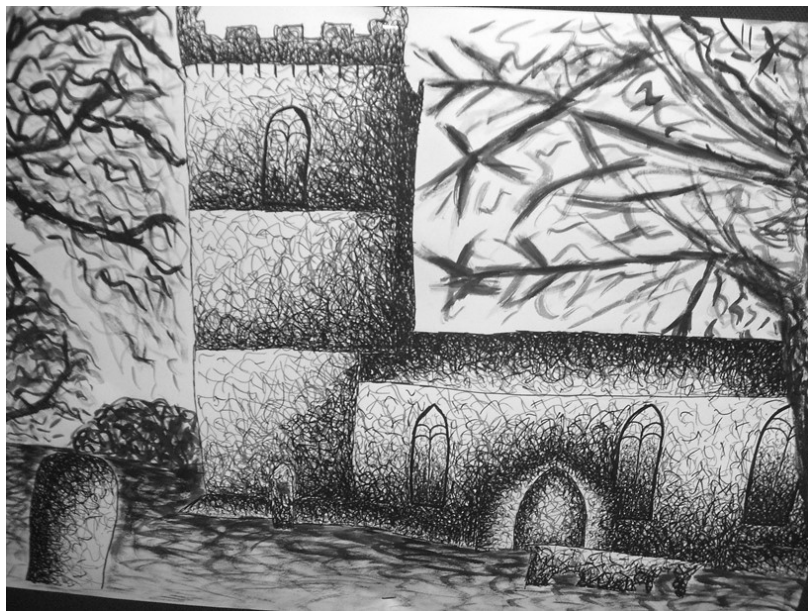


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Spring 2020

May 2020



This Month:

Help when you Need it most; Teddy Bears
picnic?; You'll never walk alone;

Worship Online at:

[Facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)

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!

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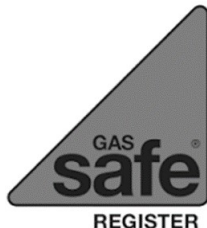
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Care and Share

**If you have recently lost a loved one then come
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11th September

25th September

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Tingley
WF12 7JL

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

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

Well here we are again six weeks into lockdown and many people are struggling. My phone has been busy and the effects of loved ones dying from Coronavirus are beginning to set in at a remarkable rate. Talking about grief to loved ones is difficult at the best of times but in these circumstances where people cannot visit loved ones in hospital nor have the funerals they would desire it is hard to take.

At this point I would just like to give a mention to our Funeral Directors who have so much to contend with and yet continue to give their best in meeting the family's needs at such a difficult time.

Local Clergy are also doing the very best they can. We are supposed to see people over the phone or via facetime or zoom on the computer. I have chosen to meet families in the garden observing physical distancing. It is much nicer to have eye to eye contact in real life. Most families have been extremely grateful for what we can do and I am sure we will be holding several memorial services at a later date once St Mary's has reopened.

Which has got me thinking about how in the future do we care for people in our community.

In our church community we have a virtual coffee morning weekly, and to those who are unable to access the internet, there is a Notice Sheet delivered and a weekly phone call from either myself or my Pastoral Assistant, Gail Townsend.

There are quite a few people now on the edge of our community and there are some people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives whom I speak too. My thoughts are that I should set up some kind of system where people can choose whether they wish to talk by phone, or facetime/whatsapp/messenger or via Zoom where you can be seen.

There are many organisations out there with self-help lines for those who are struggling but it is important that the local church is available to those who need it now.

We have to try to work out what a new normal will look like this week, next week and in three months' time and I am sure it will keep on changing. It is likely we will not be in a position to re-open the church anytime soon and as disappointing as that may be, we are still the church because it is the people who make the church.

I am always available if anyone wants to chat – my office number is in the front of the magazine and is on the website. We have a great team of people and we would be happy to be a listening ear for all those who need it.

If you are having problems and need specific help then please find on page 12, a list of national help-lines that are available 24 hours a day.

May God's light shine on the world in its darkness and may He lead us out once more into a better place.

Sharon
Vicar



Help available at the Numbers below...

NEVER ALONE

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
(24hrs)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247
(24hrs free)

Mind
0300 123 3393
(Mon-Fri 9-6)

Victim Support
0808 168 9111
(24hrs)

Cruse Bereavement
0800 808 1677
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

ChildLine
0800 1111
(24hrs)

Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

Respect - Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327
(Mon-Fri 9-5or8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

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, 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

Philip Stephenson – St. Mary's Man and Boy. Rest in Peace.

As you may know Philip sadly passed away on April 28th 2020 after a long battle with cancer.

As a boy he was a chorister at St. Mary's in the time of Revd. Claude Stephenson (no relation) who was vicar from 1940 to 1962. In fact, Philip spent his boyhood years during World War 2, including helping the milkman on his round. He knew Joe Mortimer (on the memorial board in church) – a pilot flying Blenheim bombers – and he was inspired to join the RAF.



Philip did join the RAF for his National Service, training as a navigator but decided against signing on for a longer period. He was able to express his passion for all things aeronautical though, by becoming a Museum Guide at Elvington – something he did for 20 years. Nancy is planning to have a tree planted at Elvington Memorial Garden in remembrance of Philip.

Philip met Nancy and they were married on the 19th July 1958 at St Paul's Church in Morley. It was a real family affair as Philip's brother Ken was his Best Man and Nancy's Bridesmaids were her sister, Philip's twin sister and his two other sisters. They celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary in July 2018, with a letter of congratulations from the Queen.

Philip and his brother Ken were choristers at St Mary's and as an adult, Philip's brother was a Churchwarden too. Whilst having to move for Philip's work, the family stayed around the area apart from one time when they had to move to Western Scotland near the famous golf links at Troon. Philip spent a large part of his life attending St. Mary's along with Nancy and had a wealth of knowledge about its history and the

people who came and went through its doors. He will be missed by all who had the great fortune to come to know him.

Philip and Nancy have two children, daughter Julie and their son Ian.

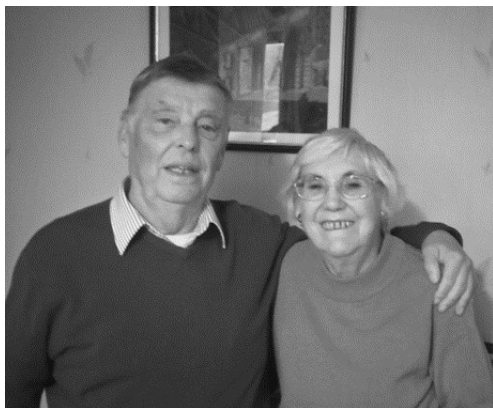
Philip had planned his funeral but this has had to be changed due to the Corona virus. A celebration of his life will instead take place once things return to something like normal. One of the hymns he wanted to have was 'Holy Father, cheer our way'. The Hymn is printed below, so you might sing it through (if you know the tune) as a tribute to Philip.

Holy Father, cheer our way
with thy love's perpetual ray;
grant us ev'ery closing day
light at evening time.

Holy Saviour, calm our fears
when earth's brightness disappears;
grant us in our latter years
light at evening time.

Holy Spirit, be thou nigh
when in mortal pains we lie;
grant us, as we come to die,
light at evening time.

Holy, blessèd Trinity,
darkness is not dark with thee;
those thou keepest always see
light at evening time.



“...but we shall all be changed”

Well hi there

I hope you are all doing OK and coping with what has become a new ‘normal’. Here we are, over 6 weeks into lockdown, and whilst at the time of writing, we haven’t any idea when this may end, we are beginning to see a lowering of the infection rate for people, so perhaps the smallest progression towards a return to some freedoms.

I have been inspired for this month’s article on a part of morning prayer for this time after Easter. I have been able to join Rev Sharon and other friends on Monday and Friday mornings when Rev Sharon leads us in morning prayer through a facebook live video.

The bit I’ve picked up on is part of the Responsory which is from 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 which says;

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.”

This comes from verse 51 (New International Version of the Bible).

It was only as I sat with my thoughts that I realised last month’s article referred to the 1st Book of Corinthians too, referring to the well known Chapter 13, ‘If I have no love ...’.

Now I’m sorry, I don’t want to dwell too much on the biblical placement of this verse, mainly because it focuses on death, although, it does go on to refer to the importance, nay vital importance of trying to understand the resurrection.

But I will explain a little, namely, as you may be aware, the 1st Book of Corinthians is the first of two letters written by Paul to the people of Corinth in about AD54. At the time Paul was on his travels and was in

Ephesus but had received a letter, then a delegation from Corinth asking for help and guidance because of problems with the early church, set up by Paul, but it appears somewhat relaxing some of the systems he had set up before he had left them.

The reason I have picked on this particular wording, is because of the situation we are currently in.

We are at one of those epoch's of history.

There have been many posts on social media about the impact this virus on us, our families, our communities and our society and it is this that I think is what I mean when I think about Paul's words ' we shall be changed'.

I have no experience of other immensely important times, but some of you may have experienced the end of the 2nd World War. Now if you do remember this event, I would imagine you were children or at a push teens or young adults and I imagine that you were 'changed' in ways that had the war not happened you wouldn't have been.

The current crisis will, I imagine, have a similar effect.

For some families they will have suffered tragic losses of family members, for some there will be the loss of work, the loss of livelihoods. Whilst our physical landscape will in the main be unchanged (unlike some towns and cities after the war) the way we live, shop, are entertained, spend leisure time etc may well be changed.

And so might we.

What we have seen out of this tragedy is the coming together of

neighbourhoods, people and families out walking in their locality, speaking to people they would normally have driven past. Yes we may have to cross over onto the other side of the road, but looking up and smiling and saying hello has blossomed.

Whilst our news has been full of tragic numbers of losses around the world and arguments about testing, PPE and a myriad other aspects, we have also seen joy and hope in our weekly 'clapping for frontline workers', we have seen people helping the vulnerable in their neighbourhood, we have seen businesses finding ways to carry on and serve their community, and we have seen heroes emerge through doing simple things. Who could forget the centenarian Captain Tom Moore (now Honorary Colonel) who captured the nation's heart with his stately progress around his garden which raised over £30 million for the NHS. I am sure there were many many other unsung heroes fundraising during the time, and we salute them all.

Will we be changed?

When it is safe for our lockdown to end, I hope that we will not take our freedoms and enjoyments for granted.

I've already been in contact with a number of friends about meeting up for a coffee or lunch, suddenly it is not good enough to just exchange birthday and Christmas cards, we will prioritise that face to face meeting.

Hopefully we will remember the beauty we found in our neighbourhoods on our daily exercise, the walks we enjoyed, the views that we savoured, the delight in so fewer cars racing up and down our streets.

On the 8th May, the country will celebrate VE day, a special 75th Anniversary which due to the current crisis will in no way be such a joyous celebration as it was originally planned to be, but it is perhaps opportune in our current situation to think about it.

The ending of almost 6 years of a world war with the loss of many thousands of lives, it must have been difficult to imagine that life could be good again. We are facing some more weeks of lockdown, maybe just a few, maybe more, isn't that a sacrifice worth making for the benefit of all?

Don't lose hope, whatever situation you find yourself in, we will get through this situation, and yes some things will change for some time. But remember, there are people doing amazing things, there are scientists and epidemiologists working so so hard to find a vaccine or treatment that can help us fight this dreadful disease.

I leave you with a final thought, if you have been able to go out for exercise, I hope you have noticed the many rainbows that have sprouted up in advertisements, street art, people's windows. That great symbol of hope that God gave Noah after the great flood.

And I'll end with a quote from Colonel Tom Moore on his 100th birthday;

"Please always remember, tomorrow will be a good day".

My prayer is that we shall be changed, we will care more and share more, we will help more and love more.

With love and prayers

Dawn

If you go down to the Woods.... no picnic but Teddy Bears galore!

Lockdown has seen the knitting needles and sewing machine get even busier... no flower club, dancing or any of my usual social outings to go to, left more crafting time!... so a request from a friend of the "Teddies For Tragedies" pattern got me knitting the teddies and making their bags - and a call from my grand-daughter, Molly, who has had her university and social life in Sunderland cut short for the year - saw me sending her wool, needles, etc to make even more bears!

The "teddies for tragedies" are each provided with their own little delivery bags... but because of the extra time in lockdown these have mutated like the virus and now have flowers, teddies and cars appliqued onto them!



Just as I was starting to run out of wool, I was sent a link to the NHS Hero Bears pattern, and I decided that these would be something different - so Duncan rose to his challenge as the champion of online shoppers and managed to get me enough bear coloured wool and scrub green and nurse blue wool (not to mention toy stuffing) to get me going.

These were delivered promptly thanks to the unsung heroes in the Royal Mail... who are now delivering the bears as fast as I am knitting them to friends who have family members working on the front line in the fight against Covid-19!



All I'm really missing is the chance to go down to our favourite bluebell wood and enjoy the display - which must be even better this year as everything seems more vibrant with the reduction of exhaust fumes!...

Looking forward to seeing you all soon in person.

Elaine



Leeds South and East Foodbank and Corona Virus.

It's been a case of forget anything you knew about the foodbank and start again.

We are getting tremendous support from Trussel Trust and Leeds City Council as well as the Supermarkets. Tesco, for instance, have donated £15.5m in food to the TT Foodbank. Morrison's and Asda are doing lots for us as well. We have been able to apply for donations for transport, running costs and salaries (we have three salaried people, everybody else are volunteers). We have had a wonderful donation of £4,055 from Graphic Packaging International and White Rose Centre have confirmed that a donation of £4,500 is coming our way soon. From [gift.net](https://www.gift.net) on line stewardship account - we have received a magnificent £15,500 and our Crowdfunding page is at just under £2000 now. A great week for donations.

Seven of our outlets remain open. Four have had to close as the Volunteers are over 70 or have underlying health conditions. The one I manage at St Cross in Middleton is still open and run by Charlie who is in her 20s and is an author, she has lots of actor friends who, of course, are not working and are very happy to help.

One of the main things we do in Foodbank is to try to signpost our clients to further help, this has gone by the board now and we are just keeping our distance and handing out food.

We were planning to trial e-vouchers for our Clients and as a lot of our referral agents are not working we are being advised to roll this out asap. We're hoping to do this by 4th May, much faster than we were planning. At this time our remaining outlets will close, temporarily, and we will ask our volunteers to all work from one place, making up parcels, these will then be collected and delivered by the volunteer drivers.

As a Board, our monthly meetings are now weekly on Zoom, to try to keep up with all the changes going on around us. We've lost our donations from our local churches, but this is more than made up for by the supermarkets. The donations coming in at the moment are wonderful but we are mindful that these are because of our current exceptional circumstances.

We were nominated as White Rose Centre charity of the year, hence the donation of £4,500 in lieu of the funding raising activities they were planning.

There has been a change in the demographics of people using the Foodbank, more people are applying for Universal Credit which takes weeks to come through leaving families in food poverty. Our aim is, as always, to get rid of Food Poverty and put ourselves out of a job.

Thank you for all your support in the past and we look forward to better times ahead.

Barbara



Trust

Sometime in February, pre coronavirus and lockdowns etc I went out in my car probably shopping, and when I got back I noticed something on the drive.

When I took a closer look it was some metal, it looked like a bracket of some kind. I thought about it, thinking if anything other than my car had been on the drive, but realised that no, only my car had been there and therefore it must have come from that.

No warning lights had come on whilst I had been out in the car, and happily brakes etc had all worked fine. Now I'm not in any way a mechanic, but I had a quick look underneath (near the exhaust) but couldn't see any obvious gaps.

It was really funny, when I decided that the best bet was to take my car to the garage, that my journey there was so different to the previous journey I had taken before I realised something had dropped off the car! Whilst never intentionally reckless when I drive, suddenly I was taking extra care, just in case this part ended up being something crucial!

So I turned up at the service desk of the garage with 'said part' and asked if there was someone who could have a look and tell me what this was and whether it was important.

I was able to take a seat and enjoy a coffee whilst the chap on the desk went to have a chat with the mechanics. I had suggested that as the 'bracket' looked 'sooty' or certainly dirty that it may have come off some part of my exhaust,.

Well after all that, the chap couldn't find where it had come from either, but the consensus was that it was probably from some part of my exhaust but that they had checked it and it didn't feel loose, so I was OK to carry on driving it.

I must confess I've kept the part, just in case, (when we can go out and about again) I'm whizzing along and my exhaust drops off with a clatter, I can take it and the bracket back to the garage!

But it got me thinking, I was trusting the garage, as of course I should do, that they know more about the nuts and bolts of my car than I do. Funnily enough, had my dear dad still been around, I probably would have had as much, if not more trust, in him had he seen the part and told me it wasn't anything important.

The word trust is in one of my favourite bible passages, but before I tell you which it is, I searched for the word 'trust' in my trusty online bible (it's a bit quicker than a concordance) and it told me that in the Good News Bible, the word 'trust' appears 187 times, 166 times in the Old Testament and 21 in the New Testament.

It's perhaps not surprising that trust appears most in Psalms where it appears 80 times, the next highest being Isaiah with 20.

I pondered why there was such a disparity in the use of 'trust' between the Old and New Testaments and I wondered if it was because in the Old Testament people HAD to trust God and the prophets that he used, to give His message to the people, whereas in the New Testament the apostles had a much closer relationship with Jesus, they had experience, it wasn't so distant. I'm sure that's not very theological, but it makes sense in my head!

I looked at the figures in Psalms a little more closely and found that 31 Psalms mention 'trust' once, 9, twice, 3, three times, 4 four times, the most times is in Psalm 119 which mentions trust six times!

As the Psalms are the songs of lament, hymns, thanksgiving and wisdom, it is perhaps not surprising that they are where the word trust is found more than any other.

During these difficult times we are all having to 'trust' others perhaps a little more than normal. If you have been advised to stay at home as you are classed as 'vulnerable' suddenly you have to trust nearby family, friends or neighbours to get your essential shopping, something which you are ordinarily capable

of doing for yourself. Everyone else, (unless you are a 'key worker') has been told to stay at home - only going out for essential supplies and once a day to exercise. We have to trust that when we go to the shop, it will have the essential items we need.

In a situation like this, whatever our political persuasion, we have to trust our political leaders to offer us correct and timely advice and lead us in this unprecedented time of difficulty.

As Christians we also trust in God. He knows us and loves us, and His presence is there reassuring us. You only have to look at some of the passages where the word 'trust' occurs to receive his reassurance.

Psalm 9:10

Those who know you, Lord, will trust you; you do not abandon anyone who comes to you.

Psalm 16:1

Protect me, O God; I trust in you for safety.

Psalm 27:14

Trust in the Lord. Have faith, do not despair. Trust in the Lord.

We all have family and friends who we trust, and for things, like our cars, there are others with much more knowledge of mechanics in whom we can put our trust. But as Isaiah says in Chapter 40 verse 31 (one of my favourite passages)

"But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak"

1 Peter 5:7

Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you.

With love and hope to see you again before too long.

Dawn

Beatitudes for a Global Pandemic.

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed, for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers, for they are the purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers, for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers; the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants, and the cleaners, for they stand between us and the grave, and the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers, for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors, for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers, for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the church workers; the deacons, priests and bishops, for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents, for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone, for they are children of God and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened. They shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers, for one day – we pray - they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts; all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy. May you know comfort. May you know calm. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

'It Is Well with My Soul'

As most of us figure out the logistics of working from home, or staying at home, some of us are having to rethink our daily lives. We must find things to keep ourselves active and it will be harder for some than others. Those working from home might find it harder than others translating their jobs online.

For instance, how do studio singers work from home? I have found on Facebook a group of about 30 singers from the Nashville, Tennessee area who have collaborated to sing a version of the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul" arranged for a choir. The task required the group to perform as a virtual choir using their cell phones. The effect is, well...incredible.

Thirty of Nashville's Studio Singers used their cell phones during Nashville's Safer at Home order to record and lift their collective voices to share a message of hope and encouragement during these challenging days.

'It is well,' the description on the group's website reads.

The singers featured in the video are used to rubbing elbows with the big stars of Nashville. But the recent "safer at home" order for Nashville-area residents sent many of these singers' home.

The video features mashups of the singers recording their respective parts from their residences.

It's amazing to see how the singers use their talents to bring hope and encouragement to those who need it. As most of the churches and schools across the world move to online platforms so they can continue meeting virtually, people are getting creative with their meetings. If you can get on to Facebook I would like to recommend you listen to this very uplifting version of this wonderful song. Keep safe at this very uncertain time, and look after one another.

God Bless
Gail

Archbishop of Canterbury launches free dial-in worship phone line during coronavirus lockdown

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian Charity: Faith in Later Life.

Although thousands of churches across the country are now running services and prayer groups online while public worship remains suspended, many people – especially older people – do not have access to the internet.

The line also recognises the impact of social distancing restrictions and self-isolation measures on those suffering from loneliness.

Statistics from Age UK suggest that 49% of older people believe the TV or a pet to be their daily source of comfort and interaction. While many organisations are encouraging people to make better use of technology, ONS figures also state that 2.5 million people aged 75 and above have never used the internet.

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns,

prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group

Archbishop Justin said:

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.

"The Daily Hope service will allow people to hear hymns, prayers and words that offer comfort and hope, especially in this Easter season.

"I want to urge people to spread the news about this service. If there is someone you know who is particularly struggling, give them a call and let them know about the Daily Hope. I'm going to phone a friend; will you join me?"

Carl Knightly, chief executive of Faith in Later Life, added:

"The Church must be those who offer hope to our nation at this time, and I am delighted that Faith in Later Life is able to be part of this project.

"We know as an organisation of the challenges for older people in our society in normal times and these are not those, so I want to add our voice to that of the Archbishop and get people sharing this number with whoever they know who would most benefit."

Pippa Cramer, founder of Connections, said:

“At Connections we have found that well-loved hymns are a source of comfort and hope to our seniors. Hymns we Love has proved to be an accessible and popular way to explore the story and meaning behind some of our favourite hymns.”



Here's how the Daily Hope FREE phone line works

Phone up 0800 804 8044 – it doesn't cost anything

Listen to the lovely greeting from Archbishop Justin

Choose an option (press one of the following numbers)

- 1. Hymns we love: short talks based on well loved hymns**
- 2. Hymnline: recordings of daily hymns on a loop**
- 3. Prayer Link – prayers for God's help and reassurance**
- 4. More Options**
- 5. The Church of England Weekly Worship Service**
- 6. Traditional Morning or Evening Prayer**
- 7. Latest Government Advice on COVID-19**

When Times Are Tight

During the waning days of The Great War (1914-1918), David Lloyd George remarked, “when the chariot of humanity gets stuck, nothing will lift it out of the mud better than great faith that goes to the heart.”

As a young boy in Wales, he had grown up in a family that included several preachers; so the ways of the pulpit certainly informed and influenced the only Welshman to ever serve as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He was a man known for his eloquent oratory and inherited from his father the idea of preaching as “thoughts that breathe and words that burn.

“Much has been written over the years about how faith and a sermon from church leaders can aid, inform, inspire and comfort the multitudes when times are tough. When war clouds loom on the horizon, or when hurricane Katrina-like natural disasters, or what we are facing with the Coronavirus strike a community, nation, or our world we can look to our faith in our God to help us get through these times of hardship.

When times are tight, great care must be taken not to feed the fears of people. Rather, we should be agents of hope.

Tight times cry out for good news. And as the proverb says, such news from a distant but precious place is like “cold water to a thirsty soul.” Let us look to our ancestors and take hope from the way they coped during the world wars, how people of all faiths came together to fought the common foe..

Jesus understood this very well. When circumstances began to distract the attention of His faithful followers, especially as they began to perceive that something bad was on the horizon, He admonished them, “Let not your heart be troubled.”

But our Lord didn’t merely offer a kind and generic “there, there” with a perfunctory pat on their backs. No, He proceeded to tell them about a place—a compelling and very real place—that He was going to prepare for them.

Whatever the immediate future holds for us and the rest of the world, it is clear that we have experienced an unprecedented and unsurpassed period where our standard of living has been tested. This, in fact, may now be changing. No one knows for

sure. But times of prosperity and plenty tend to have a dulling effect on spiritual senses and values.

In a sense, for much of our nation the idea of a better place and future glory has failed to capture the imagination, even the attention, of so many in recent years because, well, it has been pretty good down here. But as the years of plenty possibly give way to leaner times, we should take the cue and dig out the old classics about Heaven and its glory.

As the 1950s gave way to the 1960s and 1970s in this country, a generation—the Baby Boomers—questioned authority and challenged assumptions. They saw their parents, who had endured the Great Depression and a global war, as obsolete. Many dismissed traditional values and theological concepts like Heaven. It was commonplace to hear talk of a celestial home mocked as the myth of “pie in the sky.” This was a generation who had never really suffered or seen suffering.

It is a sobering truth that we tend to only learn to appreciate Heaven and its glory when we are faced with suffering or some present distress. We can then identify with Paul in Romans 8 when he spoke about the unworthiness of comparisons between future glory and present difficulty.

So as the world slides into a possible period of suffering, we should be voices crying in the wilderness about a better place.

When times are tight, when abundance gives way to want and prosperity is left behind, we Christians have something to say. There is a place, a better place, a glorious place, a place prepared by God Himself.

In the parish of St. Mary's Woodkirk have been very lucky in having a Vicar who has reached out though St. Mary's Facebook page and put service up every day that we may be uplifted and still pray together, we as Christians may miss meeting in our church buildings but let us remember the early church was held in people's homes.

Keep safe
God bless
Gail

How the Virus Stole Easter.

April approached and churches were closed.
“There won’t be an Easter,” the world supposed.
“There won’t be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we get about.”

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.
“Easter can’t happen this year,” they proclaimed.
“Online and at home, it just won’t be the same.”

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke Sunday, and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.
But the sound wasn’t depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn’t be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!
Each saint in each nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It had not stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
“Just how can it be?”

It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, or money.

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night

Will you share of the source of your life in this fight?
the churches are empty - but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is Victor over death, doom, and gloom.
So this year let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the Church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.

May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that - Let it start a revival

Gail

Albert's 'Stay at Home' Quiz

1. From which hometown did John Eric Bartholomew take his stage name?
2. Who was elected M.P. in 1997 and has represented Maidenhead ever since?
3. England has just 2 royal duchies. Where are they?
4. Each year Kent proudly supplies strawberries for refreshments at which sporting event?
5. Which Castle had a major fire on November 20th 1992?
6. Where was the television series 'The Office' located?
7. In 1939 comedy actor John Cleese was born where?
8. Which Cheshire seat was held by former chancellor George Osborne?
9. Where were rock stars Mick Jagger & Keith Richards born in 1943?
10. In which county is the Silverstone Formula 1 circuit?
11. Which premier league football clubs have the nicknames:
a, The Cherries b, The Foxes, c, The Toffees?
12. Which female comedienne and pianist was born in Prestwich and raised in Bury?
13. In the UK where are the 4 Tate Galleries?
14. Which James Bond actor was born in Chester?
15. Which 2 cities are 47 miles apart linked by the M8 motorway?
16. What city is known as the granite city?
17. In which county is Prince Charles house, Highgrove Castle?
18. Runcorn, Macclesfield, Widnes, & Congleton are in which county?
19. What is England's smallest City.
20. Which 3 English counties begin with the letter 'B'?

Albert

Answers on P43

Lockdown Lacksadaisicality!

I hope you are all managing during these difficult times, and I just thought I would share something of my recent experiences.

Those of you who know me, know that I am always dashing hither and thither, always busy, and I often talk about how I'd love to do a certain thing but seem so busy I can't always fit it in.

Well, with lockdown, just about all the things I do stopped almost immediately, and so you would think that I would now be able to do loads of things.

This was the case with a number of my hobbies. I completed a number of sewing projects that have been stored in carrier bags and boxes, tucked away in the loft or a cupboard, which was very satisfying, and I also (thanks to church friend Elaine who mentioned it) did a bit of spring cleaning, washing curtains and cleaning glass light shades that have probably never been cleaned. I also have the shiniest descaled kettle which looks as good as it did when I bought it!!

But one thing I haven't done is spent any time with bible study or reading the bible any more than normal (which I'm ashamed to say, isn't a lot). I have enjoyed joining in with most of Rev Sharon's live Facebook video services, which has been lovely, but spending any more time with God has still been way down my list of things to do. And I can't blame the fact that I am so busy, because during lockdown I can't do any of the things I normally do!

So I thought about this and realised that there were a number of bible characters who avoided (or tried to ignore) God. I've picked five, but you may well know of others.

Firstly though, I thought about why I wasn't doing any bible study/reading and thought about how we were given our free will by God, starting with Adam and Eve in Genesis, right at the beginning of the bible. God doesn't make us do things, He has given us our free will, trusting we will make the right decisions. Trusting that we will want that relationship with Him.

I do want that relationship with Him, and I was reassured when I thought about these five bible characters and their free will.

Firstly I chose Jacob we can read about his story in Genesis Chapter 32. I'm particularly looking from verses 22-31 which tell us the story of how Jacob 'wrestled' with God on the bank of the Jabbok River. Jacob received God's blessing, a new name (Israel) and a damaged hip from the encounter, but did of course devote his life to the service of God.

The next character was one of the most prominent figures in the Old Testament, Moses. He hadn't been a particularly law abiding chap, having killed an Egyptian overseer who was mistreating his people. He fled and spent a long time in the wilderness taking care of Jethro's sheep.

But of course the wilderness was no barrier to God, and He appeared to Moses in the burning bush which you can read about in Exodus chapter 3.

God wanted Moses to lead His people out of slavery but Moses put up all sorts of reasons (excuses!) why he couldn't do it...'I'm nobody, why should they listen to me? What if they don't believe me? I'm no great speaker send my brother Aaron instead'. However, we see that in every situation that Moses went through he was met with the grace of God.

The third character was the great prophet Elijah, now Elijah was a little bit different as he followed the instructions of God and prophesied to the people which we read about in 1 Kings 17.

Unfortunately King Ahab's wife Jezebel who was fanatical for her religion (the worship of Baal) threatened Elijah's life and he had to run away. Poor Elijah was so despondent he asked God to take away his life, but God wasn't finished with Elijah and guided him. And of course it is whilst he spends the night in a cave on the holy mountain that God visits him, not in the wind or in the earthquake or in the fire, but in a soft whisper.

My penultimate bible character is that fishy favourite Jonah who tried to hide from God because he didn't want to go to Ninevah. Jonah went in the opposite direction to Joppa to find a boat that would take him to Spain. Of course Jonah couldn't hide from God and ended up inside the whale before it spat him out and he did what God asked him to do.

Finally, we come to my only New Testament character, and one that has been mentioned in some of our post Easter readings, it is of course Thomas, the doubter as he became known.

Thomas who was not there when Jesus appeared to the disciples after his death didn't believe what he was being told, until of course Jesus returned when Thomas was there.

The thing is, being a disciple of Jesus doesn't automatically make one a 'faith giant'. Thomas became known as Doubting Thomas because he wrestled with the truth that Jesus rose from the dead. But his wrestling with faith was as human as the

labelling of him. Thomas was not the only disciple to wrestle with the truth of the resurrection—all of the disciples wrestled with believing, when Mary and the other women came and told them Jesus was alive, you can find it in Luke 24:10-11. It's important to point out the grace of God for those who wrestle. The 11 didn't believe until Jesus appeared to them—and then he appeared again just for Thomas.

The thing is, I may not have spent much extra time undertaking bible study, but amongst time spent on my hobbies, I have joined in with friends live video's, supporting them, I have started making some scrub bags, again through linking with a friend on Facebook, and I have written quite a number of letters to friends, some who I do ordinarily meet up with throughout the year, but to others with whom I perhaps only exchange birthday and Christmas greetings, all of whom have been really pleased to receive a surprise letter from me.

Now I'm not wrestling with God, but perhaps I am using the grace God freely gives me in a different way to bible study, sharing friendship and hope amongst my friends, some of faith and some not, cheering them up and breaking lockdown monotony.

As I write this we are at the start of a new month, the perfect place perhaps to attempt some regular bible study, but maybe God is calling me to work for Him in a different way. I'm never going to be able to be still and studious, it wouldn't be me, but perhaps God is encouraging me to use other skills He has given me.

If not, when we meet again, if I smell of fish, or walk with a limp perhaps I was wrong!

With love and blessings.

Dawn

Church Mouse Tales

‘Well it seems like MONTHS to me!’ I exclaimed loudly to my friend Hubert, the Black Canon.

Somehow we had found ourselves arguing about something quite trivial - how long had the church been empty for? It couldn't only be six weeks! But Hubert was quite insistent, even claiming his expertise as a keeper of records and a scribe meant he had accurate knowledge. I mean, as if that counted for anything!

‘Anyway’, I went on unperturbed, ‘why are you still here? Shouldn't you be self-isolating, staying at home and locking yourself to something?’

‘It's called ‘lock-down’, he corrected meticulously.

‘Well whatever it is - you aren't doing it...’

‘I am,’ he replied, ‘I live here - so this is my home.’

‘YOU?’ I was shocked. ‘No, no - I live here and you come in and out to visit - don't you?’

‘No, not since the Monastery was demolished. Now I am in permanent residence you might say.’

‘Oh, I hadn't realised - on account of the fact you don't seem to sleep anywhere or eat anything?’

‘No, those things I find aren't so necessary any more - I prefer meditation.’

‘It's an age thing isn't it?’ I exclaimed triumphantly. ‘I mean, probably when I'm your age I won't need those things either?’

‘No, you probably won't.’ agreed Hubert.

‘I look forward to it’. I agreed and set off to find a biscuit tin.

Misha x



Always look on the Bright side....

TRAFFIC has gone,

FUEL is affordable,

BILL payments extended.

KIDS are at home with their FAMILIES.

PARENTS are home taking care of their CHILDREN.

FAST FOOD replaced by HOME COOKED MEALS.

Hectic SCHEDULES replaced by NAPS, REST, and
RELAXATION.

The AIR seems CLEANER.

The WORLD quieter.

PEOPLE are conscious about HYGIENE and HEALTH.

MONEY doesn't make the WORLD GO ROUND anymore.

DESIGNER clothing is pointless as nobody ever really needed it.

DOCTORS AND NURSES AND CARE WORKERS AND ALL
KEY WORKERS are being praised and recognized instead of
sportsmen and celebrities.

And WE now have TIME, finally, to STOP and SMELL the
ROSES.

..The positive side above all !!

Trevor Sykes

You'll Never Walk Alone

The lockdown continues to create new ways to communicate and support our friends and neighbours. Brian (Gledhill) was inspired to go out into the street and play his guitar.

After the Thursday applause for the NHS, Brian played 'You'll never Walk Alone' at the end of his drive. Many of his neighbours joined in asked him to do it again the following week. Unfortunately 'rain stopped play' but he is planning to play 'You Raise me Up' on the next available clear evening after the NHS applause.

Here is Brian practising in his living room for the next one:



Quiz Answers:-

1. Morecambe 2. Theresa May 3. Cornwall & Lancaster 4. Wimbledon 5. Windsor 6. Slough 7. Weston Super Mare 8. Tatton 9. Dartford 10. Northamptonshire 11. a. Bournemouth; b, Leicester; c, Everton. 12. Victoria Wood 13. London x 2; Liverpool & St.Ives (Cornwall) 14. Daniel Craig 15. Glasgow-Edinburgh 16. Aberdeen 17. Gloucestershire 18. Cheshire 19. Wells 20. Beds/Bucks/Berks.

Albert

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:-



DEATHS



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

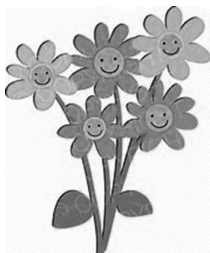
Jean Bilsborough;
Jim Smith
Kath Frost
Wendy Howley
Philip Stephenson

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:

May

3rd Sun 10.30am Holy Communion

4th Mon 8pm PCC Online

5th Tue 6pm Evening Prayer

6th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion

7th Thur 9pm Night Prayer

8th Fri 7pm VE Day 75th Anniversary Service

9th Sat 10:30am Coffee Morning Online (Zoom)

10th Sun 10:30am Holy Communion

12th Tue 6pm Evening Prayer

13th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion

14th Thur 9pm Night Prayer

16th Sat 10:30am Coffee Morning Online (Zoom)

17th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion

19th Tue 6pm Evening Prayer

20th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion

21st Thur 9pm Night Prayer

23rd Sat 10:30am Coffee Morning Online (Zoom)

24th Sun 10.30am Holy Communion

26th Tue 6pm Evening Prayer

27th Wed 10:00am Holy Communion

28th Thur 9pm Night Prayer

30th Sat 10:30am Coffee Morning Online (Zoom)

31st Sun 10.30am Holy Communion

June

2nd Tue 6pm Evening Prayer

3rd Wed 10:00am Holy Communion

4th Thur 9pm Night Prayer

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

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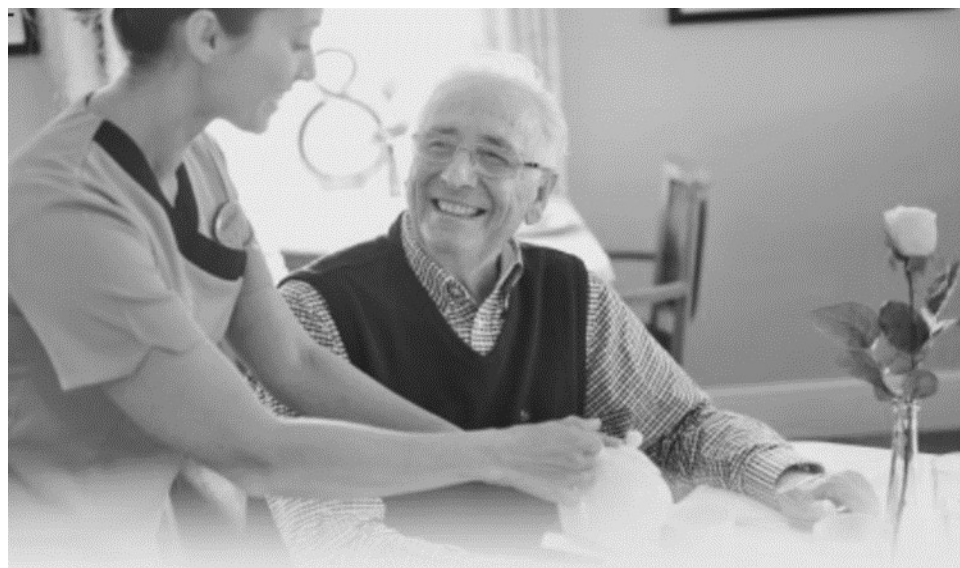
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emily@humphreys.dance**

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

Son of Resident at
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(carehome.co.uk review)

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Passing by? Pop in for a cuppa ...



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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
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Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more
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What's on

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

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