

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Happy Mother's Day

March 2026



Worship Online at:
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Who's who at Woodkirk

- Vicar of St Mary's:** **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**
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Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
- Assistant Churchwardens:** David Townsend
- Deanery Synod Reps** Brian Gledhill
Gary Mortimer
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- Organist:** Currently vacant
- PCC Secretary:** Dawn Tattersfield
- PCC Treasurer** Barbara Tate 07792 211095
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Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, 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.

Web Site & Facebook

For the latest news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's go to: A Church Near You and enter 'Woodkirk' in the search box.

www.achurchnearyou.com

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk

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.

Did you know?

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

Wheelchair Access

A wheelchair is available to help people move easily between the Church and Dewsbury Road. Ask in the Church on arrival if you have a friend or loved one in need of assistance and we will be happy to help.

**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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1.00 to 3.30pm Tuesdays in the Parish Hall

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Did you know?

We place our Parish Magazine on our website each month therefore YOUR Advert reaches many more people.

To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

Quarter Page £35.00

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Vicar's Letter

Every year, when Lent rolls around, I'm reminded of that familiar mixture of feelings we all seem to share: a bit of determination, a bit of trepidation, a hint of weariness, and—if we're honest—a slight panic that we've once again reached Ash Wednesday without having the faintest idea what we're "doing for Lent" this time. Some of us are full of good intentions; others are already quietly negotiating the terms of our own Lenten failures. And yet, somehow, year after year, Lent still manages to offer us something meaningful, something grounding, something hopeful.

As I've been preparing for Lent this year, I've been thinking about how easy it is to shrink the season down to a personal challenge—giving up chocolate, cutting down on screens, or vowing to behave better in some small way. There's nothing wrong with any of that, of course. But Lent is meant to be bigger, wider, more spacious than a self-improvement project. It's not about proving our willpower. It's about creating room for God's grace to move in us.

Jesus, after all, didn't head into the wilderness with a Fitbit goal or a plan to reduce sugar. He went because the Spirit led him, and because the desert had something to teach. And perhaps that's a good way for us to think about Lent this year: not as a test of how disciplined we are, but as a journey into a quieter place within ourselves, a place where God might meet us in ways we don't expect. One of the gifts of Lent is that it slows us down. It interrupts the steady hum of our busy routines and invites us to listen more carefully—both to God and to ourselves. In the quieter moments of Lent, if we allow them, we can notice things that are usually drowned out by noise: the worries we carry, the longings we've pushed aside, the spiritual aches we've grown used to ignoring. Lent is God's gentle nudge to pay attention.

But Lent is also about honesty. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday aren't meant to be gloomy or morbid. They're meant to remind us of our humanity—our limits, our fragility, our dependence on God. In a world that constantly tells us to be strong, self-sufficient, endlessly put-together, the ashes mark us with a truth we rarely admit: that we do not have to be perfect. That we are dust, and yet also beloved. That our broken places are not a disappointment to God but an opening for grace.

This year, I've been struck by how much our world needs the gifts Lent offers. We live in times that feel noisy, anxious, and hurried. Many people around us are carrying heavy burdens—worry for loved ones, uncertainty about the future, griefs that never quite go away. Lent encourages us not to hide those realities but to bring them honestly into God's presence. Sometimes the bravest thing we can do is sit quietly with what hurts, trusting that God is sitting with us too. And Lent isn't only about inward reflection—it's also outward-looking. Traditionally, the church speaks of Lent in three strands: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It strikes me that these three practices aren't meant to be separate tasks but three ways of helping us turn toward God and our neighbour. Prayer reorients our hearts. Fasting teaches us to let go of what distracts or numbs us. Almsgiving draws our attention to others and reminds us that faith is lived out in generosity and compassion.

I wonder what practices—formal or informal—might help you to enter Lent more deeply this year. Perhaps it's setting aside a few quiet minutes each morning for prayer. Perhaps it's choosing one small luxury to set aside, not to punish yourself, but to make space for something more meaningful. Perhaps it's keeping an eye out for someone who needs encouragement, or offering practical help where you can. Lent doesn't have to be grand or heroic. Often, the most transformative Lenten discipline is something simple, done consistently and with intention.

Another thought I keep returning to this year is the idea of Lent as a season of alignment. Not in the sense of lining up our habits flawlessly, but of gently realigning our hearts with God's heart. Over time, all of us drift in small ways—toward worry, toward impatience, toward self-reliance, toward busyness for its own sake. Lent is the church's annual reminder to pause, re-centre, and rediscover the steady, gracious heartbeat of God in the midst of all our wandering. And there's one more important thing: Lent is a journey with an ending. It doesn't leave us in the wilderness forever. It leads us to Holy Week, where we walk with Jesus through his final days, and ultimately to the joy of Easter morning. The cross and the resurrection are part of the same story. Lent prepares us—not through gloom, but through attentiveness—to receive that story with fresh eyes and an open heart.

So as we step into Lent together this year, I want to offer a simple encouragement: let's not be too hard on ourselves. Let's hold our Lenten practices lightly, not as burdens but as invitations. Let's remember that growth in faith is rarely dramatic; it's usually slow, steady, and almost imperceptible—much like the quiet lengthening of the days as spring approaches. And let's keep a sense of humour along the way, because even in Lent, God delights in our joy. Wherever you find yourself—full of plans, short on ideas, weary, hopeful, distracted, or ready for something new—I pray that this Lent will offer you moments of peace and clarity. I pray it will be a time of learning, of listening, and of rediscovering God's presence in the ordinary rhythms of life. Most of all, I pray that you will experience, in some small but real way, the gentle mercy that stands at the heart of this season.

May God bless you richly as we walk these forty days together.
With love and prayers,

Sharon

Marching through March

For the whole month of March, Gail is going to walk a mile every day to help raise funds for the East Window.

As you may know, Gail had not one but two strokes a couple of years ago and the four-score years milestone was also passed a while back, so this is quite a big challenge to complete the walk every day in March, without missing any days – even Mother’s Day!

Gail has been doing some training walks in February to get ready for her ordeal and would like to thank everyone who has sponsored her so far.

If you would like to sponsor her - please see Gail or you can scan the QR code below to make a donation.

Many thanks.



Gail with Revd. Sharon about to start a training walk in February



Down's Syndrome Awareness

A date for your diaries



Friday 20th March 2026.

10.00am - 12.00 noon.



Coffee Morning raising funds for Sunshine and Smiles the Leeds Down Syndrome Network.

World Down Syndrome Day is on Saturday 21st March, a day that aims to raise awareness of and was created to celebrate the lives of people with Down syndrome and to make sure they have the same freedoms and opportunities as everybody else.

Please come along and enjoy fellowship, refreshments and cake and be generous to support the work of Sunshine and Smiles a local support group.

If you can't attend then leave a donation before then either by cash or cheque to our treasurer Barbara or myself, via the card machine in church or electronically to our bank account, details:

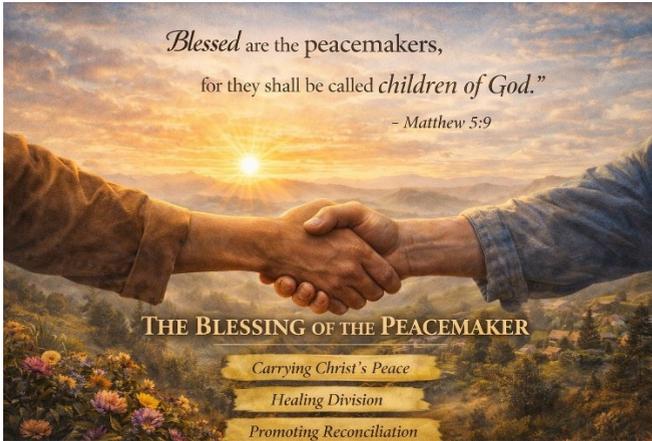
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Dawn

The Blessing of the Peacemaker



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

—**Matthew 5:9**

Reading this, it reminded me of the state of the world today, so I hope you do not mind, but thought I would share it with you. In a world filled with conflict, division, and strife, Jesus calls His followers to be something radically different peacemakers. This beatitude doesn't describe those who merely avoid conflict, but those who actively pursue peace, who bring reconciliation where there is division, and healing where there is brokenness.

To be a peacemaker is to reflect the heart of God Himself. Our Lord is not indifferent to the turmoil of this

world; He sent His Son to reconcile sinners to Himself and to one another. When we follow in His footsteps—by speaking truth in love, forgiving offences, and promoting unity—we walk as true children of God.

Let us ask ourselves: Am I a peacekeeper or a peacemaker? One avoids tension; the other steps into it with grace and truth. Whether in our family, our church, or our community, let us seek to be a person who carries the peace of Christ. Don't just wish for peace—pursue it. In doing so, we reveal our identity as a child of the God of peace.

Prayer:

Lord, shape us into a true peacemaker who reflects Your heart.

Help us bring reconciliation where there is conflict.

Let our lives reveal that we are Your child by the peace we carry.

Amen

Gail.

Earth Hour – 28th March 2026

What's in an hour?

40 winks?

Cooking tea?

Sitting reading a book?

Online Shopping?

Scrolling on your phone?

Catching up with a game?



Well, an hour is of course a 24th part of a day, it consists of 60 minutes, or 3,600 seconds! But it can also be important.

Since 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the symbolic “lights off” in support of our planet. Over the years, they've stepped things up, breathed new life into the movement and mission to create the Biggest Hour for Earth.

2026 is the 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of collective action and storytelling from communities around the world.

Earth Hour invites you to switch off and spend 60 minutes doing something - anything - positive for our planet.

Just 60 minutes? Yes, just one hour. It may not seem like much, but the magic happens when you, and those like you in Asia and Africa, North and South America, Oceania and Europe - supporters in over 190 countries and territories - all Give an Hour for our one home, creating the Biggest Hour for Earth.

Synchronise your watches for 8.30pm on the 28th March and be ready to turn off surplus electrical items. Obviously keep fridges,

freezers etc on but can you manage without your TV, Laptop, Phone etc???

Earth hour ideas;

- Prepare a meal by candlelight.
- Switch off and reconnect with yourself with a mindfulness activity – meditation – journalling
- A candlelit games night
- Sit around a fire pit sharing tales and toasting marshmallows

Whatever you do, take a small action to show your support for Earth Hour.

Dawn



Woodkirk Walkers

Well, given that I considered asking Lizzie if Noah had begun building an Ark after all the rain, I couldn't believe it when Saturday 31st January turned out to be a lovely day, cool yes but lovely and bright.

We met in the car park near Blackgates School, seven of us plus dog, setting off to walk along Thorpe Lane to the top of Middleton Park Avenue, where the very patient Rosie was waiting for us.

I had chosen a walk using pavements on the basis we had had so much rain footpaths were more than likely going to result in cases of trench foot! And whilst initially we weren't sure we would have a scenic route; it was very pleasant with some nice views.



At Middleton Park we sat outside the little café enjoying bacon/sausage butties and drinks,

revitalising ourselves for a short jaunt through the park (sorry too busy enjoying myself to take many pics) and then the return journey to Blackgates.



We all enjoyed the walk, the bonus being the weather and

we look forward to our future walks, dates planned as follows with locations yet to be decided:

March 28th

April 25th

May 16th (I will be commandeering this walk as a Christian Aid Sponsored Walk and hope some folks will join me).

We hope you can join us for a jaunt.

Woodkirk Walkers



Mary of Providence

Many religious Orders for women were founded in the nineteenth century, largely in response to changing social conditions, which brought new classes of needs, and many of their founders have been beatified. Blessed Mary of Providence, born Eugenie Smetin Lille in northern France, is one of the most determined and remarkable of them.



Blessed Mary of Providence
Foundress of the
Society of the Helpers of the Holy Souls

She was the third of six children born to a relatively prosperous couple. As a child she became almost obsessed with the thought of the suffering of souls in purgatory, failing, not unnaturally, to see that the newly industrialised Lille were suffering hardly less. Eugenie was insulated from them as a pupil at a boarding school. Her parents suffered a reversal of fortune and were forced to sell their house in Lille and move to what they had built as a small country house a few miles outside.

There, during the school holidays, Eugenie discovered human suffering in this life and set out to remedy it by the sort of direct action that was to be characteristic of her for the rest of her life. This ranged from taking her father's windfall apples (some being encouraged to fall) to the poor to collecting so much money for missions to China that she received a personal letter of thanks

from a bishop in Rome.

She had had what she called a 'conversion' as a result of a retreat preached at her school by a Jesuit, and in 1850 she took a vow of perpetual virginity and set about founding an Order dedicated to relieving the suffering of souls in purgatory.

She was encouraged in this by the bishop of Lille and also indirectly by the Cure d'Ars (St John Vianney), but she typically demanded five signs from Divine Providence to seal her determination. All were granted within five years. She then heard that a priest in Paris had started a small community dedicated to the souls in purgatory, so she took a train there.

The beginnings were chaotic: she disagreed with the priest on methods and aims and could find nowhere tolerable to live, let alone anywhere suitable for a community. She went back to her family to think things over and returned to Paris with her younger sister, Juliette.

The archbishop of Paris had told her that if faith could move mountains it could surely build houses. She found one for rent, at a price she could not possibly afford: she persuaded the owner's lawyer to let her have it on the promise of money one day.

Other young women came to join her, the parish priest of Saint-Merry took charge of forming them into a Congregation, and a well-wisher sent money for a down payment against the rent. All the members took names in religion, with Eugenie becoming Mary of Providence - appropriately, given her unbounded faith in Providence.

It was, though, one thing to be called the Helpers of the Holy Souls and to be dedicated to the souls in purgatory, but what did this actually involve day to day?

The answer came in the form of a woman who knocked on the door and asked if they would care for a sick woman of the locality who refused to see a priest or a nun. Mary heard an inner voice saying, "This is how you will love me."

From then on, her Helpers went out to meet every sort of need. With Paris growing rapidly and the grandiose rebuilding schemes of Baron Haussmann reducing former communities to rubble, they found alcoholism, prostitution, destitution, and overcrowding on a scale they could not have imagined.

They plunged into this situation, caring for the suffering and the sick, preaching the gospel as they did so. They had found that love for the souls in purgatory was to be expressed in works of love carried out for those suffering in this world.

The Institute was blessed by the pope and in 1859 adopted a constitution based on that of the Society of Jesus. Numbers grew rapidly; a wealthy supporter bought the house for the community, and a postulant from a well-to-do family provided actual furniture. A second house was opened in Nantes in 1863.

Mary's health was declining by this time, but as superior she was responsible—initially against her judgment but in response to a direct plea for sending six Helpers to China. These recruited Chinese Helpers from the start, and a hundred of a later generation of these were to carry out their mission faithfully during thirty years of the Communist period when foreign missionaries were expelled.

By 1869 Mary was desperately ill with cancer. In 1870 the Franco-Prussian war broke out, and her last months were spent in besieged Paris, forced to take refuge in the cellars and in intolerable pain.

She died, with her faith in Providence undimmed, on 7 February 1871. The Helpers now work with the neediest on four continents, in twenty-five communities.

A quote from The Helpers of the Holy Souls:

“We believe that there are no boundaries to love and that we are in solidarity with all those who follow Jesus Christ in his Paschal Mystery, whether they are on earth or. have already passed through death. We support them through our prayer, action, and communion with them in their trials, knowing that God's transforming love is a gratuitous gift”.

From: The Constitutions of the Helpers of the Holy Souls.

Gail.

Big RSPB Garden Birdwatch

23rd -25th January 2026

Well hi there everyone

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

I had two pecks at the birdfeeders this year watching on Friday morning (catching the early birds) and then Saturday afternoon.

I thought at first, on the Friday it was going to be like last year where all the birdies knew I was wanting to see them and subsequently went into hiding! I could hear them but couldn't see them, then I focussed my binoculars and BINGO 4 little Goldfinches, hoorah! I also managed to spot 2 crows, two wood pigeons, a coal tit, a robin and a wren. I was quite happy with my Friday haul.

On Saturday afternoon I replenished the 'fat balls' thinking Oh great that'll bring the birdies out, then sat and waited, and waited, and waited, and I'm thinking to myself, the little blighters they're going to sit there in hiding until my hour is up and then flock to the fat balls and gorge themselves, but my patience and perseverance paid off.

I saw two Coal Tits, two Great Tits, two Wood Pigeons, five goldfinches and then a whole flock of long tailed tits, flitting and flapping about. I definitely counted seven although there may have been a couple more, but I was absolutely delighted.

The weather was kind as it was cool but not too breezy and happily wasn't wet, and I'm really pleased we are able to record



this array of finches in the churchyard.

I hope, if you took part at home, your birdwatch was as fun as mine.

With love and feathers

Dawn.

Try the birdwatching test - name the birds below...

1.



2.



3.



4.



1. *Coal Tit*
2. *Great Tit*
3. *Goldfinch*
4. *Long Tailed Tit*

The Watching Brief...

A few months ago, having got fed up with dark nights in, watching average film after soul-destroying serial, I decided to look for something I could watch that might lift me spiritually...

We are fortunate to have both Amazon prime and Netflix so there was quite a lot to explore. I was amazed at how many serials there were based on characters or books in the bible. Films too, that had slipped under the radar. Here are a few of the results:

On Netflix I found a serial called '**Paul Apostle of Christ**':

The serial, although not biblically accurate, paints a picture of how Christians were treated by the then emperor and the disgruntled Jewish leaders.

... and a film called '**Mary**':

'Mary' depicts the lead up to the birth of Jesus, from her finding out her calling to the trek to Egypt to avoid Herod's order to kill the baby boys. The film helps us understand the prejudices and traumas both Mary and Joseph were subjected to.

On Amazon Prime there were quite a few to go at!! Some relatively new and the odd classic too. Although I haven't watched it for a few years, **Jesus of Nazareth** is available to watch. Robert Powell putting in quite the performance.

I recently finished watching '**House of David**', which was quite an in-depth study of the fall of Saul and the subsequent anointing of David. The Goliath fight scene, as you might guess, was a particular favourite.

Another serial I watched recently was '**The Chosen**' which

dramatised the selecting process of the apostles including Mary Magdalene. There was a bit of artistic licence here, but I feel the target audience was more family and because of that, adding a bit more depth to each character helps the viewer relate to each Apostle.

Staying on family orientated stories, the animated **'Superbook'** involves some children and a robot time-travelling to moments from the bible, as they try to understand what life was like back then.

...and for a good listen....

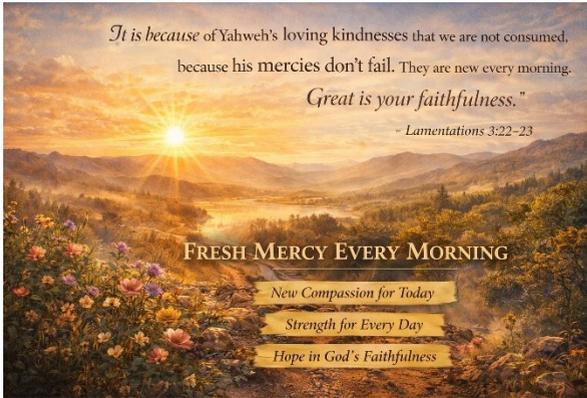
I'm a big music fan so I'm always impressed when I find an artist I really like, then find out they're Christian too. One such lady is Afrodeutsche. An autistic producer, composer and musician, who also presents on Radio 6 music. Definitely worth a listen as she blends music from all over the world, secular and Christian.

If anyone enjoys listening to jazz-funk collectives, you will know Ezra Collective. The main man behind the group is Femi Koleoso, who also presents on Radio 6 music. An actual 'son of a preacher' (*his father is a senior pastor in London – editor*) Femi has done a great deal to inspire children and young adults by organising youth groups, where kids can come along, learn an instrument, keep off the streets and find out more about Jesus.

My song I'm loving the most right now is Easter Song by a man called Adam. It's an ambient track from the early 90s, (my era), and twinkles along whilst giving you a lift and promise of a transformation 'back to life'.

Richard

Fresh Mercy Every Morning



"It is because of Yahweh's loving kindnesses that we are not consumed, because his mercies don't fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness."

—Lamentations 3:22–23

These verses arise from one of the darkest books in the Bible. Jeremiah, grieving the fall of Jerusalem, sits in the rubble of a broken city—but suddenly, his tone shifts. In the middle of deep sorrow, he remembers something truer than his pain: the steadfast love and mercy of God.

God's mercies are not leftovers. They are fresh, custom-made for each day's need. When yesterday's strength is spent and today feels overwhelming, God doesn't say, "You should have held onto more from before." No—We must always remember He meets us again with new compassion.

His love never runs dry, never wears thin, and never forgets His children.

No matter how our day began—or what yesterday looked like—we can start again in the mercy of God. His faithfulness isn't based on our performance but on His unchanging character. Don't let us live off yesterday's grace. Let us come to Him today. His mercy is already waiting for us.

Prayer:

Thank You, Lord, for mercies that are new every morning.

Help us rest in Your faithfulness, not our own strength.

Teach us to begin each day with fresh trust in Your love.

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

March 2026 Recipes

I unfortunately couldn't get to the Wakefield Rhubarb Festival at the end of February, but for this month's recipes have focussed on this beautiful pink veg. A few new ideas to show it can be used for more than a crumble (although there's nothing wrong with a rhubarb crumble lol).

Rhubarb and Vanilla Clafoutis

A nice twist on the French classic, add shocking pink stalks of rhubarb to jazz up this tender pudding-cake.



Ingredients

For the filling

20g/ $\frac{3}{4}$ oz butter, plus extra to grease the dish.

400g/ $14\frac{1}{4}$ oz rhubarb, cut into 5cm/2in pieces.

2 tbsp granulated sugar.

For the batter:

1 vanilla pod, 150ml/ $5\frac{3}{4}$ fl oz full-fat milk, 150ml/ $5\frac{3}{4}$ fl oz double cream, 5 free-range whole eggs, 120g/ $4\frac{1}{4}$ oz caster sugar,

75g/ $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz plain flour

To serve: Add icing sugar and crème fraîche, to taste

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.

For the filling, melt the butter over a medium heat in a frying pan. Add the rhubarb and one tablespoon of the granulated sugar and fry for two minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside.

For the batter, split the vanilla pod in half with a sharp knife and scrape out the seeds.

In a separate pan, place the milk, cream and vanilla seeds and

pod over a medium heat and bring up to simmering point. Remove from the heat, then leave to cool for the flavours to infuse. (A quicker alternative just add vanilla essence) Whisk together the eggs in a mixing bowl until light and frothy, add the sugar and whisk until well-blended. Fold in the flour and gradually pour the milk and cream into the mixing bowl, removing the vanilla pod. Butter a shallow ovenproof dish and lightly sprinkle with the remaining granulated sugar. Place the rhubarb in the dish, pour in the batter and bake in the oven for 45 minutes, or until golden-brown and firm.

Serve straightaway with a dusting of icing sugar and crème fraîche, to taste.

Rhubarb and custard crumble bars

Ingredients

200g unsalted butter - melted, plus extra for the tin

175g caster sugar, 250g plain flour, 100g rolled oats, 50g ground almonds, 400g rhubarb - trimmed and chopped into 2cm chunks, 50g light soft brown sugar, 1 tbsp cornflour

300ml ready-made custard, 2 tbsp flaked almonds

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter a 22cm square tin and line with baking parchment.

Combine the caster sugar, flour, oats and ground almonds in a



large bowl, then stir in the melted butter.

Set aside 250g of the crumble mixture in the fridge, then press the rest, using the back of a spoon or spatula, into the base of the tin in an even layer.

Bake for 15 mins or until just golden. Cool for 10 mins.

Toss the rhubarb with the brown sugar and cornflour in a bowl.

Spread the custard over the biscuit base, then spoon over the rhubarb mixture.

Scrunch the reserved crumble mixture between your fingers and scatter all over the top, along with the flaked almonds.

Bake for 40 mins or until the fruit is bubbling and the custard golden. Allow to cool, then chill for 1 hr in the fridge before slicing to serve.

Rhubarb frangipane cake

Ingredients

65g unsalted butter - plus extra for the tin. 1 large or 2 small sticks forced rhubarb, 30g caster sugar, 30g wholemeal flour - sifted. Pinch salt 65g ground almonds, 100g caster sugar 5ml almond extract, 90g (roughly 2-3 eggs) egg whites - room temperature 30g flaked almonds, crème fraîche, mascarpone or ice cream to serve.

Method

Melt the butter in a small pan over a medium-high heat, whisking constantly, until darkened.



Heat the oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6, butter and line a 15cm cake tin.

Thoroughly wash the rhubarb, cut into 1cm chunks and put in a mixing bowl. Toss with the sugar and leave to one side to macerate while you make the cake.

Tip the flour into another large mixing bowl with the salt, ground almonds and caster sugar, and stir to fully combine.

In a separate large bowl, whisk together the almond extract and egg whites until just starting to turn frothy.

Tip the dry ingredients into the egg white mixture and gently fold together until combined. While the butter is still hot, pour into the batter mixture and gently whisk until the butter is incorporated and the mixture is smooth. Evenly pour the batter into the prepared cake tin.

Gently press in the chopped rhubarb and sprinkle with the flaked almonds.

Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4 and bake for a further 20-25 minutes or until cooked through.

It will look gooey and soft because of the water within the fruit. If the cake starts to brown too much, cover the top with foil.

Serve with a scoop of crème fraîche, mascarpone or ice cream, if you like.

Dawn.

Albert's 'M is for March' Quiz

1. Which Shakespeare play features a trio of witches?
2. Which model/singer played 'Mayday' in the James Bond film 'A View to a Kill'?
3. What was the name of the whale that swallowed Pinocchio and his father?
4. Which plant is associated with kissing at Christmas?
5. 'Kissing her was like kissing Hitler.' To whom was Tony Curtis allegedly referring?
6. 'Time for bed, said Zebedee' always ended which Children's TV programme?
7. Which Parisian nightclub was famous for its performances of the cancan?
8. In which city was a connection made in the film 'The French Connection'?
9. What was the name of the detective in the novel & film 'The Big Sleep'?
10. The Chilean pine tree is better known by what name?
11. Which brothers were the stars of the 1931 film 'Monkey Business'?
12. What is the birthstone for the month of March?
13. Which word links 'Circle, lantern, marker and roundabout'?
14. What was tennis star Billy Jean King's surname before she married?
15. How many normal bottles of champagne are there in a 'Magnum'?

Answers on Page 38

A Tourist Tale

Whilst travelling in the South West of England, a tourist was inside a church taking photographs when they noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign underneath saying '£1,000 per call'. Intrigued, the tourist asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The Priest replied that it was a direct line to Heaven and that for £1,000 you could talk to God. The tourist thanked the Priest and went along their way.

Next stop was in the Home Counties area. There, at a very large cathedral, the tourist saw another golden telephone with an identical sign underneath it. The tourist wondered if this was the same kind of telephone they'd seen in the South West and asked a nearby Bishop what its purpose was. He explained it was a direct line to Heaven and that for £1,000 you could talk to God. "Okay, thank you," said the tourist.

The tourist continued their journey through The Midlands and up to the North West of England, exploring many churches enroute. In every church they visited there was the same golden telephone with a '£1,000 per call' sign underneath. It was what the tourist had come to expect, so they carried onwards across The Pennines, and into yet another church. Here they found the same familiar feature of a golden telephone with a sign underneath. But..... the tourist had to look twice, because this time the sign said '£1 per call'.

The tourist was very surprised and sought out a Vicar to ask about the sign. "I've travelled all over England and seen this same golden telephone in all the churches I've visited. Each time I've been told that it is a direct line to Heaven where I could talk to God, but everywhere else the cost was £1,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The Vicar smiled and answered, "You're in Yorkshire now; 'Gods Own Country'. It's a local call."

Rosie.

How do I join an on-line Service?

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

Go to: [facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)

Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

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



Quiz Answers:

1. Macbeth. 2. Grace Jones. 3. Monstro. 4. Mistletoe. 5. Marilyn Monroe. 6. The Magic Roundabout. 7. Moulin Rouge. 8. Marseilles. 9. Philip Marlowe. 10. Monkey Puzzle tree. 11. Marx Brothers. 12. Aquamarine. 13. Magic. 14. Moffit. 15. Two.

With thanks to Sally and Albert

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—

Alexandra Emily Pullan-Bennett
Layla Frances Hill



DEATHS



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

Stephen Nicholls
Susan Shaw
Duncan Fawcett

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.



Purpose Built Home



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Nutritious Food



Person-Centred Care



Daily Activities



Couples Welcome

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

01924 355 020

A Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ
E lydgate.lodge@hc-one.co.uk **W** hc-one.co.uk



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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.

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RACHEL STONES

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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:

March:

Sunday 15th 10.30am Mothers Day Holy Communion.

Thursday 19th: 11am Lydgate lodge Holy Communion

Friday 20th: 10am Coffee Morning in aid of Down Syndrome.

Saturday 28th: 10.30am Woodkirk Walkers

Sunday 29th: 10.30am Palm Sunday

Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st: Wednesday 1st April:

7pm Holy Week Service

Thursday 2nd: 7pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday 3rd: 2pm Good Friday Service

Saturday: 8pm Service of Dark and Light

Sunday: 10.30am Easter Sunday Service

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