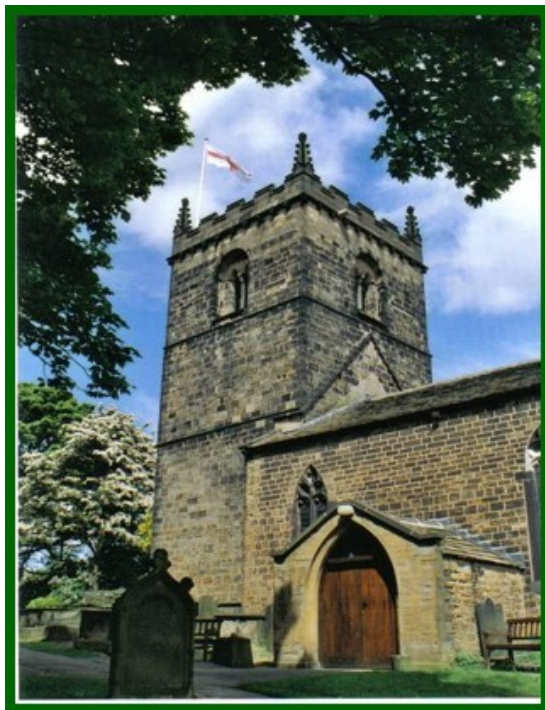


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Spring 2020

April 2020



This Month:

Home Worship is here...keep calm and
carry on praying.

Worship Online at:

Facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.

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E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

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Churchwardens: Brian Gledhill 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

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Health & Safety Officer Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Electoral Roll Officer: Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

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and Legacy Officer

Magazine Editor & David Townsend 0113 2528710

Weekly News Sheet: Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org

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,

Elizabeth Wilkinson.

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

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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers. Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. May God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by Post

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

Web site & Twitter

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at: www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Copies of the magazine can be downloaded from the web site from the middle of the month of publication.

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

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

**STAY HOME; STAY SAFE;
PROTECT THE NHS.**

Vicar's Letter

One month ago I wrote a carefree letter about the upcoming events in the church diary – not least the approach of Easter and our Lenten journey.

How things have changed. The Church of England has closed all its churches and the Government and Medical Advisors have asked us to stay home and stay safe in the light of the Coronavirus for the next 3 weeks.

It's inconceivable to a modern nation that such a pandemic is spreading throughout the world but that in itself is a rather presumptuous statement as we know too well many parts of the world suffer such devastation all the time, and, whilst we may empathise, or donate money to such causes, we are not the ones left wondering and living in fear and isolation.

So how are we to be “church” with our buildings closed? Clergy were asked to be creative and to be church in a new way. The notice that has gone on the church door states:- “The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close”. “Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building”. You see the church is the people, and it is the people of God who will be alive and active and who will continue to worship together.

I have spent the last two and half weeks learning how to live stream on Facebook so that we can worship together. I have found it very strange to take a Holy Communion Service on my own in the office in the Vicarage. It has been difficult to talk to a computer instead of a congregation and it is extremely hard to stand still and give a sermon – yet all of these things have happened. And much to my surprise many people have come and gathered together and worshipped in this new way, and suddenly that gives you a glimmer of hope. You see God is our hope and it was God who came to live among us and entered into the mess of our world. God is just as much a part of our

world today as He ever was. He is the living God, the active God who moves among us and we meet Him in the suffering and well as the joy.

I have been producing a weekly notice sheet which you can find on our website (www.stmarywoodkirk.org) and keeping in touch by telephone.

If anyone needs anything or just wants a chat because they are lonely please do not hesitate to contact me.

Next week is Palm Sunday and we are coming towards the end of Lent, Bishop Nick (Bishop of Leeds) in his blog writes:- “For Christians this dual experience of both waiting and self-examining is (or ought to be) normal. We are now heading towards the end of Lent, a period of withdrawal, contemplation, fasting and prayer. At this time each year we strip back the ‘stuff’ that fills our life. We re-read the story of Jesus as he walks with his friends towards what turned out to be a cross. We try to live in the moment, not jumping ahead to Easter’s resurrection before we have lived with the uncertainty and not-knowing of the journey itself. We place ourselves alongside these people-like-us as they struggle with not knowing where they were headed. And, as we go, we dig beneath the veneers of our own self-sufficiency, rediscovering what is too quickly forgotten: that we are mortal; that we are interdependent; that we are not masters of the universe; that an acceptance of our mortality is the beginning of freedom”.

I think it is certainly different choosing to put yourself in that place of withdrawal and isolation to look at your Christian journey as opposed to being placed there with no choice. Lockdown and the restriction of movement will not sit easily for some but for others they will embrace it more easily.

Can we see it as an opportunity rather than a taking away of a freedom for example. Certainly, staying at home can be seen as a self-sacrificial act – not because we don’t want to catch the virus (which we don’t of course) but because we don’t want to infect anyone else if we are a carrier of the virus. So little is being asked of us by the Government – stay home, be safe,

protect the vulnerable, protect others and we will protect ourselves.

So much is being asked of our Medical Profession, and those Keyworkers on the front line who are risking their lives to help during this awful time. Being confronted with a virus that they have little knowledge of, so much so, that Doctors and Nurses up and down the country are leaving their families or keeping to one room in their homes, to minimise the risks to their loved ones knowing there is always the risk that they have been exposed to the virus whilst working.

We will owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.

Let us remember that God walks this path with us and that we are never alone.

God be with you always.

Sharon

Sharon
Vicar

How do I join an on-line Service?

If you are not so familiar with the on-line world but you would like to join one of the services—especially over the Easter period—here's some good news! It's easy!

Go to: facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk

Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

To join a 'Live' service look for the right time in the diary on page 33.

You can also view previous services from the same location.



St Mary's Church, Woodkirk's video

3 hours ago · 133 views

Revd Sharon at an on-line Service

Dim Image in a Mirror

Well hello there, such a lot is different from the last time I wrote, and I have been thinking about the changes we have had to make because of the Coronavirus Lockdown.

I know many of our church family are in the vulnerable' 'category, and I know many of you will not like being labelled' vulnerable' but hope you are keeping well. One of the things we have all discovered is how much we need to see people and thanks to modern technology we have discovered different ways of doing this.

Rev Sharon is streaming live videos of services, I have done a live video group with my Pilates class, and a friend is doing a live video sew and chat Monday to Friday which has been really good.

What all this does for me is to reinforce how good it is to see a friendly face. Yes, I telephone my mum almost every day and my brother and sister too, but seeing them in a video or through a live chat somehow makes it seem much better.

I was then thinking about after all this is over and things start returning to 'normal', when we will be free to go out and meet up with friends and family again and I thought about verse 12 of 1 Corinthians 13 which says;

“What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror...”

This is the well known bible passage in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, “I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell...”

Paul wrote this wonderful 'hymn' to Love as a response to the people of Corinth preferring the big ostentatious 'spiritual gifts' like speaking in tongues or prophesy, whilst these are important Paul is telling them that there are other gifts Christians should seek more strenuously.

The spiritual gifts that we're talking about are the gift of 'wise words', knowledge (in this case insight into a situation without having to be told), Faith ie trusting God even in the 'dark times' amongst others, and of course Love.

If you look up this passage you see that Paul reminds us of what love is and isn't;

"Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or conceited or proud, love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable...love never gives up and its faith hope and patience never fail."

I think here whether you are stuck inside with a number of family or whether you are on your own, there is something in this passage for you.

If you are stuck inside, remember love is not selfish or irritable, I know it's trying and if you have little ones it's probably exhausting too, but remember God loves you.

If you are isolated inside on your own, then remember love never gives up and its faith hope and patience never fail.

As part of our community I know some of you joined in with your neighbours on the 26th March at 8pm to clap in appreciation for the wonderful people in our NHS, I know you did, because as I was outside my house, I saw a few of my neighbours out too, and I could hear others in the streets around us, some of you let off fireworks as well. It was quite emotional really, we can't do much, but what we can do, we did, we showed our love.

The other thing we can do is to keep faith that this present situation will come to an end, they will discover a vaccine, there will be enough critical care places for those that need them, and even faith that should the worst happen and more people die from this virus, we have faith that God will care for them in His heavenly kingdom, they shall be made whole in the kingdom of God.

As Christians we must also share Hope, we should feel hopeful not hopeless, that is what our faith tells us and what we must share with others.

Whilst we cannot physically call on our friends, we can telephone them, we could write them a letter. I caught up with a few letters just before the stricter lockdown and have received a couple of email responses saying how lovely it was to have a surprise letter from me. I was also on the receiving end of a phone call from a church friend the other day and hearing a different voice and chatting about something made all the difference.

Two things to finish off with;

We may not be able to see our family and friends face to face at the moment, but when we are able to again, I think we will feel like Paul's 'dim image, these video calls etc are the dim image, but when we shall see face to face, we will go from partial to complete!

And finally I'll leave it to St Paul's final verse, 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 verse 13...

"Meanwhile, these three remain: faith hope and love; and the greatest of these is **Love**.

With love and prayers

Dawn

GEORGE, JEMIMA AND TOMMY.

Both pop up.

Jemima. Hiya George

George. Hello Jemima, how's it going?

Jemima. Fine, fine, and you?

George. I'm puzzled.

Jemima. Puzzled about what?

George. This salt & light rubbish we talked about in Sunday School this morning.

Jemima. Why, what's wrong with salt & light?

George. Well, they hardly go together do they? I mean, what's salt got to do with light? Can you imagine putting salt into a torch, you'd be committing a salt & battery.

Jemima. So what don't you like about salt then George?

George. Haven't you ever been swimming in the sea and got a mouth full of sea water? It's salty! So what's to like?

Jemima. You should keep your mouth shut then George.

George. Well that's not going to happen, is it?

Jemima. Suppose not George, no chance.

George. And salt makes meals with my family take a lot longer than they should.

Jemima. How's that?

George. Oh, pass the salt George, have you done with the salt George, put the salt back George. By the time I've finished passing it around, my dinner's flat cold.

Jemima. So ya don't like salt then George?

George. No I don't, and what about all those fancy gadgets for salt these days, ya just can't shake it any more, no, ya have to press a button or twist a screwy thingy or wind an 'andle, it's salt for goodness sake! it's only salt!

Jemima. The thing is George, as always, ya don't take

notice of what's being said. Jesus told his disciples that they were salt & light. What do you suppose Jesus meant by that?

George. Not got a clue.

Jemima. Jesus told his disciples " You are the salt of the earth" He was telling them how to **be** in the world and he used two things that are pretty common, salt & light. Jesus uses salt & light to give examples of how we are to **be** in the world. So what is it about salt and what it does to make it special?

George. Nowt. Salt is just being salt - being what it is - just salt.

Jemima. Ok then George, if I put some flour in your hand and you tasted it, what would it taste like?

George. It would taste of nowt, bland, tasteless.

Jemima. Yes, that's right George.

George. Hang on a minute Jemima, what about the light bit then? Come to think of it, don't you think it's getting a bit dark in here, we could do with some of that light.

(From behind the wall)

Tommy. Hello you two up there, I've got some light if you could pull me up please.

George. Who the heck is that down there Jemima?

Jemima. Oh, it's my little cousin Tommy. let's pull him up.

(both look back & heave up Tommy)

Tommy pops up with a lit torch

Jemima. What are you doing here Tommy

Tommy. I followed you, but got left behind and it was getting dark so I thought you might want some light.

George. OK Tommy, don't shine it in my face.

Tommy. Sorry George, anyway what are you two talking about?

Jemima. Salt & Light Tommy.

Tommy. Aw, my Mummy says I'm the salt of the earth.

George. Cor, strike a light.

Jemima. I was just explaining to George what Jesus meant when he told his disciples they were salt & light, so you can sit with us and listen if you want to.

Tommy. OK.

George. Just keep that torch out of my face Ok?

Jemima. Right, where was I?

George. Flour & salt.

Jemima. Yes, Jesus didn't want his disciples hiding and to be bland like flour. He wanted them to resemble salt. Jesus didn't want them to hide their beliefs. " Be like salt" he said "and bring flavour into our lives"

So Jesus wants us to be salty. Just a few salty Christians in the neighbourhood can make a difference.

Tommy. But what about the light then?

George. I'm gonna call you Tommy the torch ha ha!

Jemima. Shut up George.

George. Come on then, explain the light bit.

Jemima. So, Jesus told his disciples "You are the salt of the earth"

Tommy. I thought that was me?

George. Shut up Torchy.

Jemima. GEORGE!

George. Sorry.

Jemima. I'll say it again. Jesus told his disciples "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world to be salty and shine brightly and give glory to God". You see boys, Jesus wants us to be salty and he wants us to shine brightly. People around us should know for sure that we're Christians. We should show them love and acceptance and tell them

about God and invite them to Church.

Tommy. I think my batteries are going.

George. Ya not such a bright spark after all, are you Torchyl!

Tommy. My name's Tommy!

Jemima. Come on you two salty dogs, say bye bye.

All. Bye Bye everybody. Bye bye

Brian



The Passion of Jesus

QUESTION: What does passion mean?

I'm sure many people have asked themselves this very question regarding the passion of Jesus. Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of Christ" has raised a lot of controversy. Since then the word passion has been spoken in most households and has been on the minds of millions of people. What does the passion of Jesus mean?

Passion stems from the Latin work *pati*, meaning "to suffer." The stem *pass* comes from the word passive meaning "capable of suffering." Pass was coined in the early 16th century to denote "the suffering of Christ on the cross." English also acquired the word through the Old French word *passion* meaning "strength of feeling."

This has been transferred in our modern times to denote sexual attraction and anger. Some say the word *passion* "is a strong feeling, especially of anger, love or desire." It says that *passion* "is an emotion, an intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction." It also says that passion "is the sufferings of Christ between the night of the last supper and His death."

Interestingly enough some state, "it is also the state or capacity of being acted on by external agents or forces." What stronger force is there then God? Wasn't it God who wanted "The passion of Jesus" to be a reality?

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us a lot about the passion of Jesus. These writers tell us that Jesus knew what was going to happen and that He was to suffer for man. Luke 9:22 says, "'For I, the Son of Man, must suffer many terrible things,' he said. 'I will be rejected by the leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. I will be killed, but three days later I will be raised from the dead'".

Christ suffered for us physically, but He also suffered in worse ways. He was scorned and hated by those He came to save. How painful that must have been. Having His unconditional love not only denied but thrown back at Him with such hatred. It must have been more painful than the horrendous physical suffering He endured. In Luke, it states that the King Herod tried to save Jesus, but the people screamed for his death.

Luke 23:15 says, "Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty." Luke 23:16 says, "So I will have him flogged, but then I will release him." But then the most horrible sin of man occurs. In Luke 23:18 it states, "Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, kill him, and release Barabbas to us!"

We have all heard that Jesus loves us. What does suffering have to do with love? John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." What greater love is there then this? I adore this verse because it makes me feel more loved than I have ever felt before.

Some of the synonyms for passion are fervour, ardour, enthusiasm, and zeal. I feel these emotions when I think of what Jesus went through for me. How could Jesus willingly experience this torture and pain for us? What human being could do what Jesus did? Could we have the passion of Jesus? Who would be able to look forward to suffering with these emotions?

Luke 22:44 talks about the pain Jesus went through in the Garden of Gethsemane. It says in Luke 22:44 that "He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood." Only Jesus (with God as His Father) could follow through like He did, knowing the pain and torture He would experience. But the outcome was the goal; our forgiveness of our sins was the end product.

Jesus knew His Father wanted Him to die on the cross and He knew the outcome. That is the fantastic part of the passion of Jesus; that He died for our sins. It makes the word passion all the more passionate. It brings to my mind a wonderful feeling of love, with such a strong emotion of passion that it makes me want to scream from the hilltops, GOD LOVES ME.

After trying to watching the movie "Passion of the Christ," and I must admit there were parts I could not watch as my tears flowed and the pain in my heart was too strong, but I wanted to know more and wanted verification what the Bible said so I then got out my bible and read the story of His crucifixion in all of the four gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John again.

The passion that Jesus must have experienced could only have come from His Father. How else could He do such a wonderful thing for all of us? If you haven't read the account in the gospels, please read it. It will install great emotion in you and strong feelings of passion. To understand Jesus and truly feel what His death on the cross means for our salvation, is an experience of passion itself.

I pray today that I have passion, passion for Jesus. Passion in the sense that I will have ardour, enthusiasm, and zeal for living each day as Jesus would have. Passion in that I will listen for Jesus' voice inside of me. We are so fortunate that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. God doesn't want us to suffer like Jesus did, but He does want us to live as Jesus would have, loving one another and sharing our love with those who don't know the "passion of Jesus."

God Bless
Gail

Vikings and Christians

In the 8th and 9th centuries A.D. the Vikings began their raids on Britain. Their first attack was reportedly on the island of Lindisfarne – Holy Island in 793 A.D. where only the Monks lived. The Vikings legendary leader was a man named Ragnar Lothbrok, who became a famous warrior. He had managed to sail south-west across from Norway with the most rudimentary of navigation aids but had no clue as to where he might land since he had no map or knowledge of Britain.

The Vikings were merciless raiders and put the Monks to the sword, plundering the monastery. The news of this terrible attack spread throughout the kingdom and further afield. Many asked why had such a holy place been attacked. It was even said that this was God's doing because a few years earlier a man of ill repute had been buried on the island. This man – Sicga – had led a band of conspirators and killed King Ælfwald of Northumbria. He then later committed suicide – also a mortal sin in the eyes of the Christian Bishops. Therefore, God had wreaked punishment on the island by leading the Vikings to its shores.

Ragnar made several more raids on Britain fighting battles further south with the King of Wessex as well as the new King of Northumbria – Ælla. This King Ælla was particularly incensed by the raids of Ragnar Lothbrok and eventually captured him, throwing him into a snake pit to die.

Ragnar had six sons – from different women – the most well-known of them were Ivar the Boneless, Björn Ironside, Hvitserk, Ubba and Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye. Ivar the boneless (who was believed to be disabled hence the name) came back to Britain, capturing York.

He and some of his brothers fought against King Ælla, defeating him in 867 at York. The King was ritually executed as a reparation for the death of their father.

Later in the year, the Army moved south and invaded the kingdom of Mercia, capturing the town of Nottingham, where they spent the winter. King Burgred of Mercia responded by allying with the West Saxon king Æthelred of Wessex, and with a combined force they laid siege to the town. The Anglo-Saxons were unable to recapture the city, but a truce was agreed whereby the Vikings would withdraw to York. The Great Heathen Army remained in York for over a year, gathering its strength for further assaults.

After the death of Ivar in 870, a new Viking leader – Guthrum came to Britain. He had joined forces with another of Ragnar's son's - Halfdan Ragnarsson – and fought battles with King Alfred the Great.

By 876, Guthrum had acquired various parts of the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria and then turned his attention to acquiring Wessex, where his first confrontation with Alfred took place on the south coast. Guthrum sailed his army around Poole Harbour and linked up with another Viking army that was invading the area between the Frome and Piddle rivers which was ruled by Alfred. Guthrum won his initial battle with Alfred, and he captured the *castellum* as well as the ancient square earthworks known as the Wareham, where there was a convent of nuns.

Alfred successfully brokered a peace settlement, but by 877 this peace was broken as Guthrum led his army raiding further into Wessex, thus forcing Alfred to confront him in a series of skirmishes that Guthrum continued to win. At Exeter, which Guthrum had also captured, Alfred made a peace treaty, with the result that Guthrum left Wessex to winter in Gloucester.

On Epiphany, 6 January 878, Guthrum made a surprise night-time attack on Alfred and his court at Chippenham, Wiltshire. It being a Christian feast day the Saxons were taken by surprise. Wulfhere was the Ealdorman of Wiltshire, an appointee of the king who governed this territory. He was also responsible for leading his local fyrd (part-time army) in battle.

Alfred fled the attack with a few retainers and took shelter in the marshes of Somerset, staying in the small village of Athelney. Over the next few months he built up his force and waged a guerrilla war against Guthrum from his base in the fens. After a few months Alfred called his loyal men to Egbert's Stone, and from there they travelled to Edington to fight the invaders.

Guthrum's hopes of conquering all of Wessex came to an end with his defeat at the hands of Alfred at the Battle of Edington in 878. At Edington, Guthrum's entire army was routed by Alfred's and fled to their encampment where they were besieged by Alfred for two weeks. Guthrum began the negotiations for a peace treaty which became known as the Treaty of Wedmore.

Alfred believed that Wulfhere had allowed the initial attack through either negligence or intent, and on his return to power Wulfhere was stripped of his role as Ealdorman.

Under the Treaty of Wedmore, the borders dividing the lands of Alfred and Guthrum were established and as part of the treaty Guthrum agreed to be converted to Christianity. He took on the Christian name Æthelstan with Alfred as his godfather.

So it was that the Viking pagans slowly began their conversion to Christianity. A rule had been made disallowing Christians and pagans to trade, and so the custom of 'primsigning' (first-signing—to mark or sign with the sign of the cross) was introduced. This was a halfway step, falling short of baptism, but indicating some willingness to accept Christianity, and this was often deemed to be enough to allow trading.

Eventually some Vikings and Christians were married – or at least partnered – leading to pagan and Christian beliefs co-existing in the same household.

This peaceful co-existence is also suggested by some of the coinage of the time discovered in York. One coin carries the name of St. Peter rather than the king, but Peter is spelled 'PETRI' in old English and the final 'i' takes the shape of Thor's hammer. Often they would also have a hammer on the reverse. These coins show how the two belief systems were both acceptable and is one of the earliest demonstrations of people of different backgrounds finding a way to live together.

David



Baptism of King Guthrum
By James William Edmund Doyle

Poetry Corner

MY FRIEND

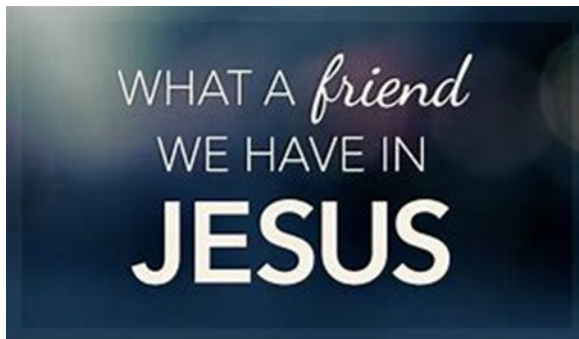
I have a friend I cannot see
I always know he's there
I feel his touch in every breeze
His voice is in the air.

He never turns away from me
Whatever I do or say
Sometimes I 'm cross and blame him alot
But I know he is always there.

I have his feeling deep inside
Of gratitude and love
For a friend I cannot see
But always feel him there

He died upon a cross for me
This friend has saved my soul
Now I sing his praises here and glorify his name
Until he calls me home.

Gail



A Prayer

A prayer about the coronavirus outbreak, offered by the national church

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Amen.

History Repeating

On hearing ill rumour that Londoners may
soon be urged into their lodgings by
Her Majesty's men, I looked upon the street
to see a gaggle of striplings making fair merry,
and no doubt spreading the plague well about.
Not a care had these rogues for the health of their elders!

Samuel Pepys Diaries—London 1664.

Stepping Stones - Children's Group

Enjoy a wide range of fun and creative
bible-based activities on the fourth

Sunday every month.

at 10.30am for ages 3-12

More information contact:

NOT CURRENTLY OPERATING DUE TO CORONA VIRUS



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Stories and singing Toys and games
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£2
per session
/per family



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Church Mouse Tales

Everywhere seemed unusually quiet and so had been for a while. There didn't seem to be any rational explanation for this. No coming or going of the usual folk – or even the unusual ones. In fact, even my friend Hubert, the Black Canon, seemed to be less conspicuous and not, it would seem, performing any of his usual routines. It was time to confront him and get to the bottom of this. 'STOP!' shouted Hubert, making me jump. I stopped.

'Don't come any closer!' he continued, with far more gusto than you might expect from a man of God.

I remained physically and verbally stilled.

'I'm self-isolating', he continued in more suitable tones, as if that explained this new and strange arrangement.

'Er – you are what?' I asked somewhat bewildered, 'is this part of your duty as a monk?'

'No. no,' he shook his head. 'It's a necessary requirement for anyone who has a cough and a fever.'

'Oh – I didn't know you were feeling unwell – what brought that on?'

'There's a virus going around and we need to keep apart to stop it spreading.'

'I see, how strange', I said, shuffling backward a pace or two, 'is that everyone in the parish?'

'No not just the Parish.....'

'The diocese?'

No....

'The whole county?'

'No...'

'You don't mean the whole country?'

'No....'

'What do you mean then?' I asked a little brusquely.

'The whole world.'

'The whole world!' I exclaimed. 'That is very strange.'

'Stranger times indeed', he agreed, 'but don't be a stranger in these strange times.'

'Strangely enough – I won't.' I agreed. 'I can pester you just as well from here.'

'You are strange.' Agreed Hubert.

Misha x.

Albert's 'Locked In' Quiz

1. Which horrific occurrence has caused our printer's closure?
2. Which Group topped the charts for the first time with 'Pray'?
3. Whose debut single was 'Chasing Pavements'? (Presumably 2 metres apart).
4. In June 1949, the monkey Albert II was the first to travel where?
5. On which continent is the Cape of Good Hope? (very handy just now).
6. Be Prepared is whose motto? (good advice at the moment).
7. Which department store first used the phrase 'the customer is always right'?
8. Currently who is the UK's 'First Lord of the Treasury'?
9. The painting of inanimate objects is called what?
10. Cirrhosis affects which organ of the body?
11. March winds and April showers bring what?
12. Which song begins 'Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy'?
13. Which one starts 'At first I was afraid, I was petrified'?
14. In which country did the so-called 'Long March' take place?
15. In on-line dating what do the letters 'WTR' stand for?
16. Do most people live in the northern or southern hemisphere?
17. Which Thomas Hardy title should we currently try to follow?
18. Which illness is also known as Varicella?
19. Which film came first 'Grease' or 'Saturday Night Fever'?
20. Rickets is caused by a deficiency of which vitamin?

Answers on P31

Albert

The Alternative Genesis

On the **first day**, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years." The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" And God saw it was good.

On the **second day**, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?" And God, again saw it was good.

On the **third day**, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years." The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed it was good.

On the **fourth day**, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years." But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?" "Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information, I'm doing it as a public service.

If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch.

Gail

WORDS OF WISDOM

Dear Lord, when I said 'Can today get any worse?' it was a rhetorical question, not a challenge!

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a flat tyre and the kids all needing a wee.

Me: We need to fall asleep now. Brain: No, let's stay awake all night going over every decision we made today.

Someone said there is life without the internet – I asked them to e-mail me the link.

At the end of the day it should say: 'Are you sure you want to save the changes?'

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Always remember you're unique - just like everyone else. It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

If you lend someone £10, and never see that person again; it was £10 well invested.

If someone starts with: "Well, if you want my opinion..." - it's never going to be a good listen.

The word 'listen' is 'silent' spelled differently.

Remember – if you haven't done much today, it's not so much 'laziness' as 'selective participation'.

Besides, if you haven't done much today – think of all that oxygen you converted to carbon dioxide...

Whilst in self-isolation I completed a jigsaw puzzle in record time. On the box it said 3-5 years!

Scientists say 1 out of every 4 people is crazy. So if your 3 friends are all OK.....

Don't let old age get you down – getting up again is hell.

I have 206 bones, 650 muscles and 50 billion cells in my body. At least 50% of them don't wake up at the same time as the rest.

David

Guess Who?

Did you guess this from last month?

Yes this is Alice Kelly.



Quiz Answers:-

1. Corona Virus 2. Take That 3. Adele 4. Space 5. Africa 6. The Boy Scouts 7. Selfridges 8. Boris Johnson 9. Still Life 10. Liver 11. May Flowers 12. Bohemian Rhapsody 13. I will Survive 14. China 15. Willing to Re-locate 16. Northern 17. Far from the Madding Crowd 18. Chickenpox 19. Saturday Night Fever 20. Vitamin D.

Albert

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:-

Eva Scarlett Sharratt and her sister
Bella Grace Sharratt



DEATHS



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

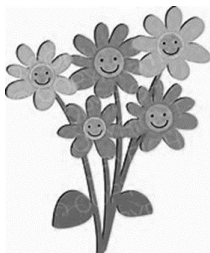
Tony Bathie

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



FLOWER DONATIONS.

There will be no flowers in church.
Please watch out for notices and announcements
about church opening dates and times.



Diary for the coming weeks

All Services ONLINE at facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk

Morning Prayer is 9.00am Mondays & Fridays only plus:

April.

1st Wed	10am Holy Communion (BCP)
2nd Thur	9pm Night Prayer
5th Sun	10.30am Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)
6th Mon	7pm Reflective Worship Service
7th Tue	7pm Stations of the Cross
8th Wed	10:00am Holy Communion (BCP) 7pm Reflective Worship Service
9th Thur	7pm Maundy Thursday (with Watch to 10pm)
10th Fri	2pm Solemn Service for Good Friday (no morning prayer)
11th Sat	8pm Service of Light
12th Sun	10:30am Easter Sunday Service
14th Tue	6pm Evening Prayer
15th Wed	10:00am Holy Communion (Iona)
16th Thur	9pm Night Prayer
19th Sun	10.30am Holy Communion
21st Tue	6pm Evening Prayer
22nd Wed	10:00am Holy Communion (Healing)
23rd Thur	9pm Night Prayer
26th Sun	10.30am Holy Communion
28th Tue	6pm Evening Prayer
29th Wed	10:00am Holy Communion (God's Goodness)
30th Thur	9pm Night Prayer

May

3rd Sun	10.30am Holy Communion
5th Tue	6pm Evening Prayer
6th Wed	10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

See also page 13 for details of how to join on-line.

ADULT BALLET

COME AND JOIN OUR FUN, FRIENDLY BALLET TECHNIQUE CLASS. THE CLASS IS PERFECT FOR "EXPERIENCED BEGINNERS" BUT ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME.



WITH EMILY HUMPHREYS



Wednesdays

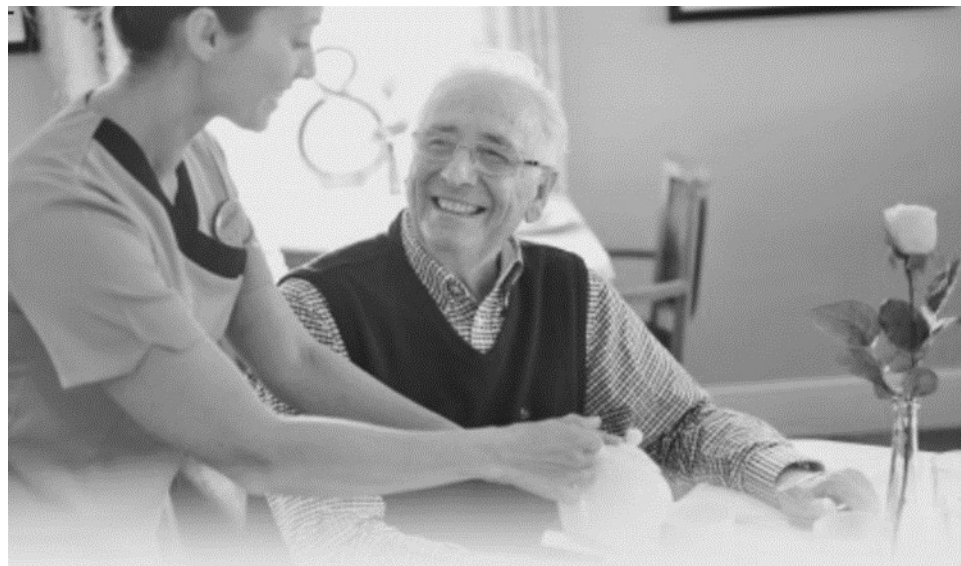
8PM - 9PM

£6 Drop In

St Marys Parish Centre, Woodkirk

**To book your place: [Facebook.com/evhdance](https://www.facebook.com/evhdance)
emily@humphreys.dance**

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for residents and relatives
alike providing excellent care
and facilities."*

Son of Resident at
Lydgate Lodge

(carehome.co.uk review)

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Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ

lydgate.lodge@idealcarehomes.co.uk

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ideal carehomes

idealcarehomes.co.uk

Parish Centre Rentals

We have space for Groups who may be interested in using the Parish Centre at various times of the week.

Nominal Cost is £50 for
3 hours.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more
information.

Andrew Roper

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Wallpaper Hanging

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To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

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TINGLEY

What's on

Playgroup Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:30am to 11.25am
Becky Schofield 07811 146958

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children
Wednesday 9:15-11:00am (Term time)
Cheryl 07948271688

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