

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Church Picture circa 1900

March 2023



Revd. Sharon's Award Nomination...

**Worship Online at:
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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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**Do not be afraid to face
life. This New Year has a
lot of promises for us.
Trust God and everything
will be fine.**

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Welcome!

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

Parish News by Post

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

Web site & Twitter

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

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

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

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

Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world

Vicar's Letter

Thoughts on Ash Wednesday

11. The Lord will continually lead you;
he will feed you even in parched regions.
He will give you renewed strength,
and you will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring that continually produces water.
12. Your perpetual ruins will be rebuilt;
you will re-establish the ancient foundations.
You will be called, 'The one who repairs broken walls,
the one who makes the streets inhabitable again.'

Isaiah 58:11-12

For most, Ash Wednesday is synonymous to people in the form of an ash-dabbed forehead. For others it might be an awkward anecdote where they mistook the ash for some ill-timed and unfortunately placed dirt.

And when they said something, trying to be helpful, the person corrected them and explained the real reason for the “dirt” on their forehead.

Anyway, Ash Wednesday is something a lot of us have a general sense of. But instead of deep diving into the historical significance of the day itself. I wanted to just talk about ashes. I know, super exciting, right?

But stay with me.

What's a prominent connotation when you think of ash? Burning, right? There's a destructive element to ash because its very existence demands the burning or destruction of something.

This points to another prominent connotation of ashes, which is grief. No matter what the cause, the presence of ashes usually points to some kind of grief-worthy event. And this is usually where we leave

the idea of ashes. Something bad has happened, now ashes exist, and the sadness therein is the punctuation on that reality.

But we know that all things, even ashes, work for the good of those who love the Lord.

Let's look at it like this: Very simply put, there will be ash-laden seasons of life. Maybe they represent failures and destruction. Or maybe they represent opportunities or relationships that have burned to the ground. Or maybe, they just represent tragedy.

Whatever it is, God never meant for the ashes to be the end of the story. He actually meant for them to be the beginning. Just as Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, so too does God make new beginnings out of what feels like endings.

In the depth of any moment that despairs you, know that God has a plan! It may not be easy and it may not always be fun, but there is a big picture for you and God is the painter of it.

During Lent we should ask ourselves questions, search and reflect on things past and things that bother us today – one such question could be: What is something I've been seeing as a negative in my life that I should re-examine? How can I help others take heart during trying circumstances?

Difficult questions need reflection if we are to move on and grow from the pain that we have experienced – lent is a time for such questions, lent is a time to slow down and create space to think, to feel and to talk to God. And so I leave you with a prayer:-

God, one day, I too will be ashes. From dust I came and to dust I will return again. My prayer is that in this brief time you've given me, that I do all I can for you. That I enrich others, bless others, minister to others, but most of all, that I try to live out a life that echoes as closely as can be...your heart.

Every blessings to you

Sharon

Pancake Day at St. Mary's

On Shrove Tuesday we held our annual Pancake Party. This year we decided to support the Disasters Emergency Committee to show our solidarity with the peoples of Turkey, Syria and Ukraine. We welcomed 60 people most of whom had 2 pancakes, Rev Sharon and Brian made approximately 130 pancakes. A voluntary collection was made and the sum of £315.35 was raised. This has been forwarded to the DEC. Grateful thanks to all who attended and helped us to raise this magnificent sum.

And many thanks to Head Chef Brian and his Sous Chef Sharon for their hard work making such delicious pancakes (even if they provided stew as a topping!!)
Barbara.



Only 129 to go...



What's in an hour?

Hi there



If you're any good at sums, you'll know that there are 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute, and if you're really good you'll know that there are 3,600 seconds in an hour!

So what I hear you cry, I'm sure like me, you have on occasion been waiting at the end of the telephone for up to an hour. Well, I want you to think about one particular hour...

Earth Hour

Earth hour started in Australia in 2007 when more than 2.2 million individuals and 2,000 businesses in Sydney, turned off their lights for one hour.

Today, Earth Hour is one of the world's biggest environmental movements for nature and the climate, organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and partners across the world – but led by the Earth Hour community.

It is truly a spectacular, global event, with every year, hundreds of millions of people, famous landmarks, local businesses and community groups across the world taking part in Earth hour events and activities.

And this year, I am hoping that some of you will join in with this environmental initiative.

We all need nature. And nature needs us to stand up for it every day. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge

– to restore our natural world and prevent catastrophic climate change.

But we do have the solutions, and now is the time for action. By 2030, our natural world could be recovering all around us.

Together we can make small, positive changes to bring our world back to life. We all have a part to play – and Earth Hour is a great place to start.

So what do we do?

Earth Hour is happening this month- At 8:30-9:30 pm local time on Saturday 25 March 2023, we can join in with millions of homes across the UK and the world and switch off our lights to show we care about the future of our planet.

Obviously we don't want you to turn off fridges and other essential electrical items, but can you switch off your lights, your mobile phones, your televisions, computers, laptops, Ipads etc etc for one hour?

I can just about remember the power cuts in the 1970's and I remember my mum digging out some little oil lamps and candles and we sat in the room with these alternative lights and the light from the coal fire and played board games and made toast using a toasting fork!

Earth Hour is a time to switch off from distractions and focus on our world. You can do this any way you like.

It would be lovely if some of you are able to join in this event, I'm thinking of dusting off our chess set and challenging David to a game of chess by candlelight!

If you are interested and have access to the internet, type Earth Hour 2023 into your search engine and you will find the WWF pages which give you more information.

Otherwise, just put a note in your diary or on your calendar, to switch off your lights from 8.30pm to 9.30pm to join in with Earth Hour.

Please do remember that if you do light candles to light them safely, not leave them unattended, and ensure they are properly extinguished at the end of the earth hour at 9.30pm.

I will take a picture just before I turn my phone off, showing you my preparations, and will share that in an article in the next magazine, and I hope I may be able to include how many of you were hoping to join me in this event.

With love and candles

Dawn

*Earth Hour -
Small actions can make a big difference*



House Box and Christingle Collections



Hi there

I want to say a big thank you to you all for your ongoing support of the Children's Society through your donations in house collection boxes and supporting our Christingle Services.

Our Collection Box holders came up trumps again in 2022 with their boxes full of change raising an amazing £643.18.

In addition to this from the collections at our Christingle Services on Christmas Eve you also raised a brilliant £276.11.

Thanks to you all, as with the money raised the Children's Society can continue to be there for children in this country who feel scared, unloved or that they don't matter.

Thank you as always for your generosity.

If you do not have a home collection box and would like one, please contact me (07840 739239) and I can sort out a box for you.



Dawn Tattersfield

Alice says thank you.

Alice would like to extend her thanks to everyone who has sent her good wishes, cards and those who have visited her whilst recovering from her broken foot at Armley – although she would like to point out it wasn't Armley Jail! Alice is back home now and recovering well but she expects it will be a bit longer before she can line dance.

St. Hugh of Lincoln

As you may all know by now, I enjoy researching the lives of the Saint's. As I have visited the Cathedral many times, I was intrigued to find out more about the man who built it.

Hugh of Lincoln, (c. 1135–1140 – 16 November 1200), also known as Hugh of Avalon, was a French-born Benedictine and Carthusian monk, bishop of Lincoln and Catholic saint. His feast is observed by Catholics on 16 November and by Anglicans on 17 November.

Hugh was born at the château of Avalon, at the border of the Dauphine with Savoy, the son of Guillaume, seignior of Avalon. His mother Anne de Theys died when he was eight and, because his father was a soldier, he went to a boarding school for his education. Guillaume retired from the world to the Augustinian monastery of Villard-Benoît, near Grenoble, and took his son Hugh, with him.

At the age of fifteen, Hugh became a religious novice and was ordained a deacon at the age of nineteen. About 1159, he was sent to be prior of the nearby monastery at Saint-Maximin, presumably already a priest. From that community, he left the Benedictine Order and entered the Grande Chartreuse,]then at the height of its reputation for the rigid austerity of its rules and the earnest piety of its members. There he rose to become procurator of his new Order, in which office he served until he was sent in 1179 to become prior of the Witham Charterhouse in Somerset, the first Carthusian house in England.

Henry II of England, as part of his penance for the murder of Thomas Becket, in lieu of going on crusade as he had promised in his first remorse, had established a Carthusian charterhouse sometime before, which was settled by monks brought from the Grande Chartreuse. There were difficulties in advancing the building works, however, and the first Prior was retired and a second soon died. It was by the special request of the English king that Hugh, whose fame

had reached him through one of the nobles of Marianne, was made Prior.

Hugh found the monks in dire straits, living in log huts and with no plans yet advanced for the more permanent monastery building. Hugh interceded with the king for royal patronage and at last, probably on 6 January 1182, Henry issued a charter of foundation and endowment for Witham Charterhouse. His first attention was given to the building of the Charterhouse. He prepared his plans and submitted them for royal approbation, exacting full compensation from the king for any tenants on the royal estate who would have to be evicted to make room for the building. Hugh presided over the new house till 1186 and attracted many to the community. Among the frequent visitors was King Henry, for the charterhouse lay near the borders of the king's chase in Selwood Forest, a favourite hunting ground. Hugh admonished Henry for keeping dioceses vacant in order to keep their income for the royal chancellor.

In May 1186, Henry summoned a council of bishops and barons at Eynsham Abbey to deliberate on the state of the Church and the filling of vacant bishoprics, including Lincoln. On 25 May 1186 the cathedral chapter of Lincoln was ordered to elect a new bishop and Hugh was elected. Hugh insisted on a second, private election by the canons, securely in their chapterhouse at Lincoln rather than in the king's chapel. His election was confirmed by the result.

Hugh was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln on 21 September 1186 at Westminster. Almost immediately he established his independence of the King, excommunicating a royal forester and refusing to seat one of Henry's courtly nominees as a prebendary of Lincoln. He softened the king's anger by his diplomatic address and tactful charm. After the excommunications, he came upon the king hunting and was greeted with dour silence. He waited several minutes, and the king called for a needle to sew up a leather bandage on his finger. Eventually Hugh said, with gentle mockery, "How much you remind me of your cousins of Falaise" (where William I's unmarried mother Herleva, a tanner's

daughter, had come from). At this Henry just burst out laughing and was reconciled. As a bishop, he was exemplary, constantly in residence or travelling within his diocese, generous with his charity, and scrupulous in the appointments he made. He raised the quality of education at the cathedral school. Hugh was also prominent in trying to protect the Jews, great numbers of whom lived in Lincoln, in the persecution they suffered at the beginning of Richard I's reign, and he put down popular violence against them in several places – as later occurred following the death of Little Saint Hugh of Lincoln – (that is another story for later}.

Lincoln Cathedral had been badly damaged by an earthquake in 1185, and Hugh set about rebuilding and greatly enlarging it in the new Gothic style; however, he only lived to see the choir well begun. In 1194, he expanded the St Mary Magdalen's Church, Oxford. Along with Bishop Herbert of Salisbury, Hugh resisted the king's demand for 300 knights for a year's service in his French wars; the entire revenue of both men's offices was then seized by royal agents.

As one of the premier bishops of the Kingdom of England, Hugh more than once accepted the role of diplomat to France for Richard and then for King John in 1199, a trip that ruined his health. He consecrated St Giles' Church, Oxford, in 1200. There is a cross consisting of interlaced circles cut into the western column of the tower that is believed to commemorate this. Also in commemoration of the consecration, St Giles' Fair was established and continues to this day each September. While attending a national council in London, a few months later, he was stricken with an unnamed ailment and died two months later on 16 November 1200. He was buried in Lincoln Cathedral.

Bishop Hugh was responsible for the building of the first (wooden) Bishop's Palace at Buckden in Huntingdonshire, halfway between Lincoln and London. Later additions to the Palace were more substantial and a tall brick tower was added in 1475, protected by walls and a moat, and surrounded by an outer bailey. It was used by the bishops until 1842. Hugh was canonised by Pope Honorius III on

17 February 1220, and is the patron saint of sick children, sick people, shoemakers and swans.

Hugh's Vita, or written life, was composed by his chaplain Adam of Eynsham, a Benedictine monk and his constant associate; it remains in manuscript form in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Hugh is the eponym of St Hugh's College, Oxford, where a 1926 statue of the saint stands on the stairs of the Howard Piper Library. In his right hand, he holds an effigy of Lincoln Cathedral, and his left-hand rests on the head of a swan.

Hugh's primary emblem is a white swan, in reference to the story of the swan of Stow, Lincolnshire (site of a palace of the bishops of Lincoln) which had a deep and lasting friendship with the saint, even guarding him while he slept. The swan would follow him about and was his constant companion while he was at Lincoln. Hugh loved all the animals in the monastery gardens, especially a wild swan that would eat from his hand and follow him about, and yet the swan would attack anyone else who came near Hugh.

Both Buckden Towers, and the local Roman Catholic Church in nearby St Neots, are administered by the Claretians. In Lincoln, there is the Roman Catholic St Hugh's Church & School. (*Where I went to School—Editor*). There are many parish churches dedicated to St Hugh of Lincoln throughout England including the Church of St Hugh of Lincoln in Letchworth founded by Adrian Fortescue.

I hope you enjoyed reading the history of the life of St. Hugh of Lincoln.



GEORGE & JEMIMA. GEORGE'S HEAVY LOAD

Both pop up (George making heavy sighs)

Jemima. Hya George, how ya doing?

George. Oh, hi Jemima (sigh) I suppose I'm ok.

Jemima. How do you mean you suppose you're ok, you're either ok or not. Ok, which one is it?

George. I'm semi ok.

Jemima. What do you mean you're semi ok, you look troubled today?

George. Oh Jemima, I've got a lot on my mind.

Jemima. Come on then George, spill the beans, tell me what's up, see if I can help.

George. I'm worried.

Jemima. You? Worried? Worried about what?

George. Well, I forgot to tell you Jemima, but I'm going to camp with the Cubs next week for the first time and I'm worried about everything.

Jemima. Oh well thanks for telling me, but I'm not bothered about that, lets get you get you sorted out, what are you worried about?

George. My rucksack.

Jemima. Why, what's wrong with your rucksack?

George. I'm worried I won't be able to lift it cause it's too heavy.

Jemima. Why, what have you got in it?

George. My sleeping bag, tent, camping stove frying pan, trowel...

Jemima. Trowel? What on earth do you need a trowel for, are you expecting to do some bricklaying?

George. No, it's for digging up some nice juicy worms.

Jemima. Yuk, what for?

George. Cause I don't think anyone's ever tried my favourite sandwich before.

Jemima. What sandwich?

George. Bacon, sausage and fat juicy worms.

Jemima. Ya kidding me?

George. No, it's covered in tomato ketchup, so ya don't notice the worms.... course I'm kidding you.

Jemima. So why the worms then?

George. Der, for fishing of course.

Jemima. Remove the trowel from your rucksack you won't need that, and as for the Tent and camping stove, the cubs will provide those, so they can come out. Come on, what else you got?

George. I've already taken out 10 pairs of spare underpants, 10 pairs of socks, the wash kit and towels, but it's still too heavy, I'm still worried.

Jemima. So, what's still left in the rucksack now then?

George. Not much really.

Jemima. What do you call not much?

George. Waterproofs, thick socks, my iPad, joke book, 10 bars of Galaxy Chocolate, six bags of haribos, four bottles of Lucazade sport, five packets of Jammy Dodgers and a multi pack of crisps. I don't know what to do, my rucksack is still soooooo heavy.

Jemima. You need help George.

George. Yes, I know. That's why I'm so worried, I don't want to miss camp just because I can't lift my own rucksack.

Jemima. Well, here's what to do George. Lay everything out on the floor and start again.

George. OK, and then what?

Jemima. Here's what to put back in. Your sleeping bag, your wash kit and towel. Your thick socks, some spare socks and underpants and your walking boots. That should do it. You should now be able to lift your rucksack. Then if you've got any room, you may just be able slot in one bar of Galaxy and a packet of Haribos, ok?

George. But what about the other stuff?

Jemima. The Cubs will provide the tent and the stove, so please stop worrying.

George. Thanks Jemima, I don't know what I'd do without you.

Jemima. So you're feeling better now George?

George. A little bit, just one more thing I'm worried about.

Jemima. Aw come on George, what else can you be worried about?

George. The games.

Jemima. What games?

George. We have to make up a game to play at camp, now I've got a corker but I'm worried that no one will like it.

Jemima. What's your game called?

George. Theft and Shrubbery.

Jemima. Theft and Shrubbery, how do you play that?

George. Oh you'd love it, I play it all the time with my friends Cheesy, Breezy and sneezy.

Jemima. Sounds like you're playing with three of Snow White's dwarfs. Who's Cheesy?

George. Cheesy Smith.

Jemima. Why is he called Cheesy?

George. Cause he once had a sore eye and had to wear a patch over it for a while and his Mum ran out of patches and sent him to school with a cheese slice over his eye instead.

Jemima. And Breezy?

George. Aw, he just breaks wind a lot.

Jemima. And Sneezy?

George. Aw, just work it out for yourself Jemima.

Jemima. So how do you play Theft and Shrubbery?

George. Ok. You find a row of houses with gardens separated by shrubby hedges, you go there at around dusk.

Jemima. And then?

George. You sneak into one of the gardens where you can see the house has their curtains drawn back and you can see the family watching tv.

Jemima. Yeeeeees!

George. Then you all stand at the rear of the garden and start walking slowly towards the window while chanting. We do beg your pardon, but we are in your garden.

Jemima. We do beg your pardon, but we are in your garden?

George. yeh, that's it, and as you get nearer the window you get louder. WE DO BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT WE ARE IN YOUR GARDEN. And when the people in the house spot you, you run like the clappers.

Jemima. So where's the shrubbery come into it?

George. Cause you're not allowed to leave the garden the way you came in you have to scam through all the shrubbery, it's brilliant.

Jemima. I don't think you have another thing to worry about George ya now good to go.

George. Aw thanks Jemima, I feel a lot better now.

Jemima. That's good George. You know all that worrying reminds me of the gospel we learnt about in Sunday School last week.

Think about it George, there's more to life than worrying about your rucksack. Take a walk outside, look at all the birds, free and undisturbed, not tied down by a job description, they are careless and free in the care of God. Look at all the wild flowers, they never primp or shop, but have you ever seen colour and design quite like it? The best dressed people in the world look shabby alongside them. Ya know George, if God takes care of the birds and flowers, don't you think he would take care of you?

George. I guess so.

Jemima. If you decide to live by the word of The Lord George you don't need to worry or fuss about anything.

Say goodbye George.

George leaves

singing. Here's a little song that I wrote, ya might want to sing it note for note. Don't worry, be happy.... (whistles and shouts): "Goodbye everybody".

Jemima. Good bye everyone.



Big RSPB Birdwatch 2023

Well hello there.



Once again my intrepid team of twitchers took part in the RSPB Birdwatch at the end of January, and I just wanted to update you on our results.

Dave Townsend undertook his watch on Saturday morning, I did an hour on Saturday afternoon, then Sally and I did another hour each on the Sunday. The weather was cool and somewhat breezy which may have had an impact on the number of birds we spotted.

Over the combined four hours that we spent birdwatching (and acknowledging that these may be the same birds!) we saw the following:

Bird	Spotted	Bird	Spotted
Blackbird	2	Great Tit	9
Blue Tit	6	Long Tailed Tit	14
Chaffinch	5	Magpie	4
Coal Tit	4	Pidgeon/ Woodpigeon	8
Crow	3	Robin	2
Dunnock	2	Seagulls	3
Goldfinch	9	Sparrow	1

It is good to do these surveys annually as it gives us a snapshot in time of the environmental benefit of our churchyard.

With my 'Environmental' hat on, it was lovely that the Beavers and Cubs provided bird boxes for the churchyard last year, to provide snug homes for our birds and encourage them to nest. I am also really pleased that this year, that Dave and I will be working with the Rainbows and Brownies on providing 'Bug

Hotels' to encourage insects and bugs into the churchyard, which will hopefully have a knock on effect for our birds too.

Sadly our Woodpecker didn't make an appearance this year, however, I noted that we have three squirrels who kept me entertained whilst I was waiting for the birds to appear!

Please let me know if you would like to get involved in next year's bird watch so that I can add you to my intrepid team.

With love and feathers

Dawn



We are big on Easter.

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



Between the two there's a span of 50 days. In the hubbub of Easter, we sometimes forget Jesus was around for another 40 days after resurrection. Apparently, he had more to say and do. The very first verse in the book of Acts teaches us that the gospels were about "all that Jesus began to do and teach." The rest of Acts teaches us that Jesus is still doing and teaching in the days, weeks, months and decades after the gospels. The work of the first century church was the work of Jesus. Isn't that true today? What is Jesus doing and teaching in our day? Are we still working with him or simply working for him?

Jesus' message in the 40 days of resurrection was no different than his message during his three years of ministry: he taught about the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Acts opens and closes with the Kingdom of God front and centre. The very last verse in the book shows us Paul, three decades later, proclaiming the Kingdom of God (Acts 28: 31). Have we meditated on the meaning and importance of the Kingdom, or have we reduced the message of Jesus to only his sacrifice of the cross? I think that individually and corporately, we need to look more closely to the Kingdom's message.

The angels who were present at the ascension asked a pretty good question: "Why are you looking toward heaven?" (Acts 1:11) I think this is a question worth considering.

Sometimes I think we are more concerned with heaven than with the Kingdom of God. The breath-taking sacrifice at Calvary purchased the forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven. We

should ask: if the gospel is only about going to heaven, why did Jesus invite us to take up the yoke of discipleship?

I'd love to get the podcast of everything Jesus taught in those 40 days. In the meantime, he invites us to work with him just as closely as the first disciples.

So why 50 forgotten days instead of 40?

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

The gospel accounts end with Jesus saying, "Go!" Acts opens with Jesus saying, "Wait!" What was so important that Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem?

In our day many Christians are familiar with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) but are we aware that Jesus also told us to wait? Jesus said, in effect, "Don't go anywhere, don't do anything until you receive all that I have for you." Do we meditate on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives? We can work for God without any special empowerment. We cannot work with him apart from the Holy Spirit.

There are plenty of Lenten devotionals. They help us reflect on the gravity of the cross and the glory of resurrection. But what do you do after Easter? That's really the question of what it's like to live in the Age to Come.

The days between Easter and Pentecost are usually an afterthought, yet they can become an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the resurrection in our lives.

The risen Jesus didn't leave in a hurry: he hung out with his disciples and put the finishing touches on three years of training. He wants to do the same for us.

Amen
Gail

Reverend Sharon nominated for a Best of WF3 Award.

Congratulations to Sharon who has been nominated for an Award as a result of her fund raising efforts here at St.Mary's .

The awards are a celebration of achievement across Tingley, Ardsley, Thorpe and the surrounding areas. The Best of WF3 Awards were established in 2020 and aim to recognise and celebrate the people, groups and businesses that live, work or operate from or within the area.

The Awards are not a popularity contest and as such are not determined by public 'votes', Instead nominations are reviewed and winners decided by the panel of judges which consists of the WF3 Kindness team, professionals from the public and private sector, including a lawyer, journalist and member of parliament, along with members of the local authority.

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on **Thursday 16th March 2023** at **The Village Hotel**, Tingley and Sharon is one of the 40 finalists.

Other finalists you may know are: The Hare & Hounds pub; RH Binks the Butchers; The Friends Café; Tingley WMC; Teachers from Hill Top School and Woodkirk Academy; East Ardsley Cricket Club. Go to the WF3 kindness website for a full listing:

wf3kindness.org/awards-finalists.

Patron and 'King of Panto' Billy Pearce, will be the host for the evening bringing an element of comedy to the Awards and helping to celebrate the great and good from across all local communities.

There will be some VIP guests in attendance and representatives from across the city. Some tickets may still be available if you were thinking of going but they are selling out fast.

David



Help available at the Numbers below...

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 9-5 or 8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

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 0113 252 8710.

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 0113 252 8710 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.

Jesus bids us shine

Hi there

On the last Sunday in January we celebrated the presentation of Christ in the Temple and Candlemas, and one of the songs we sang was an old Sunday School favourite, 'Jesus bids us shine'.

I am sure for many of us, singing that song brought back memories of school assemblies, Sunday School, Brownies, Cubs etc when we sang our hearts out enjoying the thought that we were one of Jesus' little candles.

It also made me think of two different aspects, the first one being that we should be a little light in our corner, the other one about the importance Jesus puts on us being like children to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).

So firstly let us think about the song.

*Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night,
in this world of darkness, we must shine
you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

We forget in our energy filled, light filled homes about the effect of a candle flame in the darkness, but if you were somewhere very dark, that light would be so bright. I also thought about the reference to us shining in our small corners. If you think where your candle light is, if it is in the centre of the room there will be dark corners, but from the corner, the light would shine out across the room.

This is what Jesus means.

The song reminds us that we are in a world of darkness, but then it is our responsibility to make our light shine, we can be a beacon for those who are in the darkness of hopelessness or loneliness.

Letting your light shine doesn't mean you have to stand up in front of people, although for some of us we are able to do that, no, you are letting your light shine when you smile at someone on the bus, or as you walk past them, it is a kind word to someone who looks like they are in difficulty, it is perhaps telephoning a friend you haven't spoken to in a while, or writing a card or a letter.

These things are all ways you can let your light shine.

Then we can think about what Jesus said in Matthew 18:3;

And he said: Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

I don't think Jesus was saying we had to be childish, but if you have seen the enthusiasm which our regular youngsters show when they are in church, their delight and big smiles, I think it helps you to understand what Jesus did mean.

I think it is about not getting hung up on all the hierarchy and inflated structures (and possibly even strictures as well) of the wider Church, but being a part of the church family and getting involved in activities like social events, services, and possibly prayer groups like Lent and Advent reflections.

Rekindle and rediscover your joy and enthusiasm in the stories of Jesus, not only will this encourage you, but will brighten your little light, that you may shine in your small corner with me in mine.

With love
Dawn

Just for Laughs...

A bloke starts his new job at the zoo and is given three tasks. First is to clear the exotic fish pool of weeds. As he does this a huge fish jumps out and bites him. To show who is boss, he beats it to death with a spade. Realising his employer won't be best pleased he disposes of the fish by feeding it to the lions, as lions will eat anything.

Moving on to the second job of clearing out the chimp house, he is attacked by the chimps who pelt him with coconuts. He swipes at two chimps with a spade killing them both. What can he do? Feed them to the lions, he says to himself, because lions eat anything, and hurls the corpses into the lion enclosure.

He moves on to the last job which is to collect honey from the South American Bees. As soon as he starts he is attacked by the bees. He grabs the spade and smashes the bees to a pulp. By now he knows what to do and shovels them into the lions cage because lions eat anything.

Later that day a new lion arrives at the zoo. He wanders up to another lion and says "What's the food like here?" The lion says: "Absolutely brilliant. Today we had Fish and Chimps with Mushy Bees.

Trevor

Yorkshire Translations

For those who are not so familiar with the local dialect – here are a few helpful translations to keep you in the know...

Thems us clogs....

They are my shoes.

Three lions on us shirt...

Well known England song

Uzbekistan....

Our Becky has a tan.

Dave

Alberts Quiz for March

1. How many pieces are there in a set of Dominoes?
2. Where did the phrase 'Mind your 'p's and q's' originate?
3. How many old pennies were there in one Guinea?
4. Which Saints Day falls on the 30th November?
5. If counting paper, how many sheets are there in a quire?
6. In the nursery rhyme Bobby Shafto goes to Sea with silver buckles on his....which part of his body?
7. Which word follows Armed to the?
8. Which of the following is a reddish-brown venomous snake: a) Copper Head, b) Copper Foot, c) Copper Back?
9. What does nasal refer to?
10. Which UK band had a hit in 1960 with Itchy coo Park?
11. In which TV series does John Thomson play Pete Gifford?
12. Which word can mean part of a garment, chair or section or stage of a journey.
13. From what film does the phrase 'You're going to need a bigger boat...' come from?
14. Which word follows Ladies to form another word for Okra?
15. Complete the phrase – 'to put the cart before the...'?
16. In 'Paint your Wagon' who played Ben: Lee?
17. What is the name of the daughter of Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis called?
18. In which decade was TV Comedian & Presenter Alan Carr born?
19. Which American wrote the play 'A Street Car named Desire'?
20. What is the only mammal on earth that can actively fly?

Answers on Page 37

Dates for Your Diary

March

- Sun 5th 10.30am Holy Communion
- Wed 8th 10am Holy Communion
 11am Lent Group
 7pm Lent Reflections—streamed only
- Sun 12th 10.30am Holy Communion
- Mon 13th 7.30pm PCC Meeting
- Wed 15th 10am Holy Communion
 11am Lent Group
 7pm Lent Reflections—streamed only
- Thur 16th 11am Service at Lydgate Lodge Care Home
- Sun 19th 10.30am Holy Communion—Mothering Sunday
- Wed 22nd 10am Holy Communion
 11am Lent Group
 7pm Lent Reflections—streamed only
- Sun 26th 10.30am Holy Communion
- Wed 29th 10am Holy Communion
 11am Lent Group
 7pm Lent Reflections—streamed only

April

- Sun 2nd 10.30am Holy Communion—Palm Sunday
Start of Holy Week

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.

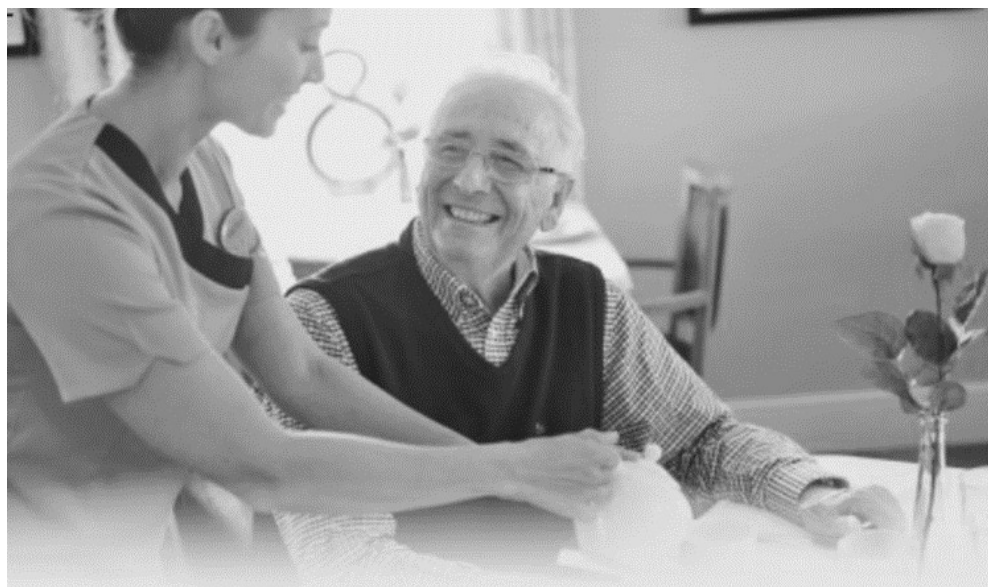
To join a 'Live' service look for the right time on the Diary page. You can also view previous services from the same location.



QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) 28; 2) Pints and Quarts; 3) 252; 4) St.Andrew; 5) 24; 6) Knee;
7) Teeth; 8) Copper Head; 9) Nose; 10) Small Faces; 11) Cold Feet;
12) Leg; 13) Jaws; 14) Finger; 15) Horse; 16) Marvin;
17) Jamie Lee Curtis; 18) 1970's; 19) Tennessee Williams; 20) Bat

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—

There were no baptism during the month of January and so we will pray for those families who have baptisms booked in February.



DEATHS



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

Clive Cooper

Hazel Lacy

Roy Distin

Tony Burbridge

Molly Marsden

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.**



 **THE CHURCH
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Diocese of Leeds

BENNETT OF MORLEY

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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

Special Services in Jan & Feb:

Sunday 8th January 10.30am Epiphany
Sunday 29th January 10.30am Presentation of
Christ in the Temple—Candlemas
Wednesday 22nd Feb 10.00am/7.00pm
Ash Wednesday

Please inside for details of how to join a streamed
service