

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Family Fun Day 10th June
All welcome

June 2023



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

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Who's who at Woodkirk

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Weekly News Sheet:. Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org
Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.
Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Laura Mortimer,
Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill, David Townsend Brian Gledhill

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

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**No winter lasts forever; no
spring skips its turn.**

**The day the Lord created
hope was probably the same
day he created spring.**

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.

Vicar's APCM Report 2023

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

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

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

Archdeacon Paul came and carried out the Archdeacon's Visitation this year. During this Visitation the Archdeacon examines all the churches records and it is imperative that they are both present and correct. Thankfully we passed with flying colours.

Archdeacon Paul expressed concern re:- the payment of our Parish Share and our overall Financial position which has worsened over the last three years. The Diocese themselves are still 2 million adrift and generally throughout the Diocese churches have and are struggling to pay their Parish Shares. Combine this with the present economic crisis, the ability of people to pay their bills, feed their kids etc people have less money to donate and it is harder for me to ask people to increase their giving but this is something I need to address in the coming months.

Of course, here at St Mary's we have been raising money for the East Window and you all have been so generous over the past two years raising a total of nearly £41,000.

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

We continue to successfully rent out the Parish Hall which is used by the following groups: Line Dancing, Pilates, ABC, Knit & Natter, Young at Heart, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Brian, Gary and I attend Deanery Synod regularly and all of PCC have undergone Safeguarding Training recently. Gail and Dawn have attended their own respective training sessions as appropriate.

There have been two major world significant events this year, the Queen's Jubilee and the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A very happy occasion and a very sad occasion which we celebrated both in church. Unfortunately due to the death of Her Majesty we had to cancel both the Family Fun Day and the Heritage Day.

The Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fair were both successful and the local community really took it to heart once again and we had 20 or so trees displayed. The weekend ended with a family carol service.

It was nice to see that all the local schools took part in the Christmas Tree Festival.

Dawn and I regularly take services at Hilltop Primary and Blackgates. We have not yet gone back into Westerton Primary. All three schools come into church throughout the year for various services or class teaching and this is a really enjoyable experience for all concerned. I continue to be a Governor at Hilltop Primary.

The children's group ABC has been running well on Wednesday morning to such an extent that we opened ABC on Thursday mornings too – this was in part a response to a need for a safe warm space. All Age Worship continues and the puppets have been an integral part in this service.

Dawn has been a Licensed Lay Minister for over five years and Gail covers so many roles but her main role is that of Lay Pastoral Minister and both are valued colleagues who have grown year upon year.

Baptisms continued to grow in the first half of last year but slowed down after December and we need to continue to work towards building meaningful relationships with those families.

I have been privileged to take over thirty or so funerals over the past twelve months and pastorally they are offered support either by myself or Gail.

I have also been privileged to take five weddings.

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

We have had several evenings of fellowship which involved food, quizzes, films and more food. These are usually very well attended and attract a regular following of people who don't attend church on a regular basis. We also had a very special afternoon tea for the Queen's Jubilee.

One of the biggest challenges is encouraging people to grow in their faith and it is very pleasing that this year we have two people who are going to be confirmed and completed the first course called Start and have just started the second course called Making Disciples.

Understanding of our faith increases through our Lent and Advent Reflections over 5-6 weeks with follow up open discussions and the 'in person' Lent Group was very enjoyable and challenging.

As a PCC we are indebted to the Gardening Team and the Community Payback Team for their continued work on the churchyard. Without them we could not maintain the amount of work that needs to be done.

Sadly St Mary's Playgroup closed this year due to insufficient numbers of children. Parents simply had to make difficult financial decisions due to the economy and over 50% of children dropped out making it financially impossible to stay open.

We also had to say goodbye to our previous Organist Stephen and his partner Jonathan who moved to Bridlington but we were very fortunate to find our present Organist, Maryon Hardie who has now been with us for six months.

Sadly, Averille our Flower lady decided it was time to stop doing the flowers in church. Averille has done the flowers for many years and always to a truly high standard and so many thanks go to her.

Those attending church on an average Sunday is now steady at 35ish and on a good week is slightly more. Christmas Services and Easter Services were well attended. Working on the back of successful Christingle Services, it was good to see the success of a new innovative service this year at Easter entitled Easteringle which told the story from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday in an interactive way using large plastic eggs and chocolate. The initial idea was Maryon's and it was a great success.

Earlier this year we managed to establish link with Woodkirk Academy after a class from there was brought into church. Discussions have just begun and are ongoing about possible assemblies, definite joint working between school and church to provide a meal and film night for the very poorest children. Visits to church for teaching and for Easter and Christmas services. One thing that I would like to establish is the use of St Mary's for art and history events as studied by the pupils of Woodkirk Academy.

We have continued to stream six services a week which is only made possible by sharing out the leading of these services and whilst streaming can inhibit sometimes, it is very missional in keeping people engaged with church for longer.

Our work in the Environmental Group has continued to expand to include working with cubs and scouts, building bird boxes and Hill Top Primary Academy producing posters in a competition. It is hoped we will in due course build some bug hotels with the rainbows and brownies.

It has been necessary to begin to look and plan for the future this year. There are one or two people who carry a lot of the work and knowledge within St Mary's. Whilst this is good, if something happened tomorrow, all that knowledge would be lost and so it is important that we try to ensure that knowledge is shared with others and this has already started to happen but we still need people to come forward and volunteer in various areas. This letting go of knowledge is a good thing as it will allow others to grow as leaders.

We continue to provide film nights, meals and social events which are supported by both church family and the wider community.

Other services offered eg 'Blue' Christmas for those who find Christmas difficult and All Souls Service where bereaved families are invited back to church to remember their loved ones.

I believe this past year has been one of readjustment as we continue to get back to normal – it has been a steadying of the ship which is always a good thing. However, in the coming year we do need to be open to new things and trying new things.

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

My work here is ably supported by the Church Wardens, Brian and Gary, who behind the scenes do a tremendous amount of work. They of course are not the only ones and as always it is impossible for me to single out every person I would like to thank in this report but I would like to thank all of you who volunteer and give of your time. I know you are all busy people. I stand by the fact that I lead in an open style, and that my door is always open for discussion or a cup of coffee. You will be in my prayers.

Sharon

Secretary's Report on the work of the Parochial Church Council

PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, and this report covers the period April 2022 to March 2023. Meetings are in church, face to face and always begin and end with prayer.

There are a number of standing items on the agenda which include the important areas of Finance, Health and Safety and Safeguarding and Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) which amongst many things also includes mission and social events

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

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held in Church on the 15th May 2022, and here are some highlights from the year to share with you. (With the date of the April 2022 PCC Meeting falling in Holy Week, our first PCC Meeting of the 2022/23 year was held in May):

Worship

Providing thoughtful and relevant services continues to be a core focus and we continue to live stream services onto Facebook. Daily Prayers are said online only on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Friday with streaming of in person Holy Communion Services on Wednesday and Sunday. These services are well received by those who don't necessarily reside in the Parish, but also when attendance in person is not possible.

May

We were delighted to be successful in a Grant Application from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust for £7,000 towards the renovation of the East Window. We were making progress with the updating of

Safeguarding Policies as part of our work to meet Diocesan recommendations and complete our 'Dashboard'. We discussed the possible reintroduction of the 'Common Cup' for Communion but deferred this until July. In addition we were asked to think prayerfully about the reintroduction of the Children's Corner, All Age Worship and Memory Cafe to feedback in July too. As part of LYCiG we feedback on the great success of the Snail Race Night and were finalising details for the Jubilee Afternoon Tea in June. Dawn confirmed that following the submission of all relevant documentation, she had been relicensed for a further five years and had received her signed certificate from Bishop Nick.

June

We discussed the DAC Application necessary for the East Window works and were seeking updated quotes for the works to be done. The PCC discussed and agreed to nominate five people as Licensed Eucharistic Ministers. A large branch broke off one of the trees causing damage to some headstones. We discussed the situation with planned giving envelopes and a potential move to a 'Parish Giving Scheme' offered by the Diocese. With the hard work the PCC had done in meeting the Diocesan Safeguarding Requirements, we moved from level 2 to Level 3 on the 'Safeguarding Dashboard' which then required further additional documentation which the PCC were looking at. Rev Sharon had reintroduced the common cup for Holy Communion at the weekend but had decided to retain the intinction cup with just her dipping the wafers as well. The Jubilee Afternoon Tea had been a great success and enjoyed by all. And after careful consideration, it was decided to move the date of the Family Fun Day as it clashed with a huge WF3 Kindness event on the same day. We received communication from the Area Dean advising us that changes were proposed which would reduce the Leeds Episcopal Area (of which we are a part) from 4 to 3 deaneries.

July

The DAC had approved our submission for the renovation of the East Window subject to further clarification necessary on some aspect of the glazing specification. We had also received a further grant from The Glaziers Trust for £2,000 which was really good. The large branch that fell was removed and a condition report on the trees in the churchyard was arranged. (For reasons of safety the area where the branch had fallen remained cordoned off until the condition report was completed). Family fun day moved to September and dates for Christmas Tree Festival were discussed. Upgrades were required on the Website by the service provider. We agreed to support the Community Payback Team by agreeing to their request to use our facilities as their Training Hub.

There was no PCC Meeting in August as the PCC took a well earned break although the PCC joined together for a social event.

September

Most things were paused in September due to the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September. This affected our calendar of events particularly the History Day and Family Fun Day both of which were cancelled. Sharon had opened the Church and a book of condolence was available and members of the PCC attended on a rota for the hours the church was open between the 9th and 19th September for members of the community to come and pay their respects. There was also a special service programme used for this too. The children's corner had returned and been well received. A Harvest Supper was being arranged and Christmas Services details were shared. Rev Sharon was undertaking another mammoth sponsored walk during September and teams of folks had been distributing leaflets around the parish seeking sponsorship.

October

We were starting the process of completing a Heritage Lottery Grant Application and work had been completed on the cleaning of the Church guttering as required by our Quinquennial Report. Sharon had

completed her amazing sponsored walk. She set a target of 19,000 steps per day but in actual fact completed 21,000 steps a day walking 300 miles in September and raising over £3,800. We had our fire evacuation test in October which saw the church evacuated safely, and an updated Fire Risk Assessment was circulated to the PCC. The two Churchwardens had updated their 1st Aid Certificates in September. A successful harvest supper (including a farewell to Stephen (Organist) and his partner Jonathan had been held and Sharon was delighted to report that the ABC Group had increased their days by opening on a Thursday Morning as well as a Wednesday. The PCC officially approved and adopted the Parish Environment Policy which commits us to look at our sustainability as part of the Diocese targets for Net Zero. The Parish Centre Boiler was not fit for purpose and was being replaced.

November

The DAC had unanimously approved our request for the work required for the renovation of the East Window (a necessary requirement as part of the process). The Safegas Engineer was coming to service the Church Boiler on the 30th November. PCC Members were signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme and it was hoped that other members of the congregation would follow in due course. The Diocese had shared some monies received from the Church Commissioners to help with the current energy crisis and we had received £1,250 towards our heating costs. Some members of PCC were doing 'Safer Recruitment Training' (a requirement under Diocesan Safeguarding recommendations) at the end of November. The Fire Risk Assessment was approved and implemented. All Souls and Remembrance Day Services had gone well with music being played by a new organist. And the PCC discussed whether they felt we could provide an afternoon social event on New Year's Eve and a 'Picnic Lunch' was agreed to be provided.

There was no meeting in December.

January 2023

Gary chaired the January meeting, as Rev Sharon went on a well earned holiday. A review of the current status of grants for the East Window was discussed, with an extension being requested for one of the grants that had an end date. The remainder either have no 'use by' date or it is in advance of when we hope the work to be undertaken. The updated Health and Safety Policy and Fire Risk Assessment had been completed, signed off and were now in place. A review of services and events over Christmas and the New Year felt that all had been really good, and the 'Picnic Tea' on New Year's Eve afternoon had gone really well. We had been informed that there would be an Archdeacon's Visitation in February (happens every 3-5 years or so) There was a lot of documentation to be completed prior to this. There had been an issue with the storage corner on the Parish Centre which had now been resolved.

February

Rev Sharon returned for our February Meeting and final documentations were circulated prior to the Archdeacon's visitation at the end of the month. The Annual Safeguarding Policy Statement and Policy (2 documents) were agreed and adopted by the PCC for a further year and an update was given on our stage 3 progress within the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. Our PAT (Portable Electrical Equipment) Testing was completed. Grateful thanks were expressed to the PCC for their attention to these important areas. We can confirm that we meet all necessary legal requirements in our responsibilities for Safeguarding and Health and Safety. We had held a successful pancake party on Shrove Tuesday which was very well attended. After careful consideration it was agreed that the monies raised would be sent to the Disasters Emergencies Committee who were working in Ukraine, Turkey and Pakistan. A comment from the Archbishop of Canterbury on the issue of General Synod's decisions on same sex marriage and blessings as well as a question for thought on the issue of whether God was Non Binary. The PCC were delighted to learn that Rev Sharon had been nominated for an award by our

local WF3 kindness group due to her amazing fundraising sponsored walk in September and we were invited to the awards event in March. This was a really lovely response by the Community.

March

The Archdeacons visitation had gone well. The lightning conductor had been serviced and required updating to meet current requirements, this was being arranged. The APCM was set for the 19th May to be followed by a Jacobs Join (Faith) lunch provided by the PCC. Fire Safety Training was being sourced and provided with possible link up with other local churches to share the cost. The Childrens Easter Activity Morning was being changed as Sharon and Maryon were looking at something like the Christingle service being produced "Easteringle". The Parish Strategy Plan was circulated and discussed. Dawn provided an update on the work of the Environment Group (see separate report). The five Licensed Chalice Administrators had been approved by the Diocese with Certificates being provided. An updated 'Who's Who' Board was to be produced after the APCM.

As you have seen, your PCC have been very busy this past year and continue to make plans for 2023/24. The PCC continue to work diligently, and though small in number are big hearted and continue to strive to provide support for the church and community we serve.

Dawn Tattersfield

Coronation Weekend

6-7th May 2023



Well, what a brilliant weekend!

My mum still remembers sitting in her neighbour's front room to watch Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953 (she didn't have a TV - imagine that!), and I can honestly say, I will remember the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and his Queen Consort Camilla.

From 7.30 on the Saturday morning the TV coverage started, sharing images and chatter as the many hundreds of people arrived at Westminster Abbey. Coverage also included interviews with many people gathered outside along the processional route to watch.

Then the King and his consort were seen leaving Buckingham Palace to follow the processional route to Westminster Abbey, the rest of the Royal Family assembling, everyone ready as the King entered the Abbey, then the amazing service, music and spectacle.

Will we ever forget Penny Mordant and her sword?

And who could but marvel at the solemnity of King Charles' anointing as all his finery was removed leaving him only in a simple smock shirt as the screens surrounded him for this most holy and sacred moment.

Then, the return procession the pomp, the marching the cheers, the delight, and finally the balcony with a somewhat reduced flypast (due to the weather) concluding as ever with the awesome Red Arrows with their red, white and blue tail smoke.

But that wasn't all...

We gathered in Church on Sunday morning for a special Coronation Holy Communion with liturgy provided especially, and then over 70 church family and friends, including some very special friends from Lydgate Lodge, joined together for an amazing afternoon tea.

Delicious sandwiches, savouries and cakes were displayed on all manner of cake stands and were munched with great pleasure. There was fizz for a toast and then flag waving was obligatory whilst joining in singing led by our organist Maryon. We sang a wide variety of songs covering all the home nations and many other favourites.

Huge thanks are due to all those who helped plan, prepare and worked hard on the day (and helped set up and clear away afterwards).

Here are just a few pictures.
God Save the King.
Dawn





Hanging on the Telephone!

Hi there

Now I suppose it depends on whether you were a 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's 90's or noughties teen, but for me, the title of my prayerful thought brings back a misspent youth listening to Debbie Harry and Blondie!

My inspiration for this thought stems from a frustrating couple of telephone calls I had recently. The first one was when I was going to collect my mum from the train, usually a 10 minute journey, but due to roadworks it took me double that. So I tried to ring the railway station (hands free) to get them to meet her to offer assistance.

Well...I was on the phone listening to an endless flow of questions, options and tinny music for two and a half minutes so by the time I got through to someone, who was in a call centre in Newcastle, I realised I shouldn't have wasted my energy.

The other occasion was overhearing David having a similar experience ringing someone else, choosing from a huge number of options, finally getting through to someone then being told, "oh no I'm sorry we can't deal with that, I'll give you another number", whereby you have to go through the whole rigmarole again.

It's not that I'm impatient it's just that you feel there are so many other much better things you could be doing rather than sitting in a phone queue.

But it did get me thinking about what the Bible had to say about waiting. I'm sure you'll be able to think of many others, but in the Old Testament I thought about;

Abraham's wife Sarah who waited 25 years before she gave birth to Isaac

Rebekah who waited 20 years to have Jacob and Esau

Moses waiting 40 years to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt

David waiting 15 years to be King

There's a brilliant quote from one of the Psalms;

*Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret (Ps37:7 – NIV)*

It's alright for God to say don't fret, he's omniscient and knows what's going on!

We have to trust God, He sees every aspect of our lives, including our needs and desires. In His great wisdom, He understands what's best for us. In contrast, we are often in a hurry to get what we want. Yet God has provided everything we need. He gave us His Spirit to be with us forever.

One of the tasks of the Holy Spirit is to guide us according to God's will and Word. He cautions us regarding wrong directions and quickens us to do what's right.

Therefore, we need to learn to listen to God and follow His directions rather than trying to figure out a course of action and plunging ahead.

If we make it a habit to listen to God throughout our lives, then we will be ready to hear Him when we need direction in pressing situations. God promises to answer our prayers and will direct our path, but sometimes we must wait for Him to show us the way. Even though we may want the answer immediately, God in His loving omniscience knows what's best for us both now and tomorrow because His perspective is eternal.

So the next time I'm trying to get through to someone on the phone, or sat in roadworks, I'll try my best to be calm and listen for God. (I wonder if he'll make those traffic lights change any quicker!).

With love and patience
Dawn

Use your Loaf!

Hi there



Funnily enough, I'm not predominantly thinking here about our Kingsmill/Hovis/Warburtons, Brown/White/Granary etc, but about an invitation from Green Christian (an organisation sharing 'Green Insights') to reflect on LOAF principles.

These are looking at foods that are:

- L** Locally Grown
- O** Organic
- A** Animal Friendly
- F** Fairly Traded

We hear so much about the danger of rising temperatures, but if we are to keep global average temperatures below 1.5 degrees, we need to take action in the next 10 years, and what we put on our plates is part of this.

The thing is our supermarkets provide us with such a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, but not all these are in season all the time. They may be grown in hothouses, poly tunnels etc which may use large amounts of electricity. Or perhaps they are grown in Europe or further afield. I know I am always amazed when I buy asparagus when I notice it comes from Peru, which means a vegetable has travelled further than I have!

As you know, I have an allotment so am now more acutely aware of which fruits and vegetables are in season at a particular time of year. Our Rhubarb is just about coming to an end as our Strawberries are starting to flower and the tiny berries begin

to form.

The thing is, for an average UK resident 28% of our 11 tonnes of carbon emissions come from our food. So over the summer months, perhaps I could set you a challenge?

Can you use your **L.O.A.F** and choose to have two locally sourced meals per week?

This means “in season” food produced in the UK or more locally. As we are heading for the summer, this shouldn’t limit your dietary/meal choices, and it doesn’t mean having to shop somewhere new. Chances are, your grocers/supermarket will state where the produce comes from, it might just mean you looking at the label a little more closely.

Becoming more aware of where our food comes from helps us to be more appreciative of God’s blessing to us through creation, as well as of the farming community who are amazing guardians of the land. It also helps us become more discerning shoppers as we can choose to support farmers who strive to enrich their farm’s biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions and water pollution, through for example farming organically.

Let me know how you get on, and thank you.
Dawn

Get ready for a wild weekend!

24th and 25th June

Hi there

I'd like to introduce you to a new environmental census. Like the RSPB Bird Watch, but this time for wildlife.

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust asks us to undertake...

The Great Yorkshire Creature Count

What's all this then? I hear you cry...

Well, for the past three years the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has asked people to take time over a weekend to actively spot, count and record all creatures great and small in their outdoor space.

They would love more gardens taking part so that we can take more action for wildlife on our doorstep.

It's fun and easy to do, and everyone can take part. Every single garden, yard and scrubby patch of grass could make a difference.

Our counts will showcase how wildlife-friendly our collective outdoor patches are and in time, give us an idea of how common species are faring in Yorkshire's gardens.

I will be surveying the churchyard over that weekend and I would be delighted if you would like to join me, or if not it would be great if you could undertake a survey of your own outdoor

space.

I have registered on the website so will be contacted before the weekend of 24th and 25th June with all the information we need.

If you want to register yourself just type “Great Yorkshire Creature Count” into your search engine and locate the website, or please let me know you would like to take part and I’ll share the information I receive with you, as they provide a ‘starting list of 30 creatures great and small. I would also will be happy to upload your results if you would like me to.

Like the RSPB Birdwatch, these types of census help us monitor how environmentally friendly we are, and hopefully, with the work we are doing, we will see more diversity as our projects are put in place.

Let me know by email dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org or phone me on 07840 739239 or speak to me in church/knit & natter etc.

Thank you once again for your support of our environment initiatives; it really is very much appreciated.

Dawn and the Environment Team.



Christian Aid – Sponsored Walk



Well hello there,

With it not being possible to join the local group of walkers for our Christian Aid Sponsored Walk, I enlisted the help of Dave Townsend and Gary Mortimer who kindly agreed to join me in undertaking our walk on Saturday 13th May, taking advantage of a favourable weather forecast J.

We set off across the fields towards the water tower at Gawthorpe and as we arrived in Gawthorpe were delighted to catch the May Day Parade (which had been delayed due to the Coronation). Floats advertising local charitable organisations were interspersed with Cheerleading groups and there were lots of people watching as they all filed past.

Then we followed Gawthorpe Lane to Kirkhamgate where we rested on the lovely benches around the War Memorial before setting off on the second half of the walk.

We followed a footpath off Brandy Carr Road, across the fields, under the motorway and across more fields to Woodhouse Lane, here Gary was somewhat sorry he had worn shorts as the path was rather overgrown with nettles in places (ow!).

We crossed Woodhouse Lane and followed a footpath again across fields, almost parallel to Batley Road, before reaching Haigh Moor Road just above the Methodist Church.

It took us about 2 and a half hours and was really lovely as the sun was shining and it was nice and warm.

You have as always been very generous and thanks to your sponsorship, we have raised £225 which is amazing, thank you.

This year's appeal was the Mighty Pea Challenge and so the money raised will go towards this year's appeal.

I have included an additional Christian Aid article this month where the spotlight is on Agnes Machona from Zimbabwe who receives support through Christian Aid's BRACT (Building Resilience through improving the Absorptive and Adaptive Capacity for Transformation) Programme which helps communities prepare and adapt to a changing climate and economic shocks.

All these programmes of support would not be possible without funds, and through your sponsorship, you are making these things happen.

Thank you so much for your support.

Dave, Gary and Dawn x



Christian Aid

Where there's tea, there's hope –

Agnes' Story



In thanking you in my other Christian Aid article for your wonderful support of our sponsored walk, I thought you might like to hear about Agnes who has benefitted from support through the work of Christian Aid.

Agnes lives in Zimbabwe, she grows a plant called the Resurrection Bush



Few plants can grow in the part of Zimbabwe where Agnes lives, but this plant does and it is grown to make herbal tea.

Agnes says, “When I look at the resurrection bush, I liken it to our lives. Sometimes life is difficult, and other times it’s OK. But during the times when it is difficult, do not lose hope. Anytime, life can be good again.”

Just like the plant, Agnes has survived the hardest of times when a severe drought happened in her region, she and her children went down from three meals a day to one, it was painful

and very hard for her.

But Agnes never gave up hope. She joined Christian Aid's BRACT programme, which helps farmers to support each other and stand strong against the changing climate.

Now, with her expert knowledge, Agnes grows food and herbs that thrive even in the driest conditions, and she loves being part of her community garden.

Together with women in her community, she uses a solar panelled pump to water beans and fresh tomatoes to sell. Agnes says, "in the garden I'm able to farm food so that my family is nourished all the time. It has uplifted our community in a great way. I'm now able to send my child to a better school."

Now Agnes supports women who are fighting the same struggles she once did, and your generous support enables Christian Aid to provide support in communities like Agnes's in the struggles they have which are magnified due to the effects of climate change.

Resurrection Bush tea anyone?!

Dawn x

Environmental Endeavours

Hello friends



Thank you so much for your wonderful support for our World Bee Day Coffee Morning on the 20th May.

As this was a first I wasn't sure if there would be many people, but the church was buzzing (sorry couldn't resist!) on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning.

People just kept coming through the doors enjoying tea and coffee and honey flavoured cakes, buying raffle tickets and learning more about bees as well as completing puzzles and colouring pictures.

We sold raffle tickets on the Sunday morning too for anyone who hadn't been able to come on Saturday. The winning tickets were;

- 1st – Brown Tickets 81-85 – Pat Wass
- 2nd – Blue Tickets 841-845 – Janet Mallinson
- 3rd - Blue Tickets 881 – 885 – Glynn Jennings
- 4th - Blue Tickets 821 – 825 – Joyce Barber

You helped raise £148 to help us build our Insect Hotel, so many many thanks once again. Whilst our insect hotel will be bespoke for our churchyard, if you're not sure what one looks like, here are some pictures of similar insect abodes.



May was an amazing month for your support for the environment.

In the Churchyard we have supported 'No Mow May' which leaves the grass uncut to allow the wildflowers to grow through providing vital food for our butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Not mowing just for that month can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees!

You were also brilliant in supporting our Christian Aid Sponsored Walk and this helps support initiatives in those areas where communities are at greater risk from the effects of climate change. And of course you're amazing support of our World Bee Day Coffee Morning.

This month I'm asking for your help again but all you need to do is spend a bit of time in your garden! See my article "Get ready for a wild weekend" elsewhere in the magazine.

A huge thank you for your continued support of our Environmental Endeavours.

Dawn and the Environment Team.

Affairs of the Heart



Hi there

I have two heart related things to talk to you about this month.

Firstly, you may remember from the May Magazine that we were holding a Heart Start Course in the Parish Centre on the 22nd May.

Well I'm delighted to report that 10 people attended the training, which included some basic first aid, how to deal with cases of Cardiac Arrest and Heart Attack, also CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

Our trainer was Craig who was assisted by his wife Jeanette and they did a brilliant job, making what can be a slightly daunting thing interesting and understandable.

Here is a picture of us all hard at work doing our CPR.



If you are interested in undertaking this training, we are considering running another course probably in the Autumn, so please do contact me so I can put you on the list.

The second heart related matter relates to the **Defibrillator** that is sited on the wall of the Parish Centre.

It is perhaps surprising to learn that the defibrillator has been in place now for almost 5years which is brilliant.

The thing is that as we come up to this 5th anniversary, we have to recognise that the battery that powers the unit is coming to the end of its life and must now be replaced.

I am therefore making an appeal and asking if you feel able, to make a donation, however large or small, towards the cost of a replacement battery.

The cost of a replacement is £267.60.

This is a large sum, but if folks feel able to contribute, between us, hopefully we'll be able to get the battery replaced soon.

If you do feel able to make a donation you can do so via our bank account the details are as follows:-

Virgin Money

Sort Code 05-01-31

Account Number: 31405751

Account Name: Woodkirk PCC

You can also pass any donations on to myself or Barbara, and you can also use the card machine at the back of Church, but please do let Barbara know so that she can allocate the monies correctly.

Thank you so much.
Dawn



St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

FAMILY FUN DAY

Woodkirk Vicarage Gardens, Dewsbury Road

Saturday 10th June 2023

FREE ENTRY 10-2PM

BBQ • CAKES • ICE CREAM
TOMBOLA • POTTERY STALL
BOOKS • GAMES JAM & CHUTNEYS
TATTOOS CRAZY GOLF
& Much More

GRAND RAFFLE
with prizes upto £200!

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!



www.stmarywoodkirk.org



Pastoral Care

Telephone Calls—We understand times are difficult—please know we are here if you need anything. Gail Townsend is our Pastoral Minister and she regularly telephones those who are unable to leave their homes at this time. If you would like Gail to give you a weekly call then please do not hesitate to contact her on 07792 975814.

Baptisms—If you wish to make an enquiry or book a Baptism please contact Barbara Tate on 07792 211095 in the first instance. Barbara will then arrange to visit you and book your Baptism into our Diary.

Weddings, funerals, Ashes, or the reading of banns—in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events. Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 07792 975814 or email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Notice Sheets—If you would like to receive a copy of our weekly Notice Sheet via email—then please drop me an email giving me permission to add you to the list. My email address is vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

Please note we are GDPR compliant and take great care of your private information.

THE PERFECT HUSBAND

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club.

A phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands-free speaker function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Hi Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes."

WOMAN: "I'm at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only £2,000; is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw the new models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "£90,000." ;

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing... I was just talking to Janie and found out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking £980,000 for it."

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and make an offer of £900,000. They'll probably take it. If not, we can go the extra eighty-thousand if it's what you really want."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open.

He turns and asks, "Anyone know whose phone this is?"

Trevor

Alberts Quiz: Animals & their habits

- 1) On what date was D. Day. The Allied landings on Normandy beaches begin?
- 2) The ship "Empire Windrush" docked on what date in 1948 when bringing Caribbean citizens to the United Kingdom?
- 3) In which month in 1914 did World War One begin?
- 4) What was the nationality of writer Hans Christian Anderson?
- 5) Where is Davy Jones's locker?
- 6) Who swivelled his hips while singing "It's Not Unusual"?
- 7) Which model and singer played Mayday in the Bond film "A View to a Kill"?
- 8) On which vessel did Horatio Nelson say "Kiss me Hardy"?
- 9) Which nursery rhyme character "Kissed the girls and made them cry"?
- 10) On which Shakespeare play was the film "Kiss me Kate" based?
- 11) What is a Somnambulist?
- 12) What do the initials REM stand for with regard to dream patterns?
- 13) In which field of entertainment is Wayne Sleep a famous name?
- 14) Which Shakespeare play features a trio of witches?
- 15) Who wears the "Fisherman's Ring"?
- 16) Which actor played Captain Quint in the film "Jaws"?
- 17) What do Americans call a game of draughts?
- 18) What name do the Japanese call the art of paper folding?
- 19) Which Andrew Lloyd Webber musical was performed on roller-skates?
- 20) In which European Country did Punch and Judy originate?

Answers on Page 41

Dates for Your Diary

June

Sun 4th	10.30am Holy Communion 1.30pm Holy Baptism
Wed 7th	10am Holy Communion
Sat 10th	10am-2pm Family Fun Day
Sun 11th	10.30am All Age Holy Communion
Mon 12th	7:30pm PCC Meeting
Wed 14th	10am Holy Communion
Thur 15th	11am Service at Lydgate Lodge Care Home
Sun 18th	10.30am Holy Communion
Wed 21st	10am Holy Communion
Sun 25th	10.30am Holy Communion
Wed 28th	10am Holy Communion

July

Sat 1st	10am Teddy Bear's Picnic
Sun 2nd	10.30am Holy Communion
Wed 5th	10am Holy Communion

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.

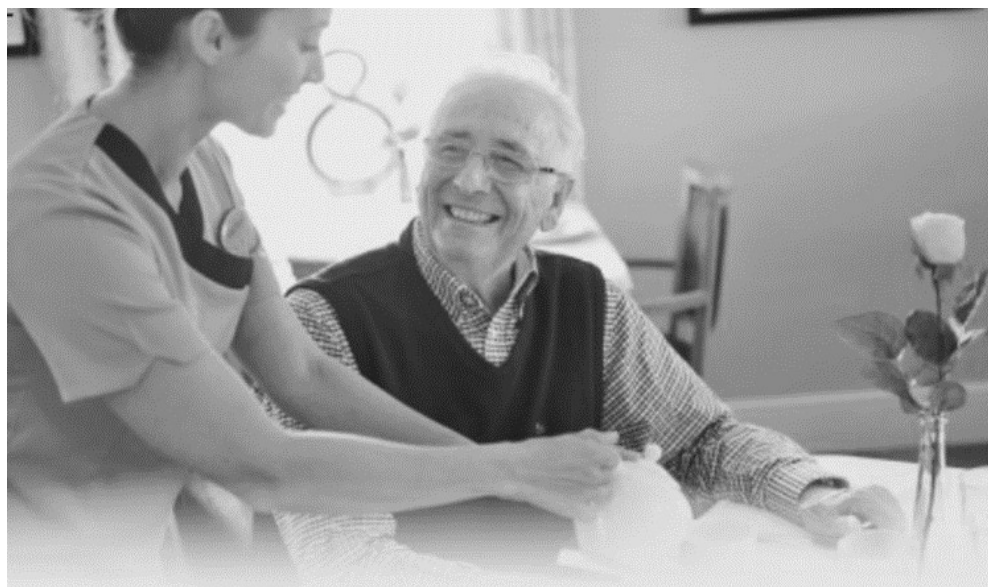
To join a 'Live' service look for the right time on the Diary page. You can also view previous services from the same location.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1) June 6th 1944, 2) June 22nd, 3) July, 4) Danish, 5) At the bottom of the sea, 6) Tom Jones, 7) Grace Jones, 8) Victory, 9) Georgie Porgy, 10) The Taming of the Shrew, 11) A Sleepwalker, 12) Rapid Eye Movement, 13) Dancing, 14) Macbeth, 15) The Pope, 16) Robert Shaw, 17) Checkers, 18) Origami, 19) Starlight Express, 20) Italy.

A very big thank you to Albert!



Lydgate Lodge *a great place to live*

*"Lydgate Lodge
is a lovely environment
for residents and relatives
alike providing excellent care
and facilities."*

Son of Resident at
Lydgate Lodge

[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

Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ

lydgate.lodge@idealcarehomes.co.uk

01924 355 020

ideal carehomes

idealcarehomes.co.uk

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—

We pray for those families who have baptisms this month:

Lily Ava Fox
Reeva Lily Arundel



DEATHS



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

Malcolm Gill
Michael Brook
Gill Bradbury

WEDDINGS

We pray for all who are preparing for marriage in the coming months



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Did you know?

We place our Parish Magazine on our website each month therefore YOUR Advert reaches many more people.

To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

Quarter Page £35.00

Half Page £70.00

Full Page £110.00

Shirl's Curls

Local fully qualified Ladies Mobile Hairdresser with over 20 years' experience.

Shirley brings the professional salon experience to you in the comfort of your home, without the stress of travelling or parking.

Specialising in cutting/styling, foils, colouring and perming.



Get in touch to discuss your needs and to book an appointment.

To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 015

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 £60 for 3 hours. Regular long term bookings negotiable.

**Contact: Sally Shaw
01924 475048 for more
information.**

**Loving.
Living.
Learning.**



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CONSULTANTS

CHRISTINE BENNETT
RACHEL STONES

RESIDENCE
3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

What's on (please contact the leaders for further information)

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children
Wednesday 9:30-11:00am (Term time)
Nikki Esberger 07932026419
Thursday 9.30-11.00am (Term time)
Charlotte 07972217528

Line Dancing 1.00-3.30pm Tuesday
Contact Helena 07719946917

Knit and Natter—come and enjoy help with crafts or just chat
Wednesday 1.00-3.00pm

Pilates Wednesday 7.00- 8.00pm
Contact Erin Blake

Young at Heart 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:00pm
Sally Shaw 07963610708

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm
Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm
Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

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

Diary and Services this Month

Sunday Services.

Each Sunday there will be a Holy Communion Service at 10.30am in Church as well as Online.

Weekday Services

Mondays 9am	Morning Prayer	On Line
Tuesdays 6pm	Evening Prayer	On Line
Wednesdays 10am	Holy Communion in Church & On-line.	
Thursdays 9pm	Night Prayer	On Line
Fridays 9am	Morning Prayer	On Line

Please inside for details of how to join a streamed
service