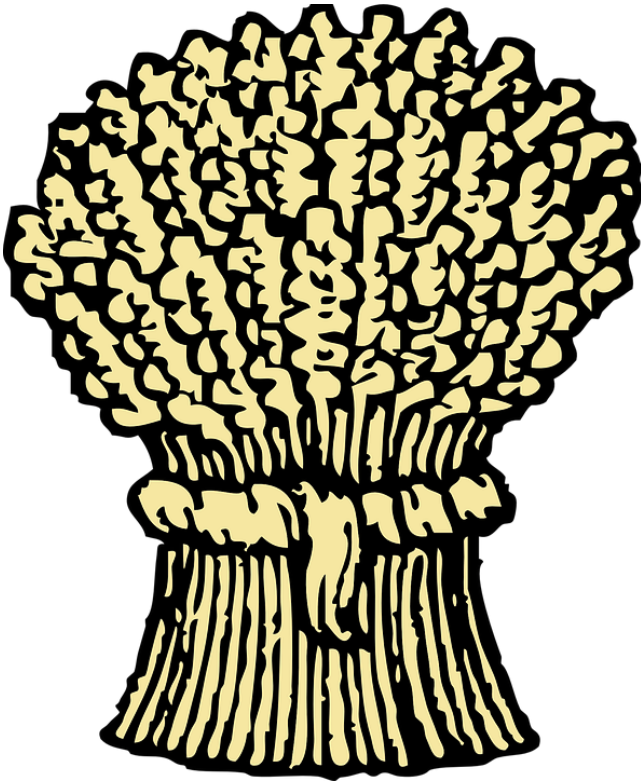


Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

October 2025



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Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's:	Reverend Sharon Wilkinson. Woodkirk Vicarage, 1168 Dewsbury Road, Dewsbury, WF12. 7JL 01924 472375/07539466724 E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
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Verger:	Gail Townsend 07792 975814
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PCC Secretary:	Dawn Tattersfield
PCC Treasurer	Barbara Tate 07792 211095
Social Chairman:	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Parish Centre Hire:	Cath Oakes 07796713750 Sally Shaw 01924 475048
Child Protection Officer:	Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239
Health & Safety Officer:	Brian Gledhill 01924 405790 Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239
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Magazine Editor	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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7.00 to 8.00pm Wednesdays in the Parish Hall

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.

**If you wish to make a donation to the work of this church or
if you wish to pay your weekly collection via our bank
account then the details are given below:-**

Virgin Money

Sort Code 05-01-31

Account Number: 31405751

Account Name: Woodkirk PCC

Vicar's Letter

We often comfort ourselves with the thought that “it’s the thought that counts.” We say it when a card is late, when a gift isn’t quite right, or when we fall short of what we hoped to do. And it’s true that good intentions matter—they are a seed planted in the soil of the heart. But what happens when those good intentions don’t happen at all? What happens when we never even reach the point of thinking kindly, of resolving to act, or of setting our hearts toward love?

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. We know it well: a man is left beaten at the side of the road. A priest and a Levite both pass by. Perhaps they had good excuses—ritual purity laws to uphold, busy schedules, or a fear for their own safety. We might even imagine they had good intentions: “I’ll pray for him later” or “I wish someone would help.” But their good intentions never became action, and so they passed by on the other side.

The Samaritan, by contrast, allows intention to blossom into action. He stops, tends the man’s wounds, and bears the cost himself. Jesus’ challenge is clear: “Go and do likewise.”

The story shows us the difference between intention that leads to love and the absence of intention that leaves suffering untouched. If the priest and Levite had not even considered helping, then the man by the roadside would have remained invisible. And if none of us form the intention to act, then no neighbour is lifted up.

There is an old saying that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.” That’s meant to warn us against empty promises or good ideas that are never carried through. But perhaps an even more dangerous road is the one where good intentions don’t happen at all. When we stop even noticing the need around us, when compassion no longer rises up in our hearts, when we fail to think, “I ought to do something,” then we are on the way to becoming indifferent. That is when communities grow cold. Not necessarily cruel—but cold,

disconnected, and blind.

As Christians, we are called to be alert to the needs of others. Jesus says, “Stay awake” (Mark 13:37). He does not mean only in the literal sense, but spiritually: awake to God, awake to one another, awake to the Spirit’s prompting. Without this attentiveness, good intentions cannot even be born.

Thankfully, the Gospel does not leave us stuck in our own failures of intention. The good news is that God’s intentions never fail. Jeremiah records the Lord’s words: *“For I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope”* (Jeremiah 29:11). God’s heart is eternally set toward mercy, reconciliation, and love.

The whole story of salvation is the story of God’s intention to redeem His people. From Abraham to the prophets, from the Incarnation to the Cross, God has always been purposeful in His love. Christ’s life, death, and resurrection are not accidents, nor mere gestures. They are God’s intentions made flesh.

And in the Holy Spirit, those divine intentions continue to stir in us, drawing our hearts toward compassion, justice, and holiness. Even when we are indifferent, God is not. Even when we fail to intend, God intends for us.

So, what are we to do? We cannot act on every need we see. We are finite, limited, and often overwhelmed. But we can cultivate a heart that is ready to intend good, a heart attuned to God’s Spirit.

That may mean starting small: the intention to listen patiently to a neighbour, to check on someone lonely, to pray for someone in need, or to give a word of encouragement. These small intentions, when followed through, make God’s love visible in the everyday.

Prayer is central here. When we pray, we align ourselves with God’s

purposes. We say in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done." That is the ultimate intention we are invited to share in: to desire what God desires. And when our intentions match God's, they grow into actions that bless others.

As a church family, we too must ask: what happens if good intentions don't happen in us? If we never form the intention to reach out to our community, to welcome the stranger, to teach the faith to our children, or to care for creation, then we risk becoming a church that merely exists for itself.

But when we listen to the Spirit, we become a people of living intention. We don't just wish for justice—we work for it. We don't just hope for fellowship—we practice it. We don't just long for renewal—we pray and labour for it. In this way, our intentions, guided by Christ, become channels of His grace.

The absence of good intentions leaves a void where love might have grown. But God does not leave us void; He fills us with His Spirit, awakens us to our neighbours, and sets our hearts on the path of compassion.

Let us not be like those who "passed by on the other side." Instead, let us notice, intend, and act—so that our lives, individually and as a church, may reflect God's good intention for the world: a future with hope, a kingdom of love.

With every blessing
Sharon

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

October is recognized as **Down Syndrome Awareness Month** in many places around the world.

It isn't that October itself has a special biological connection to Down syndrome—rather, it's a designated awareness month for the following:-

- **Awareness Campaigns:** National awareness months are often chosen by advocacy organizations to highlight causes, educate the public, and promote inclusion. October is already associated with awareness campaigns (like Breast Cancer Awareness Month), so advocacy groups in the 1980s and 1990s also promoted it as a time to raise awareness for Down syndrome.

Advocacy & Inclusion: During October, families, organizations, and individuals share stories, organize events, and encourage communities to see the abilities of people with Down syndrome rather than focusing only on the diagnosis.

It's not the only date that is significant worldwide: **March 21 (3/21) is celebrated as World Down Syndrome Day**, chosen because people with Down syndrome have 3 copies of the 21st chromosome (trisomy 21). That day has a direct symbolic meaning, while October is about ongoing education and inclusion throughout an entire month.

On Sunday 5th October at 10.00am, Tom, Lizzy and Noah will be attending St Michael's Church, East Ardsley to talk about their experience of having a baby with Down Syndrome, their fears, expectations, hopes and dreams, as well as sharing what the charity Sunshine and Smiles means to them.

This is a brave thing to do – to allow themselves to be vulnerable.

Most of you know Noah.

He has taught those who love him so much and the most important thing is that he can do so much more than the expectations society puts on him, and that society tells his parents he will never be able to do that.

Thank God Tom and Lizzy were open to saying yes, to trust in God, and finding the richness of beauty that is Noah.

Sharon



Woodkirk Walkers

Saturday 13th September started lovely and bright. We met in the layby and car shared to Hill Top School car park, except for the intrepid Pinder Packard contingent who joined us there on foot!

We set off across the fields along a public footpath running roughly parallel to Batley Road, then down through the valley for the stream looking left towards the high bank of the back of the reservoir. Up to Blind Lane which we followed to Woodhouse Lane.



Crossing Woodhouse Lane we picked up another public footpath which took us under the motorway and across the fields, including a couple of fields of sunflowers.

We came out on Brandy Carr Road in Kirkhamgate, pondered our next stop and decided to head for a drink and a comfort break at The Star Inn on Batley Road.

Whilst resting up and enjoying a drink, the landlord brought us a menu... needless to say, with me in the party, we decided to order something to eat.



We enjoyed some lovely tapas dishes only for it to decide, whilst we were enjoying said tapas to absolutely throw it down with rain. This led to further discussion and a decision that we must have a hot drink before setting off back!!

This was the correct decision, as by the time we had enjoyed our hot drinks, and master PP had devoured the most enormous piece of cheesecake I'd ever seen, we debated, but not for long, whether to extend the walk over the fields, or to take the direct road route back.

Discretion being the better part of valour, we decided the fields would be very muddy and so came back via Batley Road.

Whilst we only covered about 4.5 miles (Anne and Thomas probably managed over 6) we all thoroughly enjoyed our walk which became a bit of a social, and, had a very enjoyable time.

Our next walk is scheduled for Saturday 18th October and may take us from Country Baskets, route will be confirmed in the weekly news sheet.

Dawn x



Too wet to sit outside....

My Pastoral Journey.

I thought I would like to share with you all my Pastoral Ministry Journey.

At the beginning of July 2004, I was asked if I would be willing to join the course for the Bishop's Certificate in Pastoral Care Ministry. I was given some leaflets to read and then go for an interview with the team leader of the course at Church House Wakefield, to see if I would be suitable to take on this responsibility.

For a long time, I had felt that God had been calling me to do more in his ministry, I had already taken on the work of Church Warden and Verger at St. Mary's, and thought this was all I was called to do, but this little voice kept nagging me.

After reading the leaflet and my interview, I was offered a place on the course. Then I knew this is what God wanted me to do. I felt scared apprehensive but also excited, but still the feeling that can I do this? But deep down I knew with God's help I could.

My first year on the BCPM Course.

On the 18th September 2004, I started my 3 year journey to complete the course. This first meeting was to meet the other people on the course, and our journeys to reach this stage, and how to talk more freely with others about God's work and words. Also how to communicate with those who are in distress and need someone to listen - or those who wish to understand why God has let things happen in their lives, which have brought them great pain.

On the 24th September I went off to my first plenary at Church House, to start what would turn out to be the most rewarding 3 years in my Christian life. The first session was very nerve racking but also exciting. I did feel that most of the other students were also feeling the same. Once we got into to the session I started to feel more and more at ease and knew that God was beside me, and with him beside me I could achieve this.

It is not an easy course what with the Diaries we had to write and the soul searching which at times can be very painful. Also planning your life around the Plenaries and Tutorials requires care, but the rewards out-weigh all other things.

After the first couple of Plenaries at which I was very nervous, I then found that I could not wait for the next session and found I was getting excited when the time comes to attend the next one. It was the same with the Tutorials - I was put into a group with 5 other people I had not met before and did not know anything about, but after the first Tutorial we were all like old friends. I could not have been put with 5 better people and went on to gain 5 wonderful new friends who have given me encouragement to speak out about my beliefs and support when needed.

This course has taught me that God works in the most surprising ways - who would have thought that I, Gail Townsend, could go out and visit people I do not know, pray openly with them, give them support and encouragement to talk to God as a friend and father, and most of all share with them God's Love.

Through this course my faith and relationship with God grew stronger, the passage over the 3 years had its ups and downs, but my faith and fellowship with God grew so much stronger,

When I finished this course, I could only give thanks to God that he had trusted and given me the chance to serve him in this way.

There is a hymn that I have always found emotional and very difficult to sing – even now but I do understand why, because God trusted me to hold his people in my Heart, these are the words that spoke to me:

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if you lead me

I will hold your people in my heart.

I also thank all the congregation of St. Mary's for all their support and encouragement over all these years I have been able to serve as Pastoral Minister.

I strongly recommend this course to anyone who feels they are called to serve God through his people.

WHAT did I expect to learn?

How to talk more freely with others about God's work and words. Also how to communicate with those who are in distress and need a someone to listen or those who wish to understand why God has let things happen in their lives, which have brought them great pain.

I went to visit a very nice elderly couple at their home. It is a great joy to visit this couple they are devoted Christians, but are now finding it very difficult to get to church - they try to come to a service when possible, but they enjoy a short service in their home. We share communion and a bible reading and short prayers in which they took part. Then we have a chat about what had been happening in the church and with the organisations as they like to keep up to date with what is happening.

I found this visit upsetting and also uplifting, upsetting because they got distressed that they cannot come to church so often but we talked about this, and I hoped I helped by telling them that Jesus did not always pray in the synagogues he prayed in the open and in people's homes, and as they listened they seem to be more at peace as I left. I feel that I am at last starting on the road to what God wants me to take.

I often went to visit the elderly at Soothill Manor Care Home (now Lydgate Lodge). The first thing you notice when you visit this home is the calm and peaceful surroundings. On one visit, I spent most of the morning talking to two special ladies, who always seem to look forward to my visits. We talk about all sorts of things - families and times gone by. Most of all they like to talk about their childhood and their faith, I find it most interesting to hear about when they attended church, one lady takes great pleasure in telling me about

how she could only get to church in a horse and trap with her blind Uncle who also played the organ.

The other lady had to walk two miles there and back. It got me thinking how we would manage to-day, if we had no cars and had to walk, our faith would be tested then.

I would like to think that my faith is strong enough to manage this. In the past I have walked to St. Mary's for the 8.45am service. At first, I found this hard, but as the weeks went by it became easier, although some mornings when it was cold or raining I have second thoughts - but off I go, and I must say I came to enjoy it. It also gave me time to think about the service and remember all the wonderful things God has given us as I walk through the fields.

When I first started visiting Soothill I thought I could help these people. It is great to see their faces light up when I visit, they have given so much more. It helped me to remember what God gave up for me, and how little I give-up for him.

We are all his people, and there are so many different ways to serve. There are those who are prisoners in their own homes- we can offer our services to them. There are those who just need someone to hear their problems- we can serve them by listening

There are those who stumble by the wayside, we can serve them by showing them an easier path, the path that leads to our Lord.

But most of all we must remember that first and foremost we serve our Lord by leading new lambs to our shepherd and helping others to return to the flock.

Gail.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The well known verse “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”

Amongst all the situations listed in this well known passage, I note that it doesn't say;

“and a time to be held on the end of your phone for what seems like a millennia whilst some poor soul in a faceless call centre tries to deal with your query”!!!!!!

I thought about this passage recently when my husband had cause to contact our Broadband provider on quite a number of occasions to try and get them to sort out a query. He was promised the matter would be dealt with, promised calls back, none of which sadly came to fruition, only for each time he rang them for an update, he would end up speaking to a different person and in actual fact a different person within all four countries within Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He had a full tour without leaving home and still didn't get an answer!

This led me on to thinking about the difference between ‘our time’ and ‘God's time’.

I'm sure we all, at some point, have prayed to God for a certain outcome of a situation, I know I have, and yet at the time we pray, it doesn't appear that our prayer has been answered.

But I suppose when you are the Almighty God, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, time is whatever you make it.

During September our services have followed the season of

Creationtide, when we have focussed on different aspects of creation. I think whilst we read in Genesis 1 that God made the earth and everything in it in six days we acknowledge that the scientific view of the universe beginning with the Big Bang, followed by billions of years of cosmic and geological evolution is the practical explanation (unless you're a young earth creationist) and that the biblical accounts are the record of early oral religious historical explanations before scientists started trying to provide proof of everything!

I'm not a young earth creationist nor am I a dyed in the wool atheist scientist who says because science proves the earth was formed over many millennia, there is no God.

The thing is, humanity has to describe God and his actions in a way we as humans can understand, otherwise it would all be gobbledegook, although if you've tried to read the book of Revelation, I'm not sure John of Patmos got the memo about making the actions of God understandable!

When I hear or read about scientists when they are asked about the existence of God, I always have a wry smile to myself when some of them reply that they are unable to prove that there is or isn't a God. The scientists can explain creation and the cosmos to a certain point but then as to why, out of the billions of stars and planets that make up our milky way, earth happened to have the exact composition of elements to support complex life systems ie humans, they do not have an answer.

I don't know if you have looked at the Old Testament book of Job in your bible readings, the simple tale of a man who did all that he thought God required of him but who suffers greatly. There is a long dialogue section where Job is in anguish and

confused and more or less asks God “Why Me?” and longs for God to answer.

God does respond, but instead of comforting words or a rational explanation, God responds in, if it was me, I would term as a bit of a rant!

God responds to Job starting through the whole of Chapter 38 and 39 and into the start of chapter 40 and tells Job of the wonders of the universe that he has created and of the animals that roam the earth;

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?...Who marked off its dimensions?

...Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?...Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Does the eagle soar at your command and build his nest on high?”

The message here is that there are many things in life that we do not understand, and that God is working on a different plane from human beings, one that we can only glimpse and never fully comprehend. This doesn’t mean in anyway that God is so far away and inaccessible, but rather that we should not try to limit HIM by OUR imperfect understanding.

Let us "Trust in the LORD with all [our] heart, and not lean on [our] own understanding. In all [our] ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight [our] paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6)

As for contacting our broadband provider...I’ll have to trust that at some point my call will actually be important to them and, that sometime in the next millennia, my call will be answered shortly!

Love
Dawn

A HUGE Thank you x 2

Firstly a thank you to all those who attended (or sent donations in lieu of attending) our Coffee Morning on the 19th September, raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

Thanks to you, I will be sending of a total of £220, which is amazing when my original 'target' was £100.

As always, you came and enjoyed tea and cake and fellowship.

Secondly I have been receiving Children's Society home collection boxes since August and have now added up all the coins that you have saved over the past 12 months.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that all that small change added up to an amazing £444.43 which will be winging it's way to them very soon.

Again many many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Dawn



George, Jemima & Tommy's Power Cut.

All pop up

Jemima. Good morning boys, how are you both today?

Tommy. Very well thank you Jemima.

Jemima. And you George?

George. Oh, fair to middling.

Tommy. What did you just say George?

George. Fair to middling.

Jemima. What on earth is fair to middling?

George. Ya know what. I haven't got a clue.

Jemima. Must be a Yorkshire saying, there's loads of em.

Tommy. Such as?

George. I once climbed up a tree in our garden and my Mum said "don't come running to me if you fall and break your leg". How could I run to her with a broken leg, it's a stupid saying.

Tommy. Yeah, my Dad said to me the other day, I'd be laughing on the other side of my face if I did that again. Where's the other side of my face?

Jemima. They're just silly old sayings boys, there's loads of them, like I said.

George. Yeah, I didn't reply to a question my Mum asked me the other day. She asked me if I'd lost my tongue. How can I lose my tongue.

Jemima. The cat might have it.

George. Ya what?

Jemima. It's another saying. Has the cat got ya tongue.

Tommy. The cat would look silly with your tongue George.

George. Ha ha, it would stop it from biting me.

Tommy. Yeah, but it could give you a nasty suck.

Jemima. Oh, strike a light you two.

George & Tommy. Strike a light, strike a light, what the heck is strike a light.

Jemima. No idea.

George. Smacking a light bulb. (George & Tommy break out laughing}

Jemima. Speaking of striking a light, what about the power cut we had last night.

George. Yeah, it put the willies up me.

Tommy. Is that one of them silly sayings again?

Jemima. No Tommy, it just means George was frightened.

George. I wasn't frightened, I was just scared.

Tommy. Scared of what George?

George. Well, ya know strange things happen in the dark.

Jemima. Why George, what's ever happened to you in the dark?

George. Noises, yeah, noises happen in the dark.

Tommy. What noises George?

George. As I was saying, I was in bed when all the lights went out and I heard this noise from under my bed, then suddenly the noise moved across my bedroom floor.

Tommy. Blimey George, was it a Ghost?

George. No, it was Dam pinching my sweets.

Jemima. Who is Dam?

George. My pet hamster.

Tommy. Why do you call him Dam?

George. Cause he's a hamster.

Jemima. Ha ha, very good George. Amsterdam.

Tommy. Brilliant.

George. It's funny though, isn't it?

Tommy. What's funny?

George. Well, one minute it's light and the next minute we're plunged into darkness.

Tommy. I wonder what happens to the dark when a light comes on, does it just go away?

Jemima. No Tommy. It doesn't just go away. In fact, there was a time when light didn't even exist.

George. Gerraway!

Jemima. It's true.

Tommy. So where does light come from then Jemima?

George. God has a big switch that he turns on every day.

Jemima. Ya know George, ya not far wrong with that.

Tommy. God doesn't have a big switch.

Jemima. So where do you think it comes from then Tommy?

Tommy. I suppose God made it.

Jemima. That's right Tommy. God created it.

George. Just like that. (Tommy Cooper style)

Jemima. Well not exactly just like that, George. Take a look at Genesis 1 in The Bible. It says. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and God didn't think much of the earth because it was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said "let there be light, and there was light.

George. Yeah, blooming loads of it.

Tommy. Shut up George, carry on Jemima.

Jemima. Well, God was very pleased, so he separated light from dark and he called the light day and the darkness he called

night, and there was evening and there was morning on the first day.

George. How do you mean, on the first day?

Jemima. Well, God didn't stop on the first day, he carried on for seven days creating all the things that we take for granted.

Tommy. Like what Jemima?

Jemima. He made the seas and the oceans and separated them with land. Then he made the lands sprout with vegetation and plants that provided seeds, and fruit trees to bear fruit.

George. He was doing a cracking job. I bet he was tired.

Jemima. I could go on for ever telling you this story.

Tommy. Please go on Jemima.

George. Shut it, Tommy.

Jemima. Anyway, to cut a long story short, this story is all about God's creation. He also created man, a man in his own image, he created male and female. This went on for six days and every day there was evening and there was morning. Then on the seventh day God rested.

George. I should think he did, not a bad weeks work for one bloke.

Jemima. Hang on boys I haven't finished yet.

Tommy. Oh, doesn't she go on.

George. Be careful Tommy.

Jemima. Who do you think guides us through the darkness today then?

George. Light bulbs.

Jemima. No. Jesus.

Tommy. Is Jesus a giant light bulb?

Jemima. I suppose he is Tommy, you see when Jesus said that he is the light of the world, he meant that he is the one who will help us see clearly and show us the right way to live.

Tommy. What's that mean Jemima?

Jemima. Think about it this way. If you were walking along a dark street at night, what would help you see where you were going?

Tommy. A torch I suppose.

George. Jesus the giant light bulb.

Jemima. A torch would be good, it would show you the path, stop you falling into a ditch or stepping into a deep puddle.

George. Or standing in some dog poo.

Jemima. Geeoorrgge! Now back to the torch. Like the light coming out from the torch showing you the safe path to walk on, Jesus shows us the right and safe path to walk through life if we are willing to listen to what he says and follow him.

Tommy. I get it now Jemima, Jesus is the light of the world.

George. Rock on Tommy, lets go home.

Jemima. Mind the dog poo.

ALL. Bye bye everybody, bye bye.'

Brian.

DO YOU LOVE ME?

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” — John 21:17

This passage really speaks to me I hope it does the same for you. I wonder how many times Jesus has said this to me on my life’s journey? I know deep in my heart it will be more than three times, as I have sometimes wandered off the path he has asked me to take. So let us take a look at this passage as Jesus sits with Peter.

After Peter had denied Jesus three times, the risen Savior met him by the Sea of Galilee—not with condemnation, but with restoration. Jesus asked Peter three times, **“Do you love me?”** Each question gently mirrored each denial. It was not to shame Peter, but to heal him.

Peter, grieved by the repetition, finally declared, **“Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”** And Jesus responded with purpose: **“Feed my sheep.”** Here I think Jesus is telling us Love for Christ is not proven by words alone, but by faithful obedience and service to His people.

Remember Jesus is still asking His followers today, **“Do you love me?”** It’s a question that penetrates beyond emotion and into action. If we truly love Him, we will serve, we will care for others, we will live with devotion and humility.

Let us ask ourselves honestly: Is our love for Jesus seen in how we live, serve, and obey? Let our love for Christ be more than a feeling and let it become a daily offering.



Gail.

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.

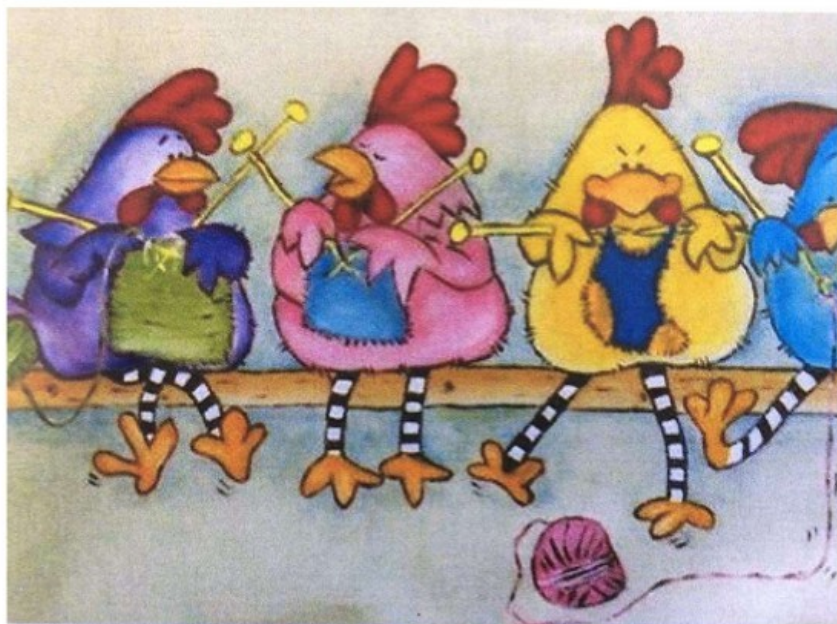
Weddings and Banns

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

Be Still and Know

“He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’” — Psalm 46:10

When we look around our world today it is constantly in motion—where our schedules are packed, our minds are restless, and the noise never seems to stop—God calls us to do something radically different: *be still*. but this is hard to do, I am sorry to say but I am one of these people that has to be busy and find it hard to just be still, but I do try to have a bit of quiet time with my Bible and God, but even then my mind is racing on things I should be doing, but this verse reminds me that if I want to listen to God then I have to be still or how can he reach me if my mind is racing in different directions all the time. Be still and know I am God;

Psalm 46 is a song of confidence in God’s power, especially in the midst of chaos. It speaks of mountains falling, waters roaring, and nations in uproar. Yet, right in the heart of that storm comes a divine command: *“Be still, and know that I am God.”*

Stillness is not passivity. It is an active surrender. It’s a quiet heart that stops striving, stops panicking, and chooses to trust. It’s in that stillness that we come to *know*—not just intellectually, but personally and deeply—that He is God. He

is in control. He will be exalted.

This verse reminds us that the world doesn't rest on our shoulders—it rests on His. Our job is not to fix everything but to trust the One who holds all things together.

Let us all set aside time each day to be still before God. No phone. No noise. Just His Word, His presence, and our open hearts. Let Him calm our storm with His sovereignty.

Prayers

Lord, teach us how to be still in Your presence.

Help us surrender control and trust Your perfect plan.

May our lives reflect confidence in Your unshakable power.

Gail.



October Recipes

Hello all, how did we get to Autumn already?

Anyway, I've gone for tasty warming recipes for this month, hope you like them.

Shakshuka.

*1 tbsp olive oil; 2 red onions - chopped;
1 red chilli - deseeded and finely
chopped; 1 garlic clove - sliced; small
bunch coriander - stalks and leaves
chopped separately; 2 cans cherry
tomatoes
1 tsp caster sugar; 4 eggs.*



Heat the oil in a frying pan that has a lid, then soften the onions, chilli, garlic and coriander stalks for 5 mins until soft. Stir in the tomatoes and sugar, then bubble for 8-10 mins until thick. Can be frozen for 1 month.

Using the back of a large spoon, make 4 dips in the sauce, then crack an egg into each one. Put a lid on the pan, then cook over a low heat for 6-8 mins, until the eggs are done to your liking. Scatter with the coriander leaves and serve with crusty bread.

Here's another tasty tomato'ey one and it's a good one for using up store cupboard ingredients as you can use any shaped pasta, tinned or fresh tomatoes, any hard cheese and in place of the frankfurter, any sausage, chicken, ham etc.

Easy Tomato Pasta

*1 tbsp olive oil; 1 onion - chopped; 1
garlic clove - crushed; 400g can cherry
or chopped tomatoes; pinch sugar; few
dashes Worcestershire sauce; 100g
rigatoni (or other tube-shaped pasta);
50g gruyère or cheddar - grated; hunk of*



baguette or sliced bread - coarsely grated; 2 frankfurters - sliced (optional).

Heat the oil in a medium pan and fry the onion for 5 mins until softened and lightly golden. Stir in the garlic and cook for a further min. Mix in the tomatoes and sugar, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 mins. Add a few dashes of Worcestershire sauce and season to taste. This basic sauce can now be chilled or frozen.

Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to pack instructions. Heat the grill to high. Mix together the cheese and breadcrumbs. Drain the pasta and stir into the sauce. Tip in the frankfurters (if using) and spoon into a heatproof dish. Scatter over the cheesy crumbs and grill for 3-5 mins or until bubbling hot and golden. Serve with a simple salad.

Here's something I've shied away from making, but considering the plentiful harvest of apples we seem to have, I felt it was a useful one to add in...

Easy Baked Apples

50g/1¾oz butter; 1 orange, zest and juice; 50g/1¾oz light; brown soft sugar; ¼ tsp ground ginger; ¼ tsp ground allspice

100g/3½oz dried mixed fruit (currants, sultanas, candied peel)

*4 large eating apples, such as Granny Smith, Braeburn
crème fraîche, to serve.*



Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Melt the butter in a small pan over a medium–low heat. Take the pan off the heat and add the orange zest and juice along with the sugar and spices. Stir well to combine, then add the dried fruit. Set aside. Core the apples, pushing the corer about three-quarters of the way through the apple, to make a container for the filling. Put the apples cored side up into a deep-sided roasting tray, into which they fit snugly. Fill the empty cores with the spiced fruit mixture. Don't worry if the filling spills over a little: when the apple releases its juices as it bakes it'll create a delicious spiced apple caramel in the bottom of the tray. Bake the apples on the bottom shelf of the oven for 20 minutes, or until the apples are soft. Serve the apples with generous spoonfuls of the roasting juices and a spoonful of crème fraîche.

Tips - The cooked apples will keep, well covered, in the fridge for up to 3 days. To serve, take them out of the fridge to come up to room temperature, or pop them back in a warm oven for 20 minutes.

For added crunch, you can bake a sheet of readymade puff pastry, sprinkled with a little extra sugar, following packet instructions. Once cooked, snap the pastry into shards and serve alongside the apples.

And this one sounds delicious...

Almond and Apple Tart

4 apples; icing sugar to cover; For the sweet pastry: 165g butter - softened; 80g caster sugar; 265g plain flour - plus extra for dusting; 1 egg yolk - lightly beaten.



For the frangipane: 100g butter; 100g icing sugar - sieved; 2 large eggs; 100g ground almonds.

First, make the pastry, cream the butter and sugar until smooth and pale. slowly add the flour, then just before it's fully combined, add the egg yolk and mix briefly until smooth (if the pastry is dry add 1 tsp cold water). Remove the pastry from the bowl, wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge overnight, or for at least 1 hr.

For the frangipane, cream the butter and icing sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the eggs one at a time, then fold in the almonds and calvados and beat for 3 mins more. Chill until needed.

Heat oven to 170C/150C fan/gas 3.

Roll out the pastry on a well-floured surface to the thickness of a £1 coin.

Gently press the pastry into either a 23cm tart ring on a baking sheet or a 23cm fluted tart tin (the pastry may crack – patch up any holes with leftover pastry).

Trim the edges neatly, then chill in the fridge for 20 mins.

Spoon the frangipane into the pastry case and smooth with the back of the spoon, leaving a 0.5cm gap at the top.

Peel and core the apples, then cut into thin slices using a mandolin or knife across the width of the apple so there's a hole in the middle of each slice.

Arrange the apples on top of the frangipane.

Sieve a good layer of icing sugar on top, then bake for 1 hr-1 hr 15 mins or until the apples are caramelised and the frangipane is cooked (use a skewer to check).

Leave to cool for 30 mins before serving.

Serve with your choice of cream, ice cream, crème fraiche or custard.

Finally if you're thinking ahead to the festive season, here's an **easy mincemeat** recipe to try...

Ingredients

*225g/8oz vegetarian suet;
225g/8oz Bramley apples,
peeled, cored and chopped;
125g/4oz candied peel,
chopped; 225g/8oz sultanas;
225g/8oz raisins; 225g/8oz
currants*

*175g/6oz demerara sugar; 1 tsp mixed spice; 1 orange, zest
and juice; 60ml/2fl oz brandy.*



Method

To make the mincemeat, mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl. Cover with a clean tea towel and allow to stand overnight for the fruit to absorb the juice and brandy.

You can use the mincemeat the following day, or store in jars for later.

To sterilise the jars, preheat the oven to 110C/100C Fan/Gas ¼. Wash the jars in hot, soapy water, rinse thoroughly, then put them on a baking tray (rim side up) in the oven for 30 minutes.

To sterilise the lids, put them in a small saucepan of boiling water and boil for 10 minutes.

Pack the mincemeat into sterilised jars, pressing down to try to remove any air bubbles. Seal the lids. Store in a cool dark place until you want to use it. It will taste even better after two weeks or so. The mincemeat will keep for up to three months.

Dawn x

Name the Islands Quiz (Both real and imagined).

1. Featured in the musical "South pacific."
2. Largest Island in the World,
3. Birthplace of Napoleon.
4. Home to Father Ted and Dougal.
5. Known by the natives as Ynys Mon.
6. Highest populated island in the world.
7. Largest Island in the Mediterranean.
8. Known as Vectis by the Romans.
9. Home of the Thunderbirds.
10. The land of the little people in "Gulliver's Travels".
11. The largest of the Japanese islands.
12. Napoleon exiled here after the Battle of Waterloo.
13. New York neighbourhood that features an Amusement park.
14. Thomas the Tank Engine works here.
15. State of Australia.
16. Contains both Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
17. Island prison in the Harry potter stories.
18. Where the Trodos mountains can be found.
19. Largest of the Canary Islands.
20. Where King Kong was found.
21. 2005 animated feature.
22. Title of book by RM Ballantyne.
23. Favourite Island of Gracie Fields.
24. Late 70s TV series.
25. Only island shared by three nations.

With thanks to Sally and Albert.

Answers on Page 38

How do I join an on-line Service?

If you are not so familiar with the on-line world but you would like to join one of the services, here's some good news! It's easy!

Go to: facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk

Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

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



Quiz Answers:

1. BALI HA'I. 2. GREENLAND. 3. CORSICA. 4. CRAGGY ISLAND. 5. ANGLESEY. 6. JAVA. 7. SICILY. 8. ISLE OF WIGHT. 9. TRACEY ISLAND. 10. LILLIPUT. 11. HONSHU. 12. SAINT HELENA. 13. CONEY ISLAND. 14. SODOR. 15. TASMANIA. 16. HISPANIOLA. 17. AZKABAN. 18. CYPRUS. 19. TENERIFE. 20. SKULL ISLAND. 21. MADAGASCAR. 22. CORAL ISLAND. 23. CAPRI. 24. FANTASY ISLAND. 25. BORNEO.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—

(none this month)



DEATHS



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

Samuel Proctor

WEDDINGS:

(none this month)

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.



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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 **W** hc-one.co.uk



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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.
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Learning.**



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Diocese of Leeds

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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:

October.

Sat 11th: Harvest Supper & Quiz. 6.00pm.

Sun 12th: Harvest Festival Service 10.30am.

Thurs 16th: Lydgate Lodge Service. 11.00am.

Sat 18th: Woodkirk Walkers ramble. 10.30am.

Fri 24th: Hilltop School Harvest Service. 9.00am

Sun 26th: Wakefield Cathedral Service with
Bishop Nick. 3.30pm.

Fri 31st: Soup & Cake in Church. 12pm-2pm.

November.

Sun 2nd: All Souls Service. 7.00pm.

Sun 9th: Remembrance Service. 10.30am.

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