

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

November 2025



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Who's who at Woodkirk

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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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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
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Vicar's Letter

As the leaves fall and the evenings draw in, our minds turn once again to that poignant moment in November when the nation pauses together — Remembrance Sunday. Every year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we observe two minutes of silence, joining with countless others across the country and beyond in honouring those who served, suffered, and sacrificed in conflict. It is a solemn ritual, one which might feel distant to some in today's fast-moving world, and yet it remains vital — perhaps more so now than ever.

Remembrance is not merely about history. It is about identity, community, gratitude, and responsibility. It is about acknowledging that the freedoms, rights, and relative peace we enjoy today were not achieved without cost. They were bought not in abstract ideals or political rhetoric, but in the real lives of men and women — mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, friends and neighbours — whose stories deserve to be remembered, retold, and honoured.

In the early twentieth century, when the first Armistice Day was observed in 1919, the grief felt in Britain was raw and overwhelming. Nearly every household had experienced loss; the names inscribed on village memorials were familiar. Today, fewer and fewer people have a direct connection to the World Wars. Many of the veterans of later conflicts are also ageing, and the voices that could speak firsthand of the horrors of war are gradually falling silent. For this very reason, remembrance cannot fade. When living memory becomes recorded history, the responsibility of storytelling passes more intentionally to us.

War is brutal, tragic, and destructive. Seen through the lens of faith, it is also a painful reminder of human brokenness — a reminder that

sin, division, and violence persist in the world. Jesus called peacemakers “blessed” and taught us to love our enemies, challenging us with values radically opposed to the logic of war. And yet, throughout history, Christians and others have found themselves stepping forward in defence of the vulnerable, in protection of their homes and families, and in resistance against tyranny. We remember them not to glorify violence, but to recognise the courage that emerges when people stand against evil.

Remembrance Sunday, therefore, invites us both to look back with humility and gratitude, and to look forward with hope and determination. It is rooted in reflection — not victory parades or patriotism, but grief, silence, and prayer. It asks us to consider not only the soldiers in uniform, but the civilians whose lives were shattered: those who lived through the Blitz, refugees forced from their homes, prisoners of war, children evacuated to unfamiliar places, parents waiting for news that never came. It reminds us that war’s consequences ripple outward for generations.

As we gather at our cenotaphs and war memorials, placing wreaths and bowing our heads, we enact a kind of collective memory — a shared acknowledgment that humanity can and must learn from its past. The two minutes’ silence is a profound moment; it cuts through noise and distraction, inviting us to hold still the stories of sacrifice and to confront the uncomfortable truth that peace is fragile. In those brief moments, we are connected with millions of others around the country — united not by ideology but by remembrance.

For Christians, this act of remembering also finds deep resonance in our faith. At the heart of our worship is another act of remembrance — Christ’s command at the Last Supper: “Do this in remembrance of me.” In Holy Communion, we recall Jesus’ sacrifice, the giving of his

life so that others might live. While the sacrifice of soldiers cannot and should not be equated with Christ's saving work, there is an echo of sacrificial love in those who laid down their lives for others. As Jesus himself said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Remembrance Sunday invites us to ponder the costly nature of love — not sentimentally, but as a call to live differently in the everyday choices we make.

It is also important to recognise that remembrance is not confined to the past. Unfortunately, war is not something humanity has left behind. Conflicts continue across the globe — in places like Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Sudan, and many others — with countless lives disrupted or destroyed. We must hold these present realities in prayer, even as we honour those who served in the conflicts of yesterday. Our remembrance must be compassionate and outward-looking, urging us to work for peace wherever God has placed us.

Young people often ask, "Why should we remember something that happened before we were born?" It is a fair question, and our answer must be thoughtful. We remember not just because of what happened, but because of what must never happen again. When memory fades, complacency creeps in; when stories are forgotten, mistakes are repeated. By teaching the next generation about the past — its courage and its devastation — we are equipping them to build a more peaceful future. Remembrance invites us all to become advocates for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

In church, our services on Remembrance Sunday hold a special place in the year. We read Scripture that speaks of God's promise of peace — swords beaten into ploughshares, nations learning war no more. We pray for those who still bear the scars of conflict: veterans struggling with trauma, families grieving their loved ones, communities rebuilding after destruction. We entrust all who have died into God's

eternal care, confident that his love extends beyond the grave. And we renew our own commitment to be peacemakers — in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, and in the world.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday this year, I encourage you to take time to reflect. Visit the memorial in our church; read the names aloud; consider the human stories behind each inscription. If possible, speak with a veteran or someone whose life has been shaped by conflict. Pray for peace — not as an abstract desire but as a practical longing for God's justice and compassion to prevail. And join us as we gather to remember together.

May this season deepen our gratitude, renew our hope, and strengthen our resolve to follow Christ, the Prince of Peace. As we honour the past, let us also commit ourselves to building a world in which peace is cherished, protected, and shared. For remembrance is not only about those who gave their lives — it is about how we choose to live ours.

Blessings

Sharon



Woodkirk Walkers – the East Ardsley Soiree.

This month's Woodkirk walk saw the group tread a familiar path from St Michael's church in East Ardsley to Ardsley Nature Reserve, under the M1 and across to Carr Gate. We briefly stopped, (1.5 hours), before heading off again through the Police complex joining the public footpath under the M1 and a steady climb back up to St Michael's church. The walk was nearly over before it began as the blokes, (Gary, Dave, Rich and Teilo) set off chatting and catching up. unbeknownst to them, the ladies, (Rosie and Kath), had stopped to chat with the floppy eared goat and numerous chickens. Luckily the men also stopped to chat with some horses, so the ladies soon caught up. Teilo was in his element, just far too many broken branches to choose from in his non-stop game of 'fetch'.

Most of the early part of the walk was sedate and relaxed. The nature reserve was quiet apart from the distant buzz from the cars on the motorway. As the group neared Carr Gate, thoughts turned to refreshments and the lunchtime pie test offered up at The Malt Shovel. Rev Sharon and Deputy Gail joined the group for food and drink. Everyone ate



and were satisfied and the walkers got back in their stride, waving Gary off who had a wedding rehearsal at St Mary's.

If you thought the full bellies might slow Kath down, you'd be wrong as she was speeding off ahead. Navigating the Police complex without appearing to be trespassing was actually a cinch. Rejoining the public footpath, we meandered our way around the perimeter of the Police complex until we went under the M1. Teilo was off the lead and although there were many stiles for the humans to chamber over, luckily someone had had the presence of mind to leave gaps in the fences big enough for dogs to fit through.

Apart from the odd squirrel, songbirds, ponies and horses we didn't encounter too much of the Parish's nature, but when we surfaced onto Bradford Road opposite the Tesco/Esso garage everyone had enjoyed the walk. For most there were some new tracks, we tried some different food and most of all had a great time socialising. Overall, the distance covered was about 5 miles and it took roughly 4 hours (including the refreshment break). Hopefully there will be more of us for the November walk.

God bless.

Richard



Spotlight on Dennis O Moss

As we take time in November to pause and reflect on those who lost their lives in conflicts past and present, I have chosen, this month, to focus on Dennis O Moss, a name remembered on our church war memorial.

We are lucky in that on both our First and Second World War panels of names, that some of those remembered are known and, in some cases, their descendants are still members of the Church, but alas many of the names listed are unknown to us, their situation, their stories and their families.

It was during a discussion with my local history colleague and friend Clive McManus that he just dropped into conversation that Dennis O Moss was the son of the Mayor of Morley.

I then spent time with Clive looking up Dennis's story and also discovered a full description of the incident that caused Dennis to lose his life, an online article from 2018 which was researched and written by David Wright and Barry Cox with input and photographs provided by Dennis's son and daughter in law Christopher and Denise Moss.

What the article shared was that Dennis Oswald Moss was born on the 8th October 1912 in Dewsbury. He was the son of Councilor Dennis Moss, founder of Dennis Moss & Son, cloth finishers, and Martha Moss (nee Holmes)

View of Queen's Mill and Albert Mill located at the rear of Morley Town Hall. (Where Morrisons and the car park are today) Queen's Mill is in the foreground with an entrance on Albion Street courtesy of Leodis Photo Archive – David Atkinson Archive Collection



Dennis's father, also called Dennis, was a distinguished local man, mayor of Morley in 1940.

A wartime picture showing a group of people on Morley Town Hall steps, including several in uniform, under the banner "Help us to form Street Savings Groups". The Mayor of Morley shown is Dennis Moss. Photograph from the David Atkinson Archive.



Dennis married Ruth Briggs, eldest daughter of an Ossett mill owner, in July 1938. On the outbreak of war in 1939 they were living at Rydal, Rein Road.

Wedding notice (courtesy The Leeds Mercury 21 July 1938).



Dennis joined the RAF in September 1941, despite being in a reserved occupation and trained in South Africa from March until October 1942, when he was granted a commission as Pilot Officer with Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Service Number 130874.

Dennis was killed on the 27th February 1943 and a report into his death was in the Morley Advertiser on the 5th March, with details of his internment in Morley Cemetery.

The 2018 article of David Wright and Barry Cox, they included the following details from the official report into Dennis and his crew's death.

The official record of the tragedy reads:

27 February 1943 Wellington Mark III, serial number X3985 Training: After engine failure, the trainee pilot lost control and crashed at Hazelbury House Farm, Box, Wiltshire. All the occupants were killed. Following a request by Dennis's son Christopher,

the Ministry of Defence provided more details of the tragedy:



They wrote:-

"On 27 February 1943, the crew of X3985 was tasked with a cross-country bombing exercise. At 1500 hours, the aircraft was seen to approach Colerne airfields downwind in a gentle right-hand turn and at a low speed with port engine turning over slowly. The aircraft was in a position to land downwind with the undercarriage retracted, but continued to turn towards Box, where in an attempt to climb, the aircraft stalled and crashed at Hazelbury House Farm, near Box. It was stated that the aircraft was unable to maintain height on one engine, although it could not be determined whether the engine failed or not as the crew may have been practising one engine flying."



The plane that Dennis was in was a Vickers Wellington operating from RAF Upper Heyford near Bicester in Oxfordshire and at the time they were tasked with delivering night bombing training.

RAF Upper Heyford was the home of various units of Bomber Command during the Second World War. The training flight may have been in anticipation of the massive assault planned on the heartland of German production in the so-called Battle of the Ruhr starting in March 1943.

Dawn x



We will remember them.

Gail's Pastoral Journey continues...

Well it has now been 21 years since I became a Lay Pastoral Minister.

Throughout these years I think I have grown in confidence and with Gods help, support and love I have been able to carry out the work he has called me to do.

I have been lucky to work with some very supportive Vicar's and met some wonderful people, some who are no longer with us, but have made long lasting memories in my heart. I am very Lucky and thank God everyday for this task he set before me and the faith he had in me to carry out his work, especially when I kept telling him this was not for me.

How could I sit with someone who was dying, and offer comfort to those left behind, when I was also feeling their pain, but there he was, always standing before me, giving me the strength and words to say.

They say God works in mysterious ways, just take one look at me - 21 years he has been working on me, and I am still here trying to do his will. He knows I have enjoyed every minute of my Ministry to him - yes it has been hard at times, especially losing those whom I had become close to during my visiting, but the strength God has given me has helped me through.

Visiting those in Lydgate Lodge Care Home, has been a privilege of my ministry, meeting such wonderful residents and carers and joining in our services and especially the singing. Christmas carol singing is always a special time with the residents - seeing their faces light up when singing the songs they have known since childhood.

And to those I am still privileged to be visiting and enjoying their company and sharing God's love with - thank you for letting me

into your homes and sharing God's love.

Well, I don't think there will be another 21 years, but with Gods help and if he is willing to let me It would be a privilege to carry on the path he set before me all those years ago, serving him will always be my mission so let's hope I can carry on his work for a few more years.

Amen.



Gail and supportive Vicar..

Hilltop School Harvest festival

Friday 24th October saw the whole school and staff and a few parents welcomed into church for this annual event. As always it is a joyous occasion. The children's enthusiasm and singing is always wonderful. The children brought lots of bags of food to be donated to the Foodbank.

Familiar songs were sung, Cabbages and greens, Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green and some new ones to be remembered, Share what you have, It's harvest time.

I was privileged, in my capacity of Foodbank Trustee to take Rev Sharon's spot in the service. I told them what was going to happen to the food. and also what it was like working as a volunteer in a Foodbank.

The total donation was 81 kilos which equates to 192 meals, so well done Hill Top School.

Barbara.



V.J. Anniversary

Following the article about the Waring Brothers, I thought you might like to know more about Ewans Family.

Annie his widow and Margaret his daughter, both better known locally as Annie Fisher and Peggy Hill.

Annie with her sister Nellie had a shop in Queen Street, Morley for many years selling Baby Wear, Knitting Wool and Haberdashery, Ewan was on leave before being drafted abroad.

Peggy never knew her father, she married John Hill who attended St. Mary's for a number of years until he passed away in 2016. Peggy passed in 2002.

John gave the kneelers around the Alter Rail in her memory and both of their ashes are interned in the Cremation Plot.

Alice.



All Souls' Day

A Service of reflection and prayer to
remember those that we love but no longer see.

SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 7PM
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WOODKIRK.



St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Remembrance Sunday Service

**Sunday 9th November
10.30am**



Thank you Lord.

I've spoken in another article about the 'Pray as you Go' app I've been listening to.

I must admit, listening to these short reflections was something I enjoyed during my recent recovery from a minor operation.

On this particular day, the focus was on God's kindness and the musical introduction was a song of thanksgiving;

What shall I say? Unto the Lord, All I have to say is thank you Lord, For the breath in my lungs, for the strength in my body, You're a wonderful father to me.

And as I was taking it easy and allowing myself to recover I did feel a huge sense of thanks for my improving health, thanks for those who were taking care of me, their skills and abilities that hopefully have made me well.

The reflection bible passage for this day was Romans 2: 1-11
Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. - . ' Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

These were quite sobering words from St Paul, especially as we were thinking about thanksgiving, but perhaps they were also quite 'liberating'?

The reading starts with 'WHOEVER YOU ARE'!

That's all of us, doesn't matter whether we're young, old,

whatever nationality, richer, poorer etc etc, when it comes to the judgement of God, not one of us is any better than the other.

And that is an amazing thing we should be thankful for. I don't know about you, but I think, we as humans seem to be forever judging others. Do we sometimes find ourselves shouting at something on the news or expressing incredulity at a situation. The problem is that when we do this we are being judgemental. We have a standard and for whatever reason, the situation or person has failed to reach that standard.

However, if we think about that in the light of St Paul's words to the Romans, when we do this, we are condemning ourselves. That in itself isn't good, but then just imagine God's judgement?

God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance, not make us judge others. Can we sit with God in his kindness a while, and not be afraid of touching on the whole topic of judgement but in the context of becoming aware of the riches of God's kindness and forbearance and patience with us.

Whilst thinking this through it also brought to mind the passage of the workers in the vineyard in Matthew chapter 20:

'But he answered one of them, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"' So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

We might think that is a bit unfair, we may have led a blameless life, done good deeds, been generous etc etc, why then should we be behind someone who perhaps has only sought God at the last moment? But of course our understanding of the 'queue' might be very different, why should we imagine we are amongst the first?

We have a similar situation here. Our first topic is God's kindness and forbearance and patience, the second one God's generosity.

Whenever I find myself 'grumbling' or as my dad used to call it 'chuntering' about things I think about how grateful I am that God doesn't grumble or chunter about me. I am not perfect, by a long chalk, and it is in this context that I am forever grateful that God doesn't think or behave as I sadly sometimes find myself doing. Because, let's be honest, if God thought like me I'd probably be in a bit of a mess.

We are all made in God's image, we are his children, but as our loving heavenly father he forgives us, he has limitless patience, he is kind and he is generous, which we can be, but as mere humans we probably whether consciously or unconsciously most likely have a limit to these things.

All God asks of us is to enter into a relationship with him. When we do this we can see things differently, we should consider situations differently, and we need to remember God's kindness and forbearance His patience and generosity.

We can never earn all this, we are given it as part of God's grace. If we stop and think, then 'WHOEVER WE ARE' God will be in our hearts and minds and help us overcome our mean and judgmental thoughts and truly lead us to repentance.

What shall I say? Unto the Lord, All I have to say is thank you Lord,

*For the breath in my lungs, for the strength in my body,
You're a wonderful father to me.*

Amen and Amen.

Dawn.

Who Do You Say I Am?

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” — Matthew 16:15



Even today this passage talks to us it is a short but powerful question, Jesus moves from the crowd to the individual. It's one thing to know what others say about Jesus, but it's something entirely different to confess Him for ourselves. When He asked His disciples, “Who do you say I am?” He wasn't fishing for compliments—He was asking for conviction.

Peter responded, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (v.16). That confession is the bedrock of our faith. Jesus isn't just a teacher, prophet, or moral example. He is the Christ—God in the flesh, the Savior sent to redeem sinners. We live in a time when many have opinions about Jesus. Some see Him as a spiritual guide, others as a historical figure. But Jesus still asks each of us the same question: *Who do you say I am?*

Our answer reveals everything—our relationship with God, our hope in this life, and our destiny in the next. Let us not offer borrowed answers or cultural clichés. Let us respond like Peter, with bold faith in the One who gave His life for us. Let us take time today to examine our hearts. Have we truly confessed Jesus as Lord? Let our actions, words, and priorities reflect that He is not just a Savior, but *our* Savior.

Prayers:

Lord, help me to know You personally and confess You boldly.

Strengthen my faith to stand firm in a world of confusion.
Use my life as a testimony to who You truly are.

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.

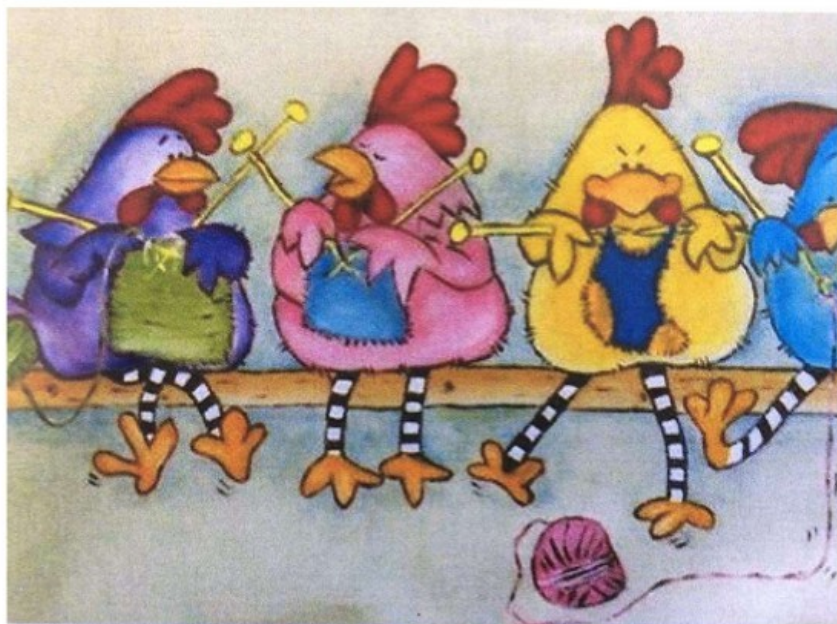
Weddings and Banns

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

Remembering the Fallen: Cpl George Green.

Recently we have discovered a grave at the far end of the graveyard of Herbert & Sarah Green. The headstone also has a memorial to Cpl George Green. Killed in action at sea June 24th 1944.

We have discovered he was from the 43rd Regiment (2/5th Btn Gloucester Regiment). Service No 3131740. Reconnaissance Corps.

The Regiment lost 'A' and 'C' Squadrons through the sinking of the Motor Transport Ship T72 (the Derrycuniyh) off Sword Beach, Normandy on 24 June 1944. Also remembered on the Bayeux memorial (Panel 3), France and on the Memorial Board in church.

MV Derrycuniyh (MTS T72) was a British cargo ship used as military transport during the Second World War. Known as the T72.

The Regimental War Diary records that "Great gallantry was displayed by all troops in the two aft holds" and lists 183 men of the regiment lost and about 120 others evacuated wounded.

In addition, 25 of the ship's crew, (including Army gunners and a Royal Observer Corps Seaborne Observer), died in the disaster, which represented the biggest single loss of life off the Normandy invasion beaches.

What happened:

Shortly after D-Day the ship was selected to transport one of the regiments required for the build-up of troops in the Normandy bridgehead. On 18 June 1944, A and C squadrons of the 43rd (Wessex) Reconnaissance Regiment ("43 Recce") embarked at West India Docks, London, aboard the T72.

She joined a convoy off Southend-on-Sea, and arrived off the British landing area Sword Beach, Normandy, on the evening of 20 June. High seas and enemy shelling prevented unloading for three days and it was decided to move T72 to Juno Beach for disembarkation.

As the ship started engines at 07.40am on the morning of 24 June it detonated an acoustic or "Oyster" mine. This had been dropped by one of the nightly Luftwaffe raiders.

The mine exploded under the keel, splitting the ship in two, and the after part, packed with sleeping men of 43 Recce, sank rapidly. Worse still, a 3-tonner ammunition lorry caught fire, and oil floating on the water was set alight.

Landing craft and the gunboat HMS Locust quickly came alongside and picked up survivors, most of whom were evacuated to SS Cap Touraine, a former French liner.

Unfortunately Corporal George Green was not one of these.

We will remember
him once again as
part of our
Remembrance
Service on Sunday
9th November as well
as all the others from
the Memorial Board.

David



November Recipes

Hello all, hope you are doing ok now that we've got our earlier darker nights.

More tasty warming recipes for this month, hope you like them.

As we've just had Hallowe'en, you might want to take advantage of the reduced leftover pumpkins in the shops. These will also be tasty if you're having a bonfire/fireworks evening.

Pumpkin Stew

500g Stewing Beef – cut into chunks

2 tbsp vegetable oil

2 onions – sliced or chopped

600g carrots – cut into chunks

1 celery stick – roughly sliced

2 Bay leaves; 1 ½ tbsp tomato puree; 1

½ tbsp plain flour

1 litre vegetable stock; 250ml ale or beer

¼ small bunch of thyme; 1 medium pumpkin (about 500g, peeled, deseeded and chopped. Mashed Potato or Crusty Bread to serve

Method

Heat the oil in a large, lidded pan or flameproof casserole and fry the beef in batches for a few minutes over a medium-high heat until browned. Remove to a bowl and set aside. Fry the onion in the same pan over a medium heat for 6-8 mins, or until softened.

Stir in the carrots, celery, thyme and bay, and cook for a few minutes more to soften slightly. Return the beef to the pan, then mix in the tomato purée and flour.

Pour in the stock and ale, season well, then bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 1 hr. Stir in the pumpkin and cook for 30 mins-1 hr until the veg and beef are tender. Serve with mash or crusty bread for mopping up the gravy.



Or how about using the pumpkin for a pasta dish?

Creamy Pumpkin Pasta

2 tbsp olive oil; 1 onion - finely chopped; 2 garlic cloves - crushed; 500g pumpkin - or squash, peeled and cut into roughly 3cm cubes; 50-100ml whole milk; 2 tbsp tomato purée; 2 tbsp mascarpone; 350g short pasta - (rigatoni or penne work well). 40g grated parmesan - or vegetarian alternative, plus extra to serve



Heat the oil in a large, shallow, flameproof [casserole](#) or frying pan over a low-medium heat and fry the onion with a pinch of salt for 10-15 mins until softened and translucent. Add the garlic and fry for 1 min more. Remove from the heat and leave to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, cook the pumpkin in a pan of boiling salted water for 10-15 mins until tender when pierced with a cutlery knife. Drain and tip into a [blender](#) (or use a [hand blender](#)). Blitz with 50ml milk and the onions until completely smooth, gradually adding more milk until the mixture is thick enough to just coat the back of a spoon (you may not need all the milk).

Tip into a large frying pan with the tomato purée and mascarpone, and bring to a simmer over a low heat.

Cook the pasta in a large pan of boiling, salted water following pack instructions. Drain, reserving a cupful of the cooking water.

Toss the pasta with the pumpkin sauce, parmesan and 50-100ml of the reserved water to loosen.

Season and scatter with extra parmesan.

And something sweet...

Pumpkin Spice Loaf Cake

200g/7oz unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
100g/3½oz caster sugar; 100g/3½oz soft light brown sugar
3 free-range eggs; 200g/7oz self-raising flour; 1 lemon, zest only;
1 tsp baking powder; 2 tsp ground cinnamon; 2 tsp ground
ginger; pinch grated nutmeg; 100g/3½oz tinned pumpkin purée
(or fresh pumpkin pureed). 2 tbsp demerara sugar; 100g/3½oz
pecans, roughly chopped.

Preheat the oven to
180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
Grease and line a 900g/2lb
loaf tin with baking paper.
Place the butter and both
sugars in a large bowl and
beat until smooth and pale.



Scrape down the bowl so everything is combined and gradually
beat in the eggs, one at a time.
Add the flour, lemon zest, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger and
nutmeg and fold in until you have a smooth batter. Beat in the
pumpkin purée.
Tip the cake mixture into the loaf tin and level the surface.
Evenly sprinkle over the demerara and pecans.
Bake for 45–50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the
middle of the cake comes out clean. After 30 minutes, cover with
kitchen foil so the pecans do not colour too much.
Leave to cool completely in the tin
before serving.

Dawn x



The Greatest Preacher.

I love reading the Gospels and wishing that I could have been one of the people sat at Jesus's feet as he preached to them through parables. So I hope that you will agree with me that Jesus is the greatest preacher to ever walk the face of the Earth.

So let us look and see if we can work out how Jesus did teach? After looking through the Gospels I picked out six of Jesus's methods that he used to get the word out into the villages and towns.

1. Jesus Told Stories

Jesus told countless parables (Mark 4:34). He pulled spiritual truth from everyday life. Not only did these stories make Jesus' teaching more memorable, but they also connected in much more profound way. Think about the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus could have proclaimed, "God loves you so much that He will welcome you back to Him no matter how far you have wandered away." That is definitely true. However, Jesus instead chooses to tell the story of a boy who disowned his family, parted away his inheritance, came home to beg for mercy, but was surprisingly welcomed with open arms by his father who waited daily for his return. Which I think this is a more powerful way of telling the story - hope you agree.

2. Jesus Shocked People

Jesus often taught using outrageous examples, exaggerations and shocking statements that got people's attention. These statements were not all meant to be taken literally, but they definitely got the point across. For example, Jesus didn't really mean we have to rip out our eyes and amputate our hands for causing us to sin (Matthew 5:29-30), just think if we though he really wanted us to take this literally, all Christians would be blind amputees. He also didn't mean that the people he spoke to literally had logs in their eyes, (Matthew 7:3-5). I think he was

trying to say we are not looking at the situation clearly, our vision is clouded, and we need to think about the situations we find ourselves in with a clear vision. Jesus was simply making a very clear point. He said things that shocked people and exaggerated the truth to emphasise His point. Maybe if we want people to listen to us when we are talking about Jesus, we should use words that grab attention and communicate the point clearly.

3. Jesus Crafted Memorable Sayings

Jesus spoke poetically. He often used catchy sayings and plays on words. This isn't always apparent in English translations. However, in the original language, Jesus made it much easier for his listeners to remember what he said.

For example, Jesus memorably said, "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:37-38a,).

Another great example is the Golden Rule (Luke 6:31). If we want to talk like Jesus, let us do as he did craft a memorable statement. Make the main point easy to remember. If those we talk to remember the message, they will be able to take it with them wherever they go.

4. Jesus Asked Questions

Rather than tell everyone the answer right away, Jesus used thoughtful, probing questions to help people explore their beliefs. He led His audience to conclusions by asking a lot of questions. For examples check out Matthew 16:26, or 22:20-21.

Jesus found questions were a powerful teaching method, especially when teaching a hostile crowd (like unbelievers). Questions stimulate critical thinking. Jesus also found asking good questions made the audience hungry to find the answers, and to get his audience to use their own brains.

5. Jesus Used Object Lessons

Jesus often used object lessons to communicate to his audience. He washed the feet of the disciples to teach servant leadership (John 13:3-17). He called a little child to him to discuss childlike faith (Matthew 18:1-4). He described unselfish giving after watching a widow drop two small coins into the temple offering (Mark 12:41-44). When he told the parable of the Sower, there is a good chance he was standing near a field. Jesus loved to use visually communications.

6. Jesus Used Repetition

When we look at Jesus's teaching, he helped his audience learn His lessons by frequently repeating Himself. He taught the same major themes again and again. For example, Jesus spoke of his death and resurrection over and over again (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34), and the disciples still didn't get it. Maybe when we talk to people, we need to repeat our stories from the Gospels many times over before it fully sinks in. In addition, teachings that get repeated get remembered.

If we want to relate to outsiders the beliefs of a good Christian, let us look no further than Jesus.

Gail.



“You are worth more than many sparrows”

In the middle of October I was listening to my daily prayer app ‘Pray as You Go’.

The title for the day was ‘In God’s Sight’ and the reading for the day was Luke 12 1-7 in which Jesus warns the people but then ends with the reminder;

“...Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows”

The narrative asked me to consider, in these words, what they told me about aspects of the character of God? To consider the importance of: Transparency (what is said in the dark will be heard in the light), Courage and trusting in the all-seeing, all knowing God. If you have looked up the passage, we are invited to consider the contrasts – thousands were gathered to hear Jesus, trampling over one another to hear him, yet Jesus homes in on tiny details of sparrows and the hairs on our heads!

The start of the daily reflection began with a song by Jon Guerra entitled Reckoner and I’ve included below the words that ‘spoke’ to me;

Reckoner

These are the days of the devil in the wilderness

These are the tastes that have turned into bitterness

It’s not that we doubt that a stone can turn into bread

It’s just we doubt that we’re hungry at all

The serial temptations of the age are getting harder
The country's getting meaner, computers getting smarter
The pains we try to numb are only getting sharper
We're going on like nothing's the matter at all

The phone in my pocket was sold like a gain to me
I've lost so much time and attention to technology
That sells me the lie that it knows what I really need
And God knows it only makes me feel more alone

Every valley will be lifted, Every mountain brought low
When the reckoner comes reckoning every secret will be known
Truly, truly, I tell you truly, there's an axe laid at the root
Before the reckoner comes reckoning, repent. Believe in the truth

We shall not live by bread alone
But by every word that comes from the mouth of God

Truly, truly, I tell you truly, as you did it to one of these,
to the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me
For I was hungry, and you fed me, I was thirsty, you gave me a drink
I was a stranger, and you welcomed me, you did unto me

Some trust in chariots, in power or politicians
Some trust in the market of collective superstitions
But we trust in the name of the Lord of crucifixion
And the hope of resurrection in Jesus Christ.

Dawn.

Christingles, can you help?

Hi friends

Just a little reminder that I am looking for some lovely volunteers to help make the 250 Christingles we need for our two services on Christmas Eve.



Could you spare an hour or two on Tuesday 23rd December and join us from 2.00pm to help create these wonderful little orange globes of light and loveliness.

We are lucky that we have a number of very experienced helpers, but we are also always on the lookout for new members to come and join us (you may even be able to munch a few spare sweeties too).

No experience necessary, just warm clothing and a sense of humour!

We hope to see you at 2.00pm in Church on Tuesday 23rd December.

Thanks as always.

Dawn x



**The
Children's
Society**

Alberts November Quiz.

1. Coniston Water is in which National Park?
2. Who was the Leader of the Conservative Party from 1990 to 1997?
3. Who wrote the 1885 Novel Alices Adventures in Wonderland?
4. In which Soap did Leslie Grantham play Dirty Den Watts?
5. In which County is Stonehenge?
6. In the Nursery Rhyme who does Old Mother Hubbard go to the cupboard for food for?
7. In what Sport was Yorkshire's Big Daddy associated?
8. Daddy Long Legs is another name for (a) Fruit Fly (b) Spanish Fly (c) Crane Fly?
9. Which London Cricket Ground has a Weathervane in the shape of Father Time removing the Bails from a Wicket?
10. In 2025 which month was Mothering Sunday celebrated?
11. According to the Hit Record What Kind of Love did Doris Day have?
12. Of which Country was Golda Meir the first female Prime Minister?
13. Who was the First Man to set foot on the Moon?
14. Which Country was the first to give Votes to Women?
15. Which Rodent appeared on desks in 1983?
16. It occurs in a minute, twice in a week and once in a year?
17. From which animal do we get Mohair?
18. Who played Alexis Colby in Dynasty?
19. Ikebana is the Japanese Art of arranging what?

With thanks to Sally and Albert.

Answers on Page 42

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. Lake District, 2) John Major, 3) Lewis Carroll, 4) Eastenders, 5) Wiltshire, 6) The Dog, 7) Wrestling, 8) Crane Fly (C), 9) Lords, 10) March, 11) Secret Love, 12) Israel, 13) Neil Armstrong, 14) New Zealand, 15) Mouse, 16) E, (17) Angora Goat, (18) Joan Collins, 19) Flowers,

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—

Jacob Andrew Everitt



DEATHS



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

John Brook Ainley

WEDDINGS:

Tyler James McGowen &
Aaliyah Mae Hill

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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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.
Living.
Learning.**



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Diocese of Leeds

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What's on

(please contact the leaders for further information)

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

Line Dancing 1.00-3.30pm Tuesday
Contact Helena 07719946917

Knit and Natter—come and enjoy help with crafts or just chat
Wednesday 1.00-3.00pm.
Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239

Pilates **Wednesday 7.00– 8.00pm**
Contact Erin Blake

Young at Heart 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:00pm
Sally Shaw 07963610708

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm
Ruth Osenton-Brown 07805186479

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm
Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

Beavers Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm
Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877

Cubs Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm
Marianne Ingham 07778 542302

Scouts Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927

Explorer Scouts Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm
Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Diary and Services this Month.

Sunday Services.

Each Sunday there will be a Holy Communion Service at 10.30am in Church as well as Online.

Weekday Services

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

Special Services and Events:

November.

Sun 2nd: All Souls Service. 7.00pm.

Sun 9th: Remembrance Service. 10.30am.

Sat 15th: Woodkirk Walkers. 10:30am

Thur 20th: Lydgate Lodge HC. 11am

Sat 28th: Soup & Cake. 11:30– 1:30pm

December

Fri 5th: Christmas Tree Festival. 4pm—8pm

Sat 6th Christmas Tree Festival. 10–6pm

Christmas Fair 10am—2pm

Sun 7th: Christmas Tree Festival. 12–4pm

Family Carol Service 4pm

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