all of his powerful preaching he feeds us with the most miraculous bread & fish.
- George.** He must have had a lot of waiters.
- Jemima.** And we wonder if he is the promised one. But then he slips away across the water and we follow him, but he seems annoyed with us.
- George.** Cause we ate all his bread and fish?
- Jemima.** No George. He thinks we were just there for the meals and he says we are ignoring what he has to offer that will really keep us going.
- George.** Are we having pudding?
- Jemima.** No George. The people thought Jesus was just some arrogant kid and trickster with loaves and fishes. They said no he can't be the promised one, despite that little trick with the loaves and fishes, he's just a neighbour's kid not a conqueror. Bread of Heaven - we think not. But as The Rolling Stones song says. " You can't always get what you want but if you try, sometimes you get what you need."
- George.** I'm getting hungry now Jemima, I could murder a fish butt.

**Jemima.** Let me recap George. Those people who dismissed Jesus as a magic trickster who they could not understand were so focused on what they wanted, a conquering King, that they missed that he was in fact what they really needed.

They wanted a King, but what they really needed was someone who would repair their broken relationship with their God, who would feed them, sustain them and give them eternal life. Because with this humble metaphor.....

**George.** Meta what?

**Jemima.** Metaphor.

**George** Is that one more than a meta three?

**Jemima.** I'll start again. With this humble metaphor, Jesus is trying to get the people who are stuck in a sea of wants, to look at what they really need. Not a meal, Not a conquering king,

No, what they need is what really endures them. And they can get it by simply believing that they are the beloved of the one who created them. And the one who created them will make sure that they always get what they truly need  
Amen

**George.** That was fantastic Jemima.

**Jemima.** Well thank you George.

**George.** Come on, lets go t'chippy.

**Both** Bye Bye everybody.

Brian





# St Mary's Playgroup Woodkirk

Sessions are

**Monday, Tuesday & Thursday**

**9:30am – 11:25am (term time)**

**Charity Number 1083568**

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## OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS



Recently I looked through the life of David in a series called “The Search for a King,” and I thought I’d use that to offer some reflection here on how I have learned (and am learning) through Old Testament characters in Gospel-faithful ways.

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

Saul seemed like the perfect choice for Israel. He was a good leader, charismatic and promised to provide Israel with everything they desired. In the end, of course, he bitterly disappointed them.

The next king God gave to them was of a fundamentally different type.

He was, literally, the last guy in a room of seven brothers whom you’d choose to be king. He was small. Unimpressive. He smelled like sheep.

But he had a mighty trust in God. Because of that, he would point Israel consistently to hope in God as their true King. David was God’s choice to be Israel’s king, because God was David’s choice to be King.

Even David, however, would disappoint Israel, and bitterly. David’s life ends as a string of tragic failures—an adulterous, murderous relationship with Bathsheba, severe parental failure with Absalom, and the blasphemous sin of counting of the people in opposition to God’s

instructions. In one of Israel's most crucial hours, David failed them as a husband, father, and leader. David's life ends with 70,000 Israelites dying for *his* sin, with David wishing he could die in their place but unable to.

David's life, however, points us forward to another King who was coming—the Messiah—who was in some ways like David, but in many more ways *unlike* him.

Unlike David, who sent innocent Uriah to die to cover up David's own sin, Jesus, the truly innocent one, would die for ours. Unlike David, who neglected Absalom his son when Absalom needed him most, Jesus would pursue us, His children, even when it cost Him His life. And unlike David, whose people had to die for his sin, Jesus would die for ours.

Jesus was the "truer and better David," the real Hope of Israel. The truth is that all of us, like Israel, are searching for some type of King. We long for something to give us prosperity, stability, a sense of meaning, and security. David's life shows us that all kings but Jesus will disappoint. Jesus is the King they were searching for, and the one we are searching for as well.

The main purpose of David's story, or that of any Old Testament hero, is not to give us an example to emulate, but to point us forward to the Messiah who is coming. Old Testament characters often gave signs and pictures of what the Messiah was like, but just as often showed us what He would be like in how they failed. He would do what they, being mere men and women, were never able to do.

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

David certainly is, in some ways, worthy of our emulation (1 Cor 10:6). Yet he failed in some of the most important ways. Jesus, the Messiah, is the hero in David's story. He succeeded where David failed. And He gave His perfect life for us so that when we fail we could be forgiven and accepted. God's favor is a gift that is given to us because of what

Christ did for us, not what we are to do for God. That knowledge is what gives us real courage, real humility, and real generosity. Jesus was the real Man after God's own heart, and He gave us His position before the Father as a gift.

Interestingly, almost all of the Old Testament stories end like David's did—with a befuddling sense of disappointment. Moses, the Lawgiver, is not allowed to go into the Promised Land because he broke the laws of God. The Temple that Ezra builds is so second rate that people who remembered the first one wept when they saw it. David, Israel's greatest king, turns out to be a desperate sinner who can't even save himself, his family, or his people. At the end of his life he repeats all of Israel's sins and laments his inability to save them. The whole message of the Old Testament is that we need a Lawgiver who not only keeps the laws Himself but can redeem us when we break them; we need someone to build a glorious, eternal kingdom that not even our sin can tarnish; we need a Shepherd who will not abuse his sheep but die for them; we need a Father who will not neglect his children but will lay down his life for them; we need a King who will not use His people but serve them. *That* role can't be filled by Moses or Nehemiah or David; it's only filled by Jesus Christ, God's Son and God's appointed King. He is the King we are searching for. And that is good news for many of us who have lost our way and made a mess of our lives, because that means we can hope in His work on our behalf.

He can rebuild our lives where we have destroyed them. He can give hope where we feel hopeless.

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

Gail

## Prayerful thought

Hi there

Now when I last wrote a prayerful thought we were enjoying lovely summer weather, which amazingly managed to last throughout quite a lot of August, however, as I write this time, approaching a Bank Holiday, it appears normal service has been resumed and it is not only raining, but there is a distinctly Autumnal nip in the air and the nights are getting darker, hey ho, that's the thing with a four season climate! But then again, I do like Autumn.

Now enough of the weather, I was inspired to write this month's thought by of all things my in car sat nav! Yes really!

You see, my sat nav received an update, as these things do from time to time, but I hadn't noticed anything different, until I was driving on the inner ring road in Leeds. As you may know, you go through a number of underpasses and I noticed the image on my sat nav changed from the map to showing me the image of a tunnel which was stating the obvious, because, by looking out of my windscreen I could see that I was in a tunnel!

So I started to think about whether there was anything or anyone in the Bible who stated the obvious?

The only thing I could think of (after asking Rev Sharon as well) was the prophets. Prophets were those who received a message from God either through hearing His voice, seeing a vision or through a dream which they were to pass on.

A summary of some of the most important themes of the Old Testament prophets includes;

Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings chapter 18), preventing the people of Israel from completely forsaking God, Jonah (Jonah chapter 1) who was tasked with going to Ninevah but ended up being 'persuaded' in the belly of a whale! Amos, Hosea, Micah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel amongst other things all prophesied a theme of judgement.

It is here then, where we can gather that prophets seem to state the obvious, the message being, follow God's commandments to "... love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and to love your neighbour as yourself."

Unfortunately, despite their special relationship with God, the people of Israel were rather poor at keeping their side of the bargain. God had made the people of Israel HIS people and protected them, but they were incapable of hearing what God had to say and following it. Looking at it with a somewhat jaundiced eye, I don't think it is too much to suppose that the people of Israel could hear what God had to say, but didn't want to listen.

They were fine carrying on their day to day lives doing what they wanted, partying, worshipping idols etc etc, why should they listen to God when He wanted them to live sober lives in harmony with their neighbours. So the message of the prophets was obvious, live according to God's laws, love God, don't worship other idols, love your neighbour, you can see why prophets have a reputation for being miserable! Spoiling everyone's fun!

One thing I thought when I was looking at this was that although God's message could be said to be obvious, one cannot state that God Himself is obvious. He chooses people as prophets who wouldn't seem an obvious choice, just as in the New Testament we see Jesus choosing His disciples from unobvious sources, simple fisher men, a tax collector, a zealot!

But such is the same today, we are chosen by God not because we are rich or famous or really clever or very rich, it may not be obvious to you, but God has called you, see Isaiah chapter 43:1...

The other thing I discovered when looking for references to being obvious was that the word 'obvious' is used more in the more modern translations of the Bible.

There is no use of it at all in the King James Bible, in the Good

News Bible there are 3 references, all in the Old Testament (Genesis 41:39, and in Leviticus 13:11 and 13:36), then if we look at the New International Version there are 4 references all in the New Testament! (Matthew 6:18, Galatians 5:19 and in 1 Timothy 5 verses 24 and 25) however if we consider The Message which is a contemporary Americanised translation obvious becomes a word used a total of 40 times, 8 in the Old Testament and 32 in the New.

It made me smile when I saw the actual phrase 'pointing out the obvious' in this translation in the words of John 13:12-17 which is after Jesus has washed his disciples feet and is explaining that they need to go and do likewise, he says "...I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life."

Are things 'obvious' to us because we have the benefit of hindsight? There is so much more information available to us almost instantly in our world today that perhaps things seem more obvious than they did to our ancestors.

I hope that you have a chance to read some of the passages listed in my article, they may encourage you to read a little more about the prophets chosen by God to reinforce his message to his people.

However, if not, then I'll leave you with this thought.

To be right with God, we must strive to live by God's standards and commands and this produces a sound society. If we are alienated from God, our relationships with one another will go away. Whilst the prophets analysis of the situation made God's judgement inevitable, hope breaks through the darkest clouds.

What can we do about it? "...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself."

It's obvious isn't it?

With love

Dawn

## From Around the Diocese...

### World Meeting of Families - Report from Dublin

On 23rd August at the launch of 'Seeking God Together', a new resource for pastoral accompaniment of families through the natural life cycle (from cradle to grave and all stages in between) two families from the Diocese of Leeds met Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

The Walker family of St Ignatius Parish in Ossett stood an hour in the rain with their three children, waiting for a bus to get them to the launch at All Hallows' Church, north Dublin. Their perseverance was rewarded when they met the Cardinal - and there was cake, too!

Karen and Jaikaila Holder-Benjamin of the parish of St Jeanne Jugan in Leeds enjoyed meeting people in the family life ministry network of England and Wales.

'Seeking God Together' is for parishes and families wanting to know how to find God in their everyday lives: in the good times as well as the difficult times every family faces, encompassing all the landmark events of life from 'How did you know s/he was the one for you?' through all the ages and stages to natural death.

### From Lima to Leeds Trinity

Three students and two members of staff from the **Universidad Católica Sedes Sapientiae in Lima** are visiting the Diocese of Leeds to participate in a Summer School at **Leeds Trinity University**.

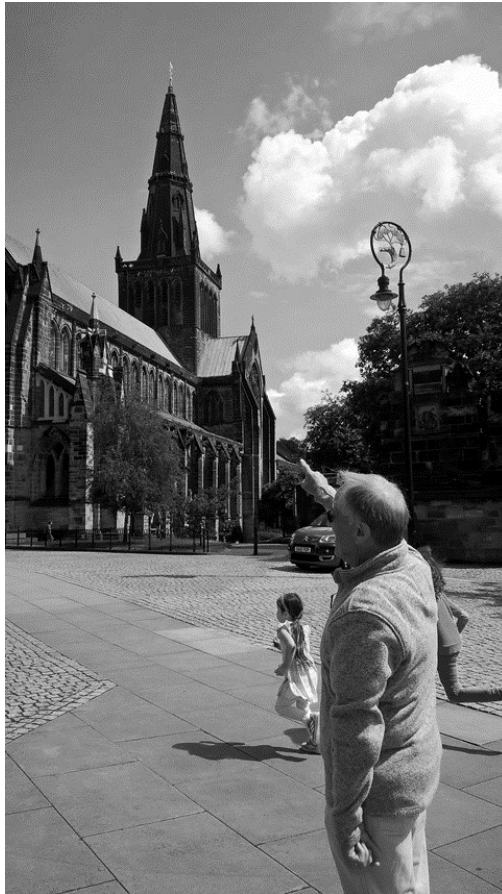
Thanks to the generosity of LTU, the students will stay and study free at the University in Horsforth; and thanks to the continued generosity of parishioners throughout the Diocese, the Peru Commission has been able to provide £7,000 to pay for their food and travel in addition to the £10,000 funding previously provided to maintain the students who are supported in their studies throughout the year back home in Peru.

The two young men and a woman (Joan, Mauricio and Estrella) arrived in Leeds on 4th August. The young people and one of their teachers, Carmen, were given a warm welcome by Leeds Trinity's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Lloyd and were introduced to Bishop Marcus who is Chair of the University's Board of Governors.



## Brian can't help himself...

On a recent trip to Scotland, Brian and wife Sandra had a look around Glasgow, but immediately on seeing the Cathedral, Brian's old affliction started playing up, and, before Sandra could stop him, Brian had started pointing again. Luckily paramedics were nearby and after a while managed to get it under control—although they did advise Sandra to avoid church buildings for a while...



*Brian pointing*

.....just kidding. Editor.

## **LETTER TO THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL IN THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I have asked your parish clergy to make available to you a copy of the Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the People of God, which was published by the Holy See last Monday, 20th August 2018.

The publication of the Letter follows news in recent weeks from a number of countries around the world of reports where bishops, leaders of religious congregations and other leaders within the Church have failed to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and, in a distressingly great number of instances have tried, or have appeared to try, to cover-up that abuse.

Together with murder, there is surely no greater or more terrible a crime than to corrupt or destroy the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual innocence of a child. The sexual abuse of a child is such a crime.

When the abuse of a child or young person takes place in a family, the consequences of that terrible crime affects not only the victim but every member of that family and beyond. Abuse corrupts the love that should unite a family and destroys the trust that ought to provide the safe haven where a child can flourish.

When the members of a family fail to listen to a child who is suffering, or has suffered, from abuse, this is reprehensible. When the members of a family fail to act to protect a child that they know is suffering from, or has suffered from, abuse, this is indefensible.

The fact that such abuse has happened in the family of the Church and that some of those who were called to watch over that family have neglected to listen to and protect its children from abuse - constitutes the most serious failure of those shepherds who are supposed to tend for the very children and 'little ones' which Christ himself commanded us to safeguard in our care.

As a bishop, a shepherd and a 'spiritual father' to the family of the Church, I feel a deep sense of shame at what has taken place over a period of decades and I am immensely sorry for all the pain that has been felt by survivors as a consequence of the failure by members of the Church to listen to them and protect them. I know too that the clergy and religious of my diocese feel the same.

But our sense of shame and our expressions of sorrow are cold comfort, too little, too late, and of little reassurance to many of the survivors of abuse. Simply repeating that the majority of the abuse took place in the past and that now the Church in this country has sound safeguarding policies and procedures in place is just not enough.

Only the voices of the survivors of abuse, those who feel strong enough and brave enough, and are willing to assist the Church, can help us to understand what needs to be done, not least how my accountability, and the accountability of bishops and other leaders in the Church can be reformed. In this regard we have much to learn from the Survivors Advisory Panel to the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission in England and Wales, but the contribution of survivors must extend beyond and be heard in every country where the Church is present.

There is though, something which all of us as members of the family of the Church constantly need to undertake, and is sorely required of us now. It is what Pope Francis has called for: “a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does” and the need to “beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others” through fasting, penance and prayer.

I ask that, as a diocesan family, we make this the subject of our prayer and the spiritual offering of our Friday penance during the course of the next year. Let us pray that the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ will bring hope to the suffering and healing to the wounds of those who have been hurt by abuse.

**Marcus Stock**

Bishop of Leeds

## THE 'HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S' QUIZ

1. Who is the 'mouseman' who carved the wooden mice in church?
2. Which was the Monastery to which St. Mary was annexed before the reformation?
3. In which year was the wooden 'screen' at the front of church removed?
4. Who is the current Patron of St. Mary's?
5. Before its demolition, what was the name of the Pub directly across the road from the Church?
6. Can you name one of the so-called 'Woodkirk Rebels' from the 17th Century?
7. By what other name were the 'Miracle Plays' - performed by the Black Canons—also referred?
8. Who was the Architect who created the Painting of the inside of the Church in 1834?
9. The tops of the Quire pew ends are adorned with what?
10. What is the surname on the grave of the relations of Stan Laurel?
11. Which King's Charter replaced that of Henry's original in the 12th Century to allow Lee Fair to take place to this day?
12. An Oak Tree sapling was planted in the Churchyard in 2012 to celebrate what event?
13. Which 19th Century Antiquarian described those responsible for the removal of the plaster wall decorations in church as 'Goths and Vandals'?
14. Which Vicar served before George Nesham?
15. Which month and year was Reverend Sharon officially installed as the current Vicar?

David

Answers on Page 36

## Poetry Corner

With leaves turning golden, nights drawing in and fires being lit, Autumn officially begins with the Autumn equinox on Friday 22nd September. So to celebrate the start of Autumn, here are two Poems from two of the greats:

### Fall, Leaves, Fall

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.  
I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow;  
I shall sing when night's decay  
Ushers in a drearier day.

### Emily Bronte

#### Sonnet 73

That time of year thou mayst in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,  
Bare ruin'd choirs where late the sweet birds sang.  
In me thou seest the twilight of such day  
As after sunset fadeth in the west,  
Which by and by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.  
In me thou seest the glowing of such fire  
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,  
Consum'd by that which it was nourished by.  
This thou perceiv'st which makes thy love more strong,  
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

### William Shakespeare

## Church Mouse Tales

'I'm considering retirement'

My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, announced one morning without so much as a 'hello'.

'Well, er—have you thought about it?' I asked uncertainly.

'Yes and I think its for the best.'

'The best?'

'Yes, I'm not sure I'm up to it any more—its all a bit of a struggle'.

'Cant say I've noticed,' I observed, 'you've been your usual self as far as I can see'.

'Well that's very kind of you Misha but the mountains seem to be higher than they once were'.

'Well maybe you should just walk up them—not run'.

'It's good advice Misha and I thank you for it but I really don't know if I can carry on at my age...'

'At your age? You're five hundred years old—you've been carrying on at your age for a long time already.'

'Well it's difficult at the moment...'

'At the moment—why what's changed?'

'Well it's because, it's because....'

Hubert stopped and looked crest fallen. Then it finally occurred to me.

'You couldn't find your glasses this morning could you?'

Misha x



## Guess Who?

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

She has been on a journey to faith and now can often be seen in the spotlight.



Did you guess? Last month's little girl was Lay Pastoral Minister, Gail



## Diary for the coming weeks

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

### September

1st Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
<b>2nd Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Revd. John P-P</b>
5th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion: Iona
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
<b>9th Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b>
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
10th Mon	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in church
12th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion. Healing
<b>16th Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
19th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion. God's Goodness
	1:00pm	Forget me not Café (to 3pm)
20th Thur	11.00am	Lydgate Lodge—Holy Communion
<b>23rd Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>1:30pm</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
26th Wed	10.00am	Morning Praise
<b>30th Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

### October

3rd Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion: BCP
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
6th Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
<b>7th Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
8th Mon	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in church
10th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion. Iona
	1:00pm	Forget me not Café (to 3pm)
29th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion. BCP

**QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. Robert Thompson 2. Nostell Priory. 3. 1976  
4. Robert Brudenell 5. The Cardigan Arms 6. Anthony Nutter or  
Samuel Newman 7. The Townley Cycle 8. Robert Chantrell 9. Corn  
Finials 10. Shaw 11. King Stephen. 12. The Queen's Diamond  
Jubilee 13. Norrison Scatcherd 14. Claude Stephenson 15. June,  
2016.



## **Hymn 73 in the purple book.**

Hi there

Here I am again, writing about a hymn we sang a couple of weeks ago. It was the last Sunday of August and Rev Sharon was preaching on Revelation, and our second hymn was 73 in the purple book, 'Fight the Good Fight'.

This is a very traditional hymn I remember singing at school, although I can't remember singing it for a while. I decided that I would look at it in a little more detail. The hymn was written by Rev. John Samuel Bewley Monsell an Irish Anglican clergyman and poet who was the son of Thomas Bewley Monsell, Archdeacon of Derry, and he was born in St. Columb's, Londonderry. Rev Bewley Monsell was a prolific hymnist publishing eleven volumes of poems and about 300 hymns. As well as Fight the Good Fight, another common/popular hymn he also wrote was O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Green book no 206)

When looking this up on the internet I found that Fight the good fight was based on the King James Bible's version of Paul's First Epistle to Timothy, 1 Timothy 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

And if we look at the words in more detail, it tells us that if we 'fight that good fight' of faith Jesus will be with us, look closer... Christ is our strength and right, seek His face and we have Christ as our path and prize. Cast our cares aside, lean on Jesus as our guide, His mercy will provide for us and, if we trust in Jesus, Christ is our life and love.

I've always liked the last verse, 'Don't faint or fear, Jesus' arms are near, He doesn't change, and we are dear to Him. Remember, if we believe, we shall see that Christ is all we need.

Sounds good to me.

Keep singing!

Dawn x



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Jessica Holly Butterfield  
Polly Faith Clark  
William James Lofthouse  
Donovan Rory Ashton-Degnan  
Dalton Michael Ashton-Degnan  
Daisy Rose Ashton  
Rowan Geoffrey Taylor



### DEATHS



**We give thanks for the lives of:-**

Catherine Montgomery Fletcher  
John Edward Smith  
Judith Ann Roberts  
Jean Foley

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

Sara Jane Dunn & Cyrus Church



May...



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

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<b>Toddler Group</b>	Wednesday 9:15-11:00am Sally Shaw 01924 475048
<b>Rainbows</b>	Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393
<b>Brownies</b>	Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm Hannah Tombling 01924 501892
<b>Keep Fit Class</b>	Thursday 8:00pm Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721
<b>Young at Heart</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
<b>Beavers</b>	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877
<b>Cubs</b>	Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm Marianne Ingham 07778 542302
<b>Scouts</b>	Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
<b>Explorer Scouts</b>	Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm Chris Ingham 07816 517838

## **Services**

### **1st Sunday of the month:**

10:30am Holy Communion

### **2nd Sunday of the month:**

10:30am All Age Worship for adults and children

12:00pm Holy Communion

### **3rd Sunday of the month**

10:30am Holy Communion

### **4th Sunday of the month:**

10:30am Holy Communion

### **5th Sunday of the month**

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

### **Wednesdays:**

10:00am Holy Communion

### **3rd Thursday:**

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

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

To arrange for **Baptisms** please contact: Revd. Sharon Wilkinson

01924 472375

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