

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

The Tree of Life

March 2019



This Month:
Sticks, Stones, Water and Silence.

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, Elizabeth Wilkinson.

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

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Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café
is for those in need of support, especially
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If you or someone you care for is suffering memory problems, have been diagnosed with dementia or are just feeling lonely and fed up please come and join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, In calm and beautiful surroundings you can meet others who face similar challenges, share experiences and find out about the support available.

Refreshments are served and there is no charge.

Please join us for tea, coffee and cake, a chat and a laugh. Meet both new and old friends and reminisce.



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Friends

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk
Dewsbury Road
Tingley
WF12 7JL

For more information please contact Jane on 07969 640396 or visit our Facebook page Forget Me Not Friends Café Tingley.

Meeting Dates for 2019

March	Wednesday 6 th & Wednesday 20 th
April	Wednesday 3 rd & Wednesday 17 th
May	Wednesday 1 st & Wednesday 15 th
June	Wednesday 5 th & Wednesday 19 th
July	Wednesday 3 rd & Wednesday 17 th
August	Wednesday 7 th & Wednesday 21 st

September	Wednesday 4 th & Wednesday 18 th
October	Wednesday 2 nd & Wednesday 16 th
November	Wednesday 6 th & Wednesday 20 th
December	Wednesday 4 th & Wednesday 18 th

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.

Read the Bible:

**It's User Friendly and Tech Support
is available on Sundays...**

Vicar's Letter

The New Year has come and gone – for some it would have been the start they wanted, positive and encouraging; for others, it may well not have been the dream start they wanted and yet we all have to face whatever challenges lie ahead for us. Likewise, we see the first signs of spring in the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils, new life out of the darkness of winter.

As I write this letter today's bible reading was about Jesus calming the storm. A story that finds Jesus and his Disciples on a boat on a lake. Jesus is asleep. The weather turns and there is a ferocious storm and the boat is filling with water. The Disciples are scared and they approach Jesus and wake Him up and almost accuse Him of not caring.

This is a story that examples both Jesus' humanity and His divinity and of God's grace and providence in our lives. Jesus is asleep - a very human activity. When Jesus is woken by the Disciples, He immediately rebuked the wind and the waves and they ceased, and there was calm. This is an example of Jesus' divinity as previously only God had spoken things into existence and the Disciples questioned each other, "Who is this that He commands even the winds and the water?" The Disciples are both afraid and amazed.

But the real point to the story is Jesus' next question to the Disciples, "Where is your faith?"

This is a relevant question for all of us especially when we are going through tough times. When we strip away our wealth, our material things and even our health or the health of a loved one what do we have left? Can we really accept there is nothing?

In the above story God shows his care for us. We are the Disciples in that boat, we are the disciples who live out our lives

through Jesus, and it is only through knowing Jesus that we can come to know God. Jesus is God and exemplifies all that is good, all that is loving, and all that is caring. God created us out of love, and created us in His image. God wants us to be in relationship with Him and for us to learn how to be in relationship with God. Generally, we do that by stepping out in faith and trusting Jesus. God will take care of us in both the good times and the bad times. God will be there and just as Jesus showed grace and providence to his Disciples so will God show grace and providence to us. The more we get to know God, the more we learn to trust Him.

So how can we get to know God?

We can pray – a simple conversation daily – for ourselves and for others.

We can get to know God by being still in his presence – setting aside a quiet time.

We can get to know God by reading His word in the bible on a daily basis.

Lent begins on the 6th March which is Ash Wednesday. Why not attend one of our Ash Wednesday services held at 10.00am or 7.30pm that day? OR/AND challenge yourself and instead of giving something up for Lent, why not take something up?

Can you take up one of the above ways to get to know God more fully? I shall be taking up No. 2 – setting aside a period of quiet and stillness, to simply sit in His presence.

Many blessings

Sharon
Vicar

STICKS AND STONES

When we step back and really look at the songs and sayings of our childhood, it leaves us scratching our heads. They can actually be a little misleading and even disturbing.

For example, we have all heard the childhood saying “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” I don’t know about your experience, but that has not been true for me. Someone has suggested we rewrite that statement to say “sticks and stones may break my bones but words can shatter my soul.”

Our words have incredible power. Every one of us could go back to significant moments in our lives when somebody’s words deeply inspired and breathed life into us. And we could go back to other moments where somebody’s words have deeply cut and wounded us. The words in our past echo in our present and they continue to shape our lives today. And the words that we speak to others shape their lives.

our words can...

Affirm and encourage

Build someone’s self-esteem

Tear down a person’s self-esteem

Disrupt unity

Bring comfort

Create panic

Express love

Inspire confidence

Communicate value

Destroy reputations

Resolve conflict

Wound deeply

Bring healing

“The tongue has the power of life and death...” Proverbs 18:21a

So, let us look for some practical encouragement for using our words wisely.

“Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” Proverbs 16:24

It doesn’t cost us anything to do this, and this isn’t about “spiritual gifts”. This is about sensitivity and love and kindness.

“Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a

person up." Proverbs 12:25

"At the baptism of Jesus, a voice out of heaven came and said... This is my dearly loved son, who brings me great joy...." Matthew 3:17)

The biggest enemy of blessing people with your words is not meanness or selfishness. It is HURRY.

Let us encourage one another when we speak words of blessing, be as specific as possible. So, here are some ways that you could speak blessing to people this week...

A hand written note

An encouraging e-mail

Face to face conversation

A text message with a short prayer

In football, what is the difference between a good pass and a great pass? DELIVERY.

To use another analogy, the most dangerous part of any airplane flight is the landing. And just before the airplane lands, they will talk about the plane being "on approach". The approach is critical for a successful landing. our approach with words is critical to successful relationships.

"Words satisfy the soul as food satisfies the stomach; the right words on a person's lips bring satisfaction." Proverbs 18:20

Especially when we are engaging a courageous conversation or resolving conflict, our words matter even more. our tone and the kinds of words we use make all the difference in whether we put people on the defensive or we create openness for a meaningful conversation.

Proverbs 25:15 really is a verse about the art of good delivery, *"Patience can persuade a prince, and soft speech can crush strong opposition."*

We must work at being "soft" in your communication. we can be clear and still be soft.

So, as we engage people over the coming weeks, let us be lavish with our words of blessing and affirmation. And, work hard on the art of good delivery. What we say matters but "how" we say it matters just as much.

Gail

Prayerful Thought

Water, water everywhere—and not a drop to drink.

Hi there

Some of you may know, that these lines are just two of a rather long poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge called *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Not being one for poetry much, whilst I quote this often when looking out over water, I didn't know where it came from, but when I was 'inspired' by the subject of water for my prayerful thought, it sprang to mind.

I think inspiration came from one evening when I was at Girls' Brigade, quite a challenge in itself as we are usually so busy I rarely get chance to think! But it was as we were racing to wipe up the spillage of a child's drink, a frequent occurrence! And I thought about how much water seems to be about us these days.

Now please don't get me wrong, I know it is important that we drink water to hydrate ourselves properly, and I know personally I don't drink enough water, but it seems to me that there is far too much water about. Children take drinking bottles into school, girls bring drinking bottles to Girls Brigade, you see cricketers taking on water during televised cricket matches, if you are out and about shopping or walking, there are people everywhere drinking bottles of water.

It may be my age playing tricks on me, but I don't remember there being this much of a 'thing' about water when I was younger. Granted I didn't sit for hours watching cricket but I never remember seeing Boycott or Trueman with a water bottle, and they would be out on that 'field' playing cricket in the height

of summer for hours! At school, we had our milk mid morning, ran about at playtime, had a small glass of water with our lunch, ran about all lunchtime, ran about all playtime in the afternoon, walked home (generally) and managed without constantly drinking from some fancy water bottle (although when hot in the summer I may have cupped my hands around a cold tap and helped myself to a few handfuls and then also splashed my face to cool down too!).

Now as I mentioned, I'm not suggesting that people don't drink water, it is after all essential to our health and wellbeing, but it just seems to be around a lot more than it used to be, and I also imagine if you are of a certain age, the idea of paying for water when it was freely available from the kitchen tap would have had you mindboggled at the very idea.

Anyhow, this started me thinking about water generally, and water in biblical terms, and through a quick look through my friendly online bible searching, I discovered that the word 'water' is mentioned 636 times in the King James Bible, 500 times in the Good News Bible, 617 times in the New International Version and 708 in the New Revised Standard (Anglicized) Version of the Bible.

The two passages that sprang to mind when I thought about water were the story in John's Gospel of the encounter of Jesus with the woman at the well, John chapter 4 v 14 which says "... but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life...."

The other one was from Psalm 1 v3 which says "...They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its

season, and their leaves do not wither.”

There are a couple of pieces of classical music that also spring to mind when I think of water, one is Smetana's Vltava which is about this river in the Czech Republic, and if you know it, or find it and have a listen, you can experience the flowing of the river through both smooth and rough parts, and also a great favourite of mine, “The Banks of Green Willow” by George Butterworth, which always makes me think of a lazy summer day sat on the bank of a little stream somewhere.

I think the most pertinent reference I have made above in my examples, that fits really the point I would like to make, is the passage in John's Gospel, where Jesus is talking about the water of life. If we put this into context, Jesus was in the desert, a hot arid place where you certainly need clean water, and he meets a Samaritan woman there, someone who Jesus, as a Jew, would not ordinarily speak to. The woman is there in the heat of the day, a little unusual as women would normally undertake this task together in the morning, using it as an opportunity for a ‘natter and gossip’ with the women from their village, which tells us that this woman is an outcast, and we see why when Jesus reveals that she has had five husbands and is not currently married to the man she is living with, and as she gives Jesus a drink, Jesus then tells her that “...those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life....”

Just imagine if your tap didn't work and you had to travel a long distance to get water every day, the idea of never being thirsty would certainly appeal to you, indeed, the woman says, please give me this water, and after her encounter with Jesus at the

well, the women brings many people to the knowledge and love of God in Jesus.

This has brought me to think about the water that people are drinking, and that whilst they continue to drink it, which is necessary, they are perhaps not thinking about the water of life Jesus can give them.

We know we need to keep drinking water for our health and that is great, but perhaps if we bring ourselves to God through Jesus and think about the life giving water we gain through knowledge and love of Him, then whilst continuing to drink water for our health, we can receive a spiritual 'drink' too which will nourish our bodies with the knowledge and love of God.

Here's to our ongoing need for spiritual as well as actual water for our overall wellbeing.

Love and blessings
Dawn



A Transfiguration for you.

“Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’” - Luke 2:8–20

Undoubtedly, we tend to put a heavy emphasis on the lowly circumstances of Jesus’ birth when we retell the Christmas story each year. Certainly, this is appropriate, for the Son of God humbled Himself profoundly when He “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:5–8).

Christ’s entire life was marked by humiliation, as He moved from a manger in Bethlehem to life as a common person in Nazareth to His ignoble death on the cross. Yet this humiliation led finally to glory. God the Father, because Jesus had been faithful to His mission, exalted Jesus and “bestowed on him the name that is above every name”

Our Saviour’s glory was veiled by human flesh in His incarnation, and it remained hidden throughout much of His ministry. Yet there were points in our Saviour’s life when His glory shone temporarily through the veil. The best example of this is the transfiguration, the moment when Peter, James and John were granted a vision of the Lord’s glory as it shone through the flesh of the Saviour (Matt. 17:1–13).

Furthermore, this glory also shone brightly at times when the people might not have been expecting it. In the midst of the humbling conditions of our Lord’s birth (poverty, being unable to find shelter in Bethlehem), there was a special manifestation of the Messiah’s glory to people nearby.

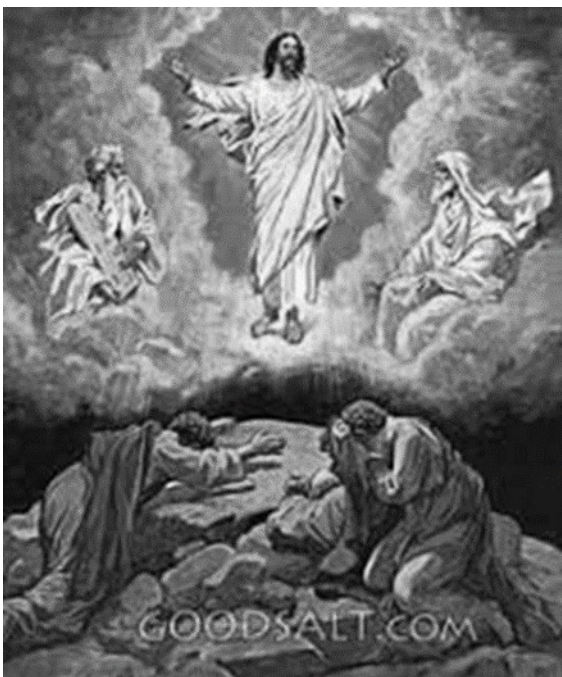
While Mary and Joseph tended to their son, many shepherds were nearby tending their flocks (Luke 2:8). In those days, shepherds occupied the bottom rung of society’s ladder, and the average citizen of Judea wanted little to do with these keepers

of sheep. No one could have predicted that the first people to hear of Jesus outside of His parents would be a motley crew of shepherds. Nevertheless, an angel of the Lord appeared to these men, who got to watch the greatest sound-and-light show of all time (Luke 2:8–9).

Understandably, the shepherds were afraid, but in this case the glory of the Lord's presence, which they could otherwise not endure, was a good thing. This was the announcement of the Saviour, the One who had come to redeem even society's outcasts. So, after the angels sang their praises to the Lord, the shepherds hastily travelled into Bethlehem to see the wonderful gift the Father had given to His people.

The shepherds were eager to see the Saviour of the world, and we should be eager to see Him as well. This involves not only coming to Him in our conversions but also seeking His face each and every day of our lives. Though we will not see the fullness of His glory until we see Him face to face in heaven, we will nonetheless come to a fuller appreciation of this glory as we study His Word and pray to Him. Let us be diligent in these means of grace.

Gail



Alpha and Omega

I was thinking about the word Omega around the new year when pondering anything new I was going to consider for my health in 2019, and I was reminded of it as I wandered the 'medicine' aisle in the supermarket recently when looking for a tonic as I was feeling under the weather with a cold.

There were so many bottles of food/vitamin supplements relating to Omega 3, the fish oil which is supposed to be good for your health. I'm not sure if I'm too young, or if it was just something my mum never did, but I seem vaguely aware that parents used to give children a dose of cod liver oil, I wonder if any of you remember this.

The thing is, it appears Omega 3 oil is good for you, please note this is not a health promotion nor an encouragement to take it, if indeed you do wish to do so, please consult a health care professional, don't take any notice of my ramblings!

Because whether we take Omega 3 oils or not, it just got me thinking about another use of the word Omega.

Omega is the name given to a rather exclusive make of Swiss watch (as worn by James Bond in his films since 1995) and it is of course the last letter of the Greek Alphabet.

You may know as well that Omega and its counterpart at the start of the Greek alphabet Alpha, are mentioned in the Bible and in a hymn too.

I was searching on line as I felt sure that I had heard the terms Alpha and Omega a number of times in church and I was surprised to see that they only appear a scarce number of times in the Bible and on all occasions only in the final book of the Bible, Revelation.

In the King James version Omega appears four times, not at all in the Good News Version and three times in each of the New International and New Revised Standard versions. The most

recognised uses will be from Revelation 1 v 8 which says “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” And also Chapter 22 verse 13 which says “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

I also seemed to remember singing a hymn which used alpha and omega and that took some finding, some of you may well remember it, I looked it up again online and found that it was Charles Wesley’s hymn Love Divine all loves excelling but is in our hymn books without the vital verse 2 which was

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, into ev’ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

It appears to me that Omega seems an overall positive thing, I’m not qualified to comment on its benefits to health, however, as a Christian I would argue that if God says He is the Omega then it has to be good for us!

Some of the benefits they suggest you will gain from taking Omega 3 supplements include;
Better sleep, good for your skin, lower your blood pressure and boosting your memory.

I can’t vouch for any of these benefits when coming to church, but I would argue that unconditional love by God’s grace to each of us would have similar health benefits as coming to church often soothes my furrowed brow and lowers my blood pressure! And you don’t have to take any fishy oil tasting stuff either!

So whether you think of Omega as a fishy oil, an expensive watch or indeed our loving God, let’s pray that we can all benefit from knowing more about He who, as it says in Revelation Chapter 22 verse 13“,,is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Amen

Dawn

St. Martin de Porres (1575-1639)

I really enjoy looking up the lives of Saints and found this one hope you enjoy reading the life of St. Martin as much as I did.
Gail

Martin, the natural born son of a Spanish father, Don Juan de Porres, and a freed black slave from Panama, was born in Lima. By the time he was born, over forty years since the Spanish conquest of Peru, society in Lima was stratified and hierarchical. Martin had inherited his mothers' African features, and his father disowned him, though he did take him and his sister to Ecuador with him to be educated. He was then appointed governor of Panama and sent both children back to their mother.

In Lima Martin was apprenticed to a barber surgeon from whom he received a grounding in current medical knowledge. His mother was a practitioner of herbal medicine, so he acquired knowledge of this as well. Both were to stand him in good stead. He joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and was accepted as a lay brother performing menial tasks in return for board. "Indians, blacks, and their descendants" were at the time barred from becoming full members of religious Orders. The prior of the convent of the Holy Rosary was prepared to make an exception in Martins case, but he, always conscious of his status as a "poor mulatto", refused the offer. He did eventually become a lay brother in 1603 when he was twenty-eight.

He flung himself into all possible works of practical charity, he was "barber, surgeon, wardrobe-keeper, and infirmarian", according to a witness speaking at the early stages of his beatification process, who said that each of these jobs was enough for any one man but that Martin managed them all "with great generosity, promptness and attention to detail," attributable only to "the effects of divine grace," His dual healing tradition helped him to accomplish some remarkable cures, and

he was soon spoken of as a miracle-worker. He extended his work beyond the community into the city, where he helped establish an orphanage and foundling hospital. He was entrusted with distributing food from the convent to the poor, and this appeared to multiply miraculously. He cared for African slaves, who had been imported into Peru since 1538 and made to carry out heavy work in dreadful conditions. His love extended to all creatures so that he became known as the St. Francis of the Americas.

He was so successful in collecting money that he raised enough to give a niece a dowry in three-days, during which he collected at least as much again for the poor. He provided for the most detailed needs of all in his care. When the priory got into debt, he offered himself-as only a poor mulatto and the property of the Order-in payment. He longed to be sent overseas on a mission where he could become a martyr, but his racial background and the structure of the Church at the time made this impossible, so he martyred his own body with rigorous penances – which added to his reputation for supernatural powers.

Despite the prejudices of society, all ranks, including prelates and nobles, turned out to carry him to his grave when he died at the age of sixty-three, on 3rd November 1639. He had become everyone's saint. Notwithstanding this and the impressive testimony given by his brother Dominicans at the inquiry into his holiness, he was not beatified until 1837 and then waited over a hundred years more until 1962, the opening year of the Second Vatican Council and what has been called the new “universal” age in the Church- for canonisation. He had already been declared the patron of all work for justice, by Pius XII, at request of the Peruvian hierarchy, in 1935. Thirty years later Paul VI approved him as patron of public education in Peru: the bishops envisaged mass catechesis through television, so he also became the Patron of Peruvian television.

In 1982 Pope John Paul II added patronage of the public health service of Peru, and he has also been taken as patron of all persons of mixed race. The development of the functions of a “barber” into hairdressing earned him the patronage of Italian barbers and hairdressing in 1966, and his work for social justice caused him to be declared patron of the Spanish “national syndicate for various trades” (a Franco-approved term for a General Workers Union) in 1973. One way and another, the all-embracing charity of the first mulatto saint of the Church is sure to be remembered.

Gail



Doctrines of Grace

Many, many years ago, the Bible was a closed book and people lived in spiritual ignorance. The Gospel had been distorted and twisted into an ugly representation of what was once good news. But then, on a brisk winter day in October 1517, an Augustinian Monk nailed 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg, Germany protesting the Roman Catholic practice of selling indulgences.

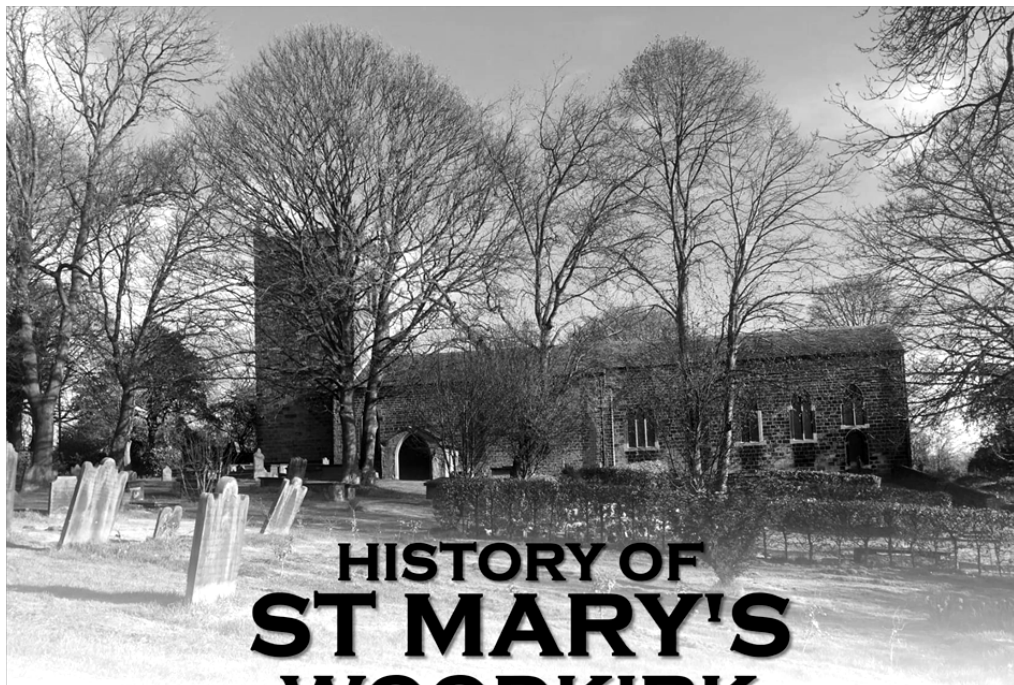
What happened next would trigger what many historians consider to be the greatest expansion of the Gospel in human history next to the birth of the early church.

This movement would come to be known as the Reformation and today, 500 years later, we are still experiencing the breadth and reach of the impact from this single act. The commitment to scripture and the bold courage of the Reformation leaders led people to rediscover the doctrines of grace which are the foundation of Christianity.

Gail



The Door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany



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Garden News

It's a quiet time in the churchyard at present but our Payback team have been working hard on wall repairs. Under the watchful eye of Dave (not me), the supervisor, who has experience of dry stone walling, they are working their way along the bottom edge of the churchyard re-building and re-setting the stone work.

It's starting to look really good along there now—so have a look next time you are passing that way.

Meanwhile the other Dave (that's me) has been moving a couple of fruit trees to create a (very) little orchard around the back of the Parish Centre—that's 2 Apple and 1 Pear Tree plus a Gooseberry bush. We'll wait and see how they fair this year in their new positions.

Spring is on its way and the un-seasonally warm weather will bring things on. The churchyard looks great when the daffodils and snowdrops are out, closely followed by Bluebells a little later. It's nice to be able to look across and see all of it as the new blooms come up.

We'll be dusting off the strimmers and mowers fairly soon. These have served us very well up to press thanks to your donations. There is a separate 'Churchyard fund' just for the upkeep of the grounds. You can donate to that if you would like to help us maintain and repair equipment, buy fuel and oil as well as invest in new items as the need arises. The Payback team bring a small selection of machinery but don't supply the consumables, so its down to us to help them where we can.

Once again many thanks for all your support.

David

STEPPING STONES



10.30am
Fourth Sunday of
the Month
in the vestry

For ages 3-12
(Under 5's must be
accompanied)

**Come join our new Sunday
Children's Group!**

*Enjoy a wide range of fun and creative bible-based
activities, before joining the congregation for the
communion*

Next Meeting will be on 23rd March

For more information contact Lizzy Wilkinson at Lizzy@stmarywoodkirk.org

Space Men and Aliens

Do we need a little humour in our church?
Then enjoy this letter from a nine-year-old boy.

“Dear NASA:

My name is Jack Davis and I would like to apply for the planetary protection officer job. I may be nine but I think I would be fit for the job.

My sister says I am an alien. Also, I have seen almost all the space and alien movies I can see. I have seen the show Marvel Agents of Shield and hope to see the movie Men in Black. I am great at video games. I am young, so I can learn to think like an Alien.

Sincerely,

Jack Davis

Guardian of the Galaxy

It seems *crazy* that this young boy would actually be considered for such an important job description.

But this is exactly what God does with us.

If we surrender to Him, the creator of the universe *wants to use us* to spread the Gospel to the world.

I can't think of a more important job, can you?

Blessings,

Gail

Tales from Africa

Diane Norton, Schools Adviser for the Education team, is travelling to our link diocese in Tanzania to explore work which has been supported by our diocese, specifically with schools. The trip will see eight members of our diocese visiting a range of schools across Tanzania.

Asante kwa kutukaribisha

Written by Ruth Randall and Kate Morrison

This morning, the group headed off on a longer journey to one of our more rural link schools, Kinyariri—the most deprived of the schools we have seen so far and the link school to Ruth from Southdale CE Junior School.

It was a very bumpy ride there along what can only be described as a bmx track. Due to the condition of the road, we couldn't drive up to the school, but instead we were astounded to see the whole of the school running down to meet us. When we stepped down from the coach, we were surrounded by little faces and hands desperate to say, 'Jambo.' The children had made flags to welcome us which said, 'Welcome friends!' The children sang as we walked and when we reached the school we return the greeting singing a song created by Stephen, 'Asante kwa kutukaribisha (thank you for your greeting),' which delighted the children and staff alike. In the classroom, we had the opportunity to introduce ourselves in Swahili to the children and teachers. Ruth then exchanged gifts with the headteacher of the school both leaving and taking a little of our school's

love with us. The group then moved outside to the sound of the beat of drums. Ahead, the children were racing towards the sound under the shade of a tree. A spontaneous dance began which engulfed Ruth and Michael who danced with the children until they were all completely covered in red dust. The rest of the team had been visiting the school buildings which are in desperate need of renovation and completion. An example of this is a classroom which has no floor, no roof and houses a class of 160 nursery children in the baking African heat. The visit was both a privilege and a huge reminder of the importance of strengthening the link between Tanzania and schools from the Diocese of Leeds.

The 18 year old Head Boy gave a very moving speech about his life and the struggles he has faced but the adversity and courage he continues to show to reach his goals. He told us how he only started Primary school when he was 14 because before this he was living on the streets and didn't enjoy education. It was only when the Tanzanian government introduced the law of all children going to school that he realised the importance of education and the way this could change his life and support him on his journey.

This visit again proves how vital these links are, not only in supporting the education of children in Tanzania but also in educating our children and communities back in England.

GEORGE & JEMIMA STRIKE A LIGHT

George pops up

George. Blimey, this walls got a bit higher since the last time, what's going on?

Jemima. (from behind the wall struggling to get up, puffing & panting).

Help me, help me up George.

George. (reaches backwards) Come on Jemima, stop mucking about.

Jemima. Well pull me up then.

George. OK come on (heave) I've got you Jemima, don't look down.

Jemima. WOW! I can see your house from here.

George. Don't be daft Jemima, I live in Liversedge.

Jemima. Are we settled now George?

George. I think so.

Jemima. It's a lot better being able to sit down back here isn't it George?

George. Shurrrup Jemima, don't tell em that.

Jemima. Ooops, sorry George. Anyway what ya been up to since last time we met?

George. Oh, ya know, this & that, nowt much really.

Jemima. How about telling me about this & that then George.

George. It's just this & that, there's no then involved.

Jemima. Don't be daft George, just tell me what's been occurring?

George. Occurring, occurring, WHAT'S OCCURRING?
Have you been watching Gavin & Stacey again?

Jemima. OK, what have you been up to?

George. Oh just stuff, that's all just stuff.

Jemima. What sort of stuff?

George. I'm an earwig Jemima.

Jemima. An earwig? What are you talking about?

George. Earwiggo, earwiggo, earwiggo.

Jemima. That's enough George. I know you like your football songs, but what's all this nonsense about.

George. Like I said, I've been earwigging.

Jemima. Come on then, what have you heard?

George. The Vicar!

Jemima. The Vicar?

George. Shhhhhhhhhhhh! Keep your voice down. Yes The Vicar.

Jemima. What about The Vicar?

George. The Vicar's put the eebie jeebies up me and I'm scared.

Jemima. Scared of what?

George. She said that Jesus is going to come with his great big light and show up all of my sins.

Jemima. So what?

George. Well that's just it Jemima, I'm an earwig, and earwigs don't like the light.

Jemima. Oh I see. Things are becoming clearer now.

George. Yeh, it's Jesus with his big light.

Jemima. Don't be so silly George.

George. Aw it's alright for you Jemima, but what if Jesus shows up one Sunday and tells everybody about all the things I've done wrong. There's so many, I would die of embarrassment. That's why I want to be an earwig.

Jemima. Wouldn't you rather be a light bulb George?

George. A LIGHT BULB! Why a light bulb?

Jemima. So you could shine a light to see where you're going, rather than being an earwig in the dark all the time.

George. A light bulb eh? (pause for thought) A light bulb Yeh!Hang on a minute.

Jemima. What's up now?

George. I don't like moths, I hate moths.

Jemima. What's wrong with moths?

George. What's wrong with moths? Come off it Jemima, haven't you ever been camping. Ya know, when you're in your tent in the dark asleep, then you suddenly wake up to go for a wee and you turn the light on and wallop! All the moths are on the light bulb and they look MASSIVE on the roof of the tent, that freaks me out.

Jemima. So you don't want to be a light bulb then George?

George. NO WAY! I'll stick to being an earwig thanks very much.

Jemima. So, come on then George, what have you done that's so wrong to embarrass you?

George. I went to the swimming baths last week and I did the unmentionable.

Jemima. What did you do George?

George. I weed in the pool.

Jemima. Aw, come off it George, everybody does that.

George. Yeh, but not from the top diving board.

Jemima. Blimey George, what are you like?

George. And then, one day last week I hid my sister's favourite dolly and sent her a ransom note demanding she paid me a pound or she will never see it again.

Jemima. Oh that's awful George, and did you get your pound?

George. No, she beat me up.

Jemima. Is that it then?

George. Well that's bad enough for Jesus to tell everyone about me don't ya think?

Jemima. Oh George, Jesus isn't like that. Jesus is the light of the world.

George. How do you mean, He's the light of the world?

Jemima. Well Jesus said something very interesting about Himself. He said 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of the world'. You see George, Jesus loves you so much that He wouldn't humiliate you in front of everyone else. He wants to bring you **freedom** from the wrong things you have done, not shame: but it is only in His presence that we see those wrong things. That is why He is sometimes described as a light.

George. Oh I think I get it now. So if I keep coming to Church and believe in Jesus I don't have to hide anymore?

Jemima. No George, you don't. So will I see you in Church next week then?

George. I'm not right sure if the Vicar will want me in Church next week Jemima.

Jemima. What do you mean, course she will.

George. Cos I left her a little present in her cassock.

Jemima. GO ON!

George. Earwigs Jemima, earwigs.

Jemima. Come on George, help me off this blooming wall.

Both. Bye Bye everybody, bye bye.

Brian

Albert's Tom, Dick & Harry Quiz

1. World War 2 comedian who starred in the radio show 'ITMA' (It's that man again)?
2. Jock & Snowy were the colleagues of which 1940's radio special agent?
3. In 1945 which USA President succeeded Franklin D Roosevelt?
4. In the 1940's & 50's which Preston North End winger won 76 England caps?
5. Which American actor was the male lead in the 1964 film Mary Poppins?
6. Who is the lead singer in the group 'One Direction'?
7. In the nursery rhyme who sang for his supper?
8. Which former jockey wrote novels with a horse racing theme for over 30 years?
9. Who was the female lead singer in the group 'Blondie'?
10. In the nursery rhyme who ran away with a stolen pig?
11. What was the real name of 'Fish', the lead singer of Marillion?
12. What was the theme tune for the film 'The Third Man'?
13. By what name was the diminutive entertainer Charles Sherwood Stratton better known?
14. Chester Gould created which detective played by Warren Beatty in a 1990 film?
15. Who had a Christmas hit record with 'Mary's Boychild'?
16. Who was the subject of the film 'A Man for All Seasons'?
17. Who had a 1950's hit with 'A Christmas Alphabet'?
18. Which Spurs player is also England captain?
19. Which author wrote the novel 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'?
20. Which Lord Mayor of London was married to Alice Fitzwarren?
21. Clint Eastwood which unclean hero in a 1971 film?
22. Who played the title role in the 1963 film 'Billy Liar'?
23. Which Highwayman had a horse named Black Bess?
24. Who was crowned 'King of the Jungle' in the last series of 'I'm a Celebrity....'?

Answers on P36

Poetry Corner

I recently read this benediction.

It's profound.

I want to share it with you in hopes that you will read this.

Here it is.

May the beauty of God

be reflected in your eyes,

the love of God

be reflected in your hands,

the wisdom of God

be reflected in your words,

and the knowledge of God

flow from your heart,

that all might see,

and seeing, believe

...Amen.

Blessings,

Gail

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1.Tommy Handley 2.Dick Barton 3.Harry S Trueman
4.Tom Finney 5.Dick Van Dyke 6.Harry Styles 7.Little Tommy Tucker
8.Dick Francis 9.Debbie Harry 10.Tom, Tom the Piper's Son 11.Derek
Dick 12.The Harry Lime Theme 13.Tom Thumb 14.Dick Tracy
15.Harry Belafonte 16.Sir Thomas Moore 17. Dickie Valentine
18.Harry Kane 19.Thomas Hardy 20.Dick Whittington 21.Dirty Harry
22.Tom Courtenay 23.Dick Turpin 24. Harry Redknapp.

Brian's Funny Signs from Down Under....



Diary for the coming weeks

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

March

2nd Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
	6:00pm	Quiz Night in Parish Centre
3rd Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion
	1:30pm	Baptism
5th Tue	4 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in Parish Centre
6th Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion Ash Wed Service
	1pm	Forget Me Not Café
	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
10th Sun	10:30am	All Age Service
	12pm	Holy Communion
	1:30pm	Baptism
11th Mon	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
13th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (God's Goodness)
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
16th Sat	10.00am	Church Open Day
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	Holy Communion (Iona)
31st Sun	10:30am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion With Revd Terry Bayford

April

3rd Wed	10:am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	1pm	Forget Me Not Café
6th Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
7th Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12pm	APCM

Guess Who?

You don't have to quiz yourself to work out this youngster is never blue—he's sky blue!



Did you guess? Last month's little lass was Sandra Gledhill, pictured below celebrating a recent birthday with husband Brian:-



More Funny Signs from Down Under....

2 for 1...



Souper:



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Zara Jane Fitzgerald
Amelia Jade Daws
Poppy Myla Chappelow



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

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)
St Mary's Parish Centre
Dewsbury Road, WF12 7JL

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per session
/per family

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and Online Fitness 07711 416178

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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**St Mary's Church engaging with the local community and
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To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

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What's on

Playgroup	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am to 11.25am Becky Schofield 07811 146958
Community Fit	Group Exercise Classes Mondays 6:45pm to 8:15pm Rachel Tunstall 07711 416178
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	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 2:00pm Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078
Beavers	Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877
Cubs	Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm Marianne Ingham 07778 542302
Scouts	Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927
Explorer Scouts	Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Services

1st Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age Worship for adults and children

12:00pm Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month

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

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion

3rd Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

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

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