Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Mothers Day



This Month:

A Year in the life—St. Mary's through the seasons;
Easter Celebrations.

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.

St Mary's Vicarage, Dewsbury Road,

Woodkirk, WF12. 7JL

01924 472375

E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

Lay Pastoral Minister

Gail Townsend 0113 2528710 Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Churchwardens:

3rian Gledniii 01924 405790

Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Deputy churchwardens: Gary Mortimer

Pernoe Liburd

Verger: Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710 **Organists:** Samantha Marks/Dan Marks

PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

PCC Treasurer Barbara Tate

Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Parish Centre Hire: Sally Shaw 01924 475048

Child Protection Officer: Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

Health & Safety Officer Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Electoral Roll Officer: Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

and Legacy Officer

Neai Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Magazine Editor &

David Townsend 0113 2528710

Weekly News Sheet:. Email: dave2408.townsend@gmail.com

Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

Mobile: 07745 301746

Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet

by Thursday evening please.

Deanery Synod reps: Brian Gledhill & Gary Mortimer

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

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

Laura Mortimer, Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill, Pernoe Liburd, Flizabeth Wilkinson.

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

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Poetry Corner

Parish Registers

Alice's Comedy Corner

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x Mo Net Priends Memory Café

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 cate, a chat and a laugh. Most both new and old friends and reminisce.



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 u	aces for 2019		
March	Wednesday 6th & Wednesday 20th	September	Wednesday 4th & Wednesday 18th
April	Wednesday 3" & Wednesday 17"	October	Wednesday 2 nd & Wednesday 16 th
May	Wednesday 1 st & Wednesday 15 th	November	Wednesday 6 th & Wednesday 20 th
June	Wednesday 5th & Wednesday 19th	December	Wednesday 4th & Wednesday 18th
July	Wednesday 3 rd & Wednesday 17 th		
August	Wednesday 7th & Wednesday 21st		

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.

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book."

Abraham Lincoln

Vicar's Report APCM April 2019

Reverend Sharon Wilkinson

Well here we are again. Another year has passed and it is once again time to review the past year and to discern our hopes for the future of St Mary's.

As always, I will start with a very big thank you to all who have served God at St Mary's this past year and a big thank you to



all who have supported me especially during my Mum's passing earlier this year. Once again as a family we have been blessed by you all.

The PCC have worked tirelessly again this year to ensure that the best possible care has been taken of the fabric of the building and that all relevant local and national policies and procedures have been adhered too.

The importance of this became apparent in June of last year when Archdeacon Paul carried out his visitation. There is quite a lot of work involved in preparing for this visit as the Archdeacon can ask to look at any records that the church holds and it is imperative that they are both present and correct.

During this visit Archdeacon Paul spent an hour with the Church Wardens and myself, and then spoke to the whole of the PCC. The feedback he gave us was very positive and in certain areas our record keeping was thought to be exemplary and in fact Archdeacon Paul took photos as examples to other churches in the Diocese.

Archdeacon Paul also walked around the churchyard and stated he had not appreciated a) how large it was and b) what a missional opportunity it was and complimented all those who been involved in its clearing.

Archdeacon Paul expressed concerns re:- the payment of our Parish Share. After discussion with the Wardens and myself Archdeacon Paul recognised the huge strides we have made in becoming self-sufficient. Last year we paid 48% of our Parish Share and this year we paid 60% of our Parish Share. We continue to pay the Parish Share from income received.

Financially the PCC have worked hard to keep to budget over the past year, and our Treasurer, Barbara has worked hard to balance the books by giving the PCC monthly and three monthly updates and comparisons against budget.

We continue to successfully rent out the Parish Hall and this year a new Community Charge has been introduced which means that a base hourly rate has been worked out by our Treasurer, Barbara and anyone who uses the Parish Hall now pays a minimum Community Charge of £7.50 per hour/session. This means we are at least covering our costs for heating, lighting and insurance etc.

Our Parish Share has again increased by 10% to £37,921 and our challenge will be to pay a greater percentage than last year which is indeed a big challenge.

There have been some significant training events this year. Neal, Lizzy and Dawn went to a Lay Conference which was organised by the Diocese and they reported back to the PCC that it had been an enjoyable and well organised event promoting lay leadership in churches.

Sharon, Lizzy and Dawn went to a Leading Your Church into Growth Conference (LYCIG) which is an initiative by Leeds Diocese to both grow churches and grow disciples. After reporting back to the PCC in October - it was decided to hold a training day for all PCC members and this took place in March and you will have noticed and heard each Sunday the Leading your Church into Growth Prayer - which intentionally prays for growth.

Over the next few months I will be preaching on what this means for St Mary's Church and looking toward the future what it will mean for us as individuals to be a Disciple of Christ.

There have been a few significant events this year which have been aimed at drawing in the Community and especially those with families. Our Family Fun Day was geared towards families and children with petting animals, miniature golf and children's games. We also had an outdoor service followed by a barbecue and a couple of weeks later this was followed up by a Teddy's Bear Picnic for families with children. But perhaps the biggest event was the Christmas Tree Festival which was held the same weekend as the Christmas Fair which initially seemed like a mad idea but actually worked very well. Both events were very successful and the local community really took it to heart and we had 20 Christmas Trees on

display. The weekend ended with a family Carol Service. It was nice to see that all the schools in the area took part in the Christmas tree festival, and myself and Dawn regularly take services at Hilltop Primary, Blackgates and Westerton. All three schools come into church throughout the year for various services or class teaching and this is a really enjoyable experience for all concerned. I continue to be a Governor at Hilltop Primary.

We have held a couple of children's workshops throughout the year, Halloween, Christmas, and Shrove Tuesday and thought has been put into how we can make church more welcoming for children. A Sunday School on the fourth Sunday of each month commenced in January and it is called Stepping Stones. The ABC Group (Adults, Babies and Children) is going well on a Wednesday morning and is well run by a new committed Mum, and supported by church members.

All Age Worship since September has been a themed service focusing on the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. The puppets have played an integral part in delivering this along with Dawn who has been building a prayer station each month.

Dawn has now been a reader for over two years and I have seen her grow into a valuable colleague. Gail covers so many roles but her main role is that of pastoral care to those who are not able to come to church and she is also a valuable colleague whose knowledge for all of us is invaluable.

The biggest change for children will have been the most recent one at the back, of church - making an area where children can sit and play with toys and books and mums and dads, aunties and uncles, grannies and grandads can all sit and be more relaxed and less stressed.

Baptisms continue to grow in number and we continue to work towards building meaningful relationships with those families.

I have been privileged to take fifty or so funerals over the past twelve months and pastorally they are offered support either by myself or Gail and there have been discussions about setting up a support group - watch this space.

For some reason the number of weddings has decreased this past year and they are significantly down again this year (we have had three or four cancellations) - and so I think this is an area we need to address in the coming year. Other new groups that have commenced are the 'Forget me Not' Cafe which runs twice monthly for those who suffer with dementia and their Carers. This has been a great success and continues to go from strength to strength. We have two new groups in the church hall one that does Ballet and another that does Fitness Aerobics.

We continue to have good relationships with all those who hire the hall and appreciate the support of our uniformed organisations at Parade Sunday and particularly at Remembrance Sunday.

We have had several evenings of fellowship which involved food, films, food, quizzes, food and more food. These are usually very well attended and attract a regular following of people who don't attend church on a regular basis.

One of the biggest challenges is encouraging people to grow in their faith and it is very pleasing that this year we have two people who are going to be confirmed and have been attending Confirmation Classes for the past five weeks or so.

I am indebted to the Gardening Team and the Community Payback Team for their continued work on the churchyard to not only maintain it but over the winter a lot of work has taken place on rebuilding the walls around the churchyard.

I am not going to report on all the work done on the church building as it is in the Wardens' report but I am appreciative of all the work that has been done and my thanks goes to those concerned.

Nothing goes on for ever and it was with a great sadness that this year we said goodbye to the Mothers' Union who decided that it was time to close its doors. A very big thank you to all those that have contributed to this in any way over its long history and association with St Mary's.

One change that has happened over the past year and will continue in the foreseeable future is to be much more focussed on mission and evangelism.

As a PCC there has generally been more focus on budgets and the fabric and material things of church life. Certainly I cannot deny this needs to be done, and we have done it well. We have balanced budgets and we have put more money back into looking after the church building but that cannot be all there is.

An equal amount of time, money and thought has to be spent looking

at mission and evangelism. Rather than looking inwards at our own needs, we have been learning to look outwards and give graciously. We have started to look for, and rely on, God's providence. As always this starts with prayer. We have become more intentional in what we do, and how we move forward. We have to learn to be confident Christians and talk about our own faith.

Leading your church into growth is a framework for doing all of these things and just as the PCC has gone through the course, it is my intention to preach on this in due course. It is a way to gather information and to move forwards together. Very briefly, a lot of it is based around hospitality and invitation but with a lot more thought about who is invited and how we intentionally invite them to learn more about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. It means looking for the seekers of the world.

All of my ministry and all of our ministry for the last twelve months has been leading towards growth and reaching out to others. There is an understanding that to be a disciple we need to encourage ourselves to commit to lifelong learning - a disciple is a follower of Jesus, a student who studies Jesus and then bases their life on his teachings. Therefore, we will be running a set of courses throughout the year which I would encourage each of you to sign up for - they will be enjoyable and in a format that is easy to understand and easy to talk about. It is not necessarily about making huge gestures or huge increases, a small steady growth is what we want and this is what has been happening.

Our regular Sunday Worship is holding at about 40, we have 3 children who come fairly regularly on Sunday mornings and on one Sunday recently there were 5 babies in the congregation on a Sunday morning that wasn't an All Age Worship service. It is looking at the content of our worship and the patterns of our worship to see if it meets the needs of the congregation and the worship is of a good quality. We have begun this process and one result was to combine the worship on the second Sunday of the month and have an All Age Holy Communion service which means our children observe what is going on and have the opportunity to receive a blessing from God. We worship as God's family, all together.

It means looking to develop new forms of worship services at new times, and on different days to see if this intentionally meets the needs of both potential new congregation members and those who have been attending St Mary's for years. It is not nor never will be a case of throwing the bath water out with the baby. Everyone matters, no one should be left out.

The impact of worship is evident in our Christmas and Easter figures with services that were both well attended and of good quality. In fact, we had over 1,000 come through our doors on the three days before Christmas

I believe this year we have begun to see the fruits of a gradual change that has been made in our hearts and in our minds. Our openness to new things, to new thinking and to new attitudes is very biblical. Jesus came to challenge the norm, to throw ordinary people like you and me into confusion, into a learning process where we come out changed, one could even say reformed into new

creatures. It is so important we embrace this process not only for ourselves but for those who are seeking.

This is all very exciting and we have much to look forward to in this next year and I pray and hope that you all will be an integral part of this process.

Finally, I would just like to acknowledge how much commitment there is within our PCC and I would like to thank them for their hard work. Thank you to those who have served their time of office on the PCC and are stepping down today and thank you to those who are new members of the PCC and are stepping up to the task of serving at St Mary's Church.

My work here is ably supported by the Church Wardens, Neal and Brian, who behind the scenes do a tremendous amount of work. They of course are not the only ones and as always it is impossible for me to single out every person I would like to thank in this report but I would like to thank all of you who volunteer and give of your time. I know you are all busy people.

I stand by the fact that I lead in an open style, that my door is always open for discussion or a cup of coffee and a chat, and that with the passing of time I value each one of you more and continually keep you in my prayers.

I look forward to another year with you all. You will be in my prayers and may

God's blessing be upon us.

Revd. Sharon

PCC Secretary's Annual Report 2019

Dawn Tattersfield



The PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month in Church.

The evening begins with members sharing refreshments and begins with opening prayers which are led by different PCC members each month. We have excellent attendance throughout the year from our dedicated Church council members.

There are a number of standing items on the agenda:

Attendance and Apologies
Approval of minutes
Matters Arising
Financial Matters
Health and Safety
Safeguarding
Working Smarter Groups
Correspondence
Any Other Business

These items provide a structure that enables us to direct our thoughts and actions. We keep our knowledge up to date and ensure all necessary legal requirements are met in both Health and Safety and Safeguarding.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on the 8th April 2018, and was held at the back of church again with a faith lunch which was well received.

The first meeting of 2019 was held on 9th April, the highlights were a review of the Easter Services and preparation required to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that are coming into force in May, and confirmation that Neal and Lizzie Wilkinson will be attending a Diocesan Lay Conference at

Harrogate in May.

In May we had a visit from a tree surgeon regarding trees in the churchyard, we thought about businesses who could be contacted about taking part in a Christmas Tree Festival. Unfortunately there had been a Health and Safety 'near miss' incident in the Parish Centre involving a toddler from playgroup. This had been fully recorded and appropriate action taken.

Advance notice was given for a reading group which was starting in June and also a Dementia friendly group was to start being supported by friends from the Syke Rd Fish and Chip Shop. The PCC also discussed preparation for the Archdeacon's visitation to the Parish in June.

In June the first of the 'Memory Café' meetings had been held with 12 people attending, the reading group were working through 'Oriel's Diary' and it was agreed to look into hand held card readers to enable us to take payments by card (particularly for wedding couples etc).

In July Lizzie and Neal reported back on a most enjoyable and informative (and very well organised) Lay Conference in Harrogate in May. And the Archdeacon's visit in June had gone really well. Two emails had also been received regarding the placement of memorial benches in the churchyard.

The PCC shared a social evening together in August, although three urgent issues were dealt with prior to the start of the sharing of a meal together.

There was no meeting in September as due to PCC Members holidays, the meeting would not have been quorate.

In October it was confirmed that a card reader had been purchased and that the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Verger would be trained in its use. Rev Sharon also gave initial feedback on the Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCiG) Course that she, Lizzie and Dawn had attended in the last week of September. There would be a more detailed report in due course.

In November a full and detailed quote was received from the tree surgeon and it was agreed that the work listed in the report would be completed between November 2018 and February 2019 as funds allow. Neal was chasing progress with the Christmas Tree Festival, we were to look at introducing a 'community charge' for users of the Parish Centre to help cover its running costs. The introduction of an 'Advent Gifts to Church' was being put in place and resources for

Christmas services were being ordered.

In December feedback was received on the successful Christmas Fair and Tree Festival, a new leader was in place running the 'Mums n Tots' Group which would now be called ABC Group (Adults, Babies and Children) and it was agreed that a 'Children's Corner' be put in place at the back of church for parents with young children to be able to sit together during the service.

In January the PCC discussed the Christmas Services and the success of the Advent Gifts to Church initiative. The Churchyard team had been busy planting Beech Saplings around the new crematorium plot, and the payback team were doing some brilliant work on some areas of the dry stone walls.

In February we discussed electrical requirements for a defibrillator being sited on the outside of the Parish Centre (The playgroup had worked really hard to raise the funds for this), quotes had been received for refurbishment of the Tower Clock, this to be reviewed in three months as it was felt there were more urgent works that were more of a priority. The Safeguarding Officer was reviewing the Policy prior to it being approved by the PCC.

Details of the March meeting have yet to be approved by the PCC and so are not included in this report.

As we come around again to our Annual Parish Council Meeting, we look back on a busy year full of the activities and fellowship of an active and friendly church family.

Dawn PCC Secretary April 2019

Share & Care Café starting up this June

There is a new Café in Church—aimed at those who have been through a bereavement. Come along and join us for Tea, cakes and a chat on Wednesday June12th from 1pm to 3pm.

Sharon, Gail and Sarah.

The Forget Me Not Café will still run on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays as usual.

Warden's Report A.P.C.M. Sunday 7th April 2019





Brian Gledhill

Neal Pinder-Packard

Following on from The Architect's Quinquennial Report of 2017, we have been working towards completing his recommendations in order of priority.

Having completed repair work to the Church roof last year, we have continued to progress with the pointing of vulnerable stonework. The lower part of the east wall of the Church has been fully pointed together with the east side of the vestry, A new stone gully with a cover has been constructed to act against blockage caused by falling leaves.

Pointing is now continuing to be carried out on the Church main entrance porch area, together with any further vulnerable areas as stated in the quinquennial report.

I would like to give thanks to Dave Townsend and Pernoe Liburd for their continued help on this project.

We were also advised that the weather vane on the top of the tower needed to be cleared of rust and then painted with rust proof paint. This has now been carried out by myself (Brian Gledhill) and Dave Townsend.

Underneath the vestry is our boiler house where our new boiler was installed last year. Unfortunately the boiler house door and doorframe were rotten and the lintel above the door was none existent. We have now completed the fitting of a new door and frame, together with a new stone lintel making everything safe and secure. This work was carried out by Lanesborough Properties in late February this year.

The Vestry window was loosing heat making it a very cold room. Brian and Dave Townsend have installed interior double glazing which has now made the Vestry a lot warmer and stopped a certain amount of

heat loss. This will be beneficial for the new Stepping Stones/ Sunday school members.

All in all we believe the fabric of the Church is in reasonable condition.

Two more points to be made aware of are the condition of the church clock and the east window:

The clock is serviced once a year by Smith of Derby, however the clock is becoming tired and out of date and myself and Dave Townsend have to regularly tweak it for it to keep time. We have made enquiries with Smith of Derby for ways to make it function better.

They have come back to us with three separate quotes to enable the clock to run electrically.

The quotes range from £2.500 to £4.500 plus Vat. So we will have to keep hitting it with the hammer until we have the funds.

The PCC have received requests for 2 memorial benches, one now in place below the cremation plots and another to replace one on the main path.

To ensure the graveyard remains safe after the graves have been exposed by the work, a programme of 'topple testing' takes place on a regular basis.

I have left the most important item until last and that is the east window.

The window is in desperate need of repair/renovation. We looked into this a couple of years ago and we received a quote of around $\pounds 60,000$. This will undoubtedly have risen slightly by now, but we are in the process of obtaining a further quotation and are also pursuing the possibility of a grant towards the cost.

To conclude myself and Neal would like to thank our Vicar Sharon and all members of our PCC for their support and continued efforts in keeping our wonderful church alive and well.

Brian & Neal
Church Wardens

Treasurer's Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2018.

Barbara Tate
I am pleased to report that we have held our own, financially, with the exception of the payment of our Parish Share. This year we managed to pay 60% of the demand. A substantial increase of 10%.



Our cash balances at the end of our financial year show our reserves of £11565 - this remains untouched and is increased by small interest payments quarterly. Our Current Account balance of £12852 reflects our working capital we aim to keep a minimum balance of £10,000 which represents six

months running costs.

Working to our budget again this year - we have exceeded all our expectations. All our running costs have been paid. Gift Aid has been claimed from HMRC and continues to be claimed on a quarterly basis.

For the first time in 2018 we introduced Advent Giving. Listing our Church Consumables and costs we asked for sponsorship, this resulted in an additional £1,000 of income. Many of the Congregation were surprised at the cost of things we use regularly. Our grateful thanks to all who, so generously gave.

The Parish Centre is now let on a regular basis and brings in a steady income. I am grateful to Richard Atkinson who has again audited our Accounts without charge. Thanks to the members of the PCC and Rev Sharon for their help and support in the last year.

As we look forward in 2019, our new challenge is to pay a larger percentage of our Parish Share which has now increased by a further 10% to £37,921.

With God's help and support from all we will succeed.

Barbara Treasurer

The Church at Easter

There has been a marvellous display of Flowers around the church during Easter thanks to Averille and her assistant Gail.







AFTER EASTER

We are big on Easter, and rightfully so—God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, putting an exclamation mark on the life of his Son. Some branches of the faith are big on Pentecost, celebrating the coronation of Jesus in heaven and the overflow of the Spirit dripping down to the earth.

Between the two, there's a span of 50 days.

In the hubbub of Easter, we sometimes forget Jesus stuck around for another 40 days after resurrection. Apparently, he had more to say and do. The very first verse in the book of Acts teaches us the gospels were about "all that Jesus began to do and teach." The rest of Acts teaches us that Jesus is still doing and teaching in the days, weeks, months and decades after the gospels. The work of the first-century church was the work of Jesus. Isn't that true today? It's all too easy to forget his work is still being carried out in our world today. What is Jesus doing and teaching in our day? Are we still working with him or simply working for him?

Jesus' message in the 40 days of resurrection was no different than his message during his three years of ministry: He taught about the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Acts opens and closes with the Kingdom of God front and center. The very last verse in the book shows us Paul, proclaiming the Kingdom of God (Acts 28: 31). Have we meditated on the meaning and importance of the Kingdom, or have we reduced the message of Jesus to only his sacrifice of the cross? Individually and corporately, together we need to rediscover the Kingdom message.

The angels who were present at the ascension asked a pretty good question: "Why are you looking toward heaven?" (Acts 1:11). It's a question worth considering. Frequently, we are more concerned with heaven than with the Kingdom of God. The breath-taking sacrifice at Calvary purchased the forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven, but in our generation, many followers of Jesus have limited his work and message to heaven and heaven only. We should ask: If the gospel is only about going to heaven, why did Jesus invite us to take up the yoke of discipleship?

I'd love to get the podcast of everything Jesus taught in those 40 days, but it hasn't shown up on iTunes yet. In the meantime, he invites us to work with him just as closely as the first disciples.

So why 50 forgotten days instead of 40?

Simply because there were 10 days of waiting, watching and praying before Something Big happened to the church. The idea of 10 days to do nothing is desperately needed in our life today, and this is the perfect time of year to embrace that very thing.

The gospel accounts end with Jesus saying, "Go!" Acts opens with Jesus saying, "Wait!" What was so important that Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem? In our day, many Christians are familiar with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), but are we aware that Jesus also told us to wait? Jesus said, in effect, "Don't go anywhere, don't do anything, untill you receive all that I have for you." Have we meditated on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives? We can work for God without any special empowerment. We cannot work with him apart from the Holy Spirit.

Let us reflect on the gravity of the cross and the glory of resurrection. But what do we do after Easter? That's really the question of what it's like to live in the Age to Come. The days between Easter and Pentecost are usually an afterthought, yet they can become an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the resurrection in our lives. The risen Jesus didn't leave in a hurry: He hung out with his disciples and put the finishing touches on three years of training. He wants to do the same for us.

Gail



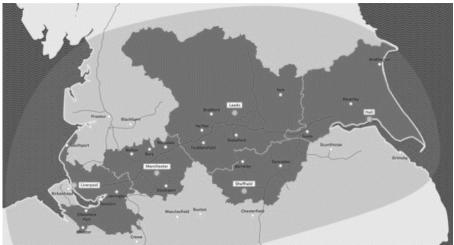
Woodland Trust News

As you may know, I belong to the Woodland Trust and I thought I would take this opportunity to let you know what they have been up to over the last 12 months.

Last year they planted 3.3 million trees, which seems like a huge amount, but the target is to have planted a total of 64 million by 2025—one for every person in the UK. They started this plan in 2016 and so far about 9 million have been planted. This is off-set, of course, by tree felling and natural causes. But why plant so many trees?

Trees absorb carbon and create oxygen. We, the human race, create carbon through burning fossil fuels and carbon dioxide just by breathing. If we create more carbon than can be absorbed we create a planet in decline. If we can match the carbon creation with carbon absorption we have a balanced and healthy planet. Planting trees helps to create that healthy balance.

The Woodland Trust also kick-started the creation of a new Northern Forest of 50 million trees - this will span an area right across our region—from the east Yorkshire coast right across to Liverpool with the M62 as its spine. See the map below:



3,334 hectares of ancient woodland was committed for restoration in 2018. Ancient woodlands contain some of our most diverse natural environments, providing homes for a more varied range of wildlife than just about any other type of UK habitat. It would take millennia before new woodland planted today got anywhere near the biodiversity found in some of our ancient woodlands. As they always say about ancient woodland: once it's gone it's gone, so every fragment that's left is precious and important. We can't create more, but in areas of ancient woodland that have been damaged and where the wildlife may just be hanging on by a thread, it is possible with the right treatment to not only bring the wildlife species back, but ensure they continue to thrive in the future.

The Woodland Trust tries to buy land in strategic places to plant woodland as well as create havens for wildlife. The plan is to try and buy 700 hectares of land in 2019. After two decades of campaigning by the Trust, ancient woods and trees in England have finally been given increased protection under the planning process. Westminster Government amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework mean ancient woods and ancient and veteran trees now have the highest possible protection in law from insensitive and unnecessary development.

On 6 November 2017, the Charter for Trees, Woods and People was launched at Lincoln Castle, home to one of the two last-remaining 1217 Charters of the Forest. The call for a tree charter for the modern age grew from the crisis faced by the UK's trees and woods. It was recognised that a clear, unifying statement setting out the role they play in our lives, and the rights of people to access the benefits they bring, should be visible, quantified and recognised in decision making and practice.

In 2018, Tree Charter Day was launched and will continue to be held on the last Saturday in November each year as part of National Tree Week

Want to help? Go to the Woodland Trust website, become a member and help save the planet.

David

God uses us in many ways...

God uses us in many ways. He uses us try and show vision. He works through us to set the tone in our lives and to be examples to others. Unfortunately, sometimes it is difficult to share with other our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of us find it difficult to change. And keep our love for the Lord close in our heart and find it difficult to share. Still, sharing is important. Sharing can be critical. The most visible aspect of sharing for Christians is the wiliness to talk. For better or worse, the people we share with in church or in our homes are watching and listening. Most of them do not expect us share our inner most thoughts.

It is good to be able to share God's Word. In many ways it can be scary to tell people about our faith and out love for God. But maybe some people may want to hear about God and His Word, and what his teaches us though the Bible.

Let us make the Bible relevant to our lives. While we may be fascinated by some esoteric doctrine, we ultimately want to know how God would have us apply His truths to our lives.

Through the Bible we can feed not only our minds but our souls. Gail



Christian Aid Week 12th—18th May.

Once again we are asking for your help as part of our wider area support for Christian Aid.

Whilst Christian Aid help with many different emergencies this year's specific Appeal is focussing on the mums in Sierra Leone, many of whom die in childbirth. Their campaign is 'All mums should live'.

What can you do to help?

In our all age worship service on the 12th May we will be putting out Christian Aid Collection envelopes and we hope you will feel able to support this appeal by placing a donation in this envelope.

Door to Door Collections

In addition to this, we would really appreciate some help in delivering, and collecting, envelopes door to door. We have envelopes to deliver to the following streets;

Baghill Lane (from the corner shop at the end of Westerton Road down the hill to Batley Road)

Heybeck Lane (from the Babes in the Wood to the farm in the bottom)

The Woodkirks (Avenue and Grove off Rein Road), and Leeds Road (from Babes to Church, inc Armitage Buildings)
The envelopes have to be delivered and collected between the 12th and 18th May, and if you are able to help please see Sally or I as we need to arrange an official collectors badge for you.

Sponsored Walk

I will also be undertaking a sponsored walk which this year is a circular walk at Wintersett of 5 miles in length.

If you are able to help, please see (or ring)

Sally 01924 475048 or Dawn 0113 2525963.

Many thanks Dawn



Food Bank Update

Barbara helps out at the Leeds South and East Foodbank. She would like to say how valuable everyone's donations are, and to pass on her thanks for every donation throughout the year.

24,210 emergency food parcels given to local people in last year, Leeds North and West Foodbank and Leeds South and East Foodbank reveal

The two Trussell Trust Foodbanks provided 24,210 three day emergency food parcels to local people between April 2018 to March 2019. Of this number, 9,546 went to children.

The local food bank's figures feed into a larger national picture with a record increase in food bank use across the UK reported today by the Trussell Trust

Leeds North and West Foodbank and Leeds South and East Foodbank are backing calls from the Trussell Trust to ensure the benefits system is able to protect people from poverty.

The figures from the Leeds based Foodbanks are a 30% increase on the same period last year. The charities believe the local increase is due to people struggling with continued issues with benefit payments; issues with Universal Credit such as the five-week wait; and insecure work.

The Food banks share the concerns of other food banks in the Trussell Trust's network about Universal Credit – it is not the only benefit payment people referred to the food banks have experienced problems with, but the issues faced by local people moving onto the new system are significant. The food banks have needed to give emergency food and support to people who are waiting at least five-weeks for a first Universal Credit payment.

Karen Burgon, Project director of Leeds North and West Foodbank said:

"No one in Leeds should need a food bank's help and we want to see an end to local people needing emergency food at all. It doesn't have to be this way - our benefits system is supposed to protect us all from being swept into poverty. Universal Credit should be part of the solution but currently the five week wait is leaving many without enough money to cover the basics. This isn't right.

Wendy Doyle, Project manager of Leeds South and East Foodbank said:

"Until we reach a future where food banks are no longer needed, we'll continue to provide vital support when it matters most. We're dedicated to ensuring that people in our community without enough money for food are able to access emergency support. Our vital work in the community has only been possible in the last year because of the incredible generosity shown by local people in donating food, time and funds. Thank you."

The running costs for the food banks are raised locally to enable them to continue their work. Costs include warehouse space, to sort and stock donated food, vans to pick up donated food and deliver to distribution centres, and other overheads like utilities and insurances. The food banks welcome any new offers of help with funding – local businesses, organisations and individuals interested in supporting the food bank's work can find out more at

https://leedsnorthandwest.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/https://leedssouthandeast.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Barbara Tate.

Stepping Stones Sunday Children's Group

Enjoy a wide range of fun and creative bible-based activities every month.

Next Meeting: Sunday 26th May 10:30am

For Ages 3-12

More information contact Lizzie Wilkinson at:

Lizzy@stmarywoodkirk.org

APCM report for Scout Group - 2018 to 2019

- 1. Leaders Beavers Joanne, Jessica, Sectional Assistant Laura, Young Leader Thomas, occasional helpers Molly, Ella and Ben.
- 2. Leaders Cubs -- Marianne, sectional assistant Dan, Young Leaders Jacob and Nathan, occasional helper Jack.
- 3. Leaders –. Scouts Trevor, Gareth, Jason and sectional assistant Helen.

Meeting place St Mary's Woodkirk Church Hall Fridays 5.00 to 9.30pm.

Beaver report. Beavers – 22 (19 male 3 female).

At the start of last summer term, we had our annual expedition walk from the Church hall to the chip shop for a yummy treat and we had an evening practising to pack our kit. Last Spring we geared ourselves up for the County Activity Funday at Bramhope at the beginning of June and the Beaver Damboree Sleepover at Phoenix Camp site at the end June. Both events were well attended by our beavers and a good time was had by all.

We have had Halloween activities and a bonfire party (a small one) with marshmallows, camp songs and sparklers. We have done some fantastic experiments, learned about space and built the highest tower you could imagine from plastic drinks cups. Just before last Christmas a number of beavers went on a trip with 6th Churwell, to the Legoland Discovery Centre in Manchester for a sleepover and a tour of the adjacent Sea Life Centre. It was a real challenge to get them all to sleep.

We had our customary Christmas party in December and Christmas Craft, baking and Parties were the order of activities in the run up to Christmas after which the leaders took a well-deserved break.

We went to Morley Town Hall in February to see Jack and the Beanstalk along with the cubs and scouts. Beavers have completed their cooking and healthy eating badge. We are continuing with badge work into the Spring, Beavers have just taken part in the District Beaver bowling completion this March and Woodkirk beavers had a clean sweep winning the trophy and taking the highest individual beaver score.

Cub report Cubs – 23 (21 male 2 female)

As a group we have participated in District Events, mixing with other Cub Scouts in the District and meeting new friends at an amazing

District Star Wars camp in April 2018. Venturing out of the church hall we have tried Crate Stacking at Phoenix. We have been Kayaking with a sleepover at Aldwark Water Activities centre.

In February, the Cubs attended Morley Town Hall for our annual visit to watch the Jack and the Beanstalk along with our Beavers and Scouts. We had to postpone our camp with 8th Carlton Cubs in March 2018 due to the snow, but re-arranged the weekend camp for October 2018.

We attended the Remembrance Day service in November, St George's Day Parade last April, as well as family services each month at St Mary's. From these activities we have earned Nights Away, Time on the Water, Nautical Skills stage 1 and Paddle Sports Stage 1 activity badges and are working towards our Scientist and Athlete badges. We've also asked the opinion of our Cub Scouts on what to include in the weekly programme, as part of the 'YouShape' initiative. We value their input to make their experience in Cubs a great one and will continue to include them and their suggestions in our program over the next few months.

As a group we have also attended District Events, mixing with other Cub Scouts in the District and meeting new friends. We participated in the District Activity Day at Phoenix in September, the District Unihoc Competition , the District Swimming Gala in November 2018 and District Trading Post event this March. Our last event this March is a trip to Hotel Chocolat.

From these activities we have earned Chef, Nights Away, Hikes Away, Time on the Water activity badges and Adventure, Skills, Team work and Team Leader Challenge badges. We've also asked the opinion of our Cub Scouts on what to include in the weekly programme, and earned the YouShaped badge. We are still working on their suggestions and hope to include more of their choices in our programme over the next few months.

Scout report Scouts -- 19 (17 male 2 female)

Early May last year scouts Attended the District Phoenix Activity day sleeping overnight. Last June our scouts went to Aldwark canoeing centre and as a joint team with 1st SLAM won the District General Knowledge Quiz again and the district Tug of War competition as well as gaining Time on the Water and canoeing stage badges.

In November 2018 scouts went on a Night Hike from Oakwell hall, back to our Phoenix campsite stopping off at McD's on the way to keep up the spirits walking in the cold and rain.

Following on from the rather snowy sub-zero February 2018 Get Together camp at Woolley Edge –16 scouts went to the International scout campsite at De Kluis, Belgium last July/August experiencing 30 deg heat wave all week, ensuring drink bottles carried at all times to keep hydrated. Activities included a trip to Lueven historic Town and Scout Museum, Trip to Wallibi Theme park, Day long tour to the Battlefields around Ypres, Yorkshire trenches, Menin Gate daily 8pm memorial service and were treated to an evening banqueting meal in Ypres as well as on site activities and forest walks throughout the week and a final visit to the Bruges Choco factory on the way back to UK.

Over July and Early September 2018 last year scouts practiced for the Campercraft w/e at Wike Campsite North Leeds. Most scouts attended the world wide October JOTI 2018 (Jamboree on the Internet) talking to scouts across the world with an o/n stay at Carlton HQ.

The County Silly Chilly weekend camp at Bramhope campsite was in Mid January – 7 of our scouts braved the cold weather taking part in the themed Space activities Star Wars, Doctor Who and Star trek. In January, 5 scouts entered the District Bowling competition at Hollywood Bowl, Kirkstall and triumphed this year by winning the trophy.

This February our beavers, cubs and scouts attended the annual Panto at Morley Town Hall to watch Jack and The beanstalk. We had a good attendance from Woodkirk St Mary's Beavers ,cubs, and scouts at the Public St George's Day Parade last April, re affirming our promise and taking in the activities and pageantry of the occasion. In February our PL's and APL's attended a weekend camp at Wolley Edge to help organise and run, as part of their leadership skills, a PL's Activity day in June this year at Silverwood campsite. In early March this year we had 2 teams enter the District Metro Run using Public Transport based on the Monopoly Theme and won the District Trophy yet again.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our leaders, sectional assistants, occasional helpers and young leaders who work and help across the sections as a team effort to create the opportunities for our young scout association members. Also a thank you to our support group of parents for their continued and valued help in providing back up at section and group events and to our Church Sponsors for the use of the Parish centre.

Group Leaders

TAH (acting GSL) 27 03 2018

Albert's 'Animalagram' Quiz

Helpful hint: The answers are in alphabetical order.

- 1. A Goal Trial
- 2. I am a Droll
- 3. Sob in
- 4. Chill China
- 5. Cool Cider
- 6. Room Used
- 7. The Panel
- 8. Refer T
- 9. Leg Rib
- 10. Log Liar
- 11. Fig Fear
- 12. The Arms
- 13. Pompous at Hip
- 14. I'm a Pal
- 15. Ear Job
- 16. Oak Organ
- 17. Muler
- 18. A Mall
- 19. O So Me
- 20. Warn Hal
- 21. A Nut Organ
- 22. Rare Pablo
- 23. Pin Up Core
- 24. Bat Rib
- 25. IQ Rulers
- 26. A Trip
- 27. E Grit
- 28. Love
- 29. Wine Lover
- 30. Braze

Answers on P38

Church Mouse Tales

'Have you ever been on an adventure?' Asked my friend Hubert, the Black Canon one fine day.

'One or two', I replied, 'sometimes not ones I really wanted to go on', I said thinking aloud.

'Recently, though I manged to hide away in the Vicar's suitcase. Before I knew it we were on a plane to heaven knows where.' 'Oh, that explains why you've been missing a while.' Observed Hubert, without seeming to mind.

'Yes, I enjoyed the break, even though it was really hot there.' 'Were there any other adventures you've been on?' asked Hubert. 'Yes! -- like the time I was just outside the main door and a gust of wind blew it shut. Then I was really in a bit of a flap. Do you know how heavy that door is? - I mean there was no way I could get back in - so there I was at the mercy of any passing stray cat or over-exuberant dog, with no-where to hide and nowhere to run...'

'Yes, well best not to dwell on that....'

'But then', I interrupted, 'I remember you saying it coincided with you needing to pray and to have a quiet period of reflection, so it was good timing I suppose from that point of view. Perfect you might say....'

Hubert seemed a little uncomfortable.

'Well as I say best not to dwell....' He muttered.

'In fact, I haven't seen the door slam like that again since then – even in those strong winds we had the other week, it just moved gently and there was plenty of time for some hapless mouse to get inside – out of danger.....good job you let me in after an hour out there.....' Hubert looked quite flustered now. 'Yes, it must have been a very unusual

combination of factors to make it do that', he observed.

'Anyway – why did you ask about adventures?' I wondered.

'Oh – I was just making sure you don't get stuck in the rut of life – you know do something new once in a while.'

'Well I'm planning Melton Mowbray next month—anyway', I added, pointedly, 'there's no chance of that—not with you around......'
Misha

The Merry Month of May

O THE month of May, the merry month of May, So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green! O, and then did I unto my true love say, Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen.

Now the nightingale, the pretty nightingale, The sweetest singer in all the forest quire, Entreats thee, sweet Peggy, to hear thy true love's tale: Lo, yonder she sitteth, her breast against a brier.

But O, I spy the cuckoo, the cuckoo; See where she sitteth; come away, my joy: Come away, I prithee, I do not like the cuckoo Should sing where my Peggy and I kiss and toy.

O, the month of May, the merry month of May, So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green; And then did I unto my true love say, Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen

Thomas Dekker

(1572-1632)

His most famous work, *The Shoemaker's Holiday, or the Gentle Craft*, is a boisterous, rowdy comedy of London life as seen through the eyes of a romanticist and reflects his concerns with the daily lives of ordinary Londoners, and contains the poem The Merry Month of May.

This play exemplifies his intermingling of everyday subjects with the fantastical - embodied in this case, by the rise of a craftsman to Mayor, and the involvement of an unnamed but idealised King in the concluding banquet.

Some of his prose from another work has even been used by the Beatles in one of their songs (Golden Slumbers, 1969).

Diary for the coming weeks

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

May		
1st Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
4th Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard clean up
5th Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion
8th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion (Iona with Revd Glen)
12th Sun	10:30am	All Age Holy Communion
13th Mon	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
15th Wed	1 0:00am	Holy Communion (with Revd Glen)
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
16th Thur	11:00am	Lydgate Lodge Holy Communion
19th Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion with Baptism
004.14	1:30pm	Baptism
20th Mon	7:00pm	LYCIG meeting
22nd Wed	1 0:00am	Holy Communion (with Revd Glen)
26th Sun		Holy Communion
	12:30pm	Baptism
	1:30pm	Baptism
0045 T	2:30pm	Baptism
28th Tue	12 noon	Churches Together meeting
29th Wed	10:00am	Holy Communion
20th Thur	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)
30th Thur	7:30pm	Ascension Day Service
June		
1st Sat	9:30am	Church & Churchyard cloan up
2nd Sun	10.30am	Church & Churchyard clean up Holy Communion
5th Wed	10:30am	Holy Communion
Jul Wed		
	1:00pm	Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Alligator 2. Armadillo 3. Bison 4. Chinchilla 5. Crocodile 6. Dormouse 7. Elephant 8. Ferret 9. Gerbil 10. Gorilla 11. Giraffe 12. Hamster 13. Hippopotamus 14. Impala 15. Jerboa (desert rodent) 16. Kangaroo 17. Lemur 18. Lemur 19. Moose 20. Narwhal 21. Orangutan 22.Polar Bear 23. Porcupine 24. Rabbit 25. Squirrel 26. Tapir 27. Tiger 28. Vole 29. Wolverine 30. Zebra

Hill Top School celebrate Easter in style.

Well once again we were delighted to see the church bursting at the seams on Friday 5th April when the lovely pupils and staff along with supporting family and friends came to celebrate their Easter Service. Sadly Mrs Hyams was unable to attend but the staff team were very ably led by Mrs Lancaster and did a lovely service led by the pupils from Year 5.

The children sang beautifully with old favourites like 'Give me oil in my lamp', Jesus put this song into our hearts' and 'I danced in the morning, when the world was begun', but it was also lovely to hear new songs, the fun one about 'Who's in a tizzy, who's in a flap, who's jumping up and down, he's a hot cross bunny, and it's not funny, cos he's lost his Easter eggs!' However, I think my favourite one is the one below, as I thought the words were so appropriate at the present time;

You are my brother, you are my friend, You are my sister, our love should never end, Whatever colour our skin or our hair, Let us live together, this is our prayer.

Lift your banners high, work for justice and for peace, Lift your banners high, may our friendship never cease, Lift your banners high, we will sing in every land, Lift your banners high, for in Jesus' name we stand.

The pupils and staff had worked so hard and thoroughly enjoyed themselves too, joining in with all the songs.

It was as always a great privilege as well as very enjoyable being in church when our friends from Hill Top School came for their service.

By the time you read this, Easter will have gone, although some of you may still be munching your way through your Easter Eggs, but lets hope that the message of Easter like the message in the song above, that the children sang so beautifully, stays with us long after our eggs have been munched.

With love and prayers Dawn Tattersfield

Alice's Comic Corner

Brian and Dave decided to open a Bar. After a week no-one had bought a drink so Dave suggested they open a Brothel instead.

'If no-one bought Beer – how many are going to buy Broth?' replied Brian.

There's more.... Why didn't the Rabbit join the Navy? He preferred the Hareforce.

Why did Picasso paint his wife in water colours? She was no oil painting.

What do you call a Goat that doesn't want a job? Billy Idol.

Why should you never trust a staircase? They are always up to something...

Why do Football Stadiums get hot after a match? All the fans have gone.

...and finally....seen in a farmer's field:

DO NOT CROSS THIS FIELD Unless you can do it in 9 seconds. The Bull can do it in 10...

Alice.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family:-

Mason Matthew Dalby



DEATHS



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

Derek Whitely Yee Sun Fan

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



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

Stories and singing Toys and games

per session per famil

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Tea, Coffee and Biscuits



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Rachel Tunstall CommunityFit @ PrettyfiT PT 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

Painter & Decorator

Wallpaper Hanging

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Did you know?

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)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

Quarter Page £35.00; Half Page £70.00; Full Page £110.00

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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 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 with Holy Communion A Service for all the family.

3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month (4 times per year)

10:30am All Age Worship with Holy Communion

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