Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy New Year 2019

January-February 2019

This Month:

All the Christmas Events relived.
Who's who Young at Heart;
If you could telephone God...

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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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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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.

Saviour:
God or Jesus Christ as the redeemer of sin and saver of souls.

Vicar's Letter

Once again we are at a time of new beginning. A time when we reflect on the past year and decide to make changes in our lives.

Mary and Joseph bring a new born Jesus to the temple for the traditional rite of purification. There they find two people who have been waiting for him. First, a righteous man, Simeon, who is overwhelmed to lay his eyes on this baby.

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."

Simeon takes just one look at Jesus - he catches just a glimpse of the baby - but in the face of Jesus he sees his salvation, and the salvation of all people. In Jesus' face, he sees a plan of salvation that extends to all people, not just some, not just the Jews, but the Gentiles also. In a little baby, a plan of salvation that touches the whole world.

Then, Anna, a prophet. She's been waiting, waiting in the temple, worshipping night and day. Her faithfulness is rewarded – she sees God's redemption plan. She knows, just by seeing this baby, that in Jesus, there is one who will redeem Jerusalem, who will repair the broken relationship between God and God's people. In just a glimpse, she sees salvation.

What do these glimpses mean for us? A new baby, a new hope, a new kind of salvation. For us today in the 21st century, standing on the brink of yet another new year, we need this new baby, this new hope, this new salvation, so much.

We desperately need a glimpse of God's plan for us. We see a world full of war and violence. We see a nation struggling in the midst of financial concerns. We see global poverty and hunger on the rise, and closer to home we find people losing jobs, homes, security. We need a glimpse of salvation. Just a glimpse to give us hope. Who could think of a world more in need of some hope, some direction, some salvation than this world right now?

We are at a time of new beginning. We have a new baby among us, a new hope, a new salvation. What does that mean for our lives? What hope have we this year? What will save us and bring us wholeness this year?

Catch a glimpse, even just a glimpse of the salvation God offers, and you'll find your hope, your path, and your direction.

Simeon sees a little baby Jesus, but catches a glimpse of a saviour who can touch people all over the world with his loving ways.

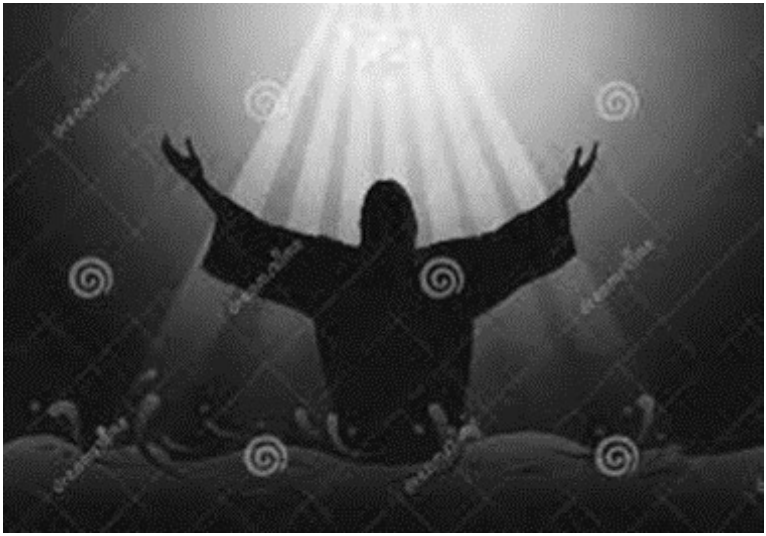
Anna sees a new born child, but catches a glimpse of God's redemption plan for all of humanity. We see our own selves - broken, and in need of repair and resolutions - and we are weighed down by the work that must be done in our world and in our selves.

Yet, if we can only catch a glimpse of the new born Jesus? Can we glimpse what we will look like with God working within us? There is, for us, a saviour, our salvation, in this new baby in our midst and we must do our best to catch a glimpse of what God offers each and every day.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, peaceful and blessed New Year.

Sharon

Vicar



No room! Noooo—we can just squeeze you in!

It was wonderful as always to see the church packed to the gunwales before Christmas when the pupils and staff from all three of our primary schools visited Church for their Christmas Concerts.

On the 4th and 6th December years 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 (respectively) of Blackgates Primary Academy gave a marvellous Christmas concert for their family and friends. They read, played and sang beautifully showing how much they had practised to get everything right. Parents were treated to a lovely evening.

On 20th December it was the turn of years 5 and 6 of Westerton Primary Academy, their wonderful choir, orchestra and staff! to entertain parents with songs, poems and musical selections. Again what was very clear was how hard everyone had worked to provide such a special evening, it was excellent.

Finally, on the last day of term, a sadly damp and drizzly day, all the pupils of Hill Top Primary Academy took the long walk from school to church for their Carol service. There was standing room only (and in the end not much of that either!) with parents and grandparents coming to watch the children tell us the story of Jesus' birth. Again it was crystal clear how hard the pupils and teachers had worked to provide such a lovely concert.

All schools sang traditional carols as well as one or two new ones it is always lovely to hear all the children singing with such gusto with great smiles on their faces, and how in some cases the children remembered all their words, they were excellent.

Our thanks to all three of our wonderful Primary Academies, hopefully we'll see you in church before next Christmas, but as well, we so look forward to seeing you again in December 2019.

Dawn

Christmas Fair 2018

The Christmas Fair was a great success this year, with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day as well as a great selection of things new and old. We managed to make over £1100 from all the hard work so it was a great result too! Here are a few pictures of the day...

Gary & Julie with the ever popular Tombola

Sandra and a lorra cakes

Lizzie with the all new Santa and snowball game

The Scouts stall always attracts a crowd

Tom and the kitchen elves—watch out for the rude one at the back...

Brenda, Susan & her Son in law on the Pickles..

Concentrating hard on the labyrinth game...

Brian with Cuddly Toys...

Gillian with Cards for all occasions

Christingle Services and Candle Collection Boxes

Hello there

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

A wonderful team of folks got together on Sunday 23rd December and got stuck in making 300 Christingles, a total of 1200 cocktail sticks that had to be loaded with jellies, raisins and marshmallows

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

Then of course we came to the two services, both services were really well attended with lots of children with their parents. We were able to build the nativity scene with the children bringing up the figures and we sang carols and learned about the Children's Society and it's excellent work this of course being their 50th Anniversary. Some people had remembered their candle collection boxes too. A big thank you to the Rainbows and Brownies who sent their boxes prior to the service.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and joined us at the Christingle services, and to those who have brought back their candle collecting boxes too.

Up to press I have paid in £377.12 to the bank and I know the Cubs and Beavers may well have some more boxes for me to collect when they are back in January so with a bit of luck this total will rise a little further. Remember all this collection goes towards the work of the Children's Society and is over £50 more than the excellent total you all helped raise last year.

Thank you so much for all your support, and if you are interested in having a collection box for your change throughout the year, not just at Christmas, then please come and talk to me and I can arrange for you to receive one.

Thank you once again.

Dawn Tattersfield

New Christmas Tree Festival - a thing of wonder.

The idea to run a Christmas Tree festival came from Chesterfield Church—courtesy of Neal and what a great success it turned out to be. Over 20 schools, businesses and church groups supplied a fully decorated tree each with a unique theme.

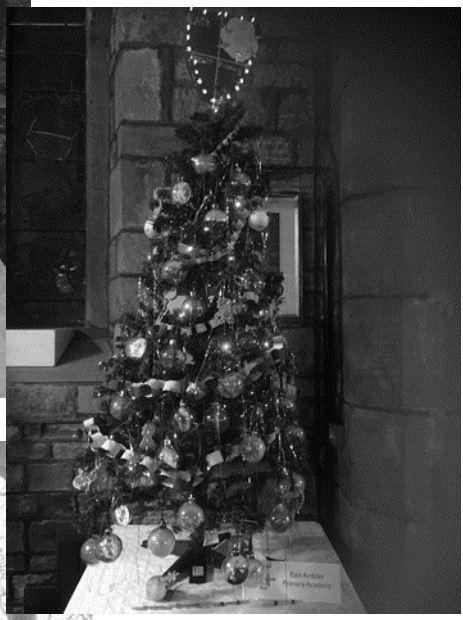
These were displayed in church over the weekend of 7th—9th December and enticed many visitors to come and see this unique event in St. Mary's calendar. We hope to carry this on next year—with maybe even more trees!

Here are just few of them (sorry black and white doesn't do them justice).

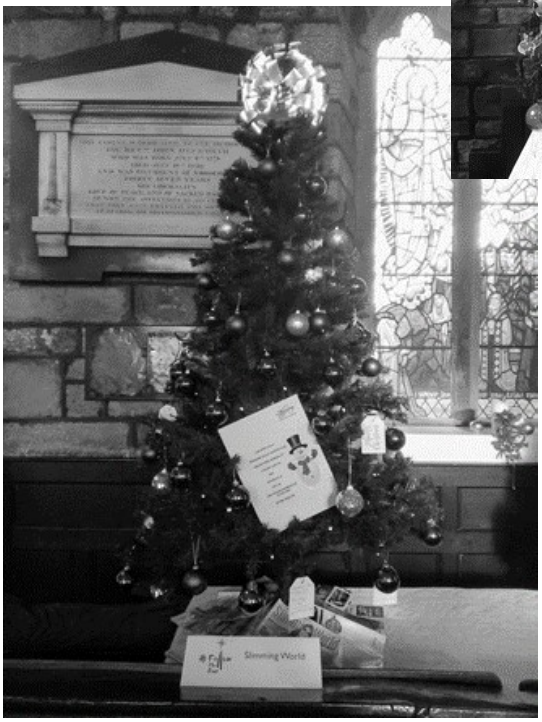
Woodkirk Football Club

Blackgates School

Shirl's Curls



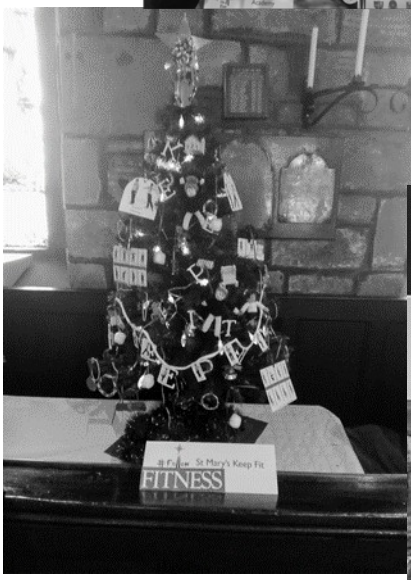
East Ardsley Primary Academy



Slimming World

Woodkirk Academy

St. Mary's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts



St. Mary's Keep Fit

St. Mary's Young at Heart

The Young at Heart Girls….

The last tree pictured on the previous page came from the 'Young at Heart' group. There were pictures around the tree of some of them in earlier times. Here are the pictures again, but do you know who is who?

1

2

3

4

5

Identities revealed: 1. Brenda Dixon 2. Margaret Longden

3. Pat Wass 4. Sally Shaw 5. Susan Walshaw

Season's Greetings from Leeds South and East Foodbank

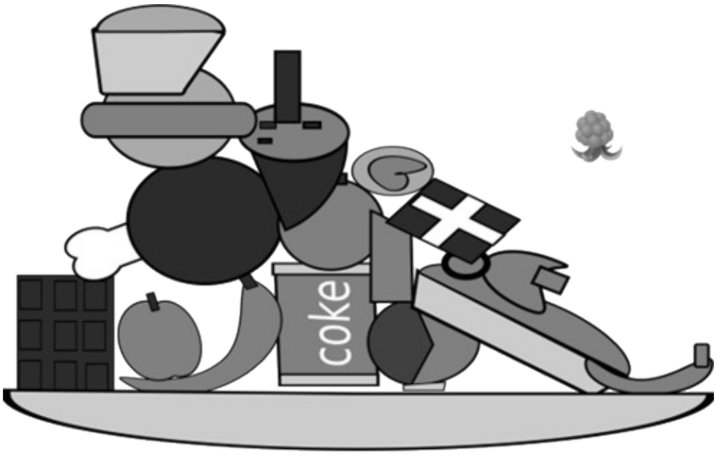
At this time of celebration and lots of food and wine, can I ask you to spare a thought and prayer for the Clients of the food bank. They will struggle to give their children gifts and wonder what they will put on the table on Christmas Day.

We look forward to 2019 with worry as the Universal Credit begins to be rolled out in our area and wonder how many more people will need our help. In the year ended April 2018 we fed 9000 people but so far this year we have fed over 8000, roughly 1000 per month.

Whilst the Supermarkets are getting on board and allowing regular collections and there has been a huge initiative from Asda to 'Feed the Hungry' we do still rely on people like you who regularly fill a bag with shopping for someone less fortunate.

So on behalf of the Food Bank, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have donated in the past and hope that you will continue to support us in 2019.
Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Barbara Tate



Follow the Star

A journey through the 12 days of Christmas

Did you receive this small booklet after a service at Christmas?
I did, and what is more, I have actually opened it and am, as I type, following this little daily devotional.

The booklet is from the Church of England and has a welcome inside from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and John Sentamu.

If you haven't looked at it yet then I urge you to do so whilst the Christmas story is still in your thoughts, you may have only just taken down your Christmas decorations! It is not specifically about the Christmas Story but gives a theme, a picture, a bible passage, a reflection, a challenge! and a prayer for each day from Christmas Eve up to Epiphany on the 6th January.

Some of the 'challenges' in the booklet so far have included;

- Who are the invisible people around you, people for whom there is no space?
- God invites all of us to come and look – how do you feel about that?
- Can you ask God to bring His light into an area of pain or darkness in your life ?
- What guidance do you follow in life?

Christmas reminds us of God's presence. Has it changed us?

If like me, you have followed daily, this little devotional journey, I hope you have enjoyed it. If however, the little booklet is amongst a pile of Christmas cards or papers to be sorted, take a few moments with a cup of tea (or coffee – or better still hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows…oh sorry got carried away!!!) and just spend a few moments reading some of the daily devotions. They don't take long and may help you through the first week or two of the new year giving you a refreshing outlook on the story of the coming of Jesus, because after all Jesus is for life, not just for Christmas!

Love and blessings for you and your family and friends in 2019.
Dawn

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Prayerful Thought ‘Have you any room?’

Hello there

By now you will probably be back at work, or if retired back into your regular routine, children/grandchildren back at school, Christmas decorations down, and all that preparation, all that build up will be gone for another year.

But before I say farewell to all that was Christmas, I just wanted to talk a little about the ‘Live your faith reflection sheets that Rev Sharon shared with us for the 4 Sundays of Advent. They were as follows;

Advent 1 - Time
Advent 2 - Place
Advent 3 - Action
Advent 4 - People

In each weekly sheet there was something to read, and some questions to reflect on and each week I found these questions most interesting.

Advent 1 - Time
The first point in week one was ‘How might you feel if you were held in God’s gaze?
I must admit I found it a bit uncomfortable. What would we do if we knew God was looking at us? If you think about it, we can sometimes feel uncomfortable if anyone is looking at us.

When you are out and about, do you get your head down and not really notice those around you or do you like to look around in case you bump into anyone you know?

When I am out enjoying a walk, especially around home, I do tend to try and exchange a look with those I pass and quite often we smile and exchange a few words and it is always nice to do so….

Advent 2 - Place
The second week showed a picture of a labyrinth leading to a bright circle and asked how it drew you in, there were people on the outer edge of the image some en route, and some that seemed to be almost at the centre, and asked where you were on your journey?

Again I found this interesting, taking time to think about the image and if indeed it drew me in, and made me think where I felt I might be. I didn't think I was towards the centre, more a bit further back, perhaps wanting to move forwards but feeling that I should be much better in my reading and reflection before I can hope to get any nearer to the light.

Advent 3 - Action
Week three talked about action which referred to the reading that week when people asked John the Baptist 'What then should we do?' and John replied "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise"

Did you have a bit of a clear out before Christmas, or are you having one now perhaps making room for new toys and gifts received? If so were you able to pass things on to a local charity shop? This is a simple way we can help those less fortunate than ourselves.

The other thing in that week's reflection which made me think was the statement "Sometimes the busyness of this time of year can make us feel as though we're dancing to the wrong tune and our priorities have been distorted".

I certainly felt that despite my best efforts, Christmas arrived in a rush and I ended up not feeling the full wonder of Christmas until the last few days.

Advent 4 - People
In the final week of the reflection sheets the focus was on people, particularly the encounters between angels and shepherds, Mary and Elizabeth. It also showed a picture of a 'contemporary nativity' showing a couple surrounded by their belongings and with a new born baby in a cardboard box and asked a number of questions like 'What might this couple's story be?'

It also reminded me of an image that was circulating on Facebook prior to Christmas, it was a nativity image with a quote from a chap called Neal A Maxwell which was;

"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!"

In our increasingly busy lives it is up to us to make that decision, not

only during advent, but into the new year and beyond.

Going back to Advent three, there was a personal prayer at the end of it which resonated with me, maybe it does with you too, it went as follows;

Lord, when I am weighed down with tiredness,
when I feel trapped by things I cannot change,
when my list of cards to write, presents to buy, and people to visit
is longer than the hours in my day,
help me to use your winnowing shovel
to separate the crucial from the cosmetic,
and not always to be trying to do more, but to do less better. Amen.

May we all find ways of focussing on those things that are important rather than those things that seem to fill our time but really aren't.

My wish for you this new year is that you also, instead of trying to squeeze in more to your already busy lives, may '…do less better' and may find room in your heart for Jesus.

With love and blessings
Dawn

Dawn and friends at the recent MU dinner

Parish Centre Garden—then and now.

Back in the early nineties, Alan Kelly began a project to make something of the little piece of land in front and to the side of the Parish Centre (also between the Parish Centre and the Vicarage).

The picture below shows how Alan had started it all going back then..

The edging stones were just being laid but the centre section was already looking good. Meanwhile today it is Sylvia and Alice (Alan's wife) who are looking after this space after Alan passed away. As you can see from the picture taken recently, below:

St Mary's ABC Group

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children) is a warm and friendly group for you and your little ones!

Wednesdays 9.15 until 11am (Term time)

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Christmas Chocolates

Did you buy, or were you bought chocolates for Christmas?
Are you still munching your way through a box or tub of choccies?

I was thinking about this and it reminded me of an assignment I had to complete for a January 2015 deadline. We had been asked to "Examine how New Testament theological themes are evident in contemporary contexts" which doesn't sound very exciting.

However, my way of approaching this was to think about them as a box of chocolates…much more interesting!

I actually made a fabric box of chocolates, designing flavours for each book of the New Testament that reflected something of their character. Sadly I don't have the space to share with you the full assignment I did, however, I would like to share a few bits with you now…

I began with an introduction which said:
"This collection of old favourites often gets left on the shelf in favour of other brighter, more interesting distractions. However, once you open this traditionally packaged selection, you uncover a unique blend of chocolates. Some of them are individual, some of them very much part of a wider selection. Some are easy on the palate, some are harder to tackle. You shouldn't tackle all four layers in one sitting, they are designed to be dipped into and savoured at different times. For best results open each layer regularly savouring the richness and diversity that is contained within".

The boxes four layers reflected the four types of writings we find in the New Testament, these are;
Layer 1, the letters, A selection of different chocolates bringing together similar flavours. 13 of them made by 1 chocolatier, the remaining ones by others chosen less frequently but still rich and varied.
Layer 2, the Gospels – Good News, the heart of the whole selection. 4 separate chocolates, the favourites, good solid flavours that people choose first.
Layer 3, Acts, a continuation of the preceding layer made by one of the Good News chocolatiers, carrying on where the Good News left off.
And finally;
Layer 4, Revelations – The designer of this chocolate also made some

in the first layer. However, here is presented a more visionary chocolate, often left unopened. Not to everyone's taste!

I made up flavours and fillings for chocolates that reflected their style for example: II Corinthians was represented by a caramel toffee with a brazil nut centre reflecting the difficulty Paul had with those hard line Corinthian citizens who took a long time to accept his message! Titus was Greek honey in a hard crisp shell reflecting that it was hard to get the message through to Titus but once he 'got it' he was an exemplary follower. Ephesians were Turkish Delight (Ephesus of course being part of modern day Turkey!!!).

The next layer was the Gospels and I showed them as 4 quarters of a heart with the four favourite chocolate flavours, Strawberry Cream, Noisette, Soft Caramel and Vanilla Fudge.

Layer three was a liquid chocolate centre with space dust pieces, reflective perhaps of the lovely heart of Acts with those lovely enlightening pieces you can find when you look closely.

Finally, in layer four we had revelation, which I made up of seven layers of peanut butter and marmite, reflective of the much use of the number 7, (beatitudes, churches, spirits, lampstands, stars, seals etc. etc.) and peanut butter and marmite, because you either love it or hate it!!

At the bottom of the box there was a slip of paper, it read;
"We hope you have enjoyed this wonderful selection of 27 chocolates and that once you have experienced each chocolate find that you will want to dip in and savour these 27 individual but closely linked morsels regularly to enable you to continue to receive the full flavour experience that is All God!

I don't think I got a very high mark for my essay, but it was certainly a presentation that had not been used before, I also had a lot of fun 'inventing' or using popular chocolate types and flavours to reflect the different styles of book within the New Testament.

Perhaps as you finish of your Christmas Choccies and come to those few that are left, you may be inspired by my assignment idea and look into your New Testament to find a book that reflects the type of chocolate you are munching.

With love and chocolates!! Dawn

Hanging on the telephone….

As I've mentioned in a separate article, I had been inspired to write about communication following one of Rev Sharon's sermons and thought about what it might be like if God had an answering machine.

Well at the same time, a facebook friend shared the following story with me. It is not new and has been on the circuit a while, but with apologies to our lovely Rev Sharon and Family, I'd like to share the following with you…

An American photographer on vacation was inside a church in Oldham taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '£10,000 per call'.
The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.
His next stop was in Manchester... There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Oldham and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K., thank you,' said the American.
He then travelled to Blackburn, Darwen, Burnley, Rochdale and Littleborough. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same '£10,000 per call' sign under it. The American, upon leaving Lancashire decided to travel to Yorkshire to see if Yorkshiremen had the same phone.
He arrived in Todmorden, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '50 pence per call.'
The American was surprised so he asked the Vicar about the sign. 'Excuse me, I've travelled all over Lancashire and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in Lancashire the price was £10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?'
The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Yorkshire now, it's a local call.'

Ee by gum!!
Dawn x

If God had an answering Machine

During December, amongst several sermons, Rev Sharon talked about communication and how God got His message about Jesus to the people, using angels and shepherds etc and she referred to those occasions when you ring someone for example a bank or utility company and end up with an answering machine giving you different options depending on what it is you are ringing about.

This got me thinking about what if God had an answering machine.

I was going to try and make up my own version (which I will try and do for a future magazine), but failing that I found this version on the T'internet which made me smile.

> *Most of us have now learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following:*
>
> Thank you for calling Heaven. For English, Press 1. For Spanish, press 2. For all other languages, press 0.
>
> Please select one of the following options: Press 1 for Requests. Press 2 for Thanksgiving. Press 3 for Complaints. Press 4 for all other inquiries.
>
> ~I am sorry. All of our angels and saints are busy helping other callers right now. However, your prayer is important to us, and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.
> ~If you would like to speak to: God, press 1. Jesus, press 2. Holy Spirit, press 3. If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4.
> To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, then enter his or her national insurance number, followed by the pound sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up

and try area code 666.

For reservations at Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our computers show that you have already prayed today. Please hang-up and try again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9:30 am. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local vicar.

We only need to ring once and God hears us. Because of Jesus, we never get an engaged tone. God takes each call personally. He knows each caller personally. Best of all, God often calls us.
Are you waiting for his call or will your answering machine talk to him? If you listen carefully, you will hear music in the background and God singing, I just called to say I love you! I just called to say how much I care...."

Thank you for calling, have a heavenly day!! You can hang up now!

Dawn

Albert's General Knowledge Quiz

1) BRIDGES: Which duo sang "Bridge over troubled waters"?

2) ANIMALS: When does a nocturnal creature hunt for food?

3) BOOKS: What nationality is the novelist Maeve Binchy?

4) WHO SAID: Doctor Livingstone I presume?

5) MISCELLANEOUS: In the Bible who was swallowed by a whale?

6) WATERW0RLD: Which of the USA/Canadian Great Lakes has the shortest name?

7) THE U.S.A: Which is the U.S.A's smallest state?

8) EUROPE: In which London building is the Duke of Wellington's tomb?

9) FILMS: Which flying car was driven by Dick Van Dyke in a film?

10) MISCELLANEOUS: Which female name is the capital of Tuscany's Italian region?

11) WORDS: Which word is both pat of a shoe and a flat fish?

12) MUSIC: Who wrote the song "Mr Tambourine Man"?

13) TV: The series "M*A*S*H" was set in which decade?

14) FAMOUS PEOPLE: Who founded "PLAYBOY" magazine?

15) WORLDWIDE: In which mountain range is "Mount Everest"?

16) MUSIC: Which group had hits with "Good Vibrations" and "I Get Around"?

17) EUROPE: In which London building are the Promenade Concerts held yearly?

18) NUMBERS: How many sides has a heptagon?

19) CRIME: Which notorious doctor was Britain's worst serial killer

Continued...

20) TITLE ROLES: Who played the title role in the film “Beetle Juice”?

21) CHILDREN: Natalie Cole is the daughter of which famous singer?

22) MISCELLANEOUS: Which is the smallest mammal named in the Chinese Calendar?

23) FASHION: Who invented the Mini Skirt?

24) KID’S TV: In which city was Grange Hill school?

25) NURSERY RHYMES: Which trio of musicians accompanied “Old King Cole”?

26) FLOWERS: The film “The Rose” starring Bette Midler, was based on whose life?

27) BOOKS: Who wrote the novel “Our Man in Havana”?

28) SUPERMAN: Who played Superman in the TV series “The Adventures of Superman”?

29) THE BODY: What colour are the blood cells that combat infection?

30) VEGETABLES: Which vegetable is the main ingredient of the soup “Borscht”?

Answers below:

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) Simon & Garfunkel, 2) At night 3) Irish 4) Henry Morton Stanley, 5) Jonah, 6) Erie, 7) Rhode Island, 8) St. Pauls Cathedral, 9) Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, 10) Florence, 11) Sole, 12) Bob Dylan, 13) 1950, 14) Hugh Heffner, 15) Himalayas, 16) The Beach Boys, 17) Royal Albert Hall, 18) Seven, 19) Harold Shipman, 20) Michael Keaton, 21) Nat King Cole, 22) Rat, 23) Mary Quant, 24) London, 25) Fiddlers Three, 26) Janis Joplin, 27) Graham Greene, 28) Dean Cain, 29) White, 30) Beetroot.

God's Plan for Ageing

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.
Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom, He made seniors lose co-ordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older

1. Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
2. Life is sexually transmitted.
3. Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
4. Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
5. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
6. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
7. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
8. In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
9. Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others while I go to the bathroom.

Brian

Diary for the coming weeks

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

January

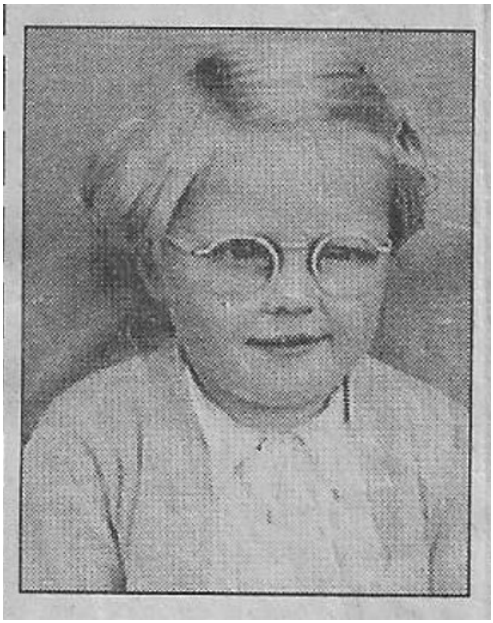
2nd Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (God's Goodness)
5th Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
6th Sun	**10.30am**	**Holy Communion**
7th Mon	12 pm	Churches Together (at Gail's House)
9th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion with Revd Glenn (BCP)
10th Thur	1.00pm	Funeral
13th Sun	**10:30am**	**All Age Service**
	12pm	**Holy Communion**
14th Mon	11.00am	Funeral
	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
16th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (Iona)
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
17th Thur	11.00am	Lydgate Lodge Holy Communion
20th Sun	**10:30am**	**Holy Communion**
23rd Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (Healing)
27th Sun	**10:30am**	**Holy Communion**
30th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (God's Goodness)

February

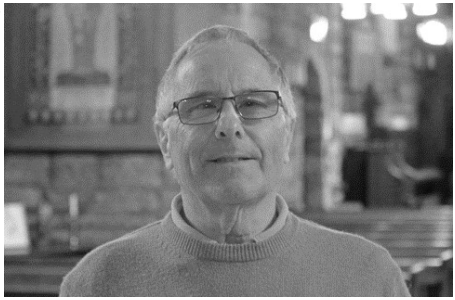
2nd Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
3rd Sun	**10.30am**	**Holy Communion**
6th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
10th Sun	**10:30am**	**All Age Service**
	12pm	**Holy Communion**
11th Mon	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
13th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (Iona)
17th Sun	**10:30am**	**Holy Communion**
	12:30pm	**Baptism**
20th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (Healing)
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
21st Thur	11.00am	Lydgate Lodge Holy Communion
24th Sun	**10:30am**	**Holy Communion**
27th Wed	10:00am	Morning Praise

Guess Who?

This cuddly little lady always gives a warm welcome, but who is she?



Did you guess? Last month's super hero was Brian Gledhill, pictured below - he played in a comedy duo called 'Fat Chance'.



Church Mouse Tales

‘Do you have any New Year’s resolutions?’ I asked my friend Hubert, the Black Canon, on the morning of the first day of the year.
‘Well no not really’, he replied, ‘I try to keep to the same values I hold all year round.’
‘Well that’s very good of you’, I observed, ‘but isn't there something that happened during the year or over the Christmas period that made you think twice…?’
Hubert thought for a moment.
‘Well there is one thing’, he went on.
‘Was it to buy me a bigger present?’ I asked playfully.
‘Well, no,’ he shook his head slowly.
‘Was it to sing more quietly sometimes?’
Hubert looked a little perplexed.
‘Well, no—I thought my singing was appreciated around here.’
‘Of course, of course’, I reassured, ‘so was it to…’
‘It’s about that game you had me playing,’ Hubert interrupted.
‘Which one…..oh you mean Trivial Pursuit?’
‘Yes, yes that’s it!’
‘What about it?’ I asked more cautiously.
‘I vowed never to play it again!’ he declared.
‘Never again?’
‘Yes, never again—not with you and Blondell !’
‘Well I think we won fair and square.’ I muttered, ‘I mean everyone knows Harpenden is in Hertfordshire.’

Apparently not.

Misha x.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Avianna Rae Paszke

DEATHS

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

Betty Aveyard
Shirley Pearson
Billy Adcock
Lynne Stapleton

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

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Parish Centre Rentals

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

Nominal Cost is £50 for 3 hours.

Contact: Sally Shaw 01924 475048 for more information.

Andrew Roper

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Wallpaper Hanging

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Mob: 07855 169672

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Leeds, LS27 0DZ

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We place our Parish Magazine on our website each month therefore YOUR Advert reaches many more people.

St Mary's Church engaging with the local community and supporting local business owners.

To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

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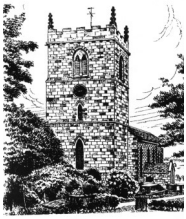

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Diocese of Leeds

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What's on

Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 11.25am Becky Schofield 07811 146958
ABC Group	Adults, Babies and Children Wednesday 9:15-11:00am (Term time) Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Stepping Stones	Sunday Children's Group (3-12 years old) 4th Sunday of the Month 10:30am in Church
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