

# St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

# June 2026



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# **Who's who at Woodkirk**

**Vicar of St Mary's: Reverend Sharon Wilkinson. Woodkirk  
Vicarage, 1168 Dewsbury Road, Dewsbury, WF12. 7JL.**

**01924 472375 / 07539 466724**

**e-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org**

**Reader: Dawn Tattersfield 07840 739239**

**Lay Pastoral Minister: Gail Townsend 07792 975814**

**Churchwardens: Gary Mortimer 07740 760556**

**Brian Gledhill 01924 405790**

**Assistant Churchwardens: David Townsend**

**Deanery Synod Reps: Brian Gledhill; Gary Mortimer**

**Verger: Gail Townsend 07792 975814**

**Organist: Currently vacant**

**PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield**

**PCC Treasurer: Barbara Tate 07792 211095**

**Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790**

**Parish Centre Hire: Cath Oakes 07796 713750**

**Child Protection Officer: Dawn Tattersfield 07840 739239**

**Health & Safety Officer: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790; Dawn  
Tattersfield 07840 739239**

**Electoral Roll Officer: Dave Townsend 0113 2528710**

**Data Protection: Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001 (and  
Legacy Officer).**

**Magazine Editor: David Townsend 0113 2528710**

**Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org**

**Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month please.**

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

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

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JOE DID AN AMAZING JOB AT MY  
WEDDING. HE WAS VERY  
INTERACTIVE WITH THE CHILDREN,  
ESPECIALLY THE BIG KIDS WHO  
DIDN'T WANT THEIR PHOTO TAKEN  
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We hope you 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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Find us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](http://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 account, then the details are given below:-**

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## **Vicar's APCM Report 2026**

As always, I will start with a very big thank you to all who have served God at St Mary's this past year. Your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I think one of the most positive things about St Mary's is its unity and that we have grown together as one family, not always agreeing but always working together to seek God's mission and to individually grow in faith.

The Wardens, Licensed Lay Minister, Pastoral Minister, Treasurer, Secretary and the entire PCC should be commended for the work they have undertaken this past year.

The PCC have worked tirelessly again this year to ensure that the best possible care has been taken of the fabric of the building and that all relevant local and national procedures have been adhered to.

The PCC have also given equal weight to mission, pastoral care, preaching and teaching, encouraging and enabling others to become involved in the life and worship of St Mary's. Dawn our Licensed Lay Minister has gone above and beyond in responding to invites to prepare worship services, preach and lead services. In her many other roles, particularly around Safeguarding and Health and Safety, Dawn has excelled and ensured that we as a PCC and those in named positions have completed all relevant training and DBS checking as required by law.

In her role as Pastoral Minister, Gail has continued to visit those at home and take Holy Communion to them. She has taken care of our funeral families during the Funeral Service and where appropriate afterwards. Gail also helps and leads the internment of ashes services with great empathy and understanding. Gail is stepping down this year from PCC after 25 years service and I can only thank her for the service she has given and the knowledge she has been able to pass to others as she steps away from some of the other roles she has done

previously. It was a fantastic achievement that Gail undertook in walking a mile day in March raising nearly £1,400 for the East Window.

Dawn in her role as Environmental Officer and with the support of a small group of congregation members, along with the support of the congregation, brownies, rainbows, cubs, scouts, hilltop school, magazine articles, preaching and teaching has ensured that we have maintained our environmental ethos and is currently completing all relevant tasks and sections to ensure that we maintain our Silver Eco Award Status.

The Church Wardens, Brian and Gary have done a wonderful job in supporting me as Vicar and they have many and varied roles within church and also out of Church as they are both members of the Deanery Synod – which is a forum that attempts to share good practice and knowledge so that all churches benefit from such shared experiences. Brian has been on the PCC for many years and I have to thank him and Dave Townsend for completing a lot of the maintenance of the Church and the Parish Hall. Gary has become Wedding Co-Ordinator and helps with wedding preparation. His role also includes completing the financial paperwork for Weddings and Funerals.

Gary has served six years now as Church Warden and is required to step down this year and have a one years break from being a Church Warden. Thank you Gary for all your support in so many ways.

A big thank you to Neal who will be stepping up to Church Warden this year. Neal will have a specific role in bringing in and developing new systems so that in the future all our records are kept in one place on line which will only strengthen our Governance. Neal has always had responsibility for preparing faculties and the APCM.

Barbara, as Treasurer, has had the difficult role of trying to balance the accounts which is an impossible task. Barbara provides monthly accounts to the PCC, and works to a budget that has been approved by the PCC. We have been financially prudent in putting away a sum

of money each month which has been available for repairs and maintenance as needed and this has stood us in good stead. We have also put away some money each month to pay for the Quinquennial Report which is due in September this year.

In 2024 we paid 66.4% of our Parish share and in 2025 we paid 70% of £48,568.00. This leaves a deficit of £15,858.00 at the end of the year which means that in reality our giving has been insufficient to keep St Mary's financially secure. I recognise that money is tight for everyone but if you have not reviewed your giving recently or in the last five years then it is time to do so as our giving is part of the life of our Christian journey.

I know many of you dislike the Parish Share System. However, it does not go to central church funds. It pays for your Vicar and your Vicar's Housing, and the training of Curates so that there will be Vicars in the future.

Once a church goes into vacancy – one of the considerations given will be can they afford a full time vicar ie do they pay their parish share in full? If not it is unlikely you will be given a full time vicar once I retire in two years time. That is the stark reality facing the Diocese as they too are 2 million in debt and are trying to balance their books and sadly this means that Clergy posts will be cut over the next 10 years and they will come from churches who struggle to pay their parish share.

Of course this, believe it or not, stems from the Covid years, when churches closed, money coming into church and into the Diocese halved during that 2-3 year period and we are all struggling to catch up with ourselves.

The Diocese are introducing a new 3 year Parish Share Agreement and we are due shortly to have a meeting with them and I will report back

on this in due course. With that in mind Barbara has been asked to produce a 3 year budget.

Thank you Barbara for all your time and work you put into managing the Churches finances.

There are more complications with the East Window. The good news is that we have a new architect call Liz Haestier who has taken a look at the project and she is much more realistic about what we can do with the money we have.

The bad news is that cost rises more quickly than we can raise the funds and whereas churches could claim back the VAT on repairs last year this ceased in March this year (which adds £14,000 to the cost).

There is a new scheme coming out but no one as yet knows the details – there are meetings in April and May and so we are in a waiting game to see what is going to happen. Once we have more information then we need to plan a new course of action.

It can feel depressing at times because the quotes given are only for six months which means we will have to get new quotes, but we have to continue to drive this forwards as much as we can. Thank you to all who have generously given.

We continue to successfully rent out the Parish Hall which is used by the following groups: Line Dancing, Pilates, ABC, Knit & Natter, Local Vocals, Young at Heart, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Parish Hall is also rented out for parties and events on an ad hoc basis and my thanks goes to Cath and Sally who organises these extra events.

We continue to have good relationships with all those who hire the hall and appreciate the support of our uniformed organisations at our All Age Services and particularly at Remembrance Sunday.

One important thing to mention is that the Knit & Natter group have been very successful in reaching and engaging into the community with their Post Box Toppers and they have raised a lot of money by their ingenious knitting and making of things so thank you to them.

The children's group ABC has been running well on Wednesday and Thursday mornings to such an extent that we opened ABC once a week in the school holidays. Thank you to Charlotte who runs this group so successfully. All Age Worship continues every second Sunday and the puppets have been an integral part in this service. Thanks to Brian, Sandra and Thomas.

We continue to stream all our Services on our Facebook page and we are now averaging 16/18 people on a Wednesday morning and around 35/40 on a Sunday morning.

As a church we meet regularly with non church members through births, deaths and marriages – baptism, funeral and wedding services allow us to meet people in their happy and sad places, a time often when God is recognised and questions are asked. So thank you to all those who sensitively minister to those in need at these particular and important times in their lives.

Congratulations to Rachel, Sol, Thomas, Dee and Louisa who were confirmed at Christ Church, Armley by Bishop Arun. They greatly appreciated the support of those who went to support them from St Mary's. They did attend the Vicarage for 7 weeks to complete a Start Course which was enjoyed by all and my thanks go to Gary and Gail who also helped.

We have several community events Family Fun Day, Heritage Day, Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Festival and these are well supported with all the local schools displaying Christmas Trees. It is a pleasure that Dawn and I go into the local schools on a monthly basis and I am one of the Governors at Hill Top Primary Academy.

As a PCC we are indebted to the Gardening Team consisting of Dave, Brian, Gary and Brian; and the Community Payback Team for their continued work on the churchyard. Without them we could not maintain the amount of work that needs to be done. We should also thank Anne for keeping the church looking so beautiful with her flower preparation throughout the year and for all the work she does in making the Christmas Tree Festival happen.

There are many unsung heroes who tirelessly give of their time – St Mary's Guild who are responsible for cleaning the brasses and altar linen. The Cleaning Team who keep our church and Parish Hall so clean and presentable, the Sides-people who offer welcome and the Tea and Coffee makers who offer hospitality, to the readers and intercessors on our rotas – thank you for serving God and this church.

I am truly blessed to be the Vicar at St Mary's Church and I will continue to pray for God's providence to be upon us and guide us in our life and mission as we move forwards. As I mentioned I will be retiring in due course (probably December 2028) and so the focus in the next couple of years is to continue to develop systems that will keep governance strong and to develop a team who can lead this church through an interregnum. Many difficult decisions will need to be made and future activities will be limited unless new individuals volunteer to help.

I stand by the fact that I lead in an open style, and that my door is always open for discussion or a cup of coffee.

You will be in my prayers.

Sharon.

## **Secretary's Report APCM 2026**

PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, and this report covers the period April 2025 to March 2026. Meetings are face to face and always begin and end with prayer.

There are a number of standing items on the agenda which include the important areas of Finance, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) which amongst many things also includes mission and social events. These items provide a structure that enables us to direct our thoughts and actions. We keep our knowledge up to date and ensure all necessary legal requirements are met in both Health and Safety and Safeguarding. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held in Church on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025, and here are some highlights from the year to share with you.

### **Worship**

Services on Wednesday and Sunday continue to be live streamed with some special services also being added ie Easter and Christmas. Small numbers of friends join us online and most receive a number of views once they are posted after the live service.

### **Health and Safety**

We continue to undertake monthly monitoring for Health and Safety Purposes, We now have seven first aiders in Church. The Health and Safety policy was reviewed in 2025 and was approved and adopted by the PCC at their November meeting. Monitoring of this important area is maintained throughout the year to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all.

### **Safeguarding**

We ensure that our Safeguarding Policies and procedures are up to date, following changes in the Church of England procedures in 2025 our safeguarding policies and posters/display items were

updated where necessary. We continue to monitor safeguarding procedures and training the 'Parish Safeguarding Dashboard' All necessary legal requirements are met in this vital area.

## **Summary from PCC Meetings**

### **April**

We went through the standing items including some annual updates to the Safeguarding Dashboard and reviewed how Woodkirk Walkers were getting on and reviewed attendance and reactions to soup lunches over winter and the Heritage event.

### **May**

We discussed how the APCM had gone and a tree survey was being undertaken. We reviewed the VE Day Service and afternoon tea which had been well received and very much enjoyed.

### **June**

A very comprehensive tree survey report was provided, the main things to note are "...that there are 92 individual trees and four small groups with only a small number of defects in a large and otherwise healthy population of trees". The defects have been dealt with as necessary. Details were discussed prior to the family fun day with new banners for this proving eye catching.

### **July**

Revised quotes were being obtained for the East Window, thanks to everyone for their hard work at the family fun day. New banners for the Parish Centre were being sourced.

### **August**

There was a short PCC Meeting in August just to discuss essential financial matters, ie the payment to the Diocese towards our Parish Share.

### **September**

There was updated information regarding the situation with the funding for the East Window and obtaining an updated specification.

## **October**

New memorial bench installed in the churchyard and a new wooden door being purchased for the Parish Centre. Harvest supper had been a really good event although the dishwasher broke, it was agreed that this would be replaced.

## **November**

The £7k grant granted but not received has been extended for a further year. Successful fire evacuation was undertaken (on a dry morning!) All Souls and Remembrance Day Services were well attended.

Updates provided on progress towards Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fair.

## **December**

An amazing amount of £5,791 had been raised at the Christmas Fair. Fire Marshalls were confirmed for attendance at Schools services/concerts. Details of who bringing what for the New Years Eve event were confirmed.

## **January 2026**

Listed Places of Worship Grants are coming to an end, this is concerning, but nothing we can do about it at the moment.

Christmas Services were reviewed, concerns were raised about the poor attendance at the 'Blue Christmas' and Midnight Mass Services. Really successful Christmas Fair with huge thanks to Knit and Natter Group who, through fundraising during the year and at the Fair had raised over £1,400. Thanks to Anne Pinder Packard for her hard work in arranging the Christmas Tree festival.

## **February**

With the ending of the Listed Places of Worship Grants we will no longer be able to claim VAT back, few details available as yet on what might be available as a replacement to this. A new small light had been provided for Rev Sharon when she is up at the Altar and this was proving really helpful. Local Councillors had donated £200

towards the upkeep of the Defibrillator. It was agreed that the APCM will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### **March**

Need to obtain updated East Window Quotes, also the withdrawal of the Listed Places of Worship Grants will mean we have an additional £15K or more to raise as this was what we were hoping to be able to reclaim. Still awaiting updates on what the government is replacing it with. Looking into streamlining Admin compliance and communication. Further information to follow. Christmas Tree Festival, Knit and Natter and Helena (from Line Dancing) had all been nominated as part of the WF3 Kindness Awards. The Pancake Event had been well attended. Sol joined Brian in the kitchen and they both did an amazing job. And five church family members from St Mary's, supported by their families and church family were confirmed at a lovely service led by Bishop Arun on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Congratulations to Dee, Sol, Rebecca, Louisa, and Thomas.

Your PCC have continued to work hard and are making plans for 2026/27. They support each other in their various roles and remain committed in this service to St Mary's. The PCC continue to work diligently, and though small in number are big hearted and continue to strive to provide support for the church and community we serve.

**Dawn Tattersfield      PCC Secretary      April 2026**

## **Treasurers Report APCM 2026.**

The Parish Giving Scheme continues to work well with the monthly donations being received in the first week of the month and Gift aid donations a week later. Our monthly standing order donors continue and the Gift Aid on these donations is claimed quarterly. I also claim GADS on an annual basis (this is gift aid on small donations - under £30). Our efforts in raising money for the repair of the East Window continues.

As the fund-raising amounts in our current account reach £5,000, I have transferred this to our Investment Account. The balance at the end of 2025 stood at £47,131. This includes a £7,000 grant which has been awarded but not yet received. The Listed Places of worship Grant Scheme will close at the end of March 2026. This scheme refunded the VAT paid on repairs to the church. This could increase the amount we have to find by 20%, however It is being replaced by another scheme but as yet there are few details about this. Grants seem to be few and far between as we were tuned down by the National Lottery.

Thankfully our Knit and Natter group continue to donate funds £250 at a time, over the past few years they have donated over £3,000. Our Parish Share for 2025 increased to £47,141 and we managed to pay £33,000 which is 70% of the total. Our share for 2026 has, however increased to £4865.8 an increase of 3.2%, yet another mountain to climb.

Our usual annual Fund Raising took place, the Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Festival, Family Fun Day and The Heritage weekend. We also held Coffee Mornings and Soup and Cake Mornings.

Our totals for the year exceeded all expectations, a huge thank you is due to our Knit and Natter Group who Fund Raised throughout the year. Our total Fund Raising for the year exceeded £9,000.

The Parish centre continues to be let out with weekly groups and one-off parties. During the year the hall was redecorated. We continue to designate £500 per month towards repairs which are mostly unexpected. This has proved good practice as when unexpected bills arrive we have readily available cash to pay them. In 2026 our Quinquennial Report will need to be done by our Architect and we will be expecting a bill of about £1,500, to this end we have started using £100 of the designated money for repairs and maintenance to save towards this bill.

As usual my grateful thanks to Richard Atkinson who continues to be our Independent Examiner at no cost. I am also grateful for the help and support of Rev Sharon and the rest of the PCC. We continue to look for someone to train to be Treasurer as I can't go on forever!

As always, we will count on God's help to get us through.

Barbara

## Christian Aid – Sponsored Walk



Well, hello there,

Once again, I hijacked the May Woodkirk Walkers walk in order to support Christian Aid with myself, Rosie, Gary, Dave with Teilo and Richard undertaking the walk on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. We were delighted that Satnam (and Mary) joined us for the first part of the walk from church over the fields to Westerton Road too. The weather was lovely as well which is always a bonus!

From the end of Westerton Road we turned right and went down (and up) Baghill, along Old Hey Beck Lane, through the farmyard along the road and turned into Dum Wood to see the beautiful bluebells.

From there we followed footpaths through the fields to Dogloitch Wood, down the side of that, then over Hey beck at the bottom coming up the steep lane to come out on Batley Road at the bottom of Haigh Moor Road.

From there we turned left along Batley Road then turned right up the lane past Hill Top Villas, along the path at the top of the woods, then down through the woods coming out on Upper Green Way, along Westerton and then back along Church Lane, down the ABC steps and back up to church.

Dawn's Magical Mystery Walk on this occasion was just over four and three quarter miles.

If you sponsored us but I haven't seen you, please get your money to me when you next see me, if you haven't sponsored us but would like to, please see myself, Dave or Gary.

This year, the monies raised are to help women in Kenya grow food, earn an income and care for their children in the face of hunger and rising living costs.

Thanks to your generous sponsorship we were able to send £225 towards this year's appeal.

Year after year, you support us through Christian Aid Week to challenge injustice and show the power of collective action.  
Thank you.

Dawn and the walking  
team x



## **APCM 2025/26 WARDEN'S REPORT**

The fabric of the Church remains in good condition. We continue to try and work in line with our quinquennial report, however some of the recommendations are currently beyond our reach financially. The next quinquennial report is due later this year. During the year our current architect retired.

Following interviews, the PCC appointed Overton Architects, based in Ilkley. Our contact within the partnership is Associate Architect Liz Haestier. We are pleased to report a positive start to the relationship.

The East Window continues to be a concern, and it is right to acknowledge the efforts made to raise funds and to give thanks for the generosity of those who have given. Following the appointment of the new architect a revised scheme was suggested, which met the aims of the project but in a different way. The cost of the project continues to rise with each tender submission, and grants are difficult to achieve to comply with the criteria set. The grants committee continue to work and look at grants and other funding methods.

The church clock remains set at 12. o'clock. The costs of £7.500 to modernise the clock mechanism make this unachievable at this moment in time.

Regarding the Parish Centre. The main hall is in good condition, due to the redecoration completed twelve months ago. The front door of the building needed repair, but when investigated, rather than repair it we replaced it with a new hardwood door and pvc external surround. Thanks to David Townsend and Brian Gledhill for carrying out this work.

We have had two roof repairs carried out, one to the vestry roof due to the lead being stolen, which has now been replaced with a lead substitute membrane.

The other repair was to the Parish Centre gable end section of the roof, with new lead substitute flashing being applied. Both are now back in sound condition.

Our thanks go to all who help in any way, often behind the scenes. Maintenance jobs, cleaning, payback team, bookings and all other aspects of keeping the church, churchyard and parish centre in good order.

As Wardens we will continue to serve our church to the best of our abilities. However, Gary Mortimer will be standing down as Church Warden this time as he has reached the end of his tenure, or should that be tether. A big thankyou to Gary for his service. Replacing Gary as Warden will be Neal Pinder Packard and we thank him for taking up the post.

Brian Gledhill & Gary Mortimer.

## **Summer on the Farm.**

What does summer mean on the farm? It means crops are growing their fastest to provide for winter, so basically you spend summer preparing for winter- filling the barns and silos with food for the livestock through the winter months.

The long queue of cows stretching from one end of the farm to the other is a sight to behold at milking time, rounding the cows up in the pickup, looking for the odd newborn calf or two in between milkings.

As I mentioned previously we are followed by the swallows (our birds of summer) ducking and diving catching flies that follow the cows.

There is another group of cows called “the chronies” made up of the sick, lame and lazy. These stay near the main farm buildings so we can keep a close eye on them, but because they are “close to home” they are seen by passers-by. In the past we were reported to the RSPCA for cruelty or neglect over a lame cow even though she was under constant supervision of the farmworkers and local vet. Lameness in cattle can be due to infections or just a stone in the hoof, both very painful, just imagine weighing 400kgs and walking with a stone in your shoe all day!

Thinking back over my life, I have seen many changes. I remember the last shire horse foal being born on the farm which also suggests that I was there when the first tractors arrived on Grange Farm. I can't remember if it was a grey 'Fergie' or red 'David Brown' but it was certainly one of those two. I can clearly remember my uncle Tony pulling the old binder out of the low barn to “prep” it for summer, going round all the grease nipples on the cutting knives and the paddle sails. It was a marvellous machine. I could watch it for hours as it cut the corn, tied up the sheaves and threw them out at the side onto the ground to be stacked in stools to dry. I was never involved in getting the sheaves in from the field or the threshing (not a safe place for a little boy).

The first combine harvester I remember was self-propelled, a two-man job, a driver and a man on the back filling and tying bags of corn. The bags were 12 stone bags (totally illegal these days). The bags were loaded onto a trailer and carried back to the farm buildings, carried up a flight of outside stairs into the granary for storage. Weight currently illegal and no safety rail on the outside steps! This job got much easier with tractors and trailers doing the carting, the combine harvester holding nearly two tons of corn before emptying.

This should have been an advantage but we had a piece of land at Chickenley next to Chickenley housing estate which meant we had lots of little “helpers” riding on trailers and hanging on the rear doors. Rather than arguing with our “little helpers” my dad appeared with bags of Toffee Crisps. Result!! Twenty kids all willing to help us by guarding the trailers and watching the bales of straw in the field whilst we came back from Soothill.

One thing I do remember of the summers in Batley was the transfer of the Feast vehicles from Batley feast up the old Grange Road to Chidswell. This was the easiest route out of Batley for the heavy trucks with all the fairground gear on board. Soothill lane and Hanging Heaton were too steep and it was magic to watch the huge colourful wagons like huge Coca Cola trucks slowly making their way out of Batley .

Occasionally we had a visitation of Gypsy caravans (I mean caravans pulled by horses) Something I learnt from my father at that time was to respect the true Gypsies. They used to come to the farm for water that my father willingly gave. His attitude was that they were better on your side than against you. These were the true gypsies not just travellers. I will write more about summer next month.

Richard.



**Richard showing young heifer at Otley Show.**

## **Pastoral Care**

**Telephone Calls**—We understand times are difficult—please know we are here if you need anything. Gail Townsend is our Pastoral Minister and she regularly telephones those who are unable to leave their homes at this time. If you would like Gail to give you a weekly call then please do not hesitate to contact her on 07792 975814.

**Baptisms**—If you wish to make an enquiry or book a Baptism please contact Barbara Tate on 07792 211095 in the first instance. Barbara will then arrange to visit you and book your Baptism into our Diary.

**Funerals & Ashes** - in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events.

Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 07792 975814 or email: [gail@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:gail@stmarywoodkirk.org).

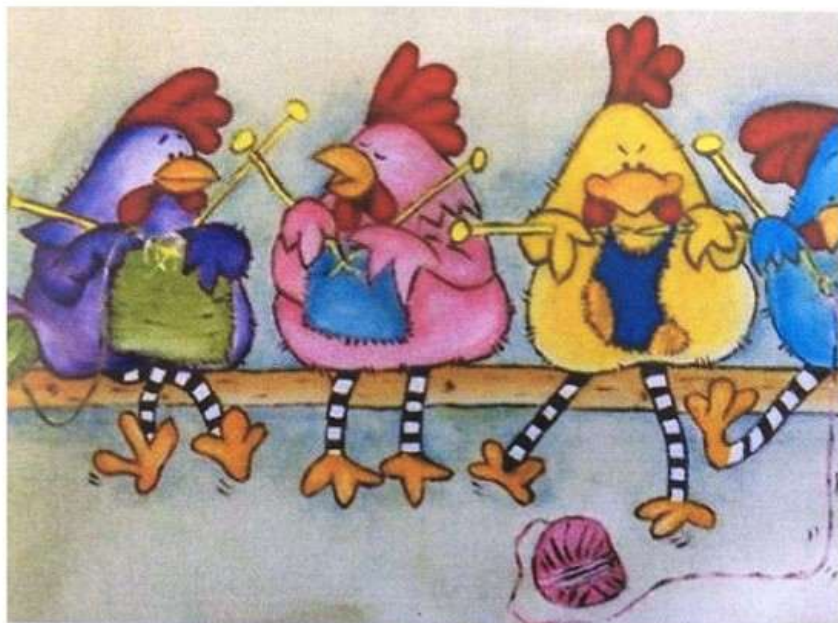
### **Weddings and Banns**

In the first instance please contact our Vicar or Church Warden Gary Mortimer on 07740 760556 who co-ordinates these events.

**Notice Sheets**—If you would like to receive a copy of our weekly Notice Sheet via email—then please drop me an email giving me permission to add you to the list. My email address is [vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org)

Please note we are GDPR compliant and take great care of your private information.

*St, Mary's, Woodkirk*



*Come along and join us for a*

*“Knit & Natter”*

*(or just a natter!)*

*Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm*

*St. Mary's Parish Centre*

**Contact: Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239**

## The Burning Bush

God is now looking for a man to lead his people out of Egypt, he knows a man that is good and faithful, but how to get his attention? Well, there is always the burning bush to emphasise the importance of what he has to say. God has chosen this special man - his name Moses.

Moses has already witnessed the hardship of the Israelites in Egypt, now he has to lead them out of slavery. God has seen the hardship and believes that the world is in a state of decline and needs a person who truly represents God's fire and beauty.

Well, here is a man that has had schooling, looked after sheep, and wandered through the desert and contemplated the silence and the stars. And yet he still was not ready. After all that, he could have been a poet and an artist and a philosopher, and still he wasn't ready.

God had to do something for him, which he did in this experience here. He had to give him what would be called a sense of sacredness. He had to beat him down and defeat him with an encounter.

This had to come to the man. He had the doctrine, he was smooth and he'd had lots of time to dream and to think, but he still wasn't ready. God could make him ready only by bringing him to himself in the crisis of encounter.

He had to meet God. And so, He decided to reveal himself to the man at the bush alone, a burning bush, under the frowning brow of Sinai. Here he will experience God.

God wanted to say some things to Moses, and he did. He defeated Moses here and took all the self-confidence out of the man and beat him down and then raised him up. Not some wild, irrational impulse as some people believe, but the very presence of God is the fire in the scripture. And now God wanted to show Moses who he was and bring him into an encounter with himself. He was aware of God, and it was personal and he was conscious. He wasn't unconscious.

He was awake and aware of what was going on, and he had an encounter with God that changed him, so he never was the same man. Moses experienced God, and from here on it was no longer theory. It's always God's way.

Some of the things that I think he taught Moses there, and I think he wants to teach you and me, if we are going to be used at all for God are like this:

Remember the fire dwelt in the bush, and the bush was at the mercy of the fire. That is, it accepted the rule of the fire. When we hold a creed, that's all very well, but we will never amount to anything until the creed holds us.

As long as we hold the doctrine of God, that's all very well. It's better than being an atheist, but until God holds us and uses us as an extension of his own hands, we are not yet where we ought to be.

This is indicated here or taught us in the fire that dwelt in the bush. That bush was only a scrub thorn, an acacia bush, and there were millions of them growing around there, and Moses had seen them by the hundreds. But this bush suddenly became the most famous bush in all history and remains the most famous bush in all history. Its glory was a derived glory.

God did not make the bush great; he simply got in the bush and was great in the bush. And so, the attention of everybody was called to the bush. Moses was a great scientist; he was a very observing man. And so, God sets himself forth by figures and similitudes. And it seems to me his favourite one is fire. You remember that God came to Israel as fire, the fire by night and the bush and by the cloud by day.

And later, when the temple was built or the tabernacle, he dwelt between the wings of the cherubim as a fire. They call it the Shekinah, the presence of God. And then at Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost came upon those 120, he perpetuated that idea of God as fire.

And each one of those disciples went out with a flame of fire on his forehead, the same fire, the presence of Almighty God.

Not some wild, irrational impulse as some people believe, but the very presence of God is the fire in the scripture.

Now, if there are anybody here that is inclined to shy away from the word 'experience', we know, experience has been defined as a personal, conscious awareness of something by somebody, and that's how we know.

You put the iron in the fire and blow the old-fashioned bellows, and soon you have the fire and the iron. we do not have the loss of either. The iron is still the iron, and the fire is still the fire, but we have them fused in experience.

And if the fire goes out of the iron, we still have the two. So, God enters the human breast and fuses his divine, uncreated personality with the created personality that is his child, and they do not become metaphysically or ontologically one, but they become experientially one.

The fire, the glowing incandescence of the presence of God in the breast of a person, becomes a little like God, and there is much of God in them and about them. And yet they are not God, and God is not the person. Forever and forever God remains God, and the person remains the person, and yet their personalities are united. God was trying to say that to Moses, and he is saying that to us.

This is what we need for any kind of Christian. Notice that the bush was purified by the fire. But I do not believe holiness is ever separated from God. God is holy, and only God is holy. And where God is, there is holiness, and where God is not, there is just us. And there is no use to try to make it any otherwise. The bush was purified by the fire. Do we ever stop to think that all the fungi and every bug and all the larvae and worms and all perished out of that bush? There wasn't a single thing there but bush and fire. From the day Moses spoke many times with God, through his long life, Moses followed God's commands to lead his people into the promised land.

Amen. Gail.

## **Anniversary Antics**

Planning started months ago for a surprise Sunday lunchtime gathering of family and friends to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sharon's induction as Vicar here at St Mary's.

It turned out to be not so much of a surprise as we had to put it in the diary!

Then we asked Sharon to deliver invitations to her family!

So maybe not so much of a surprise, but still a lovely celebration of the fact that Sharon has so far managed to put up with us all for 10 years.

Nearly sixty people from family and church family and friends gathered together on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May for a lovely lunch.

Huge thanks to Sharon's son-in-law Tom who cooked a delicious roast beef lunch complete with Yorkshire Puds and delicious gravy, and who managed to serve everyone efficiently aided and abetted by Dawn and David.

Dessert followed and much chatting and fellowship was enjoyed.

Folks pitched in with providing refreshments and helping to clear up, it was an excellent team effort, and we hope it warmed the cockles of Sharon's heart to see how her ministry of hospitality has been well and truly adopted!

Many thanks especially to Tom for his culinary and kitchen organisational skills, Gail for steering the idea, all those who helped setting up, clearing away, and most of all huge thanks to everyone for coming, especially those who had travelled long distances.

Here's to the next 10 years!!!!



## The Gift We Could Never Earn

*“For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” — Romans 3:23-24*

Reading these two verses I think they capture both the bad news and the good news of the gospel. Let us look at them through Paul's eyes. First, Paul declares a universal truth: “all have sinned.” No-one meets God's perfect standard. Regardless of our background, achievements, or moral efforts, we all fall short of His glory. Sin is not merely a problem for certain people; it is the condition of every human heart.

Yet Paul does not leave us in despair. He immediately points to God's gracious solution. Those who trust in Christ are “justified freely by his grace.” He tells us that to be justified means to be declared righteous before God. This is not something we earn through good works, religious activity, or personal merit. It is a gift purchased through the redemption found in Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for our sins through His death and resurrection.

The beauty of the gospel is that God gives what we could never achieve on our own. Where sin brought guilt, Christ brings

forgiveness. Where we fell short, Christ fulfilled every requirement of God's righteousness on our behalf.

When we are tempted to measure our standing with God by our performance, let us remember that our acceptance before Him rests on Christ alone. Let us thank God daily for His grace and let that gratitude motivate us to live in obedience, humility, and worship.

Gail.

**Prayer:**

Thank You, Lord, for Your free gift of grace through Christ.  
Help us rest in Your finished work rather than our own efforts.  
Teach us to live each day with gratitude for our redemption.



## **June Recipes**

With the recent hot weather I thought I would do some quick 'snacky' foods for you this month. Something tasty that doesn't take a lot to make and doesn't take much effort to eat either!!

### **Flexible creamy dip**



There are three variations here using up leftover double cream, cottage cheese or crème fraîche.

### **Ingredients:**

#### **For the leftover double cream dip:**

100ml/3½fl oz double cream  
½ lemon, juice only;

1 garlic clove, finely grated;  
1 tsp finely chopped chives;  
salt and freshly ground black  
Pepper

#### **For the leftover cottage cheese dip:**

100g/3½oz cottage cheese  
1 small garlic clove, finely  
grated;

1 spring onion, finely chopped;  
2 sundried tomatoes, plus 2 tsp  
of the oil from the jar;  
salt and freshly ground black  
pepper

#### **For the leftover crème fraîche dip:**

100g/3½oz crème fraîche; 1 tsp extra virgin olive oil;  
½ garlic clove, grated; ½ small lemon, zest and juice only; 1 tsp  
finely chopped fresh herbs; (chives, tarragon, dill, basil, parsley  
all work well); salt and freshly ground black pepper.

## Method

1. To make the leftover double cream dip, mix together all of the ingredients in a small bowl. The lemon juice thickens the cream pretty fast, and you'll have the perfect dipping consistency after about 30 minutes.
2. To make the leftover cottage cheese dip, add all of the ingredients to a small blender and blend until smooth.
3. To make the leftover crème fraîche dip, add all of the ingredients to a bowl and mix well to combine. Chill until you're ready to serve.

## Recipe tips

The cottage cheese dip is a particularly good way to use up cottage cheese for anyone who doesn't like the texture – once blended until smooth, even ardent cottage cheese haters can be convinced!

Do not blend crème fraîche, it'll turn thin and watery. Just stir to combine.

These dips are a great way to use up any herbs that are looking a bit sad and droopy.

## Pizza on toast



Cheese on toast meets pizza in this easy peasy cheesy recipe – add whatever toppings take your fancy or whatever needs using up from your fridge....

## Ingredients

- 1 thick slice white or brown bread

2 tbsp pasta sauce, pizza topping, tomato salsa or passata

thinly sliced chorizo, salami, ham, mushrooms or roasted peppers, sun-dried tomatoes, olives, jalapeños

30g/1oz cheese, such as grated Cheddar, ready-grated mozzarella, or a mixture

### **Method**

1. Preheat the grill to a medium-high setting. Place the bread on a baking tray or grill pan and grill on one side until lightly toasted.
2. Turn the bread over and spread with the tomato sauce and top with the chorizo, mushrooms, or any other topping. Sprinkle with the cheese.
3. Return to the grill for a further 2–3 minutes, or until the cheese melts and the toppings are hot.

## **Scrummy salmon pate**



Low in salt and full of healthy omega-3 fats, this pate makes a luxurious snack: Flake 225g (8oz) of cold poached salmon (you can swap for canned salmon or leftover cooked salmon).

Add 1 tbsp horseradish, 1 tsp each of lemon zest, parsley and chives, plus black pepper to taste. Mix well.

Enjoy with a selection of fresh vegetable batons or on crusty bread.

## Cheddar & Piccalilli Puffs



Piccalilli/Chutney/Pickle of your choice

1 egg (for egg wash)

1 roll of premade puff pastry

250g Mature Cheddar Cheese (grated)

### Method

1. Roll out your pastry and cut down the middle horizontally and vertically into four rectangles.
2. Then, cut a diagonal line across each rectangle to make eight triangles.
3. Add desired amount of piccalilli and cheddar to the centre of four of the triangles. Egg wash edges of those and then layer on top the remaining triangle pastry pieces.
4. With a fork, press down on all edges to seal the puffs.
5. Place on baking tray and oven for 15 minutes on 200 or until golden and cooked.

Dawn x

## Poetry Corner.

### Here I Am

And the Lord said GO

And I said Who Me? And he said Yes, you.

And I said: But I'm not ready yet,

And there is company coming

And I can't leave my family

You know there is no one to take my place.

And he said you are stalling.

And the Lord said GO

I said but I don't want to.

And He said I didn't ask if you wanted to

And I said: Listen, I'm not that kind of person

To get involved in arguments.

Besides my family won't like it

and what will the neighbours think?

And he said Baloney.

And yet a third time the Lord said GO.

And I said Do I have to?

And he said Do you Love me?

And I said: Look I'm scared.

People are going to hate me

And cut me into pieces.

And I can't take it all by myself.

And he said Where do you think I'll be?

And the Lord said GO

And I sighed

Here I am---- send me. Amen

With thanks to Gail.

## Alberts Quiz

1. Which Brewery uses the symbol of Yorkshire Rose as its company logo?
2. What colour duffle coat does Paddington bear wear?
3. In American law what 6 letter word is used in a serious crime?
4. True or False the longest fence in the world is in Australia?
5. In which Yorkshire city is there an area of historical interest known as Little Germany?
6. Which chain of shops appeared on the British High Street in 1909 and closed 100 years later in 2009?
7. What are the surnames of the two disagreeable old men in the Muppet Show?
8. Which of these London stores opened first Harrods, Fortum & Mason or Selfridges?
9. Where is the plaque which reads "We come in peace for all mankind"?
10. Who won the BBC's Sports Personality of the year in 2019?
11. Which outlaw has been played by Russel Crowe, Kevin Costner and Sean Connery?
12. What type of beans are used in most commercially canned baked beans?
13. A huge fire engulfed which Parisian landmark in April 2019?
14. On ITV's The Chase, the chaser called Jenny Ryan is known by what nickname?
15. Which fruit would you find in a Black Forest Gateau?
16. Who wrote the 2011 book "Gangsta Granny"?
17. Which two English cities are connected by the M69 motorway?
18. In the Disney film "Frozen" what is the name of the Snowman?

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](https://facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)**

**Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.**

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



## **Quiz Answers:**

1) Samuel Smith, (2) Blue, (3) Felony, (4) True (Dingo Fence 3,488 miles) , (5) Bradford, (6) Woolworths, (7) Statler & Waldorf, (8) Fortum & Mason, (9) On the Moon (10) Ben Stokes, (11) Robin Hood, (12) Haricot (also accept navy beans), (13) Notre Dam Cathedral, (14) The Vixen, (15) Cherry, (16) David Williams, (17) Coventry & Leicester, (18) Olaf.

**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:

(none this month)



### 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



Nutritious Food



Person-Centred Care



Daily Activities



Couples Welcome

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

01924 355 020

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

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



Part of the HC-One Family

## Shirl's Curls

Local fully qualified Ladies Mobile Hairdresser with over 30 years' experience.

Shirley brings the professional salon experience to you in the comfort of your home, without the stress of travelling or parking.

Specialising in cutting/styling, foils, colouring and perming.



Get in touch to discuss your needs and to book an appointment.

**To Contact Shirley Tel: 07805 804 015**

### Parish Centre Rentals

We have space for Groups who may be interested in using the Parish Centre at various times of the week.

Nominal Cost is £75 for 3 hours.

Regular long term bookings negotiable.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

**Loving.  
Living.  
Learning.**



 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Leeds

# BENNETT OF MORLEY

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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### CONSULTANTS

**CHRISTINE BENNETT**  
**RACHEL STONES**

RESIDENCE  
3 HOLLY COURT  
TINGLEY

## **What's on**

(please contact the leaders for further information)

- ABC Group**            Adults, Babies and Children  
Wednesday 9:30-11:00am (Term time)  
Thursday 9.30-11.00am (Term time)  
Contact: Charlotte 07972 217528
- Line Dancing**        **1.00-3.30pm Tuesday**  
Contact Helena 07719946917
- Knit and Natter—come and enjoy help with crafts or just chat.**            Wednesday 1.00-3.00pm.  
Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239
- Pilates**                Wednesday 7.00– 8.00pm  
Contact Erin Blake
- 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:**

### **June**

Saturday 13th: Family Fun Day 10am-2pm

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>: Lydgate Lodge Service 11am

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>: Holy Communion with Revd Rob Denton

### **July**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July: Teddy Bear's Picnic 11am - 1pm

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