

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

July - August 2026



**Worship Online at:
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Who's who at Woodkirk

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Lay Pastoral Minister: Gail Townsend 07792 975814

Churchwardens: Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Assistant Churchwardens: David Townsend; Richard Bowes

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Verger: Gail Townsend 07792 975814

Organist: Currently vacant

PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

PCC Treasurer: Barbara Tate 07792 211095

Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

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**Health & Safety Officer: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790; Dawn
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Legacy Officer).**

Magazine Editor: David Townsend 0113 2528710

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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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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

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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.

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 Letter

When Two Lives End Together

There are moments in parish ministry that stay with you long after the church has emptied and the flowers have faded. Recently, I had the privilege—and I use that word deliberately—of conducting a double funeral for a much-loved husband and wife who died peacefully, just hours apart, after many years of marriage.

It was one of the most moving services I have ever led.

The couple had shared a lifetime together. They had weathered joys and sorrows, celebrated births and mourned losses, marked anniversaries and Christmases, laughed with grandchildren, supported neighbours, and quietly served our community. Their lives had become so closely woven together that it somehow seemed fitting that their earthly journey should end in almost the same moment.

Of course, for their family there was nothing simple about it.

To lose one parent is devastating enough. To lose both within a single day is almost beyond comprehension. There is scarcely time to absorb one death before another wave of grief arrives. Practical arrangements that would normally be made over weeks suddenly become compressed into days. Instead of one funeral to plan, there are two lives to celebrate in one service. The emotional weight can feel overwhelming.

Yet alongside the sadness, I witnessed something deeply beautiful.

As family members shared memories, there was remarkably little talk of two separate lives. Instead, they spoke of one shared story. They remembered holidays, family meals, quiet acts of kindness, faithful companionship, and the steadfast love that had endured through changing times. They smiled as they recalled familiar habits and affectionate teasing. Their grief was profound, but so too was their gratitude. It reminded me that love leaves traces.

When someone dies, we naturally feel the pain of absence. The chair is empty. The telephone no longer rings. Favourite routines disappear.

Yet what remains are the countless ways in which that person has shaped the lives of others. Their character lives on in their children.

Their values echo in their grandchildren. Their generosity continues in memories that become family treasures.

For a couple who have spent decades together, this legacy is shared. It is impossible to speak of one without speaking of the other. Their marriage had become a testimony not simply to romance, but to faithfulness—the daily choice to love through ordinary days as much as extraordinary ones.

The Christian faith has always recognised that love is more than emotion. It is commitment, sacrifice, patience and hope. In the marriage service we pray that husband and wife may "live together in love and faithfulness." Those words are easy to read but take a lifetime to fulfil.

This couple had done just that.

Many people remarked that one simply could not imagine one living without the other. We should be careful not to romanticise such events, for every person's life has its own unique story, and every death carries its own sadness. Yet there are occasions when two lives have become so deeply intertwined that the final parting seems almost impossible to separate.

As Christians, we entrust those we love into God's eternal care. Jesus tells his disciples, "In my Father's house are many dwelling places."

Those familiar words are often heard at funerals because they speak not only of comfort but of promise. Death does not have the final word. Love, sustained by God, reaches beyond the grave.

That hope does not remove grief. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Tears are not a sign of weak faith; they are a sign of deep love. Grief is the price we pay for having loved someone well.

One aspect of this funeral that particularly touched me was the response of the wider community. Neighbours, friends, former colleagues and members of the congregation came together not simply to mourn, but to give thanks. They shared stories that the family had never heard before. Small acts of kindness, offered quietly over many years, suddenly came into the light. It was a reminder that none of us fully knows the difference another person has made.

That is surely an encouragement to us all.

Most of us will never be famous. We will not make headlines or have books written about us. Yet every day we have opportunities to encourage, forgive, support, listen and care. These seemingly ordinary acts often become the memories that people cherish most when someone has gone.

A funeral is not only about looking backwards; it also invites us to look forwards. It asks us how we are living today. Are there words of appreciation that need saying? Is there forgiveness waiting to be offered? Is there someone who would welcome a visit or a phone call? We are reminded that life is precious, relationships matter, and tomorrow is never guaranteed.

As I left the church that day, I was struck by a quiet sense of peace. The sorrow was unmistakable, but so too was the overwhelming testimony of two lives well lived and deeply loved. Their story had not ended in tragedy alone, but in thanksgiving—for a lifetime shared, for a family enriched, and for the enduring hope that, in Christ, death is not the end of the story.

May we cherish those we love while they are still with us, support those who mourn, and hold fast to the promise that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God.

From marriage ceremony to funeral ceremony their favourite hymn, O Perfect Love, which had to be sung to the tune, 'O Perfect Love':-
O perfect Love, all human thought transcending, Lowly we kneel in prayer before Thy throne, that theirs may be the love which knows no ending, Whom Thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be Thou their full assurance, of tender charity and steadfast faith, Of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance, With childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow; grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife, And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow that dawns upon eternal love and life.

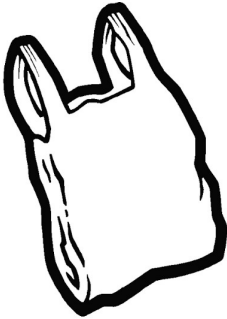
Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving, Through Jesus Christ, Thy coeternal Word, Who, with the Holy Ghost, by all things living Now and to endless ages art adored.

May they rest in peace and rise in Glory!

Revd. Sharon.

Environmental Endeavours

Hi there



I bet you didn't know that 3rd July is Plastic Bag Free Day? I didn't. I also didn't know that there is an initiative called 'Plastic Free July'.

Now I do recognise that as you are reading your magazine after the 3rd July, we have already missed plastic bag free day...however, I would like to challenge you to reduce your use of plastic bags (if you aren't already doing so) perhaps every Friday during July.

If you would like to challenge yourself to reducing the amount of plastic you use during July, then that would be great too, however, I do recognise that we can't always help with some purchases as a lot of what we buy comes wrapped in plastic.

The focus on a plastic bag free day came about in 2009 when it was recognised how harmful single use plastics like bags are to the environment, particularly the oceans.

Back in 2020 a WWF report stated that 1 million plastic bags were in use around the world every minute, and it quoted the following;

“If the world does not stop production altogether, in 30 years’ time the weight of plastic bags thrown into the seas and oceans will exceed that of all creatures living in them.” – Zero Waste Europe

A few plastic bag facts...

Plastic Bag Free Day is a global initiative that aims to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags in the world.

- Plastic bags were first introduced in 1965;
- On average, plastic bags are used for 25 minutes;
- Yet, it takes between 100 to 500 years for a plastic bag to disintegrate (depending on the type of plastic);
- 1 million plastic bags are in used around the world every minute;
- The average European uses about 500 plastic bags per year (zero-waste Europe). Yet Europeans overwhelmingly support a ban on single-use plastic bags;
- 80% of marine litter is plastic; and
- 3.4 million tonnes of plastic carrier bags are produced in the EU every year. This corresponds to the weight of more than two million cars!

Single-use plastic bags are:

- **BAD FOR THE PLANET:** They take hundreds of years to degrade and they not only pollute the environment but actually directly harm many living organisms
- **BADLY DESIGNED:** It doesn't make sense to produce something that lasts hundreds of years when it is going to be used for a few minutes. It is a contradiction that in a throw-away society nothing good lasts whilst bad products last forever.
- **UGLY:** Reusable bags are a lot cooler!
- **EXPENSIVE:** Producers don't take responsibility for the impact of their product. Plastic bags are cheap to produce but very expensive to clean from the environment.
- **MADE OF CRUDE OIL** e.g. finite resource
- **GET INTO THE FOOD CHAIN:** in the form of pulverised plastic waste in the sea gets into the food chain

How to Celebrate International Plastic Bag Free Day

There are many ways to participate in International Plastic Bag Free Day and contribute to a cleaner environment:

- **Switch to Reusable Bags:** Commit to using reusable bags when shopping and encourage others to do the same. Keep a few reusable bags in your car or bag so that you always have one on hand.
- **Shop Sustainably:** Choose to support businesses that prioritize sustainability by using eco-friendly packaging and offering alternatives to plastic bags. Your consumer

choices can influence companies to adopt greener practices.

- **Spread the Word:** Share your efforts and experiences on social media using relevant hashtags. Encourage friends, family, and followers to join you in reducing plastic bag use and promoting sustainable living.

You may already use reusable shopping bags, but if not, could I encourage you to do so, and if you are, then brilliant, an keep up the good work.

It might only be a little thing, but if we all make small changes it could add up to an overall big change.

Dawn x



Down on the Farm with Richard

Toni was a cow with questionable breeding. Her great grandmother was quite a nice Friesian cow. The grandmother was the daughter of a Holstein bull from Canada, she was small, but she could produce lots of milk. The next generation wasn't a nice cow, ill-tempered with an udder like a set of bagpipes (teats pointing in all directions) so we weren't expecting great things from her daughter Toni. Toni's sire was an unproven young bull from America. When she had her first calf, she looked nice (a good shape and a nice udder).

Alan, our herdsman, who had recently joined us, picked Toni and another young cow called Miss Wonderful to go to Penistone show to see how they would do. In a big class Miss Wonderful came first and Toni came third which pleased us. A young lady, who I knew to be a good judge of dairy cattle said:

'I like the black one (Miss Wonderful) but I don't think the other one will last'.

However, Miss wonderful didn't last long in the herd and Toni was with us for many years. After her second calf Toni was classified. The official Holstein classifier inspects and scores each cow by comparing each one against a perfect cow (100 points) The scoring is poor, fair, good 75, good plus 80, very good 85, and excellent 90. Toni's first classification was 86 points. A cow can't be classified again until she calves again, so after each calf Toni's classifications were 87, 88, 90, 91, 92, and finally 94 points. Not bad for a home-bred cow!

Whilst doing this she was shown many times with great success, one time coming third at the Autumn National Holstein show. Our best day with her was at the Great Yorkshire Show when she came first in the senior cow class. She also won the production and inspection class

(proving she could produce lots of milk too). She was chosen for the Holstein breed group, and she was part of the Soothill home-bred trio which we also won, so Toni came home with 4 red rosettes that proud day.

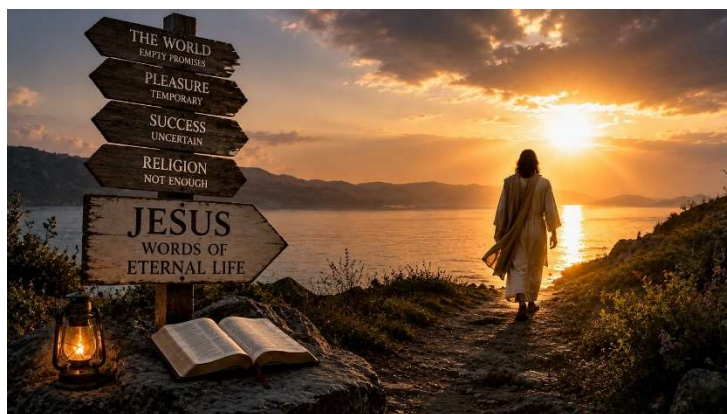
There was a gentleman on the Isle of Man who made pottery models of cows (like Border Fine Arts) but to a shape agreed by the Holstein Society, so I sent him photographs of Toni to him and eventually I received a model of Soothill Galant Toni, so I can be reminded of the good times we had with the beautiful friendly cow that I bred by chance on the farm.

I see her every day (the model) and dear Toni still occupies a special place in my heart.

Richard.



Toni the Cow



Words of Eternal Life

“Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” — **John 6:68**

Let's look at this passage, how would we have answered Jesus, Jesus did not always teach what people wanted to hear, he told them the truth that was not what they wanted to hear they wanted to be told that everything would be forgiven, and life would be happy and content. Because he did not promise them forgiveness if they did not change their lives and turn away from sin. How would we feel would we still follow or walk away? I think if study this passage deeply, we can relate ourselves to the disciples.

In John 6, many people stopped following Jesus after hearing difficult teachings. When Jesus asked the twelve disciples if they also wanted to leave, Peter answered with a powerful confession of faith: “Lord, to whom would we go?”

Peter recognised something essential—there was nowhere else to turn. The world offers countless voices promising fulfilment, truth, and purpose, yet none can give eternal life. Only Jesus speaks words that truly satisfy the soul and lead to everlasting life. Notice that Peter did not say he understood everything perfectly. The disciples still had questions and struggles ahead. But Peter knew enough to trust Christ completely. Faith does not require having every answer; it rests in the certainty of who Jesus is.

This verse also challenges us to consider where we turn when life becomes difficult. When disappointment, doubt, or temptation comes, it can be easy to look elsewhere for security or meaning. But only Christ has the words that bring life, truth, and hope.

So let us make time daily to listen to the words of Christ through Scripture. When confusion or hardship comes, resist the urge to seek ultimate answers elsewhere. Return to Jesus, trusting that His Word alone gives lasting life and hope.

Prayer:

Thank Jesus for the words of eternal life.

Ask God to deepen our trust in Christ alone.

Pray for a hunger to know and obey His Word.

Gail.

Margaret and Peter Wilcock

As you may know, both Margaret and Peter sadly passed away very recently and have been buried here in the churchyard, together. A few years ago, Gail and I had the privilege of going with them to their old Moravian School at Fulneck where they remembered their school days and what it was like there. As a way of remembering them, here is the original article from 2015:

Margaret and Peter both attended a Moravian School, here in West Yorkshire, in the pretty hamlet of Fulneck, near Tong village. Founded in 1753, Fulneck School is an historic independent school with a Christian ethos, set within a peaceful village community and settlement dating back to 1739. Girls and boys attended but were kept separate – the boys in buildings on one side of the chapel, and the girls on the other side.

Margaret remembers a Christingle service when she was 15 years old...



Margaret can be seen here on the left

Peter and Margaret both attended the school in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Margaret was a 'boarder' whilst Peter attended day school. 'There were prayers morning and night in the Church Hall', remembers Margaret, 'and a Special Uniform for Sundays, with a felt hat for winter and Panama Hat for summer'.

In Church, the boys sat on the left and the girls on the right. 'We could see each other across the aisle' Margaret recalls.

Peter remembers the schooling was not overly religious but rather had a broad range of subjects providing a good all-round education. Schooling included Saturdays – Peter had Choir practise in the morning, meanwhile Margaret played Hockey or had to go for long walks – with PE teacher Mrs. Crowther keeping a watchful eye.

Peter's Saturday afternoons were Rugby games. Boys and Girls were kept separate but Margaret remembers her friend sneaking out for a midnight feast with some of her friends – and to meet boys! This shocking behaviour would have been met with instant 'dis-order points', with very serious consequences, as a collection of three dis-order points would lead to expulsion.

Some of Margaret's friends were 'mission children' whose parents were away on (Moravian) missionary work in Antigua, Labrador, Newfoundland and Africa. Another strict rule was 'no talking after lights out'. If they were found talking, they were sent to a small bedroom alone. Margaret remembers spending a few nights there....

It wasn't all discipline and work (and walking!) - a Saturday treat once a month was to go to the boys' school hall (minus the boys) to watch a film. Margaret saw films like 'Casablanca' and 'Scott of the Antarctic'. Then it was back to the long walks on Sunday after Church. Sweets were allowed on Wednesdays and at weekends only – and Matron would keep a check for transgressors. At the end

of spring term there was always the ‘Girls versus Boys’ hockey match – one of the few times they were allowed to be together.

Saturday afternoons also had a ‘reading hour’ when a variety of books were read – Jane Ayre, Ivanhoe and Treasure Island, for example. Fridays were ‘hair washing’ day – dried in front of an open fire. Despite the ‘discipline’, Margaret and Peter remember their school days with fondness – Margaret says she ‘thoroughly enjoyed it’.

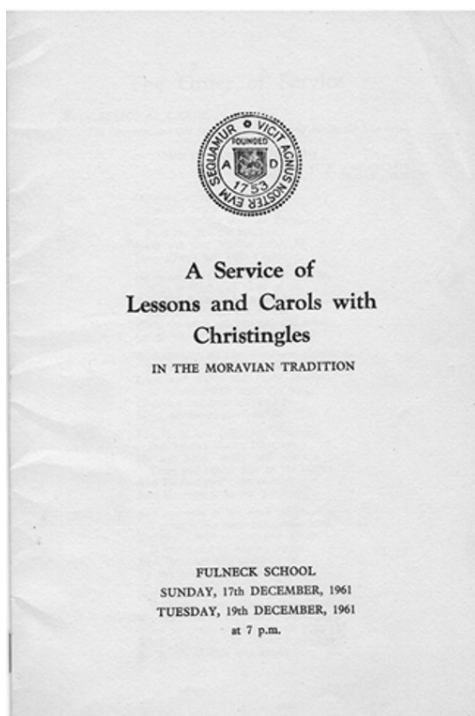


Margaret and Peter outside the School in 2015

They have a long family tradition here at St. Mary's and Peter's mother Phyllis has a stained-glass window in her memory. Phyllis was a member of the Mother's Union as well as the Guild. Jack served as Churchwarden as well as a 'Sidesman' and is even referred to as one of several St. Mary's 'bus conductors'. Their daughter, Louise was also married here.

It is sad that they are no longer with us and they will be missed by everyone who knew them. They are together now and at peace.

David.



Front of the Christingle Service Booklet from 1961

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

Will it, won't it????

The Family Fun Day got off to an inauspicious start...

Isn't it just typical that the previous weekend we'd had a heatwave...

Then on the build up to Saturday the weather went from lovely to rain but it was very blustery and cool, so, after setting up outside on Friday, everyone mucked in on Saturday morning, to move the fun day inside to the Parish Centre.

There's nothing like a last-minute change to get everyone chivvied up, but as always with brilliant folk, all was accomplished and we opened on time.

At first we were concerned moving venue might affect the number of visitors, however, Brian's expertise in the kitchen with bacon, sausage, burgers etc is legendary as well as Sharon and Rosie on sign posting duties, and soon folks were streaming in and the smell of fried onions was making my mouth water.

Stall holders reported brisk business, and all stalls looked great.

Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway on the day or beforehand, or afterwards clearing up, a great team effort and also a big thank you to all those who came and spent their money. Together we raised an amazing total of over £1,400. I know that will have risen now due to monies coming in after the event, so again a huge thank you to everyone.

Dawn x





“Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” — **2 Corinthians 3:17**

Just remember Paul wrote these words while contrasting the old covenant with the new covenant established through our Lord Jesus Christ. As we understand under the old covenant, people were confronted with God’s holy standard but lacked the power to fully meet it. Through Christ, however, believers receive the indwelling Holy Spirit, who transforms hearts and brings true freedom.

I think the freedom Paul is trying to describe is much deeper than political, social, or personal liberty. It is freedom from the guilt of sin, freedom from condemnation, and freedom from the bondage that once controlled our lives. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, believers are no longer slaves to their old nature but are empowered to live for God.

Remember this freedom does not mean living without boundaries or accountability. Rather, it is the freedom to become what God created us to be. The Spirit enables us to grow in holiness, understand God's truth, and enjoy fellowship with Him. What the law could not accomplish in changing the heart, the Spirit accomplishes through the Lord's transforming presence.

Many people spend their lives searching for freedom in success, possessions, relationships, or personal achievements. But yet lasting freedom can only be found in Christ. Where His Spirit is at work, chains are broken, hearts are renewed, and lives are transformed.

Let us consider whether there are areas of our lives where we are still living as though we are bound by fear, guilt, or past failures. Let's thank God for the freedom He has provided through Christ and ask the Holy Spirit to help us walk in that freedom each day.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the freedom found in Christ.

Help us live by the power of Your Spirit.

Free us from anything that keeps us from fully following You.

Gail

Brownies tackle time travel!

I was delighted to be approached by Brownie Leader Hannah to help the girls with their 'Local History' badge.



Over two weeks we looked at the timeline of the Black Canons coming to Woodkirk to form a monastic cell here, and looked at the route they took as well as things they may have seen on the way.

We talked about the church building, about how the tower was the oldest part of the church, we talked about the storm in 1834 which caused the roof to collapse. The girls had to learn about a treasure, and so I shared with them the amazing story of the couple who came to church on Palm Sunday with a beautiful watercolour painting which they had purchased in a Pudsey Antique Shop. The painting, from the 19th century was the 'draft' design of the 'Dorothy Bearpark Hurst' window (the first one on the right as you enter church).

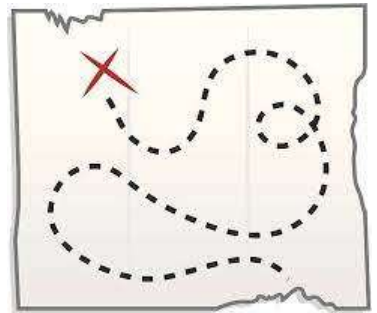
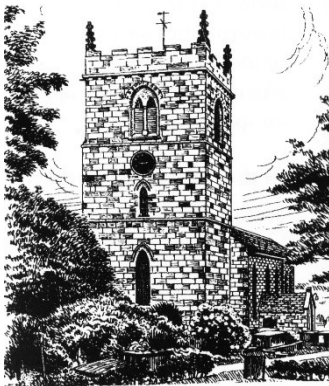


For week two the girls were in church and were able to compare the draft painting with the actual window, noting some small

differences. The girls then undertook a 'Treasure Trail' looking for various clues in all the church windows, which meant that they had to look closely at the windows finding, amongst lots of other things a phoenix and a dragon!

I really enjoyed talking to the girls about a little of the church's history and I think they enjoyed it, especially the treasure trail.

Well done Brownies and thank you for your hard work.
Dawn x



Summer Recipes

Hi there

Well, we've just had a heatwave and they're forecasting another so I've gone for some tasty salads for this month's recipes...

Tasty Tuna Nicoise Salad

Got some green beans left over from your Sunday dinner, use them up in this tasty and easy version of the classic nicoise salad (or just cook fresh beans).



Ingredients

1 Tin of tuna; 1 bag of mixed salad leaves
2 eggs, boiled and quartered; 100g green beans
50g olives; 12 cherry tomatoes, halved.

For the dressing

3 tbs extra virgin olive oil, 1 tbs white wine vinegar, A pinch of salt and pepper, 1/4 tsp wholegrain mustard (or just use your favourite salad dressing)

1 – Cook the green beans then cool and set aside.

2 - Arrange the salad leaves, eggs, green beans, olives and cherry tomatoes in a bowl, then add the Tuna (flaked).

3 - In a small bowl add together the white wine vinegar, salt, pepper and mustard, then slowly whisk in the olive oil. Drizzle over the tuna salad, and serve with crusty bread. (Or just pour over your favourite dressing).

Summer leftovers salad

Ingredients

250g cooked grains (such as quinoa, freekeh, spelt, bulgur wheat)

1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling (optional)

1 clove/s garlic, peeled and bashed

45g nuts and/or seeds (such as walnuts, almonds, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds), nuts roughly chopped

½ tsp clear honey or maple syrup

2 tbsp tahini or yogurt or extra virgin olive oil (or a mixture)

1 tbsp red wine or cider vinegar, or lemon juice

1 handful soft herbs (such as mint, chives, basil, oregano), leaves finely chopped

1 handful green leaves (such as cos lettuce, little gem, rocket, spinach, watercress)

2 medium (or a handful of cherry) tomatoes, chopped or sliced

150g cooked meat, canned fish and/or soft cheese, in bitesized pieces.



Method

1. If using grain pouches, heat according to pack instructions, then set aside to cool. Meanwhile, heat $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp oil and the garlic in a small frying pan over a low-medium heat and fry, stirring occasionally, for 1-2 minutes, until the oil starts to bubble and the garlic colours a little.
2. Carefully remove the garlic and discard, then add the nuts and/or seeds to the pan with the honey or syrup, plus a pinch of salt. Stir for about 1 minute until golden, then transfer to a plate and spread out; set aside to cool.
3. Put the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp oil, the tahini (or yogurt/olive oil), vinegar (or lemon juice) and most of the herbs in a large bowl; whisk together well, then season. If using tahini, add 2-3 tbsp water, until you have a loose dressing.
4. Tear the leaves into the bowl with the dressing, then add the tomatoes, meat/cheese/fish and cooled grains. Toss together thoroughly and finish with an extra drizzling of olive oil, if liked, plus a generous scattering of the crispy nuts/seeds and reserved herbs.

Fig and Halloumi Salad



6 figs, quartered

- 3 tbsp mixed seeds
- $\frac{1}{2}$ unwaxed lemon, zest and juice
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 225g halloumi, cut into 0.5cm slices
- 200g fine green beans
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cucumber
- 100g pack Baby Leaf & Herb Salad

Method

1. Toast the seeds in a dry frying pan over a medium heat for 4 minutes or until starting to turn golden; transfer to a bowl.
2. For the dressing, in a small bowl, mix the lemon zest and juice, 2 tbsp oil, the mustard and maple syrup; season and set aside.
3. Drizzle the halloumi with the remaining 1 tbsp oil; fry in the same pan over a medium heat, turning regularly, for 2-3 minutes, until golden, then turn off the heat. Meanwhile, bring a pan of water to the boil and cook the beans for 2 minutes, then drain, refresh under cold water and cut in half.
4. Halve the cucumber lengthways, scoop out and discard the core, then cut into 0.5cm slices. Add to a bowl with the salad leaves, beans and quartered figs.
5. Drizzle over the dressing and gently mix to coat everything.
6. Transfer to a serving platter, bringing the figs to the surface. Put the halloumi on top, scatter over the toasted seeds and serve straight away.

Dawn x

Worship from the Heart

Don't be afraid to step out and trust God. He is more faithful than the rising of the sun.



God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” — John 4:24

Jesus spoke these words during His conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. Here Jesus could see she was focused on the location of worship—whether it should take place on Mount Gerizim or in Jerusalem. Jesus redirected the discussion from a place of worship to the true nature of true worship.

And because God is spirit, He is not confined to a building, a city, or a specific location. To me true worship is not primarily about external rituals, traditions, or appearances. It is about a heart that genuinely responds to God.

When Jesus teaches, he teaches us that worship is to be offered in both **spirit** and **truth**. He is telling us to worship in spirit means approaching God sincerely, with a heart that is engaged and devoted to Him. And worship is more than words sung or prayers spoken; it is the expression of a life surrendered to God. To worship in truth means worshiping according to who God has revealed Himself to be in His Word. Our worship is grounded in biblical truth, not personal preference or human imagination.

When spirit and truth come together, worship becomes more than an activity—it becomes a relationship. It flows from knowing God, loving Him, and responding to His grace. Whether gathered with other Christians or spending time alone with the Lord, true worship honours Him from the inside out.

Let us examine our worship this year. Are we simply going through religious motions, or are we engaging our heart with God? Spending time reading Scripture, praying, and praising Him with sincerity and gratitude.

Prayer:

Lord, help us worship You in spirit and truth.

Give us a heart that genuinely loves and honours You.

Teach us to live a life of worship every day.

Gail.

Alberts Quiz

1. Which duo sang “Bridge over Troubled Waters”?
2. When does a nocturnal creature hunt for food?
3. What nationality is the novelist Maeve Binchy?
4. Who Said: Doctor Livingstone, I presume?
5. In the Bible who was swallowed by a Whale?
6. Which of the USA/Canadian Great Lakes has the shortest name?
7. Which is the USA’s smallest Island?
8. In which London building is the Duke of Wellington’s Tomb?
9. Which flying car was driven by Dick Van Dyke in a film?
10. Which female name is the Capital of Tuscany’s Italian Region?
11. Which word is both part of a shoe and a flat fish?
12. Who wrote the song “Mr Tambourine Man”?
13. The TV Series “M*A*S*H” was set in which decade?
14. Who founded “Playboy” magazine?
15. In which mountain range is “Mount Everest”?
16. Which group had hits with “Good Vibrations” and “I Get Around”?
17. In which London venue are the Promenade Concerts held yearly?
18. How many sides has a heptagon?
19. Who invented the Mini Skirt?
20. Who played the title role in the film “Beetlejuice”?

Answers on Page 38

How do I join an on-line Service?

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

Go to: facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk

Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

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



Quiz Answers:

1) Simon and Garfunkel, 2) At Night, 3) Irish, 4) Henry Morton Stanley, 5) Jonah, 6) Erie, 7) Rhode Island, 8) St. Pauls Cathedral, 9) Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang, 10) Florence, 11) Sole, 12) Bob Dylan, 13) 1950's, 14) Hugh Hefner, 15) Himalayas, 16) The Beach Boys, 17) Royal Albert Hall, 18) Seven, 19) Mary Quant, 20) Michael Keaton

With thanks to Sally and Albert

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

Adalynne Erica Croft
Jenson Stuart Heslop



DEATHS:

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

Wendy Crowther
Margaret Wilcock
Peter Wilcock



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 W hc-one.co.uk



Part of the HC-One Family

Shirl's Curls

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

To Contact Shirley Tel: 07805 804 015

Parish Centre Rentals

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

Nominal Cost is £75 for 3 hours.

Regular long term bookings negotiable.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

**Loving.
Living.
Learning.**



 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds

BENNETT OF MORLEY

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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:

July

Saturday 4th: Teddy Bear's Picnic 11am - 1pm

Thursday 16th: Lydgate Lodge Service 11am

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