

# Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

**September 2025**



HELLO  
*September*

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## Who's who at Woodkirk

<b>Vicar of St Mary's:</b>	<b>Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.</b> Woodkirk Vicarage, 1168 Dewsbury Road, Dewsbury, WF12. 7JL 01924 472375/07539466724 E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
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<b>Lay Pastoral Minister</b>	Gail Townsend 07792 975814
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Gary Mortimer 07740 760556 Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
<b>Assistant Churchwardens:</b>	David Townsend
<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Brian Gledhill Gary Mortimer
<b>Verger:</b>	Gail Townsend 07792 975814
<b>Organist:</b>	Currently vacant
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Dawn Tattersfield
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<b>Social Chairman:</b>	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
<b>Parish Centre Hire:</b>	Cath Oakes 07796713750 Sally Shaw 01924 475048
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<b>Magazine Editor</b>	David Townsend 0113 2528710 Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

### **Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:**

Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Richard Bowes, Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, David Townsend, Brian Gledhill, Sandra Gledhill, Cath Oakes, Doreen Coates.

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**Contact: The Editor (see page 2)**

**Annual Fee for Advertising:**

**Quarter Page £35.00**

**Half Page £70.00**

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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 £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](http://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](https://twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk)

## **Wheelchair Access**

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

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## Vicar's Letter

September always feels like a month of turning points. The light begins to soften, evenings draw in, and there is a noticeable shift in the air. Though the year is not yet over, we sense that summer is behind us and autumn lies ahead. For many people, September is a time of return and renewal: schools reopen, routines settle, and the pace of life quickens after the slower rhythm of July and August. It is as though the year takes a deep breath and starts again.

I find it striking that, although January is the official beginning of the calendar year, for many of us September feels like the true starting point. It is a time of sharpened pencils, new timetables, fresh diaries, and uncluttered pages. Even in adulthood, long after we have left the classroom, we carry this sense that September is a new chapter. Perhaps that is why this month can stir in us both excitement and apprehension. New beginnings hold promise, but they also carry uncertainty.

The Bible speaks often of thresholds—moments when God's people stood at the edge of something new. Israel camped on the banks of the Jordan before crossing into the promised land. The disciples stood bewildered between Good Friday's grief and Easter morning's joy. Even Jesus Himself experienced seasons of transition: from carpenter's shop to public ministry, from Galilee to Jerusalem, from earth to heaven.

September places us in such a threshold moment. We are leaving behind what has been, but the future is not yet fully visible. There can be both relief and unease in this in-between space. Yet the good news of our faith is that Christ is with us on the threshold as much as on either side of it. He is the one who says, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20).

One of the gifts of September is the re-establishing of rhythms. After summer's more open days, we find ourselves pulled back into structure. Schools, workplaces, community groups, and even churches all begin afresh. Choirs rehearse again, meetings resume,

calendars quickly fill.

Structure can feel restrictive, but it can also be life-giving. A trellis in the garden may look rigid, yet it allows the vine to grow strong and fruitful. In the same way, patterns of prayer, rest, work, and service provide the framework on which our lives can flourish. The Church has long known the value of rhythm: the daily offices of morning and evening prayer, the weekly gathering on Sunday, the cycle of the Christian year itself. These are not burdens but gifts, given to help us live attentively and faithfully in the midst of busyness.

Perhaps September is a time to ask ourselves: what rhythms shape my days? Do they draw me closer to God, or do they scatter me in a dozen directions? What simple practices—whether a few minutes of prayer at dawn, a walk in silence, or a regular commitment to worship—might help me grow in steadiness and grace?

The changing weather of September often prompts reflection about the seasons of our own lives. Some of us feel we are in a time of flourishing: family, work, or faith may be bearing fruit. Others may feel we are entering a season of letting go, as children leave home, health changes, or circumstances shift. Still others may sense a time of waiting, where growth is hidden beneath the surface.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Just as the natural world moves through cycles of growth, fruitfulness, and rest, so too our lives are held in rhythms we cannot fully control. The invitation is not to cling desperately to one season or to hurry impatiently into the next, but to trust that God is at work in each. Even the quieter or darker times of life can be places of deepening, preparing us for what is yet to come.

September is also a month when creation speaks loudly to us. The fields and gardens reveal signs of change; birds gather in restless flocks; the first hints of autumn colour appear. It is a month that reminds us of both beauty and fragility.



In recent years, many churches have observed September as part of the “Season of Creation,” a time to focus our prayers and actions on caring for the earth. The call to creation care is not a passing trend but a biblical responsibility. From the very beginning, humanity was entrusted with the task of tending and keeping God’s world (Genesis 2:15). In our own day, with growing awareness of climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity, this responsibility feels more urgent than ever.

But rather than being overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis, we are invited to live faithfully in small and hopeful ways: reducing waste, using resources wisely, planting for the future, supporting those who advocate for justice on behalf of the earth. Each action is a way of loving our neighbour, both present and future. Each is also an act of worship, a recognition that the world is the Lord’s, not ours to exploit.

Another gift of September is the chance to reconnect. After summer scatterings—holidays, travels, and long weekends—our communities begin to gather again. There is joy in seeing familiar faces return, in hearing again the hum of conversation in church halls and meeting rooms, in sharing stories of where we have been.

The Church is, at its heart, a community of belonging. In a culture that can often leave people isolated, lonely, or fragmented, the fellowship of believers is a sign of God’s love. September is a good time to notice those on the margins, those who may hesitate to step inside, those who are waiting for an invitation. A kind word, a simple welcome, or a small act of hospitality can make all the difference.

Though we stand only at the start of autumn, September already points us forward. Soon we will see the steady shortening of days, the darkening evenings, and then—before we know it—the candles of Advent will be lit, leading us once more to Christmas. The church’s year is always guiding us toward the great story of God’s love made flesh in Christ.

So as we begin this month, let us do so with attentiveness and hope.

Let us notice the beauty of the changing world around us. Let us cultivate rhythms that nurture life and faith. Let us be gentle with ourselves and others as we move through different seasons of the soul. Let us commit ourselves afresh to care for creation and to strengthen our bonds of community.

Above all, let us remember that in every turning of the year, God remains faithful. As the Psalmist declares: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* (Psalm 27:1).

May this September bring you peace in your routines, joy in your relationships, and hope for the journey ahead.

Blessings

Sharon

## **'World Alzheimer's Day September 2025**



**Coffee Morning**

**Friday 19th September 2025**

**10.00am to 12.00noon**

**St Mary's Church**

There will be a Coffee Morning in Church with coffee, tea and cakes, to help raise money for World Alzheimer's Month.

World Alzheimer's Month during September, is a time to focus on this disease, raising awareness and much needed funds to support more research and support.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia with dementia being the name for a group of symptoms caused by diseases that stop the brain from working properly.

Dementia is the UK's biggest killer.

It is the largest health and social care issue of our time, yet it isn't the priority it needs to be.

The impact of this is enormous – on the lives of those it affects, on the healthcare system and on the economy.

Help us raise some money for this most worthy cause.

If you cannot make it on the day, you can make a donation through St Mary's Church, details...

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But please ensure you mark your donation for Alzheimer's  
Thank you in advance for your support.

Dawn





## He Lives to Intercede

*Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." —*

### **Hebrews 7:25**

There are some beautiful verses in Hebrews I think this is one of my favourites, I think it is a powerful declaration of the sufficiency and permanence of Christ's salvation. Unlike earthly priests who were limited by mortality and sin, Jesus lives forever, and His priesthood is eternal. That means His saving work is not partial, temporary, or conditional—it is complete.

Jesus is not only the Savior who died for us; He is the risen Lord who lives to intercede for us. Right now, at this very moment, He is at the right hand of the Father, praying for us. He stands as our advocate, defending us against every accusation of the enemy and applying His righteousness to our account.

This truth should fill us with unshakable confidence. Our salvation doesn't rest on our performance, but on Christ's ongoing intercession. His work didn't end at the cross—it continues in heaven. No sin is too great, no failure too deep, no distance too far for the reach of His saving power.

When we feel unworthy or distant from God, remember that Jesus is interceding for us. Come to Him daily in faith, knowing that He is able and willing to save you completely.

Prayer:- Thank You, Jesus, for saving us completely and eternally.

Remind us daily that You are interceding on our behalf.

Help us to live boldly in the confidence of Your finished work.

Gail



## What Do You Want?

“Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, ‘What do you want?’ They said, ‘Rabbi’ (which means ‘Teacher’), ‘where are you staying?’” — John 1:38

I think this question from Jesus—“What do you want?”—goes straight to the heart. It was the first recorded words He spoke in the Gospel of John. Two disciples of John the Baptist had begun following Jesus after hearing John declare, **“Behold, the Lamb of God.”** Jesus noticed them and didn’t offer a lecture or a miracle—He asked a question.

To me Jesus’ question is the same today. What are you truly seeking? Is it peace, purpose, identity, or direction? We chase many things in life—success, approval, comfort— but only one pursuit leads to lasting fulfilment: following Jesus.

The disciples didn’t ask for explanations or signs. They simply asked, “Where are you staying?” In essence, they were saying, “We want to be where You are.” To me this is the heart of discipleship—abiding with Christ. And when we draw near to Him, He invites us in, just as He did them: “Come, and you will see” (v. 39).

Let us take time to reflect on what our heart is truly chasing. If the answer is anything less than Christ, it’s time to re-centre our focus. Ask Him to help us desire His presence above all else.

Prayer:- Lord, help us to honestly assess what we are seeking in life. Draw our hearts to long for Your presence more than anything else. Teach us to follow You with a desire to abide where You are.

Gail

## The Lord's Prayer in Yorkshire

Ahr Fatter. 'oo art in 'Eaven,  
Let thy name bi shown respect,  
Let thy Kingdom come abaht -  
An' what tha wants doin: Lord. let it bi done -  
`Ere on earth  
Same as up yonder;  
Gi'e us each day  
Summat to eyt an` sup;  
An' let us off. Lord,  
If we've offended Thee bi doin' owt wrong -  
An' 'elp us nut to 'od grudges  
Agen other fowk  
If the've done owt to offend us;  
An' keep us aht o' t' rooad o' temptation,  
An' aht o' t' clutches of Owd Nick,  
Fer it's all thine is t' Kingdom, Lord,  
An' all t' Pahr, an' all t' Glooary,  
Fer ivver an' ivver ...  
Aye! It is that!

With thanks to Trevor Sykes



## **Does God do 'Bling'?**

In early July, the Old Testament reading was from 2 Kings 5:1-14 and was the story of Naaman, the army commander of the King of Aram. Now Naaman was a highly regarded and valiant soldier who suffered from Leprosy. The attendant of Naaman's wife had been captured from Israel and she suggested one day that it would be advantageous for Naaman to go and visit a prophet [Elisha]. Naaman goes to the King of Israel who isn't happy to be referred to in the sorting of Naaman's leprosy but when Elisha hears of it he asks the King to send Naaman to him.

Now I don't know about you, but if you went to see someone you probably wouldn't expect to receive any instructions from his servant, but this is what Elisha does, and Naaman gets angry and goes off in a huff. However his servants tell him, "do as this man tells you", Naaman does and is healed of his leprosy.

Naaman had been expecting something amazing from Elisha and didn't believe that just washing himself seven times in the river would cure him. Perhaps he expected a much grander audience with Elisha.

This started me thinking about if God 'did bling'

If you haven't come across the term "Bling" it's a term that is generally used to describe ostentatious, flashy, and expensive jewellery and accessories, often worn to display wealth and status. It can also describe clothing or other possessions that are similarly extravagant and attention-grabbing.

So I tried to think about any bible references I could that could be classed as 'bling'.

Firstly, when I thought of Elisha's instructions, I thought about how  
(continued on page 26)

## **Beware of False Prophets!**

Hi there

How are you coping with the roadworks at Tingley roundabout?  
Do you queue and grin and bear it or like me take an imaginative number of detours to avoid it!

Well, going back to earlier in the summer, before gas engineers decided they needed to do essential works, as I had traversed the roundabout on a number of occasions, I had witnessed poor folk stranded in various lanes invariably getting honked at for darting across lanes when they happened to be in the wrong one for their destination.

Now it's easy for us who use that roundabout almost daily, to scoff or sneer at the lack of understanding of other road users, but if you use satnav, you may understand why... the roundabout is too large to be understood by satnav as a roundabout and so irrespective of where you are heading, it usually directs you to keep left as you approach the roundabout, and unfortunately these folks appear to rely solely on satnavs instructions and not take note of the road signs which if you are turning right tell you you need to be in the right hand lane, which I'm sure we could argue was fairly common sense anyway.

BUT haven't we all been somewhere unfamiliar, relied on our satnavs and then had to either go around the roundabout twice or take a sharp turn when the instruction has either been unclear or last minute?

Well this got me to thinking about who or what we listen to and what we read and led me to think about false prophets. Our satnavs are like false prophets if we listen to them exclusively, we need to take in the road signs and other road users as well.

I had to look up false prophets and discovered that at the end of his sermon on the mount in Matthew chapters 5 to 7 Jesus says "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits..."



Then in the Acts of the Apostles Paul warns the Ephesians, “...I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in...distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them”.

The key thing is, like the roundabout, yes trust your satnav but read the signs as well.

There’s all this talk of AI (Artificial Intelligence) which has proved to look very real, but can definitely be used like a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Going back to Matthew Chapter 7; Jesus goes on to say “...You will recognize [false prophets] by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ...”

I must admit, on some occasions, I have felt like throwing my satnav in a fire, but in the end I know if I use it wisely with the sense God has given me to look at road signs and use a bit of common sense as well, hopefully I’ll not be led astray.

Beware of modern technology and AI, don’t let computer intelligence rule over your own learned experience, Oh and by the way if you’re approaching a big roundabout aiming to turn right, perhaps proceed with caution reading road signs when your satnav instructs you to keep left!

With love and roundabouts!

Dawn

## **Brassed Off? I certainly wasn't!**

If you came to the West Yorkshire Police Force Band concert on Saturday 12th July then you'll know how good it was. If you didn't, I recommend buying a ticket next time!

I think perhaps Rev.Sharon was rather disappointed the Great British weather meant a change from outdoors to indoors but it wasn't rain stopping play – it was a heatwave. I'm sure the Band appreciated the decision to hold the concert in Church rather than the Vicarage Gardens. Despite being in shirt sleeves, they still built up a sweat in the cooler atmosphere so goodness knows how they (or the audience) would have coped in the glare of the 30-degree sunshine.

We were treated to a variety of musical styles from a typical Brass Band March to Waltzing Matilda, Strauss' Emperor Waltz to Where Is Love from the musical Oliver, Pie Jesu to pop ballad Can't Take My Eyes Off You, and a rousing finish with a compilation from the hit musical Wicked. All this and much more besides.

These musicians can certainly play, not only together as a Band, but also as soloists, ably demonstrated by four different individuals. So good are they that musical director Stephen Wood didn't always need to conduct for them to keep time, but simply use signals to indicate when music should be loud or soft.

Brass Bands can sound wonderful outdoors, but I for one was really glad that this concert was held in Church. The acoustics are so good that with a crescendo of instruments at full blast the sound resonates off the walls and you can quite literally feel it reverberating through you. Well, I certainly could sitting in the middle of Church.

Thanks to everyone involved in arranging this wonderfully uplifting afternoon, and to the refreshment team, but most especially the Band itself for voluntarily giving up their time to entertain others.

Rosie



## **An unexpected encounter and a fitting tribute**

Hi everyone

I was delighted to visit our veteran friends at VINT (Veterans in need together) in Morley a few weeks ago to present them with a cheque for £125 which was the amazing result of your donations at the VE Day Afternoon tea in May (gosh doesn't that feel a long time ago?).

It was holiday time so there weren't quite so many folks there, but the ones I did chat to were delighted and thanked everyone so much for their kindness.



I was chatting to Carole, the lady who leads the group (a former veteran herself) and we were chatting about this and that and she mentioned VJ Day which was a week or two later and I mentioned that we were having a short service of commemoration on VJ Day in Church.

Carole said that she would like to come to the service, but then drops casually into the conversation that she is this year's Mayor of Morley. To cut a long story short, this chat led to Cllr Carole Edwards, Mayor of Morley, attending our short service on VE Day.

It was lovely for her to fit us into her busy schedule and meet some of our church members when she came to the coffee morning prior to the service.

In relation to VJ Day, two brothers on our war memorial were out in the far east, Austin and Ewart Waring, and there is a separate article about them in this magazine.

The VJ Day service was well attended and a fitting commemoration for what is quite often overlooked whereas VE Day tends to be remembered.



We began outside, by the wonderful tribute Dave put by the door, with a two minute silence and then processed into Church. Whilst the service was a commemoration, we also remembered solemnly about all those who had died throughout the conflict.

We sang beautiful hymns, remembered those still involved in conflicts around the world in our prayers, and joined in this act of commitment

*Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God  
and our fellow men and women: that we may help,  
encourage and comfort others, and support those  
working for the relief of the needy and for the peace  
and welfare of the nations.*

**Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all  
humankind, in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;  
give us courage; give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen.**

It may have only been a short service but was a fitting remembrance  
of those who died so far away from home.

Dawn

### **St Mary's Remembers**

VJ Day (Victory in Japan) may not be celebrated as widely as VE Day (Victory in Europe), but for us here at St Mary's we have two important reasons not to forget.

The Waring brothers, Austin and Ewart who are listed on our war memorial, both died out in the far east.

Ewart and his younger brother Austin were both soldiers in the Royal Corps of Signals, Ewart with the 77<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Brigade and was a South Wales Territorial Army Unit. They sailed in December 1941 from the

River Clyde heading for the middle east. In January 1942 as they approached Durban in South Africa, their destination changed to Singapore, but then changed again to Jakarta in Java.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 1942 Ewart and his regiment disembarked at Batavia then moved by road and rail to Surabaya in Eastern Java and went into action there around the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

During the night of 28th February/1st March 1942 (whilst units were moving position due to reports of imminent threats from the enemy) a strong Japanese force landed on the North Coast of Java and, with tanks, pressed inland.

There was much confusion between the Allied Units and Dutch Forces which ended with the surrender of all units based on the island. In the last few days (3rd - 5th March 1942) before their surrender, Ewart's Brigade destroyed twenty-six Japanese planes with probably a further thirteen being destroyed as well.

There was much confusion between the Allied Units and Dutch Forces which ended with the surrender of all units based on the island. In the last few days (3rd - 5th March 1942) before their surrender, Ewart's Brigade destroyed twenty-six Japanese planes with probably a further thirteen being destroyed as well.

Ewart and his comrades were taken prisoner, and gradually over the next few weeks they were concentrated in large camps, mainly in the Batavia area, where from about October 1942 regular drafts of 'slave labour' were sent either to Japan to work in the coal mines or to Thailand, via Singapore, to work on the infamous 'Burma' Railway, immortalised in the film 'Bridge on the River Kwai'.



Whilst all losses are tragic, there is an additional element of sadness with Ewart's death. He was among 414 British prisoners of war who were being transported to Surabaya in Indonesia sailing on the 25<sup>th</sup> November on the SS Suez Maru, a Japanese passenger cargo ship, known as 'hell ships'.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1943 it was torpedoed by USS Bonefish which was unaware of the presence of allied POW's. About half of the men drowned in the ship and those who jumped into the water were then killed by Japanese soldiers aboard minesweeper W-12.



This war crime was extensively investigated in 1949 and is still a contentious issue today.

A memorial to the 414 British POW's was dedicated on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at the National Memorial Arboretum

Looking now at Ewart's younger brother Austin, who was also in the Royal Corps of signals, I am trying to find out for certain, but at this stage think that both brothers travelled to the far east together as each of their units seemed to leave the UK in December 1941 and landed in Singapore in February 1942.



But where Ewart travelled to Java, Austin remained in Singapore, participating, shortly after their arrival in the Battle of Singapore. Austin and his unit were initially deployed to northeastern Singapore Island, with at first, the Japanese attacking the north-west sector. The division fought in different areas of the Island until they regrouped for a final stand in the city of Singapore and repulsed several Japanese attacks. Austin's division, with the rest of the garrison, surrendered to the Japanese on 15 February 1942.

Austin was sent with the prisoners who were building the Burmese railroad, immortalised in the film 'Bridge on the River Kwai'. Over one-third of the division's personnel died in captivity, including divisional commander Major-General Merton Beckwith-Smith.

After the war, a group of Prisoners of War returned to Morley from the Far East. One of them informed the Morley Observer that Austin had died while constructing the railway. His date of death is officially recorded as 4<sup>th</sup> March 1943 and he is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.



**'When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
for your tomorrow, we gave our today'**

**We Will Remember Them**

Dawn

God communicated with mankind. Not all, but some of them were definitely attention grabbing and therefore possibly 'bling', think about Moses and the burning bush, in Exodus 3, that was definitely bling! How about a bit further on in Exodus 13 when God used a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night to guide Moses and his people through the wilderness, bling overtones!

Then God of course communicated through Angels, always shining brightly, I think Angels probably count as bling. Do you remember that Jacob fought with an Angel in Genesis 32, and the births of John the Baptist and Jesus were foretold by Angels, and how could we not mention the multitude of Angels who visited the shepherds, definitely bling!

Slightly less 'blingy' were God's interactions through dreams like the dream Jacob had (in Genesis 28) about the ladder coming down out of heaven, Joseph's many dreams in Genesis 37 and in Matthew 1 and 2 the dreams that Joseph and the wise men had.

God used animals as well, not 'bling' in the flashy sense of the word, but if you talking about attention grabbing then you have Jonah who got swallowed by the big fish in Jonah 1:17 or Balaam's donkey in Numbers 22:21-35.

Then lastly we come to how God spoke to people in scripture, telling them what he wanted to do. Some of those include Abraham in Genesis 12:1-4 where God told Abraham to leave his own country to go to a land God would give him eventually. Moses and Aaron heard God speak in Exodus 7 with instructions about how to approach Pharaoh to demand he let the Israelites go from Egypt. God spoke verbally at Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13-17 pronouncing blessing on His only begotten Son as Jesus began His earthly ministry. And who could forget God speaking to Paul on the road to Damascus when Paul was converted (Acts 9:3-6). Not really 'flashy' but again transformative for those with whom he spoke.

God spoke to His people and His prophets in so many different ways. I am sure that even the short explanation above is missing some of those examples, but what the writer of Hebrews tells us is that He is still speaking to us even today. How? Well through Jesus.

We don't have to wait for God to speak to us in a dream or for an angel to appear to us and tell us what we need to do. He has given us everything we need to hear from Him through the life of Jesus.

Now I don't know about you, but when I initially think of Jesus I don't immediately think of 'bling'! Probably because Jesus chose fishermen and 'ordinary' folk to be his Disciples, but then if I think a bit more about the miracles Jesus did, some of them were attention grabbing and therefore I think, could be classified as 'bling'.

How about John 2 when Jesus is at the wedding in Cana, his first miracle. The wine ran out, bit of a problem, so Jesus, urged by his mum, turns water into wine, that's fairly blingy! There were lots of occasions where Jesus healed people, the blind who received their sight, the lame who were able to walk, the ten lepers who were healed, the demons who were drawn out, people raised from the dead, thousands fed from five loaves and two fish. I know there are many more, you may have a favourite I haven't mentioned.

So, think about God sending Jesus. He changed tack from speaking directly to people through bushes, angels, animals etc and sent His son Jesus to us. Jesus is the completion of all that God needed to reveal to us. When we accept Jesus as our saviour and come to know him more through learning more about him, and say yes to a relationship with him, then we have all we need.

The good thing is, is that we don't need to do big and flashy things, we don't have to do 'bling' because God and Jesus have already done that for us. We can just share that love we receive from God through Jesus with those whom we love and come into contact with.

Dawn

## **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](mailto:gail@stmarywoodkirk.org).

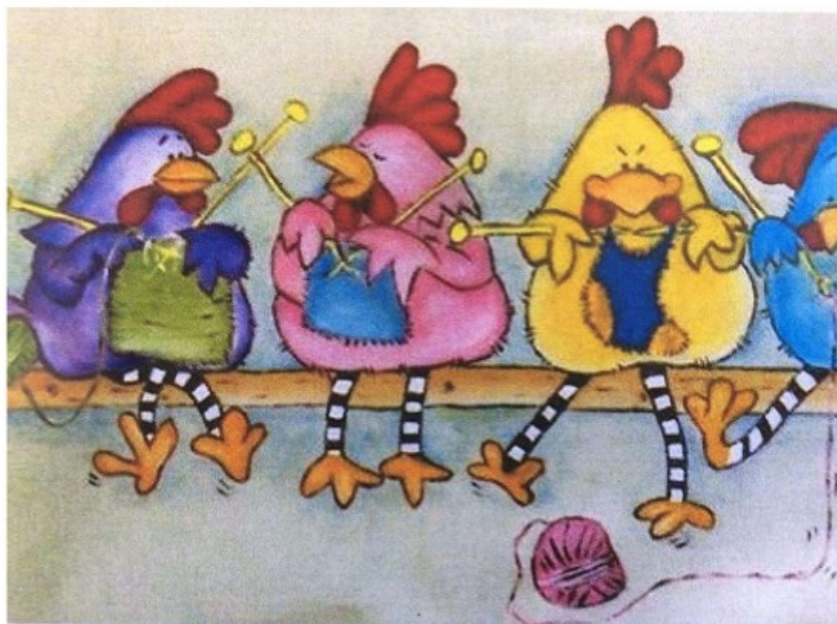
### **Weddings and Banns**

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](mailto: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**

## September Recipes

Well hello, and here we are approaching another Autumn.

Is it just me or does the summer seem to have flown by?

I always love Autumn, and I love September, I can start wearing my boots again on cooler days and there can be a change from lighter meals to some nice tasty more wholesome ones.

I start this month with something a little unusual:-

### **Courgette and Sweet Potato Loaf**

I like a cheese scone and I'm thinking this might be a savoury loaf equivalent (made vegan friendly by using nutritional yeast, and also Gluten Free).

#### **Ingredients**

5 eggs lightly beaten  
1 onion, finely chopped  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
450g grated courgette  
250g peeled and grated sweet potato  
150g ground almonds  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 cup of nutritional yeast or strong cheese  
2 tbsp pesto  
1 tbsp dried rosemary (Fresh or frozen herbs can also be used)  
A few cherry tomatoes to top  
Salt and pepper



#### **Recipe**

1. Line a baking tin (20cm x 30cm, Loaf Tin) with greaseproof paper.
2. Grate the sweet potato, courgette, onion and garlic as above. If you have a food processor, use the grater blade.
3. Mix the courgette, sweet potato, ground almonds, rosemary, yeast or cheese, and salt and pepper together in a large bowl.
4. Make a well in the mixture and add the eggs and pesto. Mix well.
5. Stir in the onions, garlic and baking powder.

6. Line a baking tin with greaseproof paper. Pour in the mixture, spreading evenly, and top with tomatoes.
7. Bake for 40-50 minutes at 400F/200C. The loaf is cooked when a skewer comes out clean.

### **Mushrooms and Tarragon on buttery toast**

This next one is useful if like me you end up with a tub of leftover mushrooms and don't want to waste them!

#### **Ingredients**

- 4 slices of good bread (eg sourdough)
- 4 large handfuls of mushrooms, sliced
- 1 small onion peeled and finely chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- A few tarragon stalks, chopped
- A handful of curly parsley, chopped( or your favourite herbs)
- A splash of Madeira/sherry
- 100ml double cream
- 100g butter
- A splash of rapeseed oil



#### **Recipe**

1. Melt half the butter and half the oil in a large frying pan and fry the bread until golden on both sides. Season and set to one side.
2. Heat the remaining oil and butter in a clean pan and fry the shallots and garlic. Then add the sliced mushrooms and cook for a few minutes on a high heat. When the mushrooms start to brown, add the Madeira and deglaze the pan.
3. Cook until the liquid is reduced then stir in the cream and bring to the boil. Season to taste then add the chopped tarragon and parsley. Reduce until a nice consistency is achieved.

To serve, spoon this mix over the warm toast and serve at once.

Hope you Enjoy! Dawn

## **WOODKIRK WALKERS**

It was Britney Spears who sang “Oops, I Did It Again” and here I was following in her footsteps; not singing (thank goodness!) but volunteering to once again lead Woodkirk Walkers for a monthly ramble, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August.

After meeting up near the vicarage, it was a short car share trip to the starting point at Rothwell Country Park. In medieval times this area was a royal hunting park, but it’s most noted as a busy colliery, in operation from 1867 to 1983. Today it’s a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve and it’s incredible to think that as recently as the late 1990’s this was just a derelict bit of landscape. There are numerous paths within the park, all of which I’ve frequently explored with my Shelties, making this visit personally poignant having said goodbye to Gemma only a few days beforehand.

We set out on the uphill Pond Trail track, but it was hard to tell where these were amongst the meadow grasses as most had dried up due to the extended hot weather period. A level circuit took us through an area of young woodland and then it was uphill again to the top of the old spoil heap, also covered with various grasses and wild flowers. The reward for our efforts was a 360 degree panorama across Leeds and beyond. Good visibility meant we could pick out landmarks 10-15 miles away, including Emley Moor Mast, the remaining thin chimney at Ferrybridge Power Station, Cookridge Radio Tower, and on the distant horizon Ovendon Moor Wind Turbines.

After taking in the views we left the Country Park along a path between houses and fields known as Pickpocket Lane. This led us to Holmsley Lane in Woodlesford, and onto Church Street for a half way lunchtime break at the Two Pointers pub.

Suitably refreshed we followed the road downhill to Woodlesford Lock and turned left onto the towpath following the Aire & Calder Canal for around a mile to the last uphill bit of path back to the start.





Before returning to our cars we added a few more steps to the 10,000+ Dawn's tracker said we'd completed, to see the remnants of the rail track sidings used for the coal trucks in days gone by.

Rothwell Country Park is still evolving as a Nature Reserve but we were treated to a glimpse of some Goldfinches flitting between trees, House Martins swirling to catch insects; various Large White, Small White & Meadow Brown butterflies; and numerous large dragonflies which I've since identified as being Brown Hawkers. Plenty of wildflowers have also established themselves, too many to name here, but the early abundance of rose hips and fully ripe blackberries led to comments of "wish I'd brought a container to collect them". We all agreed that blackberries used to be picked in mid to even late September and that such early prevalence is evidence of our changing climate.

The weather had been kind to us, the odd bit of cloud, but mainly sunny with shirt sleeve temperatures around 20 degrees, accompanied by a gentle breeze.

Perfect rambling conditions.



Rosie

## Church Mouse Tales

‘Ah there you are Misha!’

I turned to see my friend Hubert, the Black Canon approaching down the centre aisle with a spring in his step.

‘Greetings,’ I replied wondering what might be on his mind today.

‘I’ve decided,’ went on Hubert decisively, ‘it’s about time I took a holiday!’

‘A holiday?’ I repeated a little shocked. ‘You don’t have holidays – especially at your ....er...’

‘Age?’ suggested Hubert, with eyebrows in the raised position.

‘Well, that is, I mean it’s not that you are old as such.....’

‘Anyway,’ interrupted Hubert, ‘it doesn’t matter how old a person is - if you need a holiday you need a holiday!’ He folded his arms somewhat dramatically I felt.

‘Well, where are you thinking of going?’ I asked tentatively.

‘I’ve been thinking about that, Misha...’

‘I mean there are several places’, I interrupted unceremoniously, ‘like Canterbury or the Vatican or Walsingham or Santiago de Compostela....for example....’ I suggested helpfully.

‘I was thinking of Benidorm...’ said Hubert in a serious tone.

‘Benidorm! Is that wise?’ I asked in my slightly concerned voice.

‘Why not?’ replied Hubert, ‘I’ve heard good things about it....’

‘Such as?’, I asked a little sceptically.

‘Well, there are places where you say a prayer before you go in – that sounds nice.’

‘Er, well...’

‘...and others where your mind can be elevated to new experiences...’

‘Yes, I’m sure they would be new...’

‘...and still others where everyone dances together with arms raised....you know, like some people do here on a Sunday....’

‘They might not be playing Abide with Me though...’ I tried not to sound too negative.

‘I’m sure it will be something I know – I mean I’ve heard every hymn many times over...’

‘Well, if you are sure – it will be a new experience.’

‘That’s what holidays are for Misha.’ Said Hubert with a smile.

‘Enjoy!’ I crossed my fingers behind my back.

Misha.



# **ALBERTS QUIZ**

## **10 Harvest Questions/10 character questions**

1. A crop barely seen at Harvest time?
2. Growing this may cause you to limp?
3. You find this cereal in a barn?
4. Would a weasel explode if it ate this?
5. The name of Tarzan's creator (middle name)?
6. You could run miles on a diet of this cereal?
7. A crop grown in merry England between Romney & Hastings?
8. Sounds like the surname of Scott of Antarctic companion?
9. You could find this cereal in a brewery?
10. An AA optic might help you find this cereal?
11. What is the name of the bear who loves honey?
12. Who was Poirot's creator and where is Poirot from?
13. Which nanny arrived with an umbrella and magic powers?
14. Who was the boy who never grew up?
15. Which author wrote 'the End of the Affair'?
16. Which famous detective was created by Arthur Conan Doyle?
17. What is the name of Harry Potter's God Father?
18. Which main character in Oliver Twist recruited children to steal?
19. Who played Mr Bean?
20. What is the name of the character played by Billie Piper in Doctor Who?

Answers on Page 38

## **Why God made Hugs.**

Everyone was meant to share  
God's all-abiding love & care;  
He saw that we would need to know  
a way to let your feelings show.

So, God made HUGS a special sign  
and symbol of his love divine;  
A circle of our open arms  
to hold love in & keep out harm.

One simple HUG can do its part  
to warm & cheer another's heart;  
A HUG'S a bit of heaven above  
that signifies His perfect love.

Jill Wolf

With thanks to Trevor Sykes and kind permission of Central  
Methodist Church, Batley.



## 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://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:

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) Barley 2) Corn 3) Bran 4) Popcorn  
5) Rice (Edgar Rice Boroughs) 6) Semolina 7) Rye  
8) Oats 9) Hops 10) Tapioca 11) Winnie the Pooh  
12) Agatha Christie 13) Mary Poppins 14) Peter Pan  
15) Graham Greene 16) Sherlock Holmes 17) Sirius Black  
18) Fagin 19) Rowan Atkinson 20) Rose Tyler

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS—

Brodhi Mel Grenham-Fox  
Aramaya Joyce Ellis  
Brody Grayson Campbell  
Miles Chester Christopher  
Lilah June Goss



### DEATHS



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

Roy Leadley

### WEDDINGS:

Thomas Mitchell and  
Michelle Cheney

**Wedding Blessing:**

(none this month)





## Lydgate Lodge is a welcoming and beautiful home offering residential and dementia care for older people.

It's a place where kindness defines care - where every action is guided by a genuine desire to support your well-being, offering not just assistance, but thoughtful compassion to help you live better every day.

Please get in touch to find out more about life at Lydgate Lodge and how we can help you to live your best life.



Purpose Built Home



All Inclusive



Nutritious Food



Person-Centred Care



Daily Activities



Couples Welcome

To find out more about Lydgate Lodge and to speak to our friendly team, contact us on:

**01924 355 020**

**A** Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ

**E** [lydgate.lodge@hc-one.co.uk](mailto:lydgate.lodge@hc-one.co.uk) **W** [hc-one.co.uk](http://hc-one.co.uk)



Part of the HC-One Family



## **Shirl's Curls**

Local fully qualified Ladies Mobile Hairdresser with over 30 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 £75 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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***Tel 0113 2525374***

An independent family business,  
the 5<sup>th</sup> 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)  
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:

#### **Sept**

Friday 5th 10am- 12 noon  
Coffee & Cake Morning in church

Saturday 13th Woodkirk Walker  
meet at Church 10.30am

Sunday 14th—Songs of Praise for Creation  
6.00pm in Church

Friday 19th 10am-12 noon  
Coffee and Cake Morning in aid of  
World Alzheimer's Day

#### **Oct**

Sunday 5th 2.00pm  
Pet Blessing Service

Please see Page 38 for details of how to join a streamed