

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Spring is here....

March 2025



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Who's who at Woodkirk

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Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
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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, Sandra Gledhill, Cath Oakes.

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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 £130.00

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 £18 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.

**Where flowers bloom so
does hope.**

Lady Bird Johnson

First Lady 1963-69

Vicar's Letter

Lent is a significant season in the year for Christians – a time of solemnity and self-reflection where they confess their failings and resolve to live a more godly life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It lasts for just over six weeks leading up to Easter.

Traditionally it was a time of fasting from certain foods such as eggs, meat, fish and fats. Nowadays people might give up a luxury food – such as chocolate. They may also give up an activity such as using social media or drinking alcohol. It is called Lent in English because it is the time of the year when days are lengthening in the northern hemisphere. Like Easter, Lent falls on different dates each year. Christians in different church traditions around the world celebrate slightly different periods of Lent. Some church buildings are made to look more plain during Lent with flowers and other decorations removed.

In most churches, the first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. Many Christians go to church that day to seek forgiveness from God for what they have done wrong. In some churches, the priest will take some ash and use it to mark a cross sign on the forehead of each person. It is a symbol of their remorse. The ash is traditionally made from burning palm crosses which were distributed on Palm Sunday the year before. During Lent, many Christians use special studies to guide their times of personal prayer and reflection.

Lent, as we now know it, has its origins about 900 years after Jesus. There was international agreement that there should be a season of prayer and seeking forgiveness lasting 40 days – plus Sundays – leading up to Easter Sunday. The significance of the time period was that immediately before he began his years of travelling and teaching, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert reflecting on the future of his life.

Traditionally the day before Lent begins is a time for feasting and celebration. All the luxury foods that won't be eaten during Lent are

consumed. Given that those foods include eggs, milk and fat – ingredients for pancake batter – it is clear why it became traditional to make pancakes! In the UK, the day is known as Shrove Tuesday – the word ‘shrove’ is derived from ‘shrive’ meaning to forgive.

In many parts of the world, the day is known as Mardi Gras (‘fat Tuesday’ in French) and is marked with a carnival.

The fourth Sunday during Lent is Mothering Sunday. In England in the 16th century it was an occasion to appreciate the motherly nature of the Church. More recently it has become a time to honour all mothers.

Here at St Mary’s Church there will be a service for Ash Wednesday on 5th March at 10.00am.

On Shrove Tuesday, 4th March, we will be serving Pancakes in the Parish Hall from 4.00pm to 6.00pm – all welcome.

Mothering Sunday will be on Sunday 30th March at 10.30am with a special service in Church.

Sadly, food banks are at a breaking point and Leeds South and East Foodbank serve the people in our community who have no other options this winter. The soaring cost of living is driving record numbers of people on the lowest incomes to this food bank – and the amount of help needed is outstripping the donations they are receiving.

Here at St Mary’s Church we support our local Foodbank and they are running several donation drives this Lenten period:-

40 pence for 40 days

By giving up 40 pence a day for the 40 days of Lent you can support local individuals and families facing hardship this Easter.

All you have to do is find an old jam jar or similar container and start collecting. Then bank the contents and send a cheque (made payable to Leeds South and East Foodbank) to:

Leeds South and East Foodbank, Unit 18, Millshaw Industrial Estate, Leeds, LS11 0LR or you can drop your donations in at the Vicarage and I will ensure it gets to them.

Easter eggs appeal

Help the food bank provide Easter eggs in the parcels they will be giving out this Easter. Chocolates and Easter eggs can be taken to the above address or again they can be dropped off at the Vicarage and I will ensure they get to the foodbank. They need these donations by 4th April 2025.

Give in Lent Calendar

One other option is for the forty days of lent to put a tin away a day which will then be donated to the Foodbank. Once again they could be either taken to the Foodbank or dropped off at the Vicarage.

Thank you for considering taking up one of these options. We can all make a difference to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Blessings as always - Sharon





The Best of
WF3
Awards



Exciting News

Hi folks

Delighted to be able to tell you that two groups attached to St Mary's have been nominated and have reached the final of this year's Best of WF3 Awards.

Previously Rev Sharon and the Knit and Natter Group received Awards, this year the Churchyard Team have been nominated as well as the Tuesday Afternoon Line Dancing Group 'Helena's Hillbillies'.

The Finals Event is being held on 6th April so we wish both groups well, and look forward to hearing how you got on after the event.

Well Done Everyone.

Dawn x

Knit and Natter update

Hi everyone

Just thought I'd keep you updated on what the ladies at Knit and Natter have been up to (well not everything...what goes on in knit and natter stays in knit and natter tee hee!)

But seriously folks, we are on with updating/repurposing some of our toppers so watch out later in the year for new additions, but as well as this, the lovely ladies have been busy responding to requests.



You may remember a previous article where the ladies had knitted pairs of hearts for ICU, one heart stayed with the patient one heart was taken by the family, maintaining that sense of connection, well the hospital charity put out a request, and as always the ladies came up trumps.

In addition, the hospital was also asking for 'Twiddlemuffs (A TwiddleMuff is a woollen muff, with items attached inside and out, like bits of trim eg ribbon and buttons which are designed to provide a stimulation activity for the restless hands of disoriented or confused patients particularly those with dementia).

Once again the ladies sourced the approved pattern and set to providing about a dozen twiddlemuffs which have been very gratefully received.



A lot of nattering and eating cake gets done on Wednesday afternoons, but lots of hard work too.

Thank you so much ladies for all your hard work.

Dawn



World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better.

The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

People with Down syndrome need support to live and be included in the community, like everyone else.

Families also need support, as they are often supporting their family member with Down syndrome. Support is a key human right that helps make other rights possible. In this area the support for families comes from Sunshine & Smiles.

This is the group Lizzy and Noah go too, and while it is good for Noah to mix, this group is even more important for Lizzy as she gets to see other Mum's in similar positions.



Most of you will know that Noah has been in hospital for the past month and one of the things lizzy has missed most is the support she gets from this group. It is invaluable to families such as this. Every child is different and every child has different needs. Parents cope but its easier when they can share with each other and talk about their experiences with each other.

With this in mind Dawn, is organising a coffee morning on Friday 21st March to raise money for this local charity. Tea, coffee and cake will be served at St Mary's Church from 10.00am to 12 noon. It would be lovely to see you there.

Sharon

Alive For Ever and Ever!



I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelations 1:18

This is taken from one of my favourite books in the Bible. In the heart of the Revelation given to John lies a profound declaration of Christ's victory over death. Jesus Christ, the Living One, proclaims His eternal lordship and His unique authority over death and the realm of the departed. This passage is a message of incredible hope, illuminating the reality that in Jesus, death is not an end but a doorway to eternal life.

Christ's resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. His triumph over death is not just a historical event but a personal promise to us. It assures us that death, which seems so final, is under His control. In holding the keys to death and Hades, Jesus signifies that He has the authority to determine life and death, to judge, and to offer salvation.

For us that believe, this truth is life-changing. It means that in facing our own mortality or grieving loved ones, we can cling to the hope that Christ has conquered death. Our fear of death diminishes as we understand that in Jesus, we have the promise of eternal life.

Living in light of this truth changes how we view our lives and how we face death. We are called to live not as people bound by the fear of death but as those who have been freed to live fully in the promise of eternity. With Jesus, we step beyond fear, living with purpose and hope, knowing that our future is secure in His hands. Amen.

Gail.

Woodkirk Walkers

Our small group of walkers set out again in February, ably led by Richard, and were joined by an additional six legs with the addition of a new member, Rosy and her furry companion—a Shetland collie.

The weather was dull and damp with snow forecast but it didn't put us off, we just got wrapped up in our 'big coats' hats, scarves and gloves and set off.

What amazes me is, whilst I know to some of our locals, I am a relative 'newbie' to the area having only lived here for 26 years! that I don't have to go far to find a new footpath, and our walk proved to be an occasion when I discovered a new route.

We met on Bradford Road near Amblers Mill (Country Baskets) and headed off down the footpath, New Lane, up behind St Michaels Church, we threaded through the edge of East Ardsley, heading towards Thorpe, but then turned off and went down a lane past 'Kendon Rope and Twine' into an area which is now designated as a country park. It was whilst walking along this stretch the forecast snow decided to put in an appearance, but it didn't last long so no Chris Bonnington expedition exploits were required.

We followed this and came out on Lingwell Gate Lane, then turned and walked along Lawns Lane which brought us to Carr Gate. We then headed to the Garden Centre for a well earned refreshment break (and for me a tasty gingerbread man cookie!).

As I was still recovering from my cold, the others left me to be collected by the cavalry (aka David) and they headed off to walk back along Bradford Road, then turning up by St Michael's Church to return to our starting point.

Happily no further snow showers occurred, and although our

four legged friend needed a bit of help towards the end, all walkers returned safely after a very enjoyable local walk.

I nearly didn't join the walk but was so glad I did, although tired later on, it was lovely to be all wrapped up and out in the fresh air.



The next planned walk is due to take place on Saturday 15th March, meeting at Church 10.30am. More details in the pew sheet, or you can speak to Richard in Church or you can contact me dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org nearer the time for further information.

Dawn x



Ardsley Reservoir on the way to the start....

What's so special?

What's so special about Tuesday 18th March?

Well it might be your birthday, it might be a sunny day, you might be planning a special tea or a night out. Whilst all these things are lovely, there is something else Important about the 18th March, and it is that this date is

Global Recycling Day

Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first.

The mission of Global Recycling Dayth, as set out by the Global Recycling Foundation, is twofold:

- 1. To tell world leaders that recycling is simply too important not to be a global issue, and that a common, joined up approach to recycling is urgently needed.*
- 2. To ask people across the planet to think resource, not waste, when it comes to the goods around us – until this happens, we simply won't award recycled goods the true value and repurpose they deserve.*

Every year, our planet provides us with billions of tons of natural resources and at some point, in the not too distant future, it will run out. This is why we must think again about what we throw away – seeing not waste, but opportunity.

The last decade has been the hottest on record, and we are now facing a climate emergency of unparalleled proportions. If we don't make significant and rapid changes, we will see continued rising global temperatures, the melting of icecaps, continents on fire and rapid deforestation.

This directly affects humanity with increased poverty, immigration from displaced communities, job losses, waste mountains and natural habitats disappearing. We have the power to make lasting changes to combat this, and with recycling being recognized in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030, we are already seeing many individuals, governments and organisations taking direct action to support the global green agenda.

Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping to protect our natural resources. Each year the 'Seventh Resource' (recyclables) saves over 700 million tonnes in CO2 emissions and this is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030. There is no doubt recycling is on the front line in the war to save the future of our planet and humanity.

I know we all try and recycle as much as we can, but in honour of World Recycling Day is there something that you haven't yet recycled but think you can do? Did you know Boots is piloting a scheme for recycling tablet packs and that some branches of Superdrug do this too? If you use inhalers, any pharmacy should take these to recycle too.

We will over future months be looking at offering different recycling opportunities in Church, but it would be great if you could make a special effort on 18th March to look into what you may be able to recycle that you don't already do, or perhaps look up ways of repurposing something you were going to send to the tip.

Thank you

'The Environment Team'



Believing to See

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" — John 11:40

I like to think that In this pivotal moment from the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks to Martha before raising Lazarus from the dead. His words are a powerful reminder of the relationship between faith and the divine manifestations of God's power. Jesus challenges Martha, and all of us, to believe—not after seeing miracles, but as a precondition to witnessing them.

This verse invites us to consider our own approach to faith. Do we wait to see signs and wonders before we commit our belief, or do we trust God's promises and thereby open the door for Him to work mightily in our lives? Jesus' question to Martha calls for a faith that precedes the visible, a trust in God's character and His word.

I think the story of Lazarus is a testament to the truth that God's glory is often revealed most profoundly when we step out in faith. It encourages believers to maintain faith even when circumstances seem dire or when God's plans are unclear. This kind of faith does not ignore reality but sees beyond it to the greater truth of God's ultimate authority and loving purpose.

As we reflect on this passage, I think we need to ask ourselves if we are truly prepared to take God at His word. Believing in God's power and goodness can transform how we view our challenges and opportunities. Let us then believe, not after seeing, but so that we may see the glory of God unfold in our lives. Amen

Gail.



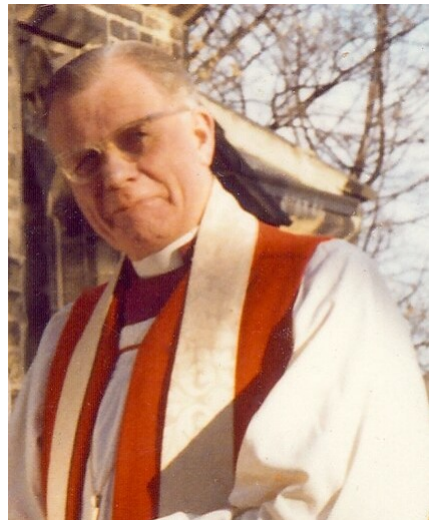
Bishop Eric Treacy

Bishop Eric was Bishop of Wakefield from 1968 to 1976 but in his other world he was also a huge railway enthusiast. He loved to take pictures of locomotives and did so at every available opportunity.

Indeed, his untimely death on 13th May 1978 from a heart attack was on Appleby Station platform whilst waiting for a train to arrive to take him on a tour. He amassed a staggering 12,000 photographs of all things railway and this now forms part of the National Railway Museum's archive of over 1.4 million images. In 1979 LMS Stanier Class 5 4-6-0 number 45428 was named **Eric Treacy** and it is now preserved on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

His photography was interrupted by the Second World War when he served as Military Chaplain. On 12 March 1940, he was commissioned as Chaplain to the Forces 4th Class (equivalent to captain). On 10 May 1945, it was announced that Treacy had been Mentioned in Despatches "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North West Europe". He was promoted to a Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class (equivalent to major). On 24 January 1946, he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

In 1946 Treacy published his first book which contained images of L.M.S. locomotives. On demobilisation he became Rector of Keighley and in 1949 was appointed Archdeacon of Halifax.



By Rj Stott

Extract from Wakefield Diocesan News,

May 1970.

Bishop Eric Treacy talks about the meaning of worship.

There are times, in the course of my travels round the Diocese, when I gain the impression that one of our greatest needs is for a profounder understanding of the meaning of worship. Noisy choir vestries and chattering congregations before Services, and church officials who fuss and fidget during Services, all suggest to me that there is the need for a great deal of teaching as to the nature and property of worship.

Modern man is not much given to mystical experience, but he is not without objects of worship. He worships his cheque book, his car, his television set, his fishing rod, his golf clubs. These are the things which claim his spare time, and for which he is prepared to endure discomfort, and even to make sacrifices.

At a certain golf club of which I have knowledge, there is never any room in the car park by 9 am on a Sunday morning. It is for this, that a man will rise early on Sunday morning: the worship of the little white ball! Somehow, 20th century man has lost the supernatural element in his life. There are disturbing signs of the growth of crude superstition amongst even educated people.

I am not at all sure that some of the tendencies of modern worship in our churches have not done much to destroy the mystery of worship and the majesty of God. The colloquial translations of the Scriptures, the absence of the sense of approaching to Holy of Holies in some of our newly contrived services: the noisy informality of some of our modern orders of worship: the distractions caused by some forms of lay participation, all of these things have, in my judgement, reduced Almighty God to the status of a pal who can be approached without the feeling that we must take off our shoes because we stand on holy ground.

Side by side with this, has gone a diminution in the Office of Priesthood which I believe to be essential to a proper approach to worship. This is a personal reaction which may not be shared by many.

Religion is not something that can - in all its aspects - be understood; not something that can be cut down to the puniness of our own capacity to understand. A God comprehended is no God at all. As Bishop Russell Barry has put it in his book "Secular and Supernatural" :- In our over sophisticated society, we may be in some danger of assuming that the Church is meant to be a discussion group, and not, primarily, a society of worshippers. Are we not discussing a bit too much?" he asks, "exhausting our minds and starving our spirits. If we hope to see a revival of religion, then what religion needs, above all, is not to be discussed but to be nourished."

The two poles of all authentic religious experience, infinite distance and immediate presence come together, as it were, in worship where God is adored in His own absolute Being, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, in the community of the Holy Spirit. Worship is the proper language of mystery.

In worship of this kind there are many factors. The preparation of the one who leads the worship: the use of imagination in the ordering of worship; the choice of hymns; the understanding of symbolism; ritual as a means to an end, and not an end in itself. That people may feel that they have indeed come out of the world for a space that they may share the vision of the mountain top: that they may descend from the mountain to the shadows of the valley.

Worship is not bawling out some popular hymn; it is not a lot of fussy ceremonial: it is not the use of gimmicks. Better, is it expressed in the words of St. Catherine of Genoa:-

"Oh, that I could tell you what the heart feels, how it burns and how it's consumed inwardly. Only, I find no words to express it. I can but say - might one little drop of what I feel fall into hell, hell would be transformed into a Paradise."

Truly, words of a mystic, further along the road than most of us, but surely, we can glimpse what she was trying to express.

The 'awe'-fulness and the Majesty of God are the things that we should try to experience.

"Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love Him.

Above everything else, the purpose of the Church is worship; and without worship, there can be no fully Christian life. It takes a man to a rock that is higher than himself, that he may gain perspective. A man loses himself in what he worships that he may find his true self.

As the Angels ascended and descended on Jacob's ladder, so our worship goes out into the unseen, so grace comes flooding through, like a rushing mighty wind into the stagnant air of our earthly experience.

There stands the Beloved Himself calling us to the pure air of eternity.

Arise, He says, make haste, and come. Come away from all the pursuits of earth; from all the busy plans your brain wrestles with; from the frivolous distractions to which it clings. Come away from the cares and worries that seem so urgent, your heavy anxieties about the world's future and your own. Come away into the wide-open spaces of eternity, where My love will hold you.

Let the Light of Heaven break in and give a fresh charm and meaning to things which make up our lives, which the jaded palate of worldliness is too dull to detect.

But let us be clear; the purpose of worship is not to carry us out of the burdens which life places upon us; it is not the escape for ever into the realms of light. It is the renewing of vision that we may make that vision a reality; a strengthening of love that we may give love: a re-dedication of our wills to the Purposes of God.

In truth, to come that we may go. To be at peace that we may engage in the struggle. To rest that we may work, THIS, is the motive power of the Christian.

"O Come, let us Worship and kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is the Lord our God."

Bishop Eric, MBE.

Big RSPB Garden Birdwatch

24th -26th January 2025

Hello everyone

Just thought I would update you on how I got on with my birdwatch this year.



I had one of those watches where I think all the birdies knew I was wanting to see them and subsequently went into hiding!

I do put out 'fat balls' for the birds but hadn't realised that the container was empty so I'm sure that was a factor. This was confirmed a few days later when I replenished the 'fat balls' and within about 20 minutes I saw more birds than I'd seen in my birdwatch hour...ah well, must remember for next year!

I did manage to see some Coal Tits, a Great Tit, Magpies, a Wood Pigeon and a beautiful song thrush so was happy with that.

As part of our environmental work I may start trying to do a monthly monitoring birdwatch as that may help us see a broader picture of the ongoing results of the things we are doing in the churchyard for the benefit of the environment. Watch this space!

Tweet tweet
Dawn



The Tribulations of Job

In this Bible story from the book of Job, there is a wealthy man named Job residing in an area called Uz with his extended family and vast flocks. He is “blameless” and “upright,” constantly mindful to live in a righteous manner (Job 1:1). God mentions Job to Satan saying, “There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” However, Satan contends that Job is only righteous because God has favoured him generously. Satan dares God that, if given the approval to inflict suffering, Job will change and curse God. God permits Satan to abuse Job, to experiment with this brazen claim, but he forbids Satan to take Job’s life.

The Tests

Over the time of one day, Job is given four reports, each informing him that his sheep, servants, and ten children have all died due to thieving intruders or natural disasters. Job rips his clothes and shaves his head in sorrow, yet he still praises God in his prayers. Satan arrives in heaven again, and God allows him another opportunity to test Job. This time, Job is distressed with terrible skin sores. His wife urges him to denounce God and to give up and die, but Job protests, trying to endure his afflictions.

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

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

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

Job Contemplates the Mystery of God

Job reacts to each of these remarks, becoming so angry that he calls his sympathisers "worthless physicians" who "whitewash [their help] with lies" (Job 13:4). He questions why God judges people by their deeds if God can just as easily change or forgive their behaviour.

It is confusing to Job how a human can truly satisfy God's justice as his ways are mysterious and exceed human comprehension.

Furthermore, humans cannot possibly convince God with their words. God cannot be fooled, and Job confesses that he does not even know himself well enough to adequately defend his case to God. Job desires for someone who can mediate between himself and God, or be sent to Sheol, the dark space of the dead.

Job believes that there is a "witness" or a "Redeemer" in heaven who will testify for his integrity (Job 16:19, Job 19:25). The suffering shows too much for Job, and he turns bitter, anxious, and scared.

He deplores the injustice that God lets evil people thrive while he and many other honest people suffer. Job wants to face God and protest but cannot physically find God. He assumes that wisdom is concealed from humans, but he decides to persevere in seeking wisdom by fearing God and evading evil.

God Consoles Job

God eventually intervenes, commanding Job to be brave, and explains various detailed features of his creation. Overcome by the appearance of God, Job recognises God's infinite power and accepts the constraints of his human understanding.

This response pleases God, but he is upset with Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar for emitting bad advice. Job reconciles on their behalf, and God forgives them. God then restores Job's health, granting him twice as much property as before, new children, and a remarkably long life.

In the end, Job never completely gave up hope or faith in God as an inspiration to everyone enduring suffering of their own. Amen.

Gail



GEORGE, JEMIMA & TOMMY. A FISHY DAY OUT

All pop up

Jemima. Hello boys, long time no see, happy new year.

Tommy Hiya Jemima, a happy new year to you too.

George. Yeh, ditto to that.

Tommy. What did you just say George?

George. I said ditto to that.

Tommy. What's ditto?

George. It's on di end of difoot.

Jemima. Give up George, you'll make him as daft as you are.

Tommy. I don't think there's any chance of that Jemima.

George. Ok Jemima, you explain ditto to us then.

Jemima. (In her posh voice) Ditto. A noun, the same thing again used in lists and often indicated by a ditto mark.

Tommy. What's a ditto mark?

George. Where somebody's kicked you with difoot.

Jemima. Knock it off George. Ditto mark is a symbol consisting of two apostrophes indicating that the item above is to be repeated.

Tommy George!

George. What?

Tommy. Do you think she's swallowed a dictionary?

George. What's a dictionary.

Jemima. Dictionary. Noun. A book ,comes from the Latin.....

George & Tommy. (Very loud) STOPPPPPPP! It Jemima.

George. Yeh, give it a rest Jemima, ya doing our heads in.

Jemima. I'm sorry boys I just got carried away.

Tommy. I wish someone would carry you away.

George. Go on, rock on Tommy.

Jemima. Alright then boys, let's get back to sanity.

Tommy. I've never been to sanity, have you George.

George. Please don't set her off again Tommy.

Jemima. Ok then boys. Did you both get what you wanted for Christmas?

Tommy. Yes I got a brand-new Sheffield Wednesday football kit.

George. Whoa hold on a minute Tommy, ya don't support Sheffield Wednesday, do ya?

Tommy. Yes of course, why? who do you support?

George I'll give you clue (Busts into song) Marching on together, we're gonna see you win da da rat ta da da.

Tommy. Manchester United?

George. I'm going to kill him Jemima.

Tommy. I'm only kidding George.

George. I know Tommy, no hard feelings.

Tommy. So, what did you get Jemima?

George. It won't be a play station.

Jemima. In fact, I got a Mac Book.

Tommy. Is that a Scottish computer?

George. Ha ha, Mac Book, good one Tommy.

Jemima. OK, enough messing about now you two, did either of you go anywhere interesting over the holidays?

Tommy. I went to the pantomime.

George. Oh no you didn't.

Tommy. Oh yes, I did.

Jemima. Give up.

Tommy. Did you get to go anywhere then George?

George. Yes. Blackpool.

Jemima. You went to Blackpool for Christmas, I bet it was cold.

George. No, not for Christmas silly, I went the week before we went back to school.

Tommy, was it good George?

George. Was it good. It was brilliant.

Jemima. So come on then what did you get up to.

George. Well. Ya know, all the usual stuff ya do in Blackpool.

Tommy. Such as?

George. Candy floss, fish & chips, hot dogs, burgers. Then onto the big dipper to throw it all up.

Jemima. Is that all you had to do George, stuff your face?

George. No, in fact, the best thing ever was my dad took me fishing on the end of the pier.

Tommy. Was it good George?

George. Yes, especially when my dad caught a whale.

Jemima. Your dad caught a whale?

Tommy. How on earth did he pull a whale up onto the pier?

George. Cause it was still connected to the bicycle.

Tommy. I thought you said a whale.

George. I said a wheel, not a whale, get your ears washed out

Tommy.

Tommy. What bait were you using to catch a bicycle then George?

George. A blooming big magnet, what else would I use?

Jemima. Come on then George did you catch anything apart from a bike wheel then?

George. Yes I caught an eel.

Tommy. And I suppose your going to tell us it was attached to a shoe?

Jemima. That's a good one Tommy.

George. Yeh, go on Jemima, encourage him. It was a proper eel.

George. Yeh, and I think it was a conga eel.

Jemima. How did you know that, George?

George. Cause it had another six eels behind it.

Tommy. Come on George, what else did you catch?

George. Not much really, until a strange thing happened.

Jemima. What happened?

George. Well, there we were, me and my dad, dangling our lines in the sea and staring into space.

Tommy. There's no fish in space,

George. Shut it Tommy.

Jemima. Don't be rude George, carry on.

George. Well, as I was saying, there we were and suddenly we heard someone shouting at us from below.

Tommy. What, from under the pier?

George. No, from a boat.

Jemima. Who was it George?

George. I don't know, but he had long dark hair and a beard.

Tommy. Was he a pirate?

Jemima. I don't think they have any pirates in Blackpool Tommy. So what was he shouting George.

George. He said "ya won't catch owt there.

Tommy. So, what did you do?

George. My dad asked the bloke what he meant. And the bloke said, ya fishing in the wrong spot, drop your lines on the other side of the pier and you'll catch more fish.

Jemima. So did you?

George. Yeh we did.

Tommy. And?

George. It was like a miracle, first to come up was a mackerel.

Tommy. A Scottish fish, same as the mac book?

George. Don't be daft Tommy. Then my dad caught five cod on the trot, then me again with a turbot, wow they are ugly fish. The fish just kept coming, if we had caught any more, we could have opened our own fish stall right there on the pier. It was like a miracle.

Tommy. Blimy George, I bet that man was Jesus.

George. Don't be daft Tommy.

Jemima. It is a little strange though George, don't you think?

George. How do you mean?

Jemima. Doesn't it remind you of the Gospel reading from Church?

Tommy. Which one?

Jemima. The one where Jesus was standing by the lake spreading the word of God to the people, when he saw at the waters edge two boats, left by the fishermen who were washing their nets. Do you remember he got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then after Jesus had taught the people from the boat he said to Simon, pull out to deeper water and let down your nets. Simon told Jesus they had worked all day and had not caught anything. But because Jesus said so they let down their nets. When they pulled their nets back up they were so full of fish that their nets began to break. When Simon Peter and his companions saw this they were astonished and fell at Jesus' feet. Jesus said to them, from now on you will fish for people.

Tommy. How can you fish for people?

Jemima. That was the day Jesus first chose his disciples to go out and spread the word, thus becoming fishers of men. Get it?

George. I think we do now, don't we Tommy?

Tommy. Yes we do.

Jemima. So what are you doing now then you two?

George. Over to my house, fish and chips all round.

Jemima. Say goodbye then.

George & Tommy. Goodbye then.

All pop down.



Where's Tommy?

Dawn's Tasty Recipes Page...

Hello again, I had a request for recipes for 1 or 2 people, so here you go...

This first one would also use up any batter you have leftover from Shrove Tuesday too!

Creamy mushroom pancakes

Ingredients

1 large free-range egg, lightly beaten

160ml/5½fl oz milk

40g/1½oz plain flour

(Or use leftover batter mix and follow recipe from 3)

knob of butter

4 spring onions, thinly sliced

200g/7oz mushrooms, sliced

2 tbsp reduced-fat crème fraîche

½ tsp Dijon mustard

salt and freshly ground pepper



Method

1. Whisk together the egg and milk in a small bowl or cup.
2. Put the flour into a large bowl and season generously with salt and pepper. Make a well in the centre and pour in the egg and milk mixture. Gradually whisk them into the flour to make a batter. Set aside.
3. Heat the butter in a large frying pan over a medium heat until foaming but not burning or browning. Stir in the spring onions, reserving a little of the green part, and cook until soft. Add the mushrooms and cook until soft. Season and stir in the crème fraîche and mustard. Tip into a bowl, cover with foil and keep warm.
4. Wipe the frying pan clean and heat another small knob of butter until foaming. Tip half the batter into the centre of the pan and swirl around until the base of the pan is covered. Cook until just golden on

the bottom, then flip over and cook the other side until golden-brown. Set aside and repeat to make the second pancake.

Put the pancakes on a plate and spoon the mushrooms into the centre of each. Fold the edges over, starting with the bottom, to create a square. Sprinkle with the remaining spring onion and serve.

And to make use of any remaining crème fraiche...

Baked ham and egg pots

Ingredients

- 1 x 30g/1oz slice of ham
- 4 fresh basil leaves
- 1 tbsp crème fraîche
- 1 large free-range egg
- 1 tbsp grated Red Leicester
- salt and pepper



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170C/150C Fan/Gas 3½.
2. Arrange the ham in the bottom of a ramekin dish so that it forms a cup and place the basil inside. Spoon in the crème fraîche and crack in the egg. Sprinkle over the Red Leicester and season with salt and pepper.
3. Place the ramekin on a baking tray and bake for 15 minutes, or until cooked but the yolk is still a little runny. Serve with salad leaves with a drizzle of oil and a squeeze of lemon juice. (or just enjoy with crusty bread).

And in case you fancy something sweet...

Vanilla mug cake

Ingredients

20g/1¾oz unsalted butter or dairy-free spread

3 tbsp milk or dairy-free milk

¼ tsp vanilla bean paste or vanilla extract

2 tbsp caster sugar

4 tbsp plain flour

¼ tsp baking powder

pinch salt

ice cream, cake frosting, jam or lemon curd, to serve (you could also use any leftover crème fraiche – just add a bit of icing sugar to it).

Method

1. Set aside a good-sized, microwaveable mug to bake the cake in. Add the butter and milk to another microwaveable mug and microwave on high in 10 second increments, swirling the contents after each blast, until the butter is melted.
2. Stir in the vanilla, followed by the sugar then the flour, baking powder and salt. Beat in the dry ingredients with a fork until there is a fairly smooth mixture. Scrape the mixture into the clean mug.
3. Sit the mug in the centre of the microwave and cook for 1 minute on high (for an 800W microwave, adjust timings for other wattages). If the sponge is firm to the touch, it is ready. If not, continue microwaving in 10 second increments until cooked.

Serve warm in the mug with ice cream, cake frosting or a dollop of jam or lemon curd.

Dawn x



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.

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.

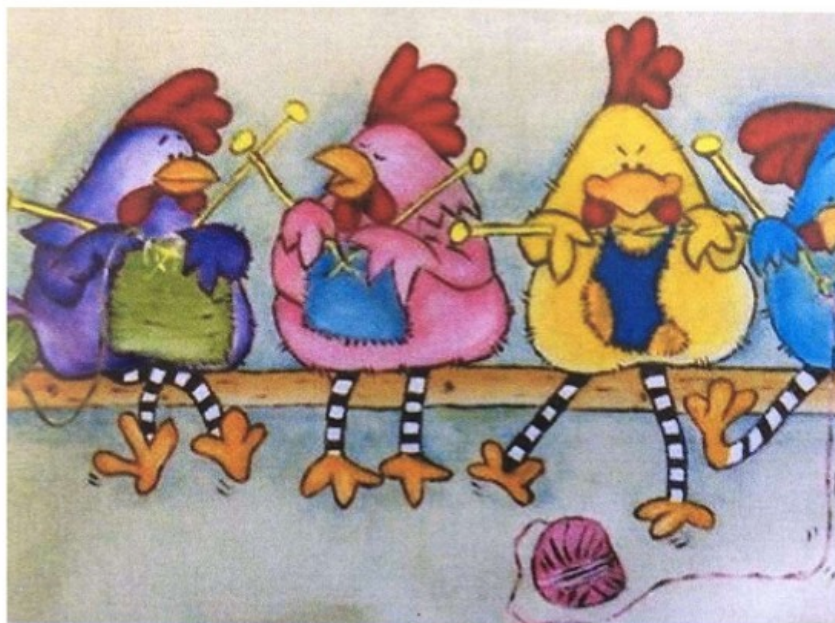
Weddings and Banns

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.

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 QUIZ GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- 1) What name derived from angling is given to a style of women's tights?
- 2) In the nursery rhyme which insect is told to fly away home your house is on fire?
- 3) Steamboat Willie was the film debut of which character?
- 4) Name the two counties in England ending with the letter "K"?
- 5) How is 77 represented in Roman numerals?
- 6) What type of creature is an oyster catcher?
- 7) What was the name of the never seen son of Mrs Bucket in the TV sitcom?
- 8) Does the Greek alphabet have more or less letters than ours?
- 9) What is the capital city of Turkey?
- 10) What is the biggest single known gold object in the world?
- 11) Who is the host of the ITV game show 'The Chase'?
- 12) By what name was Anne of Cleves cruelly known?
- 13) What colour is the cross on the Greek national flag?
- 14) Which American state produces most oil?
- 15) What does the HP stand for on HP sauce?
- 16) Which chain of restaurants was named after a character from Popeye cartoons?
- 17) Who reached No 2 in the UK top ten charts with "Little Arrows" in 1968?
- 18) In which British TV series did the character Inspector Burnside appear?
- 19) Who presented the first tv gardening programme in 1956?
- 20) DYKE ROOF TORN is an anagram of which everyday object?

Answers on Page 42.

Sacrifice, Second Coming, Salvation

Here is another reflection I would like to share with you all.

So, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. —

Hebrews 9:28

Here in Hebrews 9:28, we are reminded of the profound and complete work of Jesus Christ. His sacrifice on the cross was a singular event, potent and sufficient to take away the sins of many. Unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament priests, which could never fully atone for human sin, Christ's sacrifice was perfect and final. There is no further need for offerings or sacrifices for sin; the work is done, and the ledger of sin is wiped clean for all who believe in Him.

This scripture also points us to the blessed hope of His return. Christ will come again, not as a humble servant bearing the weight of sin, but as a victorious King bringing salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for Him. This anticipation should fill us with hope and inspire us to live lives that honour Him.

As believers, we are called to live in this hope, allowing it to shape our daily actions and decisions. We need to be people who are actively waiting—serving others, spreading the Gospel, and living out our faith in tangible ways. As we wait for His return, let our lives reflect the joy and salvation we have received. In a world filled with uncertainty and despair, our hopeful anticipation of Christ's return is a powerful testimony to the truth of what He has done for us and what He promises to do.

Amen.

Gail



Jesus Using The Psalms

Reading though the Psalms, I think we can pick up how God decided to send his son to lead us though God will for his people.

The incredible variety of emotions and situations in the Psalms reflects Jesus' own experience as God in human form, walking and living among us, experiencing what we experience. He is the shepherd who will not take us where he himself has not gone, and having trusted God as he went through the valley of death himself, he will not fail to take us through to the other side with him (Psalm 23).

We see Jesus as the lover of God's Law who delighted in it and obeyed it perfectly (Psalm 1; 40:6-8; 119). We see Jesus' mourning for those who suffer. We see him concerned for and identifying with the poor, the oppressed, and the lost (Psalm 41:1-3; 112:5, 9; 113:5-9; compare Matthew 25:31-46). And we see Jesus proclaiming God's salvation and faithfulness to the congregation (Psalm 40:9-10).

We see Jesus as the suffering servant of God who laments his fate. He is persecuted, condemned, and killed unjustly (Psalm 22, 69) in order to wipe away sin (Psalm 51). He is rejected by Israel, abandoned by his followers, and betrayed by his friend, Judas.

We see Jesus raised from the dead (Psalm 16:9-10, a rejected stone chosen by God for the foundation of his family (Psalm 118). This risen one is the victorious Son of David who rules over the nations, establishes justice, and extends mercy to those who do not deserve it. He will execute judgment over all nations (Psalm 2; 45; 110). In the exaltation and enthronement of David's son, all the nations will learn to praise the one true God (Psalm 18:49; Romans 15:7).

Maybe the Psalms are the prayers of Jesus Christ, Son of God. He alone is worthy to pray the ideal vision of a king suffering for

righteousness and emerging victorious over the hosts of evil. And Christians, as sons of God, we can rightly pray these prayers. Seeing Christ in the Psalms maybe we can also see ourselves, as those who are recipients of his redeeming work and as those who follow Christ, being changed even now into his likeness by the work of his Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:16-18).

While Jesus alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, Paul says that we ourselves are like “sheep to be slaughtered” (Psalm 44:22 in Romans 8:38), and that we must “suffer with him.” (Romans 8:17)

The nations will praise the King (Psalm 68:2) as we lead them to bow the knee to him in obedience (Matthew 28:16-20). Because of Jesus’ great victory, he pours out spiritual gifts on his people in order to make more Christians and bring his people to maturity, making them more Christ-like (Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:7-16).

Jesus commands us to love him and others; as we obey, we walk in light, not darkness (1 John 2:4-10; Psalm 119:105). Walking that path of love and life produces delight, so that we can say, “Oh, how I love your Law, oh, Lord; I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97; John 15; 1 John 3:16-24). Paul teaches us that we fulfil God’s law as we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus himself sent to guide us (Romans 8:4). He even says that “our righteousness lasts forever” as we extend ourselves to those in need (Psalm 112:9, 2 Corinthians 8:9).

Finally, we have the promise that we who learn meekness from the perfectly Meek One will inherit the earth, an inheritance Jesus himself earned (Psalm 37:11; Matthew 5:5, 11:29).

I do think that if we look carefully we can find Jesus all over the Psalms, because the Psalms are his prayer book that points to him. And when we find Jesus in the Psalms, we also find ourselves. Amen. Gail.

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](https://www.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. Fishnet 2. Ladybird 3. Mickey Mouse 4. Norfolk & Suffolk 5. LXXVII 6. A Bird 7. Sheridan 8. Less (24) 9. Ankhara 10. Tutankhamen's Coffin 11. Bradley Walsh 12. The Flanders Mare 13. White 14. Alaska 15. Houses of Parliament 16. Wimpey 17. Leapy Lee 18. The Bill 19. Percy Thrower 20. Front Door Key.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—

Myles Chapman
Finn Grealey



DEATHS



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

Margaret Bennett
Anne Taylor

WEDDINGS:

Ryan Askin and
Rhiannon Clayton

Wedding Blessing:
(none this month)





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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.

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What's on

(please contact the leaders for further information)

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children
Wednesday 9:30-11:00am (Term time)
Thursday 9.30-11.00am (Term time)
Contact: Charlotte 07972 217528

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 07805186479

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

Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion
in Church & On-line.

Special Services and Events in March.

Tuesday 4th 4-6pm
Pancakes in the Parish Centre. Everyone welcome.

Weds 5th: Ash Wednesday
10am Holy Communion

Sunday 9th, 16th & 23rd 4pm—Special Lent Service

Weds 12th, 19th & 26th Lent Group 11-12:30pm

Friday 21st Coffee Morning 10-12 noon
In aid of Down Syndrome.
Enjoy coffee and cake in church

Friday 28th Soup Lunch 11:30—1:30pm
Everyone Welcome

Weds 2nd April Lent Group 11-12:30pm

Please see Page 42 for details of how to join a streamed
service