

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Happy Easter



April 2026

**Worship Online at:
[facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)**

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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

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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.

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Vicar's Letter

A reflection on The Watch after the Maundy Thursday Service.

There is something quietly powerful about the moments after a Maundy Thursday service, when the last hymn has faded and the congregation begins to slip away into the night. The candles burn lower, the air feels different somehow, and the church—so recently full of voices and movement—settles into a deep, watchful stillness. This is when the Watch begins.



For those unfamiliar with the tradition, the Watch is a time of prayer and reflection that follows the Maundy Thursday liturgy, recalling the vigil kept by Jesus and his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is not a grand or showy part of Holy Week. In fact, it is quite the opposite. There are no big gestures, no triumphant music, no sense of completion. Instead, it is an invitation—gentle but insistent—to remain, to wait, and to pray.

“Could you not keep watch with me one hour?” Those words echo down the centuries and land, perhaps a little uncomfortably, in our modern ears. We are not especially good at waiting these days. Our lives are full, our attention divided, our time carefully scheduled and often overcommitted. And yet here, at the threshold of Good Friday, we are asked simply to be present.

In our church, as in many others, the Watch is kept in a simple and unadorned way. The altar is stripped bare at the end of the service—a stark and rather moving action that leaves the sanctuary looking vulnerable and exposed. The bright fabrics and polished vessels are removed, and what remains is something much closer to the rawness of the story we are entering. It is a visual reminder that we are moving into a different kind of space, both physically and spiritually.

After this, the church remains open. People come and go quietly, some staying for a few minutes, others for longer stretches of time. There is no single “right” way to keep the Watch. Some sit in silence, others read scripture, others pray in their own words—or perhaps struggle to find words at all. A few simply sit and look, letting the stillness speak.

I have always found this to be one of the most honest parts of Holy Week. There is no expectation to feel a certain way or to produce a particular kind of devotion. In fact, the Watch often reveals just how restless we can be. Five minutes can feel like a long time. Our minds wander, our bodies fidget, and we become acutely aware of all the things we could be doing instead. And yet, if we stay, something begins to shift.

It may be very subtle at first. A slowing of the breath. A softening of the internal chatter. A growing awareness of the space around us and

the presence within it. The Watch does not demand anything from us except our willingness to remain. And in that remaining, we begin—however falteringly—to share in the experience of that first Maundy Thursday night.

Of course, the disciples did not exactly cover themselves in glory in the garden. They fell asleep. Not once, but repeatedly. There is something rather comforting about that, I think. The Watch is not about getting it “right” or proving our spiritual stamina. It is about showing up, even in our weakness, and keeping company with Christ as best we can.

Over the years, I have noticed that the Watch means different things to different people. For some, it is a deeply cherished tradition, a time they would not miss. For others, it is something they approach with a bit of uncertainty, perhaps even reluctance. And that is perfectly alright. The beauty of this part of Holy Week is that it meets us where we are.

There have been times when the church has been almost full during the Watch, with a steady flow of people coming in and out. And there have been quieter years, when only a handful remain through the night. But whether many or few, there is always a sense that something important is taking place—not because of what we are doing, but because of what we are choosing to be part of.

Keeping the Watch also has a way of connecting us to the wider Church, both across the country and around the world. In countless parishes, chapels, and cathedrals, people are doing exactly the same thing: sitting in the half-light, holding a space of prayer, and remembering that long night in Gethsemane. It is a shared act, even in its solitude.

And then there is the quiet transition into Good Friday. Those who stay late into the night, or return early in the morning, often speak of the way the atmosphere changes almost imperceptibly. The Watch does not end with a flourish. It simply gives way to the next stage of the journey. The stillness deepens, the mood darkens, and we find ourselves standing on the edge of the most solemn day of the Christian year.

Holy Week invites us into a story that is both ancient and ever new. The Watch is one small but significant part of that invitation. It asks very little of us, and yet it has the capacity to open something deep within us.

By the time you are reading this it will be Easter Sunday and so I will take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and blessed Easter.

Alleluia, He is Risen

He is Risen indeed, Alleluia

Sharon

Coffee Morning for Down Syndrome Awareness Day.



Hi there

A huge thank you to all those who were able to support the Down Syndrome Awareness Day Coffee Morning on Friday 20th March.

Friends enjoyed cakes, buns, tea and coffee and good fellowship with the added incentive of wearing odd socks intentionally. Why do you wear odd socks for Down syndrome day? I hear you ask.

To celebrate uniqueness and raise awareness for Down syndrome. The campaign, often called "Lots of Socks," uses mismatched socks because chromosomes under a microscope resemble pairs of socks, and people with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome (trisomy 21).

The mismatched socks represent the extra 21st chromosome, while also symbolizing that differences should be celebrated, not judged. In addition, wearing bright, loud, or mismatched socks is an easy way to spark conversations about inclusion, diversity, and acceptance of people with Down syndrome.

So now you know!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £275 for Sunshine and Smiles in Leeds who support Noah, Lizzie and Tom.

Thank you all so much, and here's a gallery of our odd socks!

Dawn.



Marching through March – Gail completes the task!

After 31 days of marching a mile a day, Gail finally finished her challenge back at the church door on Tuesday 31st March at 10am, having never missed a day of walking at least one mile every day in March – even after falling down some stairs at Powys Castle on 17th March and walking with Dawn through a hailstorm on the 25th!



Her walks have included Ardsley Reservoir, St. Aidan’s Nature Reserve (near Rothwell), some walks in mid-Wales (including Powys Castle and an Elan Valley reservoir), walking the White Rose shopping centre from end to end on a rainy day, walking up the Cow & Calf rock near Ilkley, as well as local areas near home and the church.

Gail hardly walked a step without a walking partner, and she would like to thank all those who gave up their time to come along and walk with her – even little Noah came along (and he can’t walk!).

You can see some of the walking partners in the picture taken outside church.



Gail at Elan Valley in Wales

Thursday 26th March was a particularly challenging day as Gail walked up the Cow & Calf rock near Ilkley. The path is steep and in places the ground is very rough and not secure underfoot. Luckily when we came

back down the nearby pub of the same name was open...

The Woodkirk Walkers joined her on the last Saturday (28th) for a lap of the reservoir before heading off to the Malt Shovel for lunch.

‘The first half of the month seemed to go fairly quickly’, said Gail, ‘but the last week was really tough, and it seemed to take a long time for the last day to finally arrive.’

On the final day Rachel and Sol also came along for the last mile from home to church, making it a great way to finish.

Gail would also like to say a special thank you to all those who have sponsored her – together raising over £1,000 for the East Window fund. She has really enjoyed the challenge but is looking forward to putting her feet up – at least for a day or two...



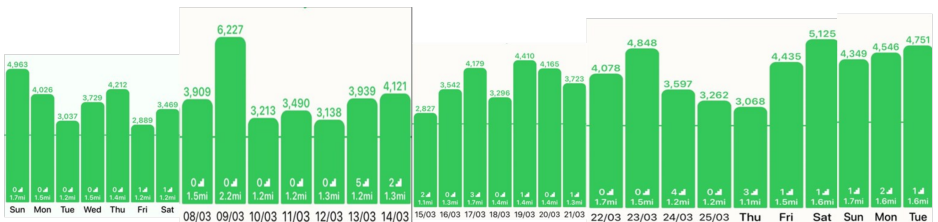


Above: Gail on the last day back at the Church door where she began.

If you would like to sponsor Gail you can still do so by scanning the QR code below:



All the steps in March day by day.....



Musings on magnificent magnolia!

I visited my sister in Devon towards the end of March and one thing was very noticeable, Spring had already sprung there and the magnolia trees whether just planted or well established, were all in magnificent bloom.

This not only reminded me that Spring comes a few weeks earlier 'down there' than it does 'up here', but it also reminded me of something in the Bible about '...the flowers of the field...when the wind goes over it, it is gone...'

I wasn't sure where in the Bible the passage was, but found similar references in Psalm 103:15-16 which says;

"As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more."

I also found similar references in Matthew 6:30 and Luke 12:28

"If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"

I found a further reference in the first gospel of Peter, so I guess it was a popular theme. In considering an interpretation, the one in Psalms and the one in Luke's Gospel seem to use it in the context of life's brevity whereas I think in Matthew he uses it more as living in faith, it is in the same chapter as the record of Jesus giving the disciples the Lords' Prayer during the sermon on the mount.

In my mind, all spring blossom epitomises these passages, but especially magnolia blossom. All these trees and shrubs bloom so fantastically but only for a short time, and yet that short time is so vital for nature. Think of the pollinators, the insects, the bees, they all need the blossom for it's nectar, and all the trees and shrubs need to be pollinated in order to produce fruit which either helps feed us, or provides new seeds for the continuation of the lifecycle

of the tree or shrub. Wow, complicated stuff this nature isn't it? Looking around us in the world, where there is so much unrest, power struggles etc etc, it would be easy to focus on the brevity of life, but as you know, I'm a sunny, more positive kind of soul, so for me I'd rather look at it from the living in faith angle.

After all, we've just come through the desolation of Holy Week and Good Friday, to the wonderful glory of the Resurrection, so an upbeat faith angle works better for me than the 'life's brief span' angle! Of course living in faith does not mean that every day will be sunny, as the famous quote from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1842 poem "The Rainy Day" says;

"Into each life some rain must fall"

But what we are guaranteed, as people of faith, is that we will not be alone on those rainy days, and we are also encouraged not to worry. If this is how God cares for the grass which is here today and gone tomorrow, then how much more will He care for us, His people.

So the next time you see a lovely flowering tree or shrub, or a lovely colourful garden, remember that as beautiful as it is, it is God that has made such beauty for all to enjoy, providing the right environment for it to grow, and that God who does this for a plant which has a short season, does so much more for us, His children, when we acknowledge Him as our Lord and Saviour.

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?... your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" Matthew 6:31,33

Love and blossom
Dawn



Spring on the Farm...

I love to see snowdrops in bloom in the garden followed closely by miniature irises and daffodils. But, in my past life, what else did Spring mean?

Grass beginning to grow in the fields and turning the cows out of the sheds after a long winter inside. It was a delight to watch them running down the track into the fields, high kicking their back legs. Freedom!!!

Believe it or not ,it was a pleasure to be outside at 6.00am in the morning calling the cows in for milking ,breathing the fresh morning air shouting rhythmically ‘Come-on, come-on, come-on’. That called the cows together and helped to move them as a group .

Inspecting the cows at night, looking for new born calves, or any cows with problems gave me the chance to check on the wildlife .One time I remember seeing a wily fox creeping up the field. I kept perfectly still as he came towards me (he hadn’t seen me). Just a few yards away, he stopped and screamed (scared the living daylight out of me) then ran off.

At the end of May we would cut the grass for hay or silage to feed the cows during winter. When I was a young teenager, it was mostly hay in small bales. We had to lift them onto a trailer to be taken back to the barn .That was the time when I noticed the skylarks (our weather forecasters). If you could hear them and see them, it was going to rain but if you could hear them in the sky but not see them, the sun would keep shining.

We would see lots of partridges and hares running about—not so many to see nowadays. We would never allow shooting as we liked the wildlife. We tolerated the foxes, but occasionally they killed our hens when they were shut inside the barn on a night. They also would attack newborn calves, if the mother cow was sick after calving. I suppose they are all God’s creatures.

In late spring, we looked forward to the arrival of our friends, the swallows, who arrive dipping and diving and finding their old nests in the buildings. They fly through broken windows and we can watch half a dozen babies peeking over the edge of the nest. They also join us moving the cows inside for milking, catching flies that circle the cows. The way they swoop and dive is amazing. This is my favourite time of year

Richard Oakes

Bishop Arun Confirmation Service at Christ Church Upper Armley.

Our confirmation candidates from this year were all confirmed together at a special Service at Christ Church, lead by Bishop Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall on 1st March.

There were candidates from other churches also at the service meaning it was a packed church with modern music accompaniment and overhead screens for words and hymns. Bishop Arun explained his journey to faith was via Aston Villa football club - he went to see Billy Graham the evangelistic preacher there and it inspired him to start his journey to faith.

All were very pleased to be confirmed and take the next step in their journey of faith with St. Mary's church. This year we had five candidates – Thomas, Dee, Louisa, Sol and Rachel - seen here with Bishop Arun and Revd. Sharon at Christ Church:



Known by Love

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

—John 13:34–35

Reading this verse, it is hard to come to realise these words were spoken by Jesus on the night before the cross. Knowing His time was short, He did not give His disciples a strategy, a structure, or a program. He gave them a command—**love**. But this was not a vague or sentimental love. It was a love measured by Christ Himself: "Just as I have loved you."

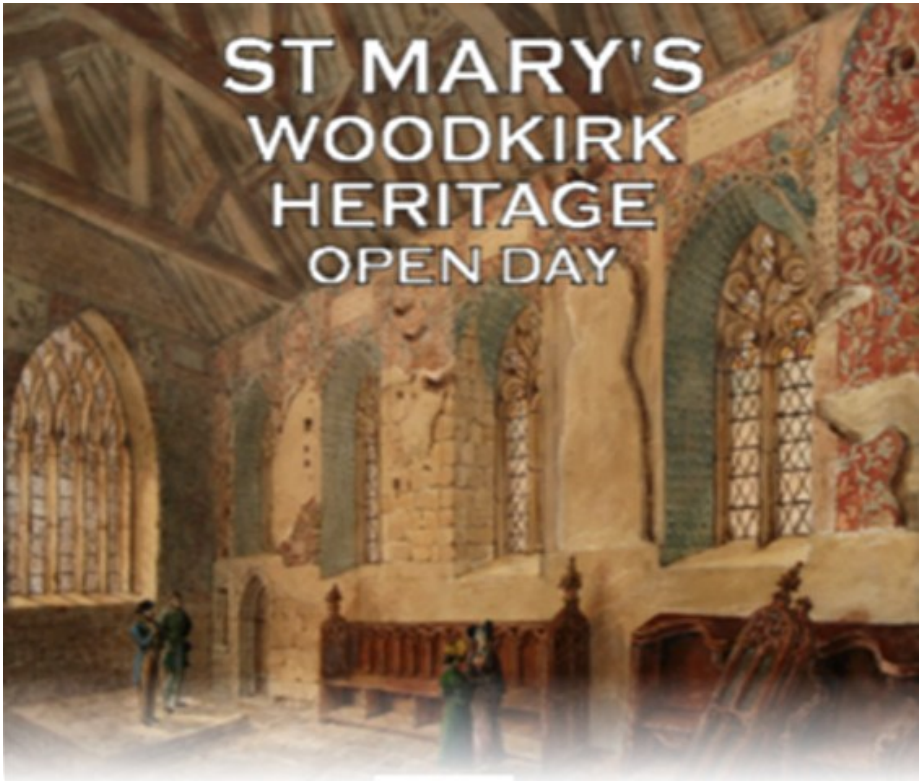
Through these words Jesus had shown His love through humility, service, patience, forgiveness, and soon, through sacrifice. This kind of love would become the defining mark of His followers. The world would not primarily recognize Christians by their words, knowledge, or traditions, but by visible, Christlike love for one another.

This love is not natural—it is supernatural. It flows from a heart transformed by Christ and empowered by His Spirit. When believers love as Jesus loves, the gospel becomes visible.

How do others recognise us as a followers of Christ? Let's ask the Lord to shape our love so that it reflects His—selfless, gracious, and sincere. Let us choose to love intentionally, even when it is costly. In doing so, we bear powerful witness to Jesus.

Prayer: *Lord, teach us to love others as You have loved us.
Remove selfishness and replace it with Christlike compassion.
Let our love point others clearly to Jesus.
Amen*

Gail



Saturday 18th April

10am to 2pm

Free Entry. All Welcome.

Refreshments available all day.

Come and discover more about the past history of the church and the local area as well as some of the people who have shaped Woodkirk.

GEORGE JEMIMA & TOMMY. WELL I NEVER!

Jemima. Hello boys, nice to see you, long time no see.

George. Long time no see, ya sound like a red Indian.

Jemima. What do you mean by that George?

George. Long time no see. We no see you long time.

Jemima. Eweeee, sorry. I haven't seen you for a long time, OKAY?

Tommy. Not long enough.

George. Ha,ha! good one Tommy.

Jemima. Fine, fine, I'll go then.

George. Oh come on Jemima, we're only kidding! we've missed you so much, haven't we Tommy?

Tommy. Course we have Jemima, if you weren't here, who would we take the micky out of?

George. Don't push your luck, Tommy.

Tommy. I'm sorry Jemima, honestly, I have missed you so much.

George. (sounding like Yoda from Star Wars) Missed you much we have.

Tommy. Now you're turning into Yoda George.

Jemima. Okay, let's all take a deep breath and start again.

George and Tommy. (Take a deep breath)

Jemima. Right then boys, what have you been up to since we last met?

Tommy. Well, Christmas came and went.

Jemima. It sure did Tommy; did you get any nice presents.

Tommy. (sounding glum) No not really, mainly just books and clothing.

George. BOOORRRING!

Jemima. Leave him alone George, what books did you get Tommy?

Tommy. Mainly classics like The Three Musketeers.

George. (buts in) Read it

Tommy. Treasure Island.

George. Read it.

Tommy. A Tale of Two Cities.

George. Read it.

Jemima. That's enough now George; you've never read a book in your life.

George. I have so.

Jemima. Okay then, name me one.

Tommy. (Buts in) Windows for Dummies.

Jemima. Good one Tommy, see how you like it, George. Now apologise to Tommy.

George. I'm sorry Tommy.

Tommy. That's okay George, I'm used to you by now.

Jemima. So, what did you get for Christmas George ?

George. Not much really. Just a Play Station, lots of Play Station Games.

Tommy, Such as?

George. Angry Birds Three, Sonic the Hedgehog Four. Minecraft.

Tommy. (Buts in) Five!

George. No, six.

Jemima. Come on now you two, this is getting silly.

Tommy. Did you get anything nice Jemima?

Jemima. I got a gift voucher for Boots.

George. Why? haven't you got any boots?

Tommy. Boom Boom George.

Jemima. Must admit it George, that was a good one.

George. Thank you, I'm here all day.

Jemima. Okay boys calm down. Have you been anywhere of interest?

Tommy. I went to camp with scouts and went to see Sheffield Wednesday with my dad and Sister Verity. It was Verity's first football match ever and she loved it.

George Who won?

Tommy. Verity, three nil.

George. Brilliant, rock on Tommy.

Jemima. And what about you George?

George, What about me?

Jemima. Have you been anywhere of interest.

George. Yes, I've been doing a bit of walking.

Tommy. You? walking? don't make me laugh.

Jemima. Come on then George, tell us all about it.

George. Well, you know we are trying to raise money for repairs to that big window in church.

Jemima & Tommy. YEEEEEEESS!

George. Well, there's this lady in church called Gail, I think she's the Virgin Mary or something.

Jemima. She's The Verger George.

George. Sorry. So, Gail decided to do a sponsored walk. She said she would walk one mile every day in the month of March to help raise funds.

Tommy. So, what's good about that?

George. Gail is more than eighty years old.

Jemima. WOW! That's amazing.

George. Yeah, so I decided I would go along with her a few times to keep her company and to give her mouth to mouth, I mean encouragement.

Jemima. And how did it go George?

George. It was great but something strange happened.

Tommy. Why, what happened?

George. Well, we'd been walking for quite a while and turned into Quarry Road when Gail said to me "we should have brought some water with us "because by then we were both getting quite thirsty. Then as we were walking past a little cottage we met a lady who asked us if we would like a drink of water.

Tommy. So what's strange about that?

George. She didn't give us water from a tap, she said we could drink from a well that she had in her garden.

Jemima. Go on.

George. When we got to the well, we saw there was no bucket to draw water from the well and the lady said she would fetch us a jug.

Tommy. What happened next?

George. Then Gail said, "this is just like the Bible story about Jesus and the Samaritan women at the well of Jacob." I hadn't got a clue

what she was on about, but Gail being the Virgin.

Jemima. Verger George, she's The Verger.

George Sorry, but Gail tried to explain the story to me, something about drinking this special water that when you drink it you will never be thirsty again, that's not possible is it?

Jemima. I'll take it from here George. Jesus came to a Town in Samaria and came to a well, just like you did on Quarry Road. Then a Samaritan Lady came to take water from the well. Jesus said "Will you give me a drink" She said "how can you ask me for a drink' Jews do not associate with Samaritans"

George. Just like Leeds and Manchester United.

Tommy. Or Sheffield Wednesday and United.

Jemima. I'll carry on. Jesus said to her "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water"

Tommy. What's living water?

Jemima. Hang on Tommy. The woman said to Jesus "You have nothing to draw the water with, and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water, are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus said "everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst again". The woman said, "Sir give me this water, so I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming to this well." To cut a long story short, Jesus was trying to tell her that a time was coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in the true spirit. God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in the spirit and the truth. The woman knew that that Messiah (called Jesus) is coming, and he would explain everything to us. In other words, the living water is the spirit of God.

George. Do you get all that Tommy?

Tommy. Sort of.

Jemima. I think that will do for today boys, say goodbye.

ALL. Goodbye everybody.

Brian.

THE WOODKIRK WALKERS...

When I was younger the first day of Spring was always deemed to be 21st March. However, the 21st Century has brought about many changes and Spring now officially starts on 1st March. Apparently, it's something to do with the Meteorological Office using whole months for statistical recording purposes! "Why is this relevant?" I hear you ask. Well, as our walk was on 28th February it meant we were making the most of the last official day of Winter.

We started from the far end of Fleet Lane in Woodlesford where cars could be left free of charge. There are several footpath routes available from here, but today our 'magnificent seven' set off eastwards with the Aire & Calder Canal on our right and the River Aire on our left, before crossing over Lemonroyd Bridge where the weir of the river was in full flow.

We then entered RSPB St.Aidan's Nature Reserve and followed a puddle strewn track running alongside some of the reedbeds. We continued along an uphill section of path before turning right to walk across the hillside pasture field which provided panoramic views across the Reserve.



After crossing the field our hillside path continued through a woodland area that proved quite a test of the balance skills and footwear capability of our intrepid group. The significant winter rainfall had taken its toll on the grassy path which was very muddy and slippery. It was made worse by a slight incline from left to right and there were no handrails for support either!



A common feature of our walks is conversation and general chit-chat but this soon ceased, as full concentration on seeking out the best bits of ground was required. There was the occasional “try that side”, “watch out for that bit”, as well as an “are you okay?” when two of our group had little slips resulting in mud-streaked clothing. However everyone made it safely to the on-site cafe for a refreshment stop.

One of the unique features at St.Aidans is the huge "walking" *dragline* known as Oddball. It came to the UK from the USA in 1954, when it was the second-largest such machine in the world, and it moved to St Aidan's in 1974 to mine surface coal from the area. It last moved in 1999 to its location at the top of the hill adjacent to the cafe and car park.

Following a short rest, two of our group were a little concerned about how their ankles and knees were doing after the mud so decided to return to their car via the shortest, least weather affected path. My plan had been to take the central path through the reserve but The Causeway which divides the Main Lake from



Lemonroyd Lake was flooded over, so instead the remaining five of us took a further ‘puddle’ track past the Bowers & Lowther lakes, before joining the main perimeter bridleway back to Lemonroyd Bridge and our cars. We walked, splashed and slipped for just under 6 miles on yet another of those grey, dull, overcast days that were such a feature of this winter season.

It’s hard to imagine that the natural area we had enjoyed on our walk was once the site of a large opencast mine. In the 24 years since 2002 (when mining ceased) it has been transformed into a rich variety of habitats including reedbeds, wetlands, meadows and woodland. Birds and other wildlife thrive here with the following spotted during our walk; Canada Geese, Greylag Geese, Magpie, Pochard, Moorhen, Coot, Black-headed Gulls & Black-necked Grebes.

Continued...



This particular wildlife was spotted in the blossoming Blackthorn trees!

Rosie

The Last Supper.

Easter week is upon us where every day is leading us to the cross, but I thought let us just pause for a moment and concentrate on the Last Supper.

Here we are outside an Inn, there seems to be a lot going on and the Inn keeper and staff are running around - looks like a party maybe taking place, but no - it is the celebration of the Passover. Let's go and have a look - there is an upper room being prepared.

Now let's stand in the corner and see what is about to take place. Men start to enter the room, I start to recognise some of them by pictures I have seen in churches and books. They are some of the apostles - those closest to Jesus.

We are seeing the last supper. Most of us are used to re-enacting the last supper regularly in our churches, by taking of the bread and wine, but here we are watching the first communion. Look at the table there is the boiled egg, representing mourning for its destruction, and the cycle of life and hope for renewal, the salt water "used for dipping" represents the tears and sweat by the Israelites during their enslavement in Egypt, the herbs typically grated horseradish with a charoset paste "a sweet paste" to symbolise the harshness and bitterness of slavery they endured in Egypt, the Lamb that is placed in the middle of the feast that represents the special Paschal sacrifice on the eve of the exodus from Egypt. Also, there is plenty of unleavened bread, lots of wine and fruit.

When we see all this food now laid out for the apostles and Jesus, only Jesus will know that this meal will be his last with his friends.

As Jesus passes the bread and wine around the table, he says the words that are so familiar to us today:-

First the bread: 'this is my body'.

Then the wine: 'this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'

As I watch the friends laughing and joking together, I cannot watch anymore, but my feet seem to be stuck to this spot, my heart is breaking I want to run up to Judas shake him and tell him not to leave, but I must remember this has been God's will all along. Accepting it is very hard. This gentle man Jesus has to die so that I might live and all my sins and transgressions can be forgiven. Remember that all this will take place in the next 3 days. It is God's plan and Jesus will be once again be with his father in paradise. I hope and pray that there will also be a place for me when he calls me.

Amen.

Gail



Albert's April Quiz

1. If a Gold item bore the number 375, what carat rating would it be?
2. What is the 'Star Spangled Banner'?
3. Where would you wear 'espadrilles'?
4. Which Thackeray novel has a heroine called Becky Sharpe?
5. Where do France play most of their Rugby Union Internationals?
6. Montserrat is an island in which West Indian group?
7. Which musical instrument is associated with Richard Clayderman?
8. Which is the longest single frontier in the world?
9. What name is given to the seeds of the Horse Chestnut?
10. In Bowls, what is the small white ball called?
11. Which famous criminal lived at 10, Rillington Place?
12. Who were the sons of Zebedee who became apostles?
13. Who was the first occupant of Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey?
14. In cricket can you be out for hitting the ball twice?
15. If you had a 'saddleback' or 'Tamworth' what would you have?
16. By what name is the Society of Friends better known?
17. What is the scientific name for Marsh Gas?
18. What is the unit used to measure speed above sound?
19. In what Athletic event do the winners only move backwards?
20. Entomology is the study of what?
21. From which 2 metals are UK silver coins made of?
22. Which form of mathematics was invented by Scotsman John Napier?

Answers on Page 38

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

April Recipes

Spring has just about sprung so I thought I'd share some 'springy' recipes. (They serve two but can be upsized for larger groups)

One-pan salmon with roast asparagus

Ingredients

400g new potatoes, halved if large; 2 tbsp olive oil; 8 asparagus spears, trimmed and halved; 2 handfuls cherry tomatoes; 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

2 salmon fillets about 140g/5oz each; handful basil leaves

Method

Heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7.

Tip the potatoes and 1 tbsp of olive oil into an ovenproof dish, then roast the potatoes for 20 mins until starting to brown.

Toss the asparagus in with the potatoes, then return to the oven for 15 mins. Throw in the cherry tomatoes and vinegar and nestle the salmon amongst the vegetables. Drizzle with the remaining oil and return to the oven for a final 10-15 mins until the salmon is cooked.

Scatter over the basil leaves and serve everything scooped straight from the dish.



Honey & mustard chicken thighs with spring veg

Ingredients

1 tbsp honey; 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard; 2 garlic cloves - crushed

zest and juice 1 lemon; 4 chicken thighs - skin on; 300g new potatoes - unpeeled, smaller left whole, bigger halved; 1 tbsp olive oil; 100g spinach;

100g frozen peas.



Method

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

In a small bowl, mix together the honey, mustard, garlic and the lemon zest and juice. Pour the marinade over the chicken thighs and season.

Put the chicken, skin-side up, on a large baking tray, then dot the new potatoes in between them.

Drizzle the oil over the potatoes and sprinkle with sea salt. Roast in the oven for 35 mins until the chicken skin caramelises and is charred in places. Add the spinach and peas to the roasting tray. Return to the oven for 2-3 mins until the spinach has begun to wilt and the peas are hot and covered in the mustardy sauce.

Hot cross bread & lemon pudding

Ingredients

knob of butter for the dish; 4 stale hot cross buns; 200g lemon curd; 2 large eggs; 200ml double cream; 200ml milk; ½ tsp vanilla extract; 4 tbsp caster sugar; little lemon zest; cream or vanilla ice cream to serve (optional)



Method

Butter a 1-litre baking dish that will quite snugly fit the buns.

Cut each bun into 3 slices, and sandwich back together with a generous spreading of curd. Arrange buns in the dish.

Whisk egg, cream, milk and remaining curd, then sieve into a jug with the vanilla and 3 tbsp of the sugar. Pour over the buns and stand at room temperature for 30 mins for the custard to soak in. Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/ gas 3.

Scatter the remaining sugar and lemon zest over the pudding.

Bake for 30-40 mins until the top is golden and the custard gently set. Stand for 5 mins, then serve with cream or vanilla ice cream, if you like.

Dawn

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) 9 Carat, 2) American Anthem (USA), 3) Feet, 4) Vanity Fair, 5) Parc de Prince, 6) Leeward Islands, 7) Piano, 8) USA/Canada, 9) Conkers, 10) Jack, 11) John Christie, 12) James and John, 13) Chaucer, 14) Yes, 15) Pig, 16) Quakers, 17) Methane, 18) Mach, 19) Tug of War, 20) Insects, 21) Copper and Nickel, 22) Logarithms.

With thanks to Sally and Albert

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:

Geoffrey Smith
Frederick Rodney Ella

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



All Inclusive



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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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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.

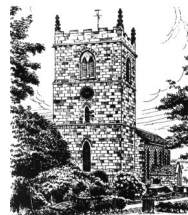
Nominal Cost is £75 for 3 hours.

Regular long term bookings negotiable.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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CHRISTINE BENNETT
RACHEL STONES

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3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

What's on

(please contact the leaders for further information)

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

Line Dancing 1.00-3.30pm Tuesday
Contact Helena 07719946917

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

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

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

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm
Ruth Osenton-Brown 07805186479

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm
Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

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

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

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

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

Diary and Services this Month.

Sunday Services.

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

Weekday Services

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

Special Services and Events:

April

Thursday 16th: Lydgate Lodge Service 11am.

Saturday 18th: Heritage Open Day 10am-2pm.

Sunday 19th: APCM in church 12 noon with lunch.

Saturday 25th: Woodkirk Walkers 10:30am.

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