

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Happy Easter !

March 2024



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

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Gary Mortimer

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Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

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

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

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Welcome!

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

Parish News by Post

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

Web site & Twitter

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

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

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

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

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

Vicar's Letter

I came across this analogy the other day and I thought it was really quite thought provoking....

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves... "what's in my cup?"

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratitude, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, victim mentality and quitting-tendencies?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

While in some sense this is a secular analogy it is certainly thought provoking for Christians during this period of Lent.

Lent is a time when we are called to deepen our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is a time when we could be transformed but transformation involves change and change is scary.

Just as when individuals reveal their true selves when rattled, Christians are asked to reveal their true selves in Lent and to work on those things that stop them having a close personal relationship with Jesus.

Jesus was sent into the desert for 40 days after his baptism.

Jesus deals with each of these temptations in turn and holds steadfastly to his commitment to do things God's way and not his own.

We don't know what form "Satan" took when Jesus was in the wilderness but it clearly was something Jesus recognised as being in opposition to God. It is the voice of the Disciple, Peter, that tries to pull Jesus away from his intended path and in that moment Jesus recognises the voice of the tempter he heard in the desert and states, "Get behind me, Satan".

Now Jesus is saying to those around him, and to us, that if we're serious about following him we are going to have to resist our own inner voice which tries to distract us. And that won't be easy. Our own inner demons know only too well where our particular weaknesses lie and they may have nothing to do with chocolate, wine or time wasting. Perhaps our weaknesses lie in enjoying gossip, hearing and passing on rumours; making judgments without knowing the whole story; reacting with impatience when we're inconvenienced in some way or breaking rules for our own advantage.

We each have our very own temptations and failures and these are what we need to deny ourselves; the things we need to recognise and bring to God asking for forgiveness, healing and the grace to begin again.

Jesus' message is that having everything we want and having everything going our way is worthless if in achieving that we have sacrificed our integrity, our honesty and our identity as God's beloved child in whom he is well pleased.

Similarly the message is that even if our lives in worldly terms seem lacking in achievement, possessions, or status, if we still have our integrity, are being our true selves and following what we believe to be God's will for us then we have a life caught up in divinity and in the eternal kingdom of God.

And if we know the divine and follow His path then our cup will be filled with the fruits of the spirit!

God Bless
Sharon

A different perspective

I don't know if any of you have braved the roads to go to Leeds lately? I nip into the City fairly regularly and recognise how much it is changing. I used to work in the centre of Leeds and after a few years did eventually manage to understand and traverse successfully, the mysterious Loop Road!

Well recently I had cause to take David into Leeds along a route I hadn't used very much at all, and although I knew where I was, it was interesting to see parts of the city from a different perspective.

I was going to use this idea for my article, thinking along the lines of looking at a well known Bible story from a different perspective, and then, lo and behold, week one of Rev Sharon's Lent reflection, 'The Nail' looked at reflections from Peter and the Roman Centurion, the latter being an angle that I had not really thought much about.

There are some very well known Bible passages and stories where we are given different peoples perspectives, for example; Matthew 20:20-21 when the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, asked Jesus if her sons could sit on Jesus' left and right in his kingdom, the other disciples were somewhat indignant, then there is the story of the Prodigal Son which you can find in Luke 15: 11-31, one son takes his inheritance and squanders it, the other son is dutiful and works for his father, then the son who left returns in his shame, and his father holds a banquet and the son who remained is annoyed, then the story of Mary and Martha from Luke chapter 10:38-41 where Martha is scurrying around making sure everything is provided for Jesus whereas Mary sits at His feet to listen to his words.

I'm sure you can think of other bible stories where we see two sides of what is being said, but as a principle, it is interesting to think about some bible passages perhaps from the view of someone else who was there.

We could have smile to ourselves thinking about what Noah's wife Naamah thought when, miles from water, Noah starts building the ark, or what the servants who knew that Jesus had taken the big jars of water and turned it into wine, thought of this miracle.

We quite often hear in subsequent passages, what the Pharisees, Sadducees and teachers of the law felt about Jesus' preaching, usually annoyance and negativity, but what about others who witnessed Jesus' preaching or miracles, those present when someone was cured of a demon or disability.

Over these next few weeks, perhaps our Lent Group reflections will take us through the Lenten journey from the perspective of a different person, giving us an interesting, or perhaps even challenging view of a story we feel we know well.

Think about Peter, he said he would never desert Jesus, but then the cock crowed and he realised he had done so. But would we have been any different. We are lucky today, we know the end of the story, Jesus was raised from the dead, but Peter and Jesus' followers did not. They had followed Jesus, listened to his teaching, tried to understand some of the more difficult bits, but they didn't know. Everything they had put their heart and soul into for three years was unravelling around them. When you think about it like that I think in the interests of self preservation, I'm pretty sure we would have done the same.

I hope you'll be able to join in the lent reflections online as, if the first one is anything to go by, the prospect is interesting with the potential to challenge.

If that's not 'your thing' then how about thinking about some of your favourite bible stories and looking at them from the angle of someone who was there and who's view is not mainstream and challenge yourself that way.

With love and prayers
Dawn



St Mary's Church Woodkirk



HOLY WEEK

Sunday 24 th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday
Monday 25 th March	7.00pm	Holy Monday
Tuesday 26 th March	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Weds 27 th March	7.00pm	Holy Weds
Thurs 28 th March	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday
Friday 29 th March	2.00pm	Good Friday
Saturday 30 th March	3.00pm	Easteringle
Saturday 30 th March	8.00pm	Service of Darkness and Light
Sunday 31 st March	10.30am	Easter Sunday

In the Wilderness

As we have now started our Lent Journey I have been thinking - what if I tried to follow Jesus into the wilderness? What would I take? I would need good footwear, something to drink, a hat, some sort of snack. Forty days is a long time and maybe the nights will be cold so will need some sort of covering. Looks as if my knapsack is going to be heavy, but Jesus went with nothing just faith in his father.

Well here we go -it is going to be a long Journey and I can just about make out the figure in front. My heart lifts with joy - Jesus is ahead! I follow slowly, but it is not long before negative thoughts begin to slow my steps. I think of all the things that could happen - like spraining my ankle, or even worse - what if there are enemies out here? I think of all areas of my body their arrows can hit, maybe direct to the heart. No wonder Paul recommended a strong breastplate of righteousness, as I look at Jesus now quite a long way in front, I must not lose sight of him. I must remember whatever people say about him no one can accuse him of evil - mind you, lots of people will accuse him falsely later in this journey, but in truth he is righteous in everything.

I am feeling weary now and my feet hurt. We have been trudging for some time across rough terrain but Jesus is still standing tall and walking with a purpose. I slump on a grassy mound, glad to have reached a point where the desert is gradually giving way to more lush vegetation. Resting a while, I turn my eyes from the glare of the sun and doze for a little. Jesus is still up ahead but now kneeling as if in prayer. In a daydream, a haze of memories stumble before me. The number of times when my unshod feet have stumbled into conflict. The curt word of self-defence that attacked another's self-esteem. The frustrated rebuff of a loved one's needs. The impatient retort

that word-weapons of fire instead of soothing words of peace and love. These words might have reached a new level of understanding, an understanding to heal a conflict situation.

I know this is going to be a long Journey, but I can now see Jesus clearly talking to his father as he walks ahead. I now understand that these 40 days will be a learning curve for me, and God will now be preparing his son for his ministry to all.

I am determined to carry on this wilderness Journey with Jesus ahead of me.

Dear Lord, when I am lost in the wilderness of despair or frustration or boredom or doubt, be there for me. When I cannot see you anymore in my mind or head or soul, strengthen my faith in your ability to see me. Train my arm in holding on to the shield of faith that will sustain me on my journey.

When I lose my direction and misjudge the path ahead, please, Lord, step up quickly from behind and redirect my way.

Whatever else deflects my gaze in the crazy, pressurised, violent, tempting, eye-catching world, let me see Jesus. Please God, let me always see Jesus.

Amen

Gail



Going green turns to Silver Part 2

It was lovely on Sunday 4th February when our Holy Communion Service was environmentally themed and included the presentation of our Silver Eco Church Award.



Here is our small but dedicated Environment Team with their award which was presented by Rev Sharon.

Whilst achieving the award was the result of over twelve months work, we need to maintain the standards we have set ourselves in order to keep this level of achievement.

We do this by continuing to raise awareness of environmental issues including local, national and international matters. We will also continue to look for additional environmental endeavours we can do to help tackle the climate emergency and to reduce our carbon footprint.

So we thank everyone for all your support and for showing support for our environment initiatives, we can all celebrate this fabulous achievement.

Well done.

Dawn



Lay Pastoral Minister Gail is relicensed.

On 24th January, Gail was honoured to be re-licensed by our own Revd Sharon for a further 3 years, continuing her Pastoral care role, visiting the sick and elderly to offer her support and faith within the community.

Gail studied and qualified for this role over 15 years ago and enjoys her visits every week for tea, cake, prayer and a chat.



Gail with Revd Sharon after her re-licensing .

Would you like to help the environment?

Back in 2022 we took part in a 'Big Plastic Count'

We were among almost a quarter of a million people and organisations who took part, and together we helped reveal that almost two billion pieces of plastic packaging are being thrown away a week.

Sadly nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging are thrown away by UK households every year, and even more upsetting is that just 12% is recycled in the UK with huge amounts being shipped out to developing countries.

We've all seen the impact of plastic waste on the environment and understanding how much plastic we use helps provide evidence to help environmental charities push governments for proper action on plastic.

Right now, world leaders are negotiating 'The Global Plastics Treaty'; an international legal agreement to prevent the harmful impacts of plastic. This UN Treaty is a huge chance to protect our planet from plastic pollution.

The big plastic count is not about making you feel guilty about the amount of plastic you use, although if you can find reusable alternatives/refills etc then that's great, but gathering the information helps charities push the government, supermarkets and businesses to tackle the plastic crisis.

The Big Plastic Count is happening from the 11th to 17th March 2024.

Taking part is very easy. If you use online facilities you can sign

up at <https://thebigplasticcount.com> where you will find all the necessary details.

If you don't do online etc, I have provided printed copies of the Tally Sheet and guidance on what to (and not to) count, and if you bring these back to church before the 24th March I can then submit our count by the 31st March deadline.

I really hope you will be able to join me because as many households as possible taking part will help uncover the truth about plastic waste.

Thank you so much.

Dawn



Big RSPB Garden Birdwatch 26th -28th January 2024



26-28 January 2024

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. 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	1	House Sparrow	3
Blue Tit	5	Long Tailed Tit	4
Buzzard	1	Magpie	4
Coal Tit	6	Pidgeon/Woodpidgeon	10
Crow	2	Robin	1
Dunnock	2	Sparrow	3
Goldfinch	3	Starling	1
Great Tit	2	Wren	2

It is good to do these surveys annually as it gives us a snapshot in time of the environmental benefit of our churchyard. However, comparing with last years, our bird numbers are a little down.

A hearty thank you to those of you who helped by counting the birds either in the churchyard or your own garden, and 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

Pancake Party



Hi folks

Well here we are in another Lent, but looking back to Shrove Tuesday, we had a great time at our Pancake Party in the Parish Centre.

Frying pan MC's were Brian and Sharon who did a sterling job, and although we didn't keep a record of how many pancakes they made, we reckon it was around 100! 'Flipping Marvellous'

Here they are looking a bit frazzled....



Delicious pancakes were enjoyed by all, unfortunately I only got a few pics before I was dashing as pancake runner, but here are a couple more photos...

Our table of tasty toppings

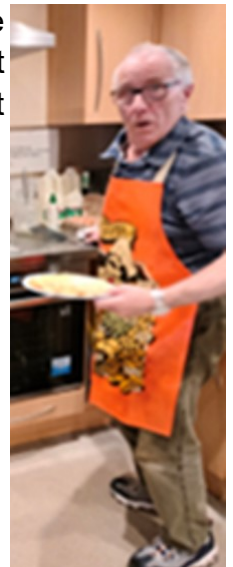


No charge was made for pancakes, we asked for donations, and a huge thank you to all who were able to come along and support us, we raised a brilliant £130.

Thanks to all and an extra special and huge thanks to Brian and Sharon for their excellent frying pan skills, and a shout out to those who set up and cleared away too. A great team effort.

Love and lemon juice (or was it maple syrup?!)

Dawn x



Stormy Weather brings our Wall down...

Back in December after several storms had passed through, we had a phone call from Mrs Sheard informing us that a section of the wall at the very far end of the graveyard had collapsed...



This large piece of wall adjoining her property had become unstable and partly collapsed. It was decided that we would need to have this section repaired professionally by a qualified dry stone wall repairer. We were able to locate a man named Alan Devonport from Barnsley who could make the repair. Before repairs can start, this type of work has also to be approved by the diocese and our Architect. As this wall is a long way from the church building probably most people are not aware this had happened, but it cost £1200 for these repairs to be made.

Once we had the approval in place we could go ahead with the required repair work. This wasn't possible until early February but is now all complete, as you can see below...



The work has been completed to a very good standard and this section of wall will be strong and stable for many years.

The white square stones you can see are new through-stones added to improve the strength and stability of the wall and were not present in the original structure. Many thanks go to Alan for the repair work.

David

George, Jemima and Tommy. Counting Sheep

George pops up singing.

George. Me and my shadow, strolling down the avenue, de dum de dum.

Jemima pops up. Morning George. What ya singing me and my shadow for?

George. Look behind you Jemima.

Jemima. Oh, hiya Tommy, don't stay down there, come up.

George. No Jemima, we'll never get rid of him, he's been following me everywhere for the past week.

Jemima. Don't listen to him Tommy, come up and say hello.

Tommy pops up.

Tommy. Hello Jemima, hello George.

Jemima. Hello Tommy, nice to see you again.

George. (sarky). Yeh, nice very nice.

Jemima. Oh come on George, he's only being friendly, talk to him.

George. (snappy) Ok, what ya want?

Tommy. Well, I was wondering if it would be alright if I could join your gang?

George. What gang? there's only two of us.

Tommy. Yeh but we could make it three.

George. I like it with two, ya know what they say, two's company, three's a crowd.

Jemima. Come off it George, let him join us, what harm could he possibly do?

George. Ok then, but on one condition.

Jemima. What condition?

George. He pledges allegiance to the wall.

Jemima. WHAT!?

George. You heard me. The allegiance to the wall.

Tommy. I don't mind, I'll do anything you want me to do to become friends with you.

Jemima. (filling up) Aw, isn't he lovely?

George. Yeh. Ok Tommy, repeat after me.

Tommy. After me.

George. No, no, no. I mean repeat after me when I start.

Tommy. After me when I start.

George. I'm going to kill him Jemima.

Jemima. I'll tell you when to start Tommy.

George. Ok, we'll try again. Repeat after me.

Jemima. This is it Tommy.

George. I Tommy.

Tommy. You Tommy.

George. Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

Jemima. Try again Tommy.

George. I tommy.

Tommy. I Tommy.

George. Pledge my allegiance to the wall.

Tommy. Pledge my allegiance to the wall.

George. To uphold the laws of the Lord of the wall, Brick Jagger.

Jemima. (Bursts out laughing)

Tommy. To uphold the laws of the Lord of the wall, Brick Jagger.

George. And to fight off any rogue puppets that try to take over the wall.

Tommy. And to fight off any rogue puppets that try to take over the wall.

George. And to pay George 50 pence a week to sit on the wall

Tommy. And to pay.....

Jemima. Stop, stop Tommy. That's enough George.

George. I'm sorry Tommy, ignore the last bit. You are now a fully fledged Member of the G. J and O gang.

Jemima. What's the G. J and O?

George. George, Jemima and the other one.

Tommy. (Shouting loud). My name is Tommy.

George. I know Tommy, I'm just having a laugh. You are welcome any time.

Jemima. Aw, isn't that nice, friends at last.

Tommy. Ok then gang, what we up to?

George. I'm off to count sheep in that field over there, because I think one's missing.

Tommy. How do you know if one's missing?

George. Come on let's go and I'll show you.

All pop down and then pop up again.

Tommy. Wow, look at all those sheep, there must be a hundred of 'em.

George. Ya bang on Tommy, there's always a hundred of 'em.

Jemima. How do you know that then George.

George. Cause I know them all by name.

Tommy. No way, ya can't know all the sheep by name.

George. I do, because to make sure that there's always one hundred of em I've given them all a name.

Jemima. You've given names to one hundred sheep?

George. Yep.

Tommy. You're pulling my leg.

George. I never touched ya leg.

Jemima. So, you're telling us you know all the names of 100 sheep.

George. Yes, I am.

Tommy. Ok George, I'll point to one and you tell me its name.

George. Ok. Rock on Tommy.

Tommy. That one with the black head.

George. That's Spotty.

Jemima. Why Spotty?

George. Cause he's got a blackhead stupid.

Tommy. Ok, er, that one.

George. Baaaaaaarny

Jemima. And, that one.

George. Baaaaaaaarnabus.

Tommy. Oh, look at that little cute one in the corner.

George. Oh, that's Baaaaaarbara.

Jemima. Baaaaaaarbara?

George. Yes, she's very good with money, that one.

Tommy. I'm going to count all the sheep.

Jemima. Let's all count together.

All. One, two, three. (big pause) 58, 59, 60. (big sigh) 95, 96, 97, 98, 99.

George. Hang on a minute, there's one missing.

Jemima. Which one?

George. Sinjon.

Tommy. Sinjon?

George. Yes. Sinjon the baaaaaaaarptist.

Jemima. Give over.

George. He must be lost, because there's always one hundred.

Tommy. He could have been sold to the butcher or eaten by a fox.

George. No chance, that would never happen.

Jemima. How do you know?

George. Because the shepherd loves all his sheep so much, he would never give one of them up. He must be lost.

Neal. From behind the wall. Baaaaaaaaaaaaa.

George. (turns around) Sinjon, you're here.

Tommy. What are you going to do with him?

George. Just wait and you'll see. I told you both, here he comes.

Tommy and Jemima. Who?

George. The shepherd of course, he loves all of his sheep and would never leave one behind.

Tommy. I didn't think he'd be bothered about one sheep when he's still got ninety-nine other sheep.

George. Well, that's where you're wrong. Don't you think it's a bit like how God thinks about us.

Jemima. How do you mean George?

George. It's in The Bible. God is like the shepherd, and we are his sheep. God loves us so much, that if we trust in him, then whenever we feel like we are lost and can't find him, he will always come to us. Have any of you ever got lost and couldn't find your parents? It makes us feel scared and lonely, doesn't it? We are never alone though, because God will always be there for us. He forgives us for all the bad things we do and wants us to be his friend forever. It says in The Bible that there will be a big party in heaven whenever anyone becomes Jesus' friend, and he will never stop loving us. Just like the shepherd loves all of his sheep.

Jemima. Blimey George, well done, I usually read the serious part.

George. Carry on then clever clogs.

Jemima. No, I'll let Tommy. Go on Tommy.

Tommy. Ok. Let us pray.

Dear God, we thank you that you love us so much. Help us to remember that you are like the shepherd, and you will always be there for us, just like the shepherd who looks after his sheep. Please help us to trust in you and to remember that no matter what we do, you have forgiven us, and we can always come to you. Amen.

Jemima. Well done Tommy, see you next time. Say goodbye everybody.

All. Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa, Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.

Bible Studies...

Well hello there

My mum has been having a bit of a clearout and asked me if I wanted anything before she passed it on, and one of the things was a Reader's Digest *Condensed Bible*, Illustrated Edition.

Well, my first thought was how on earth could you condense the Bible, but then I started thinking about what I might consider leaving out if I were to draw up a condensed bible. Those of us who are on the rota for bible readings in Church might have a pretty clear view of some of the things we might like to leave out; some of the more unpronounceable names of people and places, the long lists of so and so begat so and so, probably a lot of Jeremiah and Job (so dour!), Revelation (so confusing!), I'm sure you could add your own ideas to my initial thoughts.

Now before we go any further, let me stress that I am not going to go through the condensed Bible alongside the full Bible to see what is omitted! It takes me enough effort sometimes to read through passages I'm meant to as part of ongoing study and development.

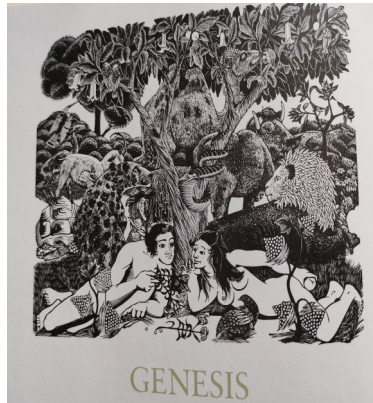
But I would like to bring you this paragraph that is included in the Forward written by Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1974 – 1980 (and by the way, his wife was one of the Presidents of Girls Brigade when I was a girl!). I found it interesting.

"Looking at the bible We can think of the Bible as a story book. Essentially it has one story to tell – the story of God's purpose for the world, of the failure of His people to enter into that purpose, and of His mighty acts in effecting their rescue from forces which, if unchecked, would spoil their life here and imperil their bliss hereafter. Realistic in its attitude to evil, it bears witness to the final victory of God and the fulfilment of His purpose."

Wow! As a person who enjoys reading, if that was on the back of a paperback it would encourage me to take it off the shelf and take it home to get stuck into.

I think I'm probably the first member of my family to open this Bible, and it includes some brilliant illustrations, all in black and white, I've just spotted one of a very angry Moses about to smash the stones of the ten

commandments, and also a rather beautiful drawing on the first page of Genesis showing Adam and Eve at the foot of a tree with the serpent above, which I've included below.



I think I'll have to make an effort to look through this Bible from time to time to see what other illustrations are included to share with you.

As Donald Coggan goes on to say; *"...the Bible writers had important issues to record, providing answers to some of the basic questions mankind gives attention to e.g.; Who am I, a bunch of chemicals, or a being of unique value? Is there a God? And if so, what is He like, and can He be known? What is life and what is its purpose?"*

It is because the Bible deals with these matters that it is as relevant for twenty first Century humanity as it was for the people of the first."

However, whatever part of the Bible we may think we could remove to make a condensed version, we must remember that the Bible was recorded over many years by many people. Every part that was included is integral to the message God wants us to receive, and it was gathered to tell us about God and Jesus. It is not for us to decide what was included or omitted. We receive God's word by His grace and we thank God for bringing us to Him so that we can read and learn more about God's people through the centuries.

Still would have preferred some of the Old Testament names to have been Henry, George, Emily or Tracey, rather than Abednego, Elimelech, Jehoshabeath and Zipporah!

With love and lexicons
Dawn

Earth Hour



Hi folks

Do you remember me telling you about Earth Hour last year?

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.

I'm ashamed to say that last year I forgot to take part, but I'm hoping to do better this year, and hope 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 24 March 2024, 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?

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

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 2024 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.

With love and candles
Dawn

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



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.

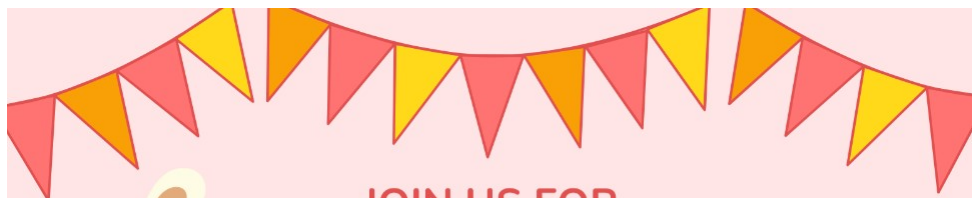
Funerals & Ashes - in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events.
Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 07792 975814 or email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Weddings and Banns

In the first instance please contact our Vicar or Church Warden Gary Mortimer on 07740 760556 who co-ordinates these events.

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.



JOIN US FOR

Easteringle

A Service that tell's the story of
Easter in an interactive way

for

Families and Children

30TH MARCH AT

3.00PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

WOODKIRK

See you there!
Will there be Easter eggs?
Come and See!



Romans 14:1

- *As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.* – Romans 14:1

I think that as we read this verse from Romans, the Bible calls us all into a posture of acceptance and understanding within the Christian community, especially concerning "opinions." This refers to issues where the Bible does not provide direct commands or prohibitions—areas where believers are free to hold differing viewpoints. These might include dietary habits, observance of certain days, or other practices not central to salvation.

Paul instructs us not to quarrel over opinions and as a reminder that our unity in Christ transcends individual differences in non-essential beliefs. The early church, like ours today, was diverse, with members coming from various backgrounds and holding varying convictions on disputable matters. Paul emphasises that such diversity should not lead to division but rather be approached with love and respect.

Welcoming those weak in faith doesn't mean we dilute the truth or compromise essential doctrines. Instead, it means we recognise the journey of faith is different for each person, and we're called to support one another in love, without causing disputes over non-essential issues.

As we reflect on this verse, consider how we approach disputable matters within our faith community. Are we contributing to unity or division? Let's strive to create an environment where all can grow in faith, rooted in the essential truth of the Gospel, while extending grace and understanding in areas of personal conviction. Amen.

Gail



Alice Says Thank You

Whilst convalescing and recovering from her bad leg, Alice received many cards and well wishes along with prayers from her friends and members of the congregation.

Alice would like to thank everyone who sent her cards and also prayers for her recovery.

She is doing well now and back at Church!

St. Mary's, Woodkirk



Come along and join us for a

"Knit & Natter"

(or just a natter!)

Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Contact: Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239

ALBERTS MARCH QUIZ

- 1) What word follows 'Put the cart before the' to give the meaning to reverse the order of procedure?
- 2) In Premiere League football for which club did Robin Van Persie play between 2004-2012?
- 3) What was the surname of Lee. The actor who played Ben in 1970 film "Paint your Wagon"?
- 4) A float is a hand tool with a rectangular blade typically used by (a) plasterer, (b) Joiner, (c) Electrician?
- 5) The daughter of Janet Leigh, which actress starred as Laurie Strode in 1978 film "Halloween"?
- 6) Which American wrote "A Streetcar named Desire"?
- 7) Where does a Guinea Pig store its food?
- 8) What does a Carnivore eat?
- 9) How many Senses have we got?
- 10) Which mythical creature is supposed to be half woman and half fish?
- 11) Which tree produces conkers?
- 12) Whose Saints Day is on March 1st?
- 13) What is another name for a Shooting Star?
- 14) Where is the Spinal Cord?
- 15) Whose Court was at Camelot?
- 16) Whose Saints Day is on March 17?
- 17) Which line of the map divides East from West?
- 18) What kind of animals are the most intelligent?
- 19) What is a Chronometer used for?
- 20) What kind of land covers most of Australia?

Answers on Page 41 (no peeping)

Church Mouse Tales

‘Spring is in the air!’ declared my friend Hubert, the black Canon, one sunny but chilly morning.

‘Is it?’ I asked, not so sure of this bold statement.

‘Indeed!’ He went on regardless, ‘daffodils are almost out, the sun is shining and joy is in our hearts!’ he finished exuberantly.

‘Hmmm’, I mused, ‘but its still so cold!’

‘Not for long!’ he went on, ‘tis but a stones throw away.’

‘Well...’ I started.

‘Yes indeed!’ He continued with the unjustified exuberance, ‘you should be preparing for the start of the great growing season!’

‘By doing what?’ I asked curiously.

‘Don’t you have some seeds or nuts you could plant?’ he suggested with enthusiasm.

‘Er... well, I might have eaten them all..’ I said sheepishly. ‘It was cold and rainy after all...’

‘Oh, well what about a life skill you can hone to perfection in readiness?’ he proffered.

‘I’m not sure I have one of those—but maybe I could learn one?’

‘Such as what?’ he looked at me quizzically.

‘Plumbing?’ I said, thinking aloud.

‘Do you have a blowlamp?’

‘No.’ I thought again, ‘.....Drystone walling?’

‘Can you lift heavy stones?’

‘No...’ my little grey cells were working overtime now, ‘.....or carpentry?’

‘Do you have Saw?’

‘No.’

‘So maybe not that one either’, he looked disappointed.

‘I know, I know!’ I said suddenly excited, ‘I can do nest building!’

‘That sounds more promising—but you are not practising in the hood of my Robe!’

He can be a spoilsport sometimes...

Misha.



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

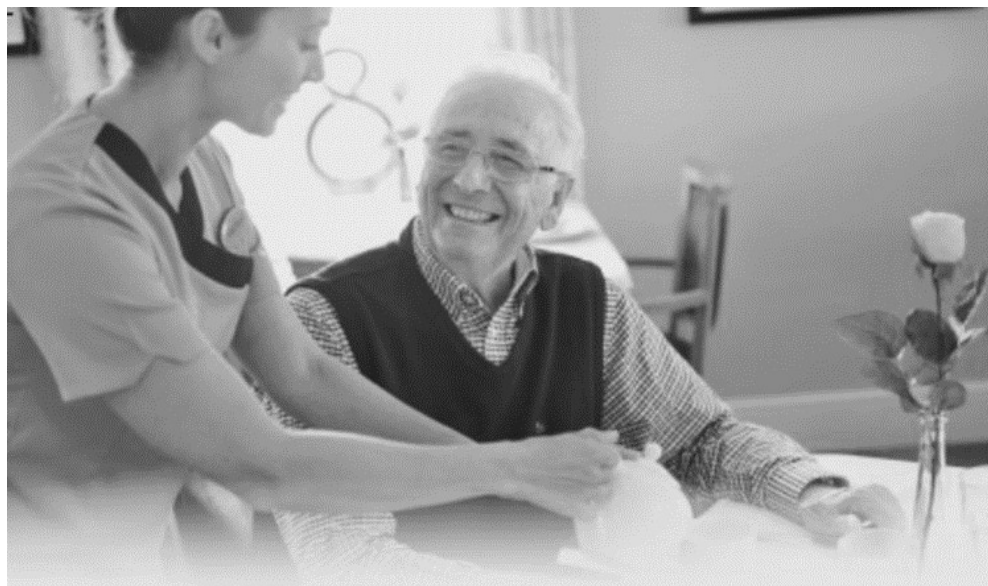
Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

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) Horse, 2) Arsenal , 3) Marvin, 4) (a) Plasterer, 5) Jamie Lee Curtis, 6) Tennessee William, 7) In its cheeks, 8) Meat, 9) 5, (Sight, Hearing, Smell, Taste, Touch), 10) Mermaid, 11) The Horse Chestnut, 12) St. David (Wales), 13) A Meteor , 14) In your Backbone, 15) King Arthurs, 16) St. Patrick(Ireland), 17) The Greenwich Meridian, 18) People, 19) Navigation, 20) Desert.

A very big thank you to Albert and Sally!



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—

Brynley Ward



DEATHS



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

WEDDINGS FROM LAST MONTH:

None this month



Tumble Bees



Pre-School Gymnastics

The Hive @

Woodkirk Valley Country Club

**Baby and
Toddler Classes**



**Fun Themed Terms
Badge &
Certificates**

www.tumble-bees.co.uk

07866 618455

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
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds

BENNETT OF MORLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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the 5th generation of the Marshall
family who were established in
1891. The family pride themselves
on their caring and understanding
of the bereaved and offer a complete
funeral service including a pre-paid
funeral 'plan'.

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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.
Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239

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 March:

See Page 13 for all the Easter Week Services

Wednesday 6th, 13th & 20th:

Lent Group 11am (All welcome—in Church)

Lent Reflections 7pm (on-line only)

Sunday 10th March:

Mothering Sunday - All Age Worship

10:30am

Friday 22nd March: The Soup Lunch

11:30-1:30pm

Come and enjoy a bowl of soup and a roll in Church. Tea, Coffee and Cake too !

Please see Page 41 for details of how to join a
streamed service