

# Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy New Year!



**January/February 2020**

## ***This Month:***

*Christmas Fair and Tree Festival  
8 Reasons why I believe Jesus rose  
from the dead*

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

**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

**Child Protection Officer:** Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

**Health & Safety Officer** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

**Data Protection** Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

**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!

## **In this Month's Magazine:**

### Features:

- P10 Vicar's letter: If you can wait...
- P12 Harvest Foodbank
- P13 No to Church Greed
- P14 A lesson in cling film
- P17 Carol Singers go Wild
- P18 Advent Tearfund
- P20 The Story of Job
- P22 The last Will of Anthony Nutter
- P24 George Aylesbury remembered
- P28 John the Baptist at Christmas
- P31 Goonies re-lived
- P33 Children's Society—your help
- P34 Songs of Praise

### Also this Month:

- P34&5 Poems and Comedy
- P36 Albert's Quiz
- P37 More comedy
- P38 From the Parish Registers
- P39 Poetry Corner
- P39 Quiz answers
- P40 Christmas Services
- P41 Diary for the coming weeks

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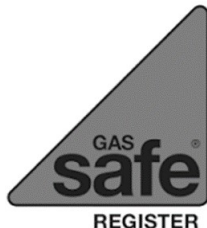
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## **Care and Share**

**If you have recently lost a loved one then come  
and share lunch together on the following dates:**

**11th September**

**25th September**

**12noon until 2.00pm**

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**Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café**  
is for those in need of support, especially  
those affected by dementia, their families and carers.

**If you or someone you care for is suffering memory problems, have been diagnosed with dementia or are just feeling lonely and fed up please come and join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, In calm and beautiful surroundings you can meet others who face similar challenges, share experiences and find out about the support available.**

**Refreshments are served and there is no charge.**

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



Forget me not  
Friends

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

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

**Meeting Dates for 2019**

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

September	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>
October	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>
November	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>
December	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>



## **Welcome!**

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

## **Parish News by Post**

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

## **Web site & Twitter**

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

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

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

## **Wheelchair Access**

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

**A very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year to all our  
Readers.  
Many thanks for all your support**

## Vicar's Letter

We are rapidly approaching the Christmas Season, but before that the Church celebrates Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting, but we're not very good at that anymore. Maybe we never were. But in this instant-everything modern age, we get frustrated if we have to wait for any length of time. Waiting feels like time wasted. And who can afford to waste time these days? We have too much to do. Every second counts.

But the advent season is all about waiting. During advent, we're reminded of all those centuries when God's people awaited the fulfilment of God's promises, the years of uncertainty, the time of doubt. This side of Christmas, it's easy to think that this season is all about *arrival*, the birth of Jesus. And that's partly true. The story does find its fitting climax in the coming of the Messiah. But let's not forget the waiting that preceded Christ's advent, the waiting that marked the time before Christmas, the waiting that God forced his people to endure.

Maybe a little waiting is a good thing. I know that's a heretical thought for some of us, but bear with me. Here are five things that I think we can get from waiting. They probably won't help much the next time that you're stuck in a traffic jam on your way to an important event, but I still think they're worth reflecting on.

1. Waiting reminds us that we are not the centre of the universe. It's so easy to get caught up in our own plans, convinced that everything we do is absolutely, crucially important. That's part of what makes waiting so frustrating, and so valuable. Being forced to wait gives us the opportunity to remember that other people have plans and priorities as well. We are not the focal point of the universe. That doesn't make our plans unimportant, but it does put them in perspective.
2. Waiting reminds us that God is in Control. At the very least, waiting forces us to realize that we are *not* in control. And that can be a valuable opportunity to reflect on who is.
3. Waiting reminds us that life is a Gift. Forced to sit at a stop light for several precious minutes, I have a choice. I can choose to grumble and gripe about the loss of my precious

time, or I can remember that those very minutes were a gift God gave me so that I might have the opportunity to live for his glory. Sure, this wasn't how I'd planned to use them. But that doesn't change the gift.

4. Waiting reminds us that the present matters. Sometimes I think waiting frustrates us because we're too future-oriented, always focused on what comes next. But what about now? Next is in God's hands. Now is what we have. Done well, being forced to wait can be like watching a particularly spectacular movie scene in slow motion. You know the movie will continue playing at regular speed soon, but for now you're just enjoying what's on the screen.
5. Waiting reminds us that the future is bigger than we think. Sometimes I think waiting frustrates us because we're not future-oriented enough. We try not to think about it much, but I think we all have a sense of our own mortality, and it seeps out when we're forced to wait. We have a finite amount of time, why waste any of it waiting for things to happen? But, of course, our time isn't really finite. We're destined for eternity. That doesn't mean we can get complacent with the time we have now, but waiting can remind us that this life is part of something much larger. In the light of eternity, is a two-minute wait at the grocery store really that onerous?

I think the advent season is a great opportunity to think differently about time. God made his people wait for centuries before he fulfilled his promises to them in sending the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Why all the waiting? I can't answer that question for sure. At the very least, though, the waiting reminds us that this is God's story, his plan, and his promises. He is in control, and he will take this story wherever he pleases. And it reminds us that we're not the centre of the story. It's not about us, and things don't always go the way we'd like. Finally, all the waiting helps us think differently about both the present and the future: valuing the present as a gift, cherishing the future as our ultimate hope.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Sharon Vicar

## Harvest Festival—Foodbank

Last month Dawn reported on the Harvest services held at Hill Top Academy and here in Church.

She said that it took two cars to take all the donated food to the Foodbank warehouse.

Because all the donations were together we split the total weight in half:

The Foodbank sent a certificate the school for 160 kilos, so our total weight was 320 kilos. For those of you still working in imperial (like me) that's about 6.5 cwt. A brilliant total.

On behalf of the Foodbank and our Clients thank you and thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It's the churches who regularly donate and keep the foodbank going. These days we collect food and donations at Leeds United and Leeds Rhinos home games and regular Supermarket collections.

Trussell Trust reported last week that from April to September the Foodbanks under their auspices gave out 860,000 food parcels - that is two thirds of the food banks in the UK.

At Leeds South and East Foodbank we feed roughly 1,000 people per month. We give out about 2 tonnes of food per week. The need for our support seems to keep going up, our ambition is to close down - will it happen in my lifetime? I hope so.

Our heartfelt thanks from all who work at the Foodbank for your continued support.

Barbara.

## No to Church Greed

The sale of land (owned by the church of England) in the Chidswell area has gotten people's emotions running high, with signs on various house fronts saying 'No to Church Greed' and 'Practise what you Preach'. Many of St. Mary's church goers sympathise with the local concerns about putting too much strain on the infrastructure, creating excessive traffic and pollution and not providing extra amenities like Doctors, Dentists, Schools. Shops etc to cope with a population increase, and yet we bear the brunt of the anger aimed at 'the church'.

But despite these signs around the village accusing us of 'greed' we won't see a penny from the sale of any land, and have to find £35,000 to give to the diocese every year before we even start to pay any other bills a 900-year-old church might need. It's the local people – along with Revd Sharon – who fund it, run it, maintain it and fix it –and people—when they are broken.

These signs are grossly unfair on those who have tried – in some cases for decades – to keep things going through thick and thin at St. Mary's. The church offers a service to the community for Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths as well as providing a haven for dementia sufferers, space for children, scouting and adult groups, a drop off point for foodbanks and a place to find and experience a spiritual connection not easily accessible in an otherwise hectic world.

St. Mary's very much 'practises what it preaches' and never turns anyone away. The 11-acre churchyard is testimony to the thousands of local people who have found solace in the grounds of the church as they visit and tend their loved ones' graves.

In 900 years' time we hope they still will.

David

## **A lesson in cling film!**

A few weeks ago I was busy in the kitchen and was wrapping something in cling film before putting it in the freezer. I can't remember what I was trying to wrap, but I remember that my cling film wasn't clinging, you know how it gets towards the end of the roll when it's a bit wrinkly, well this was like that.

Now I don't really need to go into much more detail about the unclinging cling film, apart from to say that it reminded me of the bible story about salt.

This story is found in the gospels of Matthew Chapter 5 verse 13, Mark Chapter 9 verse 50 and Luke Chapter 14 verses 34-35 although it is slightly different in each one.

I was just going to refer to either Matthew or Luke's version but find I am interested in both as they come from quite different angles.

In Matthew, the verse about saltiness follows the sermon on the mount, in particular, the Beatitudes which are in verses 1-10.

If you haven't come across the Beatitudes before, these are the 'blessed' statements for example 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' and 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God'.

The use of salt here reinforces that if you come into one of the above categories of blessedness, you are the salt of the earth, you're a 'good egg' then Matthew goes on to record about how you are also the light of the world, and letting your light shine before others.

Then we take a look at Luke's version which has an altogether different character. It refers to a large group of people travelling with Jesus, but there is none of the pleasant Sunday afternoon picnic feeling you get in Matthew's gospel. No, this talks in no uncertain terms about the cost of discipleship and a list of scenarios which would suggest that if these apply to you then you cannot be a disciple. Luke then finishes by telling us that salt is good, but once it has lost its saltiness it is thrown away, and those with ears are urged to listen.

Salt today is not as revered a commodity as it was in Jesus' time.

In ancient times salt was very valuable because it was hard to get, and what was mined was often contaminated with other minerals. Yes, salt would have been easily accessible in the Dead Sea, but it wasn't like the sort we have for our chips, it was a mixture of salts, which also included chlorides of calcium, potassium and magnesium along with fine clay, gypsum and other trace minerals, which could take out the flavour of salt or make it taste stale. therefore making salt 'lose its saltiness'.

Jesus' point is obvious, if something loses its purpose ie non salty salt!, then it is useless.

In our lives we are told that too much salt is bad for us, but we all know the delight of adding it to our chips (and other things too) but imagine if your long awaited shake or two on your Fish and Chip tea didn't add the expected saltiness?

If we wish to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, we would probably prefer Matthew's sunny Sunday afternoon picnic feel of discipleship, where we might be blessed because we are pure in heart, and we may like to think that we might also be one of the lights of the world.

I sincerely hope this is so.

However, if we consider Luke's story too, we have to accept that our road may not always run smoothly, there may be barriers to our discipleship, we may encounter negative comments from family and friends, and if we profess our faith in our wider community, we may find that we receive sometimes hostile comments or behaviour.

But thinking about Luke's salt, the impure stuff with other elements in it, perhaps those more challenging situations we find ourselves in are purifying our salt, removing that which makes us stale, reinvigorating our 'saltiness'.

I hope that your saltiness doesn't diminish and you are blessed and become a light of the world, but if you feel your discipleship is lacking a bit of flavour, remember me and my non clingy cling film and the salt that loses its saltiness.

Spend time with God asking Him to refine your salt, reinvigorating your saltiness and your blessedness as a disciple, and then sit back and enjoy your fish and chips with that extra little treat of a sprinkle of salt.

Dawn Tattersfield



## Carol Singers go down a storm at Country Baskets.

Following their 2 hour stint on Saturday November 23rd, our intrepid Carol Singers Revd. Sharon, Brian, Alice, Gary, Sandra and Barbara raised an impressive £1110 for St. Martin's Hospice. The aim of Martin House is to provide family led care for children with life shortening conditions. It is a place where children, young people and their families can come to stay from time to time along their journey and find support, rest and practical help.



With thanks to Country Baskets and all those who took the time to donate.

## **Another Advent – another rush to Christmas Day**

Towards the back end of November I felt that I had had a ‘lazy’ weekend. The problem was, I had lots to do but didn’t feel like doing any of it. It was a lot of nice things too as well as more dutiful ones, and I thought to myself that I would more than likely regret my indolence and end up rushing around as usual right up to Christmas.

Well, I started looking at some of the jobs I knew I had to do, like baking Christmas cakes for family and making preserves for the Christmas Fair as well as some preparation for some events we are holding in my Girls Brigade Company. As I started the new week I started making lists and planning what I could do and when I could do it.

It was then, that two emails popped up in my inbox. One was about the ‘follow the star’ booklet which I followed last year, and which will be issued soon. The other one was from Tear Fund and invited me to sign up to receive daily advent reflections, and I thought ‘this sounds like something I could do’.

It was funny, because the email started ‘Dear Dawn, are you easily distracted?’ and I recognised it was talking exactly to me.

What Tear Fund will do is email me a fresh reflection from all sorts of ‘wise men and women’ around the world and will provide a daily reminder that amongst all my busy preparation (that is after all what advent means) I shall focus on the right things, and amongst all my forward planning, or lack of, and ticking off as well as adding to my lists, I’ll not lose sight of what or who really matters this advent.

I’m not particularly asking you to take up this Tear Fund Advent Reflection, although if you do so, then I hope we both find it

interesting.

All I ask is that amongst all the myriad of tasks, events, plans, trips, meals, celebrations and many other things that you get involved in leading up to Christmas, you prepare your heart to receive again, the wonder and love that is offered to you from God this Christmas and always.

With love and wishing you every blessing this Christmas.

Dawn

## **What is Tearfund?**

Tearfund has over 50 years' experience of responding to disasters and crises. They serve the most vulnerable people and communities – wherever they are.

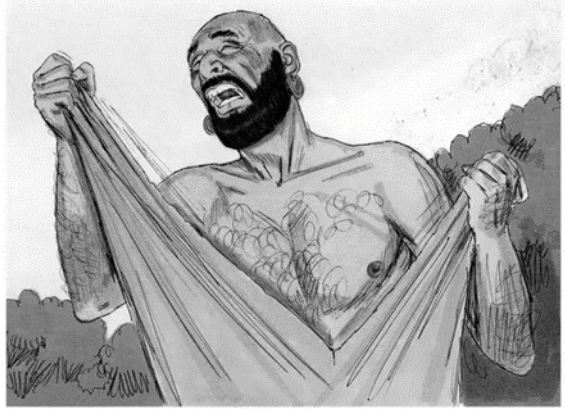
They work with supporters and partners to influence powerful decision-makers around the world. And they encourage everyone to alter their own lifestyles, as a way to love our neighbours.

God creates all of us with incredible inner resources. Tearfund works with local churches and Christian organisations to unlock this potential – showing communities that, together, they can escape poverty.

Go to: <https://www.tearfund.org> to find out more.

## The Story of Job.

There was a wealthy man named Job residing in an area called Uz with his extended family and vast flocks. He is “blameless” and “upright,” constantly mindful to live in a righteous manner. God brags to Satan about Job’s virtue, but Satan contends that Job is



only righteous because God has favoured him generously. Satan dares God that, if given the approval to inflict suffering, Job will change and curse God. God permits Satan to abuse Job to experiment with this brazen claim, but he forbids Satan to take Job’s life.

Over one day, Job is given four reports, each informing him that his sheep, servants, and ten children have all died due to thieving intruders or natural disasters. Job rips his clothes and shaves his head in sorrow, yet he still praises God in his prayers.

Satan arrives in heaven again, and God allows him another opportunity to test Job. This time, Job is distressed with terrible skin sores. His wife urges him to denounce God and to give up and die, but Job protests, trying to endure his afflictions.

Three of Job’s companions, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, arrive to comfort him, sitting with Job in silence for seven days out of reverence for his grieving. On the seventh day, Job talks, starting a discussion in which each of the four men shares his reflections on Job’s troubles in poetic descriptions.

Job damns the day he was born, relating life and death to light and darkness. He hopes that his birth had been obscured in darkness and desires to have never been born, believing that life only increases his suffering. Eliphaz replies that Job, who has comforted other people, now reveals that he never actually knew their pain. Eliphaz concludes that Job’s pain must be due to some sin Job has acted, and he recommends Job to seek God’s favour.

Bildad and Zophar agree that Job must have performed evil to provoke God's justice and argue that he should attempt to manifest more innocent behaviour. Bildad supposes that Job's children brought their deaths upon themselves. Even worse, Zophar suggests that whatever wrongdoing Job has done he likely deserves more suffering than what he has experienced.

Job reacts to each of these remarks, becoming so angry that he calls his sympathisers "worthless physicians" who "whitewash their help with lies". He questions why God judges people by their deeds if God can just as easily change or forgive their behaviour. It is confusing to Job how a human can truly satisfy God's justice as his ways are mysterious and exceeding human comprehension. God cannot be fooled, and Job confesses that he does not even know himself well enough to adequately defend his case to God. Job desires for someone who can mediate between himself and God, or be sent to Sheol, the dark space of the dead.

Job believes that there is a "witness" or a "Redeemer" in heaven who will testify for his integrity. The suffering is too much for Job, and he turns bitter, anxious, and scared. He deplores the injustice: God lets evil people thrive while he and many other honest people suffer. Job wants to face God and protest but cannot physically find God.

God eventually intervenes, commanding Job to be brave and explains various detailed features of his creation. Overcome by the appearance of God, Job recognises God's infinite power and accepts the constraints of his human understanding. This response pleases God, but he is upset with Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar for the bad advice. Job reconciles on their behalf, and God forgives them.

God then restores Job's health, granting him with twice as much property as before, new children, and a remarkably long life. In the end, Job never completely gave up hope or faith in God. An inspiration to anyone perhaps enduring suffering of their own.

## ANTHONY NUTTER'S WILL (WOODKIRK 1600-1634)

*Anthony Nutter was Vicar of St. Mary's for 34 years and is buried in the churchyard. Here we have a transcript of his last will and testament. With thanks to Brian Walshaw for this peek into the past. The text is as per the original.*

In the name of God Amen. I Anthony Nutter of Woodkirk clerke and the unworthy Minister of Christ being weake in body and yett of good and perfect memory praised be to God for diverse causes and considerations me thereunto moveinge doe make constitute and ordyne this my last will and testament in manner and for me followinge;

Ffirst of all I bequeath my soule into the hands of almighty God my Lord and only Redeemer my body to be buried in the Church or Churchyard of Woodkirk.

And for that small part of temporall goods which it has pleased God to bestow upon me I ordayne as followeth.

Ffirst I give and bequeath unto Adam the sonne of my eldest brother John and hath two sonnes the somme of fflower pounds tenn shillings to be devided equally amongst them;

And if my said cozen Adam have a daughter I give unto her thirty shillings; and whereas my brother William his sonne Isaacke hath divers children I do give unto them as followeth: to his three sonnes John, Isaacke and Abraham every one of them twelve pence ; and the rest of the said Isaack children I give fflower pounds to be devided equally amongst them; item I give to the daughter of my brother William and sister to the said ould Isaacke twenty shillings, item I give and bequeath to my cozen Anthony sonne of my brother George and to the children of the said Anthony the sonne of eight pounds to be divided equally amonge them;

Item I give unto my brother Robert wife fforty shillings and to his children the somme of six pounds to be divided equally amonge them; Item I give unto John my brother William his supposed sonne the sum of fforty shillings; item I give to my brother Edmund his wife and children the somme of six pounds thirteene shillings ffouwer pence and alsoe I give unto Hatll his sonne for whom I was witness at his baptisme the somme of three pounds over and above his parte in the foresaid somme of six pounds

thirteen shillings ffower pence; item I give to me cozen Elizabeth Newman the some shillings over and abode her parte in the said some of six pounds thirteen shillings and ffower pence; item I give to Pete Mazel the sonnet of the said Elizabeth Newman the some of three pounds six shillings eight pence part in blokes and part in money;

item I give to Sarah my cozen Anthonyes daughter the some of fferty shillings; Item I give to my servant Grace Hewley fferty shillings; I give to Jane Smith twenty shillings;

item I give to the pooer of the Parrish of Woodkirke twenty shillings; item I give unto Anthony my brother William his sonnet the same of fferty shillings. Item I give to my cozen Edmund my brother William Sonne twenty shillings and forgive them the money that they owe unto me; item I give to John Reyner and Thomas Bradley either of them twenty shillings; and doe make the said John Reyner and Thomas Bradley executors of this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have sette my hand and seale the nineteenth day of January in the yeare of the raigne of our sovereign Lord Kinge Charles ANNOQS DM1 one thousand six hundreth thirty and three.

The rest of my goodes and chattels here tofore not given and bequeathed my funeral expences discharged I give and bequeath unto Anthony Nutter of Maxfield in Chesshier and Pete Mousonne Of Aderston Be'holler and to my sisters Edmonds wife of Edingtonn in Warwickeshire and to James Rigley Clarke Minister of Woodkirke to be equally devided amongst them.

Memorandu(m) that these wordes item I give to the daughter of my brother William and sister to the said ould Isaacke twenty shillings were interlined before the sealings hereof.

Witness Thomas Burghe, Martha Whitehead, Thomas Dymond, John Reyner,

Eijd die et anno seivo secamd cert: se frobatione hmor testiptes ti atiurat comissaq fuit ado bonor eiuld defunct Johanni Reyner ret viri execut in eod teste noiat prui aixut salvo iure cuiusiungs refervata potes tate consilem admen committend paltem execut meod testo noiat cuvenerit rand in forma luris pettur et in se suitepturi.

ANTHONY NUTTER

INTERRED IN CHURCHYARD 23 JAN 1633/4

## George Aylesbury 1912-2019

*As some of you may remember we ran an article about George when he was 'only' 101 years old. He was in St. Mary's choir from 10 years old for many years. Sadly George passed away on 6th March this year—about a month short of his 107th birthday.*

*By way of a tribute to George, I have the pleasure in printing a story of his Christmas Carol singing exploits in his own words—recorded by his daughter Jean Douglas, whom I would like to thank for sending this to me. It was printed in the magazine many years ago so well done if you can remember the first publication, but if not this is a wonderful trip down memory lane.*

For a boy whose life revolved around Woodkirk St. Mary's, Christmas Eve was a highlight of the year. The social evening and dance generated great excitement and, usually, was in aid of St. Dunstan's or Dr Barnardo's. Also, I was in the church choir, whose traditional obligations provided unique dispensations for young choristers. It was a night when the words 'Time for bed' became temporarily extinct.

As the last dance brought festivities to a close our choirmaster, Frank Vernon Holmes, ushered his ladies, gentlemen and boys to the piano for a selection of carols for the remaining revellers. Thereafter, it was 'wrap up and away' on our long midnight vigil of carol singing around the parish.

Our minister, George William Maurice Reynolds, was the first to sample our well-rehearsed offerings outside the vicarage. Then it was off on the road to sing at church sides-man, Mr. Simpkin's home before marching on to the end of Quarry Lane to Woodkirk Post Office. There we sang for postmaster Mr Aveyard and the family next door, who belonged to choir member Arnold Rhodes. Further along was chorister Stanley Allcock's home - 'The Babes in the Wood'. Stanley's dad was licensee and our repertoire was always appreciated before



striding off again for Soothill Manor, the home of Mr Burrows whose textile mill was in Batley. Gas lamps assisted our mid-night meanderings on the main roads but the range of illumination was very limited.

In between each lamp post with its crinoline of light, most of our footsteps were taken in the gloom. However, it was better than no light at all. Our brisk walk up the unlit Soothill Lane eventually brought us to Soothill Manor Lodge. Here Mr. Walls the chauffeur lived with his wife and daughter. Mr. Wall's' brother, Jesse, was a local accomplished harpist, earning a good living with the Dewsbury Empire Orchestra until the popularity of 'talking pictures' flourished and the need for accompanying musicians waned.

The long dark trek up the Manor's drive however, gave lingering choirboys a great opportunity to combine steam from ice-cold breath with smoke from an illicit and hastily shared 'Wild Woodbine'. Then behold, an illuminated porch greeted our arrival. The door was opened wide for those inside to hear the harmonised Christmas hymns. Our finale brought forth the butler who would announce that Mr and Mrs Burrows requested our presence in the Manor. The warmth of the house was a very welcome respite at well past one o'clock, with tots of cheer for the adults, ginger wine for the boys and a selection of refreshments to sustain us to the last extremity of the parish - Soothill Manor Farm.

The farm was worked by Johnny Brown, a genial gentleman with one eye, a homely wife and five children, Brenda, Hettie, Betty, Dolly and Jack. Brenda Brown married Hedley Appleyard whose family were rhubarb growers and had a horse-drawn-wagon business selling green groceries around the area. Hedley with two of his four brothers formed a musical trio. Between them they played piano, banjo, saxophone and drums and provided music at most of St. Mary's functions.

Mr and Mrs Brown always invited us into the farm after carols for

more sustenance before our next long haul to 'The Bull's Head'. So it was back down Soothill Lane and onwards for Rein Road to be greeted by landlord Sammy Wettall, whose daughter also sang in the choir. Then on to the Fielding household before our final Rein Road venue at the large house of hauliers, Carrs of Morley. From there we hastened back to New Scarborough and sang a selection of carols near 'Scarborough Arms' for everyone in the vicinity before venturing back to Wakefield Road and Blackgates.

We sang first at church sides-man Mr Sharpe's home, near the Co-op and then again near Blackgates School before setting off for the New Road, our link between Wakefield Road and Westerton. Originally it was the carriageway leading to Old Hall estate. Locals said that the Old Hall's last useful purpose was as a hostel for the Irish navigators building the reservoir. It had long been in ruins and was a magical adventure playground for lads in the area. When East and West Ardsley Council decided to surface the carriageway it was 'The New Road' which we all know today as Smithy Lane.

It brought us to Westerton Road and Old Hall Farm, built in 1672 and with the original smithy in the yard. The farm was home to Arthur Bedford and his wife Katie whose father, John Atkinson, was gardener to Boyle Hall. Part of Old Hall Farm was also the home of my family and myself, but sadly the farm is no more. Just beyond the farm was a line of terraced houses named after its builder, 'Chadwick's Row'. However, Harry Frost's shop was situated at the end, adjacent to Haigh Moor Road and it became known as 'Frost's Row'. This is where our choirmaster, Mr. Holmes lived - second house down from the farm.

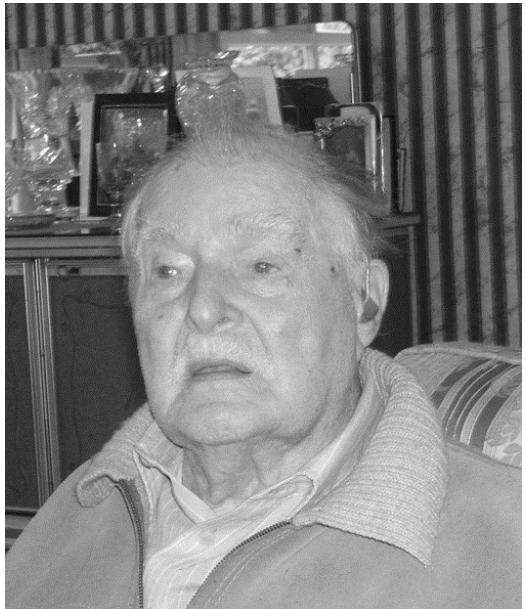
From Frost's Row our cold and tired feet proceeded to Westerton School yard. There we sang more carols at the school house for the headmaster Ben Townsend, who was also

Church Council treasurer at St. Mary's. We were then nearing the end of our long marathon. The last lusty venue was Garthwaites's corner at Upper Green. We sang outside Mr. Garthwaite's shop where the final carol completed our vigil, with the time usually approaching 4am! Our listeners returned to their slumber and, with satisfaction overriding the cold and fatigue, we dispersed in small groups for home, knowing that we would be back singing the Christmas morning service at St. Mary's in but a few hours time. Ten miles done, another mile back to my bed, and was it worth it?

Indeed, it was!

Despite the lateness of our calls, everyone looked forward to our choir's arrival. We were welcomed by church and chapel goers alike and, by those with no particular affiliation. Our holy Christmas hymns brought forth no complaints, no protests nor any threats from the Noise Abatement Society, just a lot of smiling faces and sincere mutual greetings. Generally, our community did not abound in material wealth but there seemed to be always a universal abundance of friendship, goodwill and Christmas charity. Those were some of my happiest days.  
George.

*With thanks again to Jean for sending this marvellous story.*



## How did John the Baptist prepare for Christmas?

Including today, there are precious few days until Christmas Day. Thanks for the reminder I hear you say. In retail terms, that means only a few more days to purchase gifts for special ones. That's the Christmas spirit! Shop until you drop. Buy as much as you can and then some. Spend money you don't have. Max out the credit card. Get another credit card. It's about the economy. Buy! Buy! Buy!

Don't misunderstand. There's nothing wrong with spending. Merchants have to make a living, and the days between Black Friday and Christmas Eve are crucial.

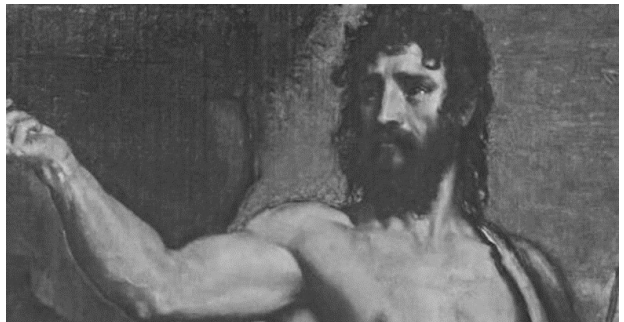
The problem comes when we spend too much, especially on ourselves, and fail to prepare properly for Christmas.

Unfortunately, this secular culture

teaches possessions are the way to happiness, so we spend an enormous amount of time preparing our lives for more stuff, especially during December.

I wonder how John the Baptist would respond if he were here during Advent today? Would he be aghast at how we prepare for Christmas?

It is important to consider how we are preparing for Christmas during Advent. All of us will shop in the course of the next several days—some more than others. Perhaps we should prepare for Christmas with some tips from John the Baptist. Our bug-eating,



wash-them-down-with-honey ancestor prepared the way for Christ in his proclamation of repentance.

*The kingdom is near! Get right with God! Christmas Day is near! Understand the significance of it! Christmas is about Christ. It is His birthday we celebrate. We honour Him by honouring each other with presents.*

This is all good. Repentance is about changing.

Maybe we repent by not spending so much?

Maybe we give an amount equal to what we spend on ourselves to a homeless shelter, food bank, or soup kitchen?

Maybe we invite neighbours who are lonely and by themselves at this special time?

What do you need to repent, given that Christmas Day is about the kingdom of heaven?

John would have fitted right into my generation's clothing of the late '60s and '70s! Wild and bizarre! Something was different about him. The way he dressed and what he ate was a simplicity that's lost in our culture.

Remember that Christmas favourite: "It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year."? Add to that, though, it's the most stressful time of the year!

Simplifying our lives might be a good way to prepare for Christmas.

Limiting ourselves is a challenge, especially when it comes to

clothing and food. However, it's not just those items. We go from one Yuletide function to another, never pausing to reflect.

People came to John to be baptised as they confessed their sins. Obviously, some confessing of sins should take place as we prepare for Christmas. There is something else here, I think. Baptism is an act of worship. Maybe the symbolism for us is that we go out from our homes to the church or some other meeting place and worship Christ together.

With one with another, we declare the deeds of God's salvation - and what a mighty deed that is His Son, Jesus Christ.

How can we prepare for Christmas?

Pause and reflect. Set aside some time to worship.

Gail



## **Swashbuckling Adventure**

What an opportunity, the chance to see a great 1980's classic 'kids' film, but one that still appeals to me even though I'm a fair way from being a kid anymore!

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November over 40 of us young and old alike, gathered in the Parish Centre for a lovely hot supper followed by watching The Goonies.

The Goonies is the tale of 4 friends who live in an area of Astoria in Oregon called the Goon Docks, and who call themselves the Goonies.

The story starts on a melancholy note, it's dull and wet and it is the last weekend the youngsters will spend together as the Goonies. Their homes will be foreclosed after the weekend and they will all be moving away.

However when clearing out their attics, they come across an old treasure map and, deciding to see if they can follow it, they embark on an adventure, joined by the main character, Mikey's big brother, and two girls Andy and Stef, to try and unearth the long lost fortune of a legendary 17<sup>th</sup> century pirate 'One Eyed Willy'.

Adding to the adventure, the Goonies are chased by a family of criminals who want the treasure for themselves, and the adventure begins.

Whilst recognising that this type of film is not everyone's cup of tea, it perhaps reinforces that friendship and perseverance overcome a lot of obstacles, and in the end love and kindness conquer all.

Thank you to all those who helped pull the evening together, especially Brian who organised the lovely supper and the playing of the movie, and also to all those who attended.

The proceeds from the event totalling £173.59 was sent to Help for Heroes, so all in all a great night was had by all.

Dawn


## 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:

Lizzy Wilkinson at: [lizzy@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:lizzy@stmarywoodkirk.org)




St Mary's  
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Group

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children) is a  
warm and friendly group for you and your  
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Tricycles    Snack time  
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per session  
/per family



**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



## House Box Collection Complete



Hi there

Well once again your small change adds up to something that could make a big change!

I have now received, emptied, counted, paid in, and returned your Children's Society Collection Box.

I am delighted to confirm that the total raised from your boxes this year was a wonderful £904.90, the majority of which was in coppers and smaller denomination silver coins.

We are one of 4000 house box collection networks which in 2017/18 helped raise over £1.4million. Through your ongoing generous donations you have helped the Children's Society work with over 11,000 children with complex needs, and enabled them to reach a further 13,492 children raising awareness of the work that they do.

These bits of change that we put in our boxes really can add up, a timely reminder as Tesco would put it...'Every Little Helps'.

Thank you once again for returning your boxes to me and for your generosity.

Dawn Tattersfield

## Songs of Praise

I always watch Songs of Praise. Usually I record it on Saturday so as not to miss the 1:15pm start on Sunday. One of the things I enjoy is the singing which I love, especially old and new hymns—as a continuation of my Sunday worship at St. Mary's. The other week I also learned about the Coptic Orthodox Church (Oriental Orthodox Christian church based in Egypt, Africa and the Middle East). Something I didn't know much about—how their beliefs run parallel to our own, and how their painted icons are very similar to our stained glass windows. Just shows we can always learn something new.

Alice

## Goadings

What's the point of goading?  
It's meant to cause offence.  
Designed to hurt and ridicule,  
Provoke, upset, incense.

It doesn't heal divisions  
It doesn't make for peace,  
It doesn't lead to harmony,  
Or help the anger cease.

Reacting to the goading,  
Not caring what we say,  
Inflames the situation,  
We need a better way.

An ugly scene at calvary,  
God's son. A cross. A hill.  
The ultimate of goading,  
Come down! You can't? You will?

No mocking scorn would triumph  
He gave so we could live  
With love beyond our knowing,  
He simply prayed 'Forgive'.

Alice

## **Friends**

If you should need an Angel  
Don't sigh and search the skies.  
In truth they're all about you,  
Though often in disguise

For knowing that life's burdens  
Are sometimes hard to bear  
And seeing too that we might need  
A hand just here and there

Some providence took pity  
As though to make amends  
Scattered Angels 'cross the earth  
And simply called them friends.

Alice

## **Seen on a Church Noticeboard**

When you were born, your Mother brought you here.  
When you were married, your partner brought you here.  
When you die, your family and friends will bring you here.  
Why not try coming on your own sometimes?

Alice

## **Getting Old.**

Instead of cleaning the house I just turn off the lights.  
It says take 2 aspirin and keep away from children—so I do.  
My computer says I've got mail but the postman hasn't been  
yet...

Brian

## Albert's 'Numbers' Quiz

1. At their nearest point how far apart are Russia and America? (Is it 4 Km; 40Km or 400Km?)
2. In which TV game show did 'Dusty Bin' appear?
3. How many Bicycles in Beijing did Katie Melua sing about? (Is it 8 million; 9m or 10m?)
4. How many stars are on the flag of China? (5; 6; or 7?)
5. How many points for a Yellow ball in Snooker?
6. How many years in a millennium?
7. What is the square root of 49?
8. In the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas' what was sent on the fifth day?
9. On a dartboard what number is between 1 and 5?
10. What is the world's second largest continent?
11. Which UK city has the dialling code 0131?
12. The phrase 'Big Brother' comes from which novel?
13. Proverbially a bird in the hand is worth how many in the bush?
14. In the bible for how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Jesus?
15. How many furlongs are there in a mile?
16. Which team won the champions league for the first time in 2012?
17. Which planet has 63 moons—Jupiter, Neptune or Saturn?
18. 'Fifteen' is the flagship restaurant of which chef?
19. How long is an Olympic swimming pool?
20. How many points are on the Star of David?

Answers on P39

Albert

## More funny stuff..

### The Flagpole

Brian and Dave, were standing at the base of a Flagpole, looking up.

The Vicar walked by and asked what they were doing.

'We're supposed to find the height of the Flagpole', said Brian, 'but we don't have a ladder.'

Revd Sharon said: 'Hand me that Adjustable out of your toolbox'.

She loosened a few bolts and then laid the pole down.

Then she took a tape measure from their toolbox, measured it and announced:

'Eighteen feet six inches' and walked away.

Dave shook his head and laughed. 'Well that's just great. We needed the height and she gives us the length....'

Trevor.

### Name the Baby.



Joseph: What shall we call the new baby?

Mary: I was thinking about Colin....

Nancy.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**BAPTISMS**—We welcome into our Church family:—

Azalea Rose Gomersall



## DEATHS



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

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



God can restore what is broken and change it into something amazing. All you need is faith.

Amen

## A Visit from St. Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,  
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*  
On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

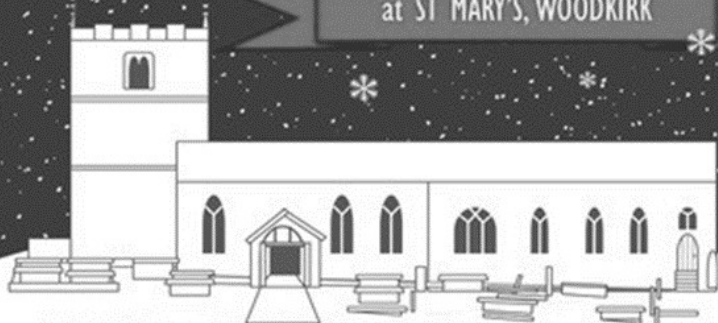
Clement Clarke Moore

### Quiz Answers:-

1. 4 Kilometres. 2. '3,2,1'. 3. 9 million. 4. Five. 5. Two
6. 1,000. 7. Seven 8. 5 Gold Rings 9. 20. 10. Africa.
11. Edinburgh. 12. 1984. 13. Two. 14. 30. 15. Eight.
16. Chelsea. 17. Jupiter. 18. Jamie Oliver 19. 50 metres.
20. Six. Albert Shaw

# Advent and Christmas

at ST MARY'S, WOODKIRK



*St Mary's Woodkirk would like to warmly invite you to our Christmas services and events.*

<i>Saturday 30th November</i>	Children's Activity day in Church	10am-2pm
<i>Sunday 1st December</i>	Holy Communion	10.30am
<i>Friday 6th December</i>	Christmas Tree Festival in Church	4pm-8pm
<i>Saturday 7th December</i>	Christmas Tree Festival in Church	10am-6pm
	Christmas Fair in the Parish Centre	10am-2pm
<i>Sunday 8th December</i>	Family Nativity Service	10.30am
	Christmas Tree Festival in Church	12noon-4pm
	Family Carol Service	4pm
<i>Sunday 15th December</i>	Holy Communion	10.30am
<i>Sunday 22nd December</i>	Holy Communion	10.30am
	Carols by Candlelight	4pm
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		
<i>Tuesday 24th December</i>	Christingle Service(targeted at under 7s*)	3pm
	Christingle Service (target at over 7s*)	5pm
	<i>*Everyone is welcome to either service</i>	
	Midnight Mass	11.30pm
<i>Christmas Day</i>		
<i>Wednesday 25th December</i>	Christmas Day Family Holy Communion	10.30am



## **Diary for the coming weeks**

(Morning Prayer 9.00am Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri.)

### **Dec                      See also opposite for all Christmas Services**

**1st Sun            10.30am Holy Communion**

4th Wed        10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

1:00pm Forget me Not Café (to 3pm)

5th Thur        12-1pm Set up for Christmas Tree Festival

5-6:30pm Set up for Christmas Tree Festival.

6th Fri           10am Christmas Tree Festival

7th Sat           10am-2pm Christmas Fair in Parish Centre

10am-4pm Christmas Tree Festival

**8th Sun           10:30am All Age Nativity Service**

**4:00pm Family Carol Service**

10th Tue        6:00pm Carol Singing at Lygate Lodge

11th Wed        10:00am Holy Communion (Iona)

12th Thur       11:00am Holy Communion at Lygate Lodge

**15th Sun        10.30am Holy Communion**

16th Mon        6:00pm Blackgates School Carol Service

18th Wed        10:00am Holy Communion (Healing)

19th Thur       6:00pm Westerton School Carol Service

**22nd Sun        10.30am Holy Communion**

**4:00pm Lessons and Carols**

23rd Mon       2:00pm Christingle making.

24th Tues       3:00pm Christingle Service (under 7's)

5:00pm Christingle Service (over 7's)

**11:30pm Midnight Mass**

**25th Wed        10:30am Christmas Day Family Holy Communion**

**29th Sun        10.30am Holy Communion**

### **January 2020**

4th Sat           9:30am Church and Churchyard clean up

**5th Sun           10.30am Holy Communion**

8th Wed        10:00am Holy Communion (Iona)

**12th Sun        10:30am All Age Holy Communion**

# ADULT BALLET

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**WITH EMILY HUMPHREYS**



**Wednesdays**

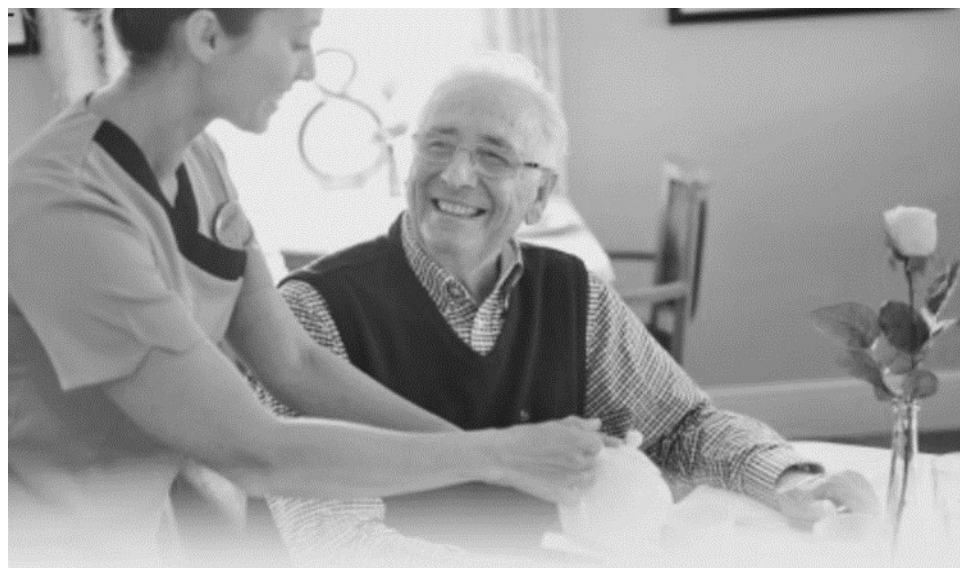
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## **Lydgate Lodge** *a great place to live*

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

Son of Resident at  
Lydgate Lodge

([carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk) review)

Lydgate Lodge makes a real difference to the lives of our residents, offering 24 hour residential and dementia care in luxurious surroundings and with an inclusive fee package.

Lydgate Lodge's caring and highly trained staff cherish our residents, assisting them to remain independent and ensuring they enjoy an active lifestyle.

*A home is more than just bricks and mortar - it is a place you feel safe, well cared for and relaxed.*



*Passing by? Pop in for a cuppa ...*



### ***Lydgate Lodge Care Home***

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01924 355 020

**ideal** carehomes

[idealcarehomes.co.uk](http://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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We place our Parish Magazine on our website each month therefore YOUR Advert reaches many more people.

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**Annual Fee for Advertising:**

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

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**Learning.**



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OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Leeds

# BENNETT OF MORLEY

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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funeral 'plan'.

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### CONSULTANTS

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**RACHEL STONES**

RESIDENCE  
3 HOLLY COURT  
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** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:gail@stmarywoodkirk.org)