

October 2026

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk



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Who's who at Woodkirk

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Church Wardens: Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

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Deanery Synod Rep: Brian Gledhill; Gary Mortimer

Verger: Gail Townsend 07792 975814

Organist: Currently Vacant

PCC Secretary: Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

PCC Treasurer: Barbara Tate 07792 211095

Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

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Magazine articles by the 20th of each 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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Why am I doing the shoot in November?
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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)

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

Parish News by Post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £18 a year to cover magazine costs including post and packaging to:

Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Call Margaret on 01924 473064.

It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far.

Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Did you know?

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

Wheelchair Access

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

If you wish to make a donation to the work of this church or if you wish to pay your weekly collection via our bank account, then the details are given below:-

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Vicar's Letter – October

There is something rather lovely about October.

The light changes, the evenings begin to draw in, and the trees gradually exchange their summer greens for a wonderful mixture of gold, orange, red and brown. There is a slight chill in the morning air, and we begin to rediscover jumpers, coats and scarves that have been hiding in the back of the wardrobe for several months.

October is also one of those months when the church calendar seems to give us plenty to think about. We have Harvest, St Luke's Day, All Saints' and All Souls' Days, and, before too long, we begin to look towards Remembrance and Advent.

But perhaps October's greatest gift is that it encourages us to notice.

We notice the changing seasons. We notice the shorter days. We notice the beauty of creation. We notice that summer has slipped quietly into autumn, almost without asking our permission.

And perhaps that is something worth carrying into our everyday lives: the importance of noticing.

We live in a world where it is remarkably easy to be distracted. We can be walking down the road while looking at our phones, sitting in a room while thinking about somewhere else, or having a conversation while mentally preparing the answer before the other person has finished speaking.

Sometimes we are so busy that we miss what is happening right in front of us.

Yet Jesus was someone who noticed people.

He noticed Zacchaeus, sitting in a tree when everyone else probably just saw a rather short man with a rather awkward solution to getting a better view.

He noticed Bartimaeus, calling out by the roadside when others wanted him to be quiet.

He noticed the widow putting two small coins into the temple treasury.

He noticed children.

He noticed the lonely, the sick, the outsider and the person who had somehow become invisible to everyone else.

There is something very powerful about being noticed.

I suspect most of us can remember a time when somebody took the trouble to ask how we really were – and actually waited for the answer. Perhaps someone remembered our name, sent a card when we were going through a difficult time, made us a cup of tea, or simply sat beside us when there was nothing particularly useful to say.

These small things can seem insignificant, but they rarely are.

October's changing landscape reminds us that life is constantly changing too. People move house. Children grow up. Families change. Friends come and go. People become ill, recover, retire, start new jobs, lose jobs, fall in love, experience bereavement and begin again.

Sometimes change is exciting. Sometimes it is frightening. Sometimes we don't have much choice about it at all.

The Christian message doesn't promise that life will remain unchanged. In fact, quite the opposite. Scripture is full of journeys, changes, endings and new beginnings.

What it does promise is that we don't face those changes alone.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons why church matters.

Church is not simply a place where we come for an hour on a Sunday. At its best, it is a community where people notice one another.

We notice when someone hasn't been around for a while.

We notice when somebody needs a little help.

We notice when a new face appears at the door.

We celebrate when things go well and try to stand alongside one another when they don't.

Of course, we don't always get it right. Churches are made up of human beings, after all, and human beings have an impressive capacity for getting things wrong!

But hopefully we keep trying.

Harvest is a particularly good time to remember this. We give thanks for food, for farmers, for those who grow, transport and prepare what we eat, and for the extraordinary generosity of God's creation.

And Harvest also reminds us that we are dependent upon one another.

None of us is completely self-sufficient. Even the most independent person relies upon countless other people every day – often people we will never meet.

The bread on our table has a story behind it. The electricity that lights our homes has a story behind it. The clothes we wear, the roads we travel on, the services we use – all depend upon the work of other people.

Giving thanks is a way of remembering that.

Perhaps this October we might try to make thanksgiving part of our ordinary routine.

Not just grand prayers of thanksgiving, but small ones.

Thank God for the cup of tea.

Thank God for the person who phoned when you needed someone to talk to.

Thank God for a sunny morning.

Thank God for rain when the garden needs it.

Thank God for a good night's sleep.

Thank God for laughter.

And, perhaps most importantly, thank God for the people who make our lives richer simply by being in them.

As the month progresses, we will also come towards All Saints' and All Souls' Days, when the church gives us an opportunity to remember those who have gone before us.

October therefore holds together two rather different things: celebration and remembrance.

We celebrate the goodness of God's creation, while remembering that nothing in this world stays exactly the same.

That can sound rather gloomy, but I don't think it needs to be.

The falling leaves are not simply a sign that something is dying. They are also part of the natural rhythm of the year. Trees let go of what they have been holding, making space for what comes next.

There is perhaps a lesson there for us.

Sometimes we need to let go too.

Let go of an old worry.

Let go of a resentment.

Let go of the feeling that everything depends upon us.

Let go of something that has served its purpose but is no longer helpful.

And perhaps, above all, let go of the idea that we have to have everything sorted out.

We don't.

None of us does.

The good news of our faith is that God is remarkably patient with us. God meets us where we are, rather than waiting for us to become the finished product.

So, as October unfolds, I hope that we will notice a little more.

Notice the colours of the trees.

Notice the people around us.

Notice those who might be feeling lonely.

Notice the opportunities to be kind.

Notice the blessings that we so easily take for granted.

And perhaps notice God, quietly present in the middle of it all.

May this be a month of gratitude, kindness and gentle beginnings.

May we have the wisdom to know when to hold on and when to let go, and may we remember that wherever the changing seasons take us, God's love remains constant.

With every blessing,

Sharon

How time flies.....

Dawn celebrates 10 years...

I can't believe it, but it is ten years since I became a Licensed Lay Minister, and on Sunday 20th September, Rev Sharon and I trooped off to Wakefield Cathedral to attend a service to celebrate Licensed Lay Ministry which also was the admission and Licensing Service for new Lay Ministers.

The Cathedral was almost full as 12 new Lay Ministers were officially licensed and then many more of us stood to renew our commitment to Lay Ministry.

We were asked;

Will you continue, as far as in you lies, to promote peace and unity and to conduct yourself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of His Church and for the spiritual welfare of all people?

Will you continue to study the scriptures, to deepen your knowledge of the Christian faith and to grow in your discipleship of Christ?

Will you give obedience to those who are set in authority over you and will you work willingly and collaboratively with all who are your fellow workers in the gospel?

And

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you to make Christ known to all?

My response, along with my fellow lay ministers was "With God's help, I will.

And whilst God's help is vital in my ongoing ministry, you are all part of that ministry too.

The saying goes..."It takes a village to raise a child" well it takes a church to raise a Lay Minister. In fact, not just a church but a PCC and a very supportive, indeed tolerant vicar who has encouraged me, challenged me and supported me through those ten years.

Whoever I am in my ongoing ministry it is thanks to my biological family and my church family and friends who continue to support and encourage me in all that I do.

With God's help I will indeed endeavour to be the best Lay Minister I can be here at St Mary's and in our wider community and I will through the strength of the Holy Spirit stir up the gift of God that is in me to make Christ known to all.

With love and thanks

Dawn x



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A Walk on the Wild side...

Instead of the planned local walk to the Howley ruins, we ended up on a 6-mile trek round the hills of Holmfirth. This was a late decision based on the low numbers and it being probably, one of the last dry and sunny walks this year.

With us well into the 'Season of Creation', this was a great opportunity to reconnect with nature, appreciate what God has given us and march like soldiers as we battle the steep steps and slopes of the Holmfirth hillsides.

A great place to start was Compo's café. I say great - it was a baptism of fire as all we seemed to do was climb for about 10 minutes. In no time at all we were above the town, looking down and across the moors. The cobblestones, narrow roads, quaint surroundings and quirky homes just kept on coming as we marvelled at the next step on our journey. We reached a plateau where we could catch our breath and really admire what was all around us.

Before long we were walking through Wooldale, a beautiful village tucked away on the top of the hillside. Here we found new friends in a herd of young bulls and a very friendly farm cat. A welcome distraction as the layers of clothing were peeled off and plenty of water taken on board.



As we strolled through the village centre, we came across an old phone box that had been converted into a fruit and veg box with an honesty pot for payment.

The next section of the walk involved us walking along the very top of the hill, looking down on the path we had earlier taken to Wooldale, whilst casting an eye over the other side of Holmfirth and the steep, grass slopes to come. I was in a really happy place - the fresh air, the spectacular views, the animal interactions and the awesome weather made it an Altogether more enjoyable afternoon. Luckily, we had quite a long spell of downhill walking ahead as we descended to the back of the town centre.



On the way down, we found a natural Well with dog bowls for anyone to use. With so many dogwalkers on the paths this was a nice touch, typical of the town.

My mum, Kath decided not to bother with the second climb up the other side of Holmfirth, so Dave and I looked for more distractions as we tackled the rabbit-filled slopes to look down at Holmfirth from the opposite angle.

The higher we went, the slower we became!!! But we got there in the end. Our prize was to finally see the red kite that we'd heard but failed to spot, (on our way up). The hardest part was done; we could take it all in knowing that very soon we'd be back where we started but with a nice ice-cream as refreshment.



The town was bustling with tourists and families and Mum managed to find a Compo impersonator who also sang rock'n'roll and owned a pink Cadillac.

It wasn't the ice-cream or the sun that gave me the fuzzy feeling of being blessed to experience the landscapes, perhaps the fact that we had to really put in the effort to climb those hills made it feel more rewarding. It didn't feel like an accomplishment, more like a spiritual visit to get closer to nature and God's creation.

Whatever it was, I'm pretty sure we will be back to do it again next year and hopefully with a few more Woodkirk walkers.

Richard Bowes



Bring the Children to Jesus

But Jesus said, 'Allow the little children, and don't forbid them to come to me; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to ones like these.' - **Matthew 19:14**

I love this verse from Matthew; it shows us how important children are to God and that we should encourage them in church and help build them in faith.

The disciples thought the children being brought to Jesus were an interruption. Jesus saw them differently. He welcomed them and used the moment to reveal something important about His kingdom.

"Don't forbid them to come to me," Jesus said. His words reveal the tender heart of our Saviour. No one is too insignificant to receive His attention. Children who may have seemed unimportant to others were precious to Christ.

His invitation reminds us that Jesus welcomes those who come to Him in humble dependence.

Children naturally depend upon others for what they cannot provide for themselves. In a similar way, we enter God's kingdom not by proving our worth or earning salvation, but by recognising our need and trusting Christ. We come empty-handed, depending completely upon His grace.

This passage also challenges us to consider whether our lives help others come to Jesus. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and fellow believers have opportunities to point younger generations toward Christ through biblical teaching, prayer, encouragement, and godly example.

But I think the invitation is personal too. Sometimes pride, guilt, busyness, or disappointment can make us hesitant to draw near to the Lord. Jesus still calls us to come.

We do not need to impress Him. Let us Come with humility. Come with trust. Come knowing that the Saviour who welcomed children still receives all who seek Him in faith.

We should consider whether anything is keeping us from drawing near to Jesus. Bring it honestly to Him today and look for one practical way to help someone else know and trust Christ.

Prayer:

Jesus, help us come to You with humble faith.

Help us to never hinder others from seeking You.

Help us to use our life to point the next generation toward Christ.

Gail.



A HUGE Thank you x 2:

Firstly, a thank you to all those who attended (or sent donations in lieu of attending) our McMillan Coffee Morning on the 25th September, or gave donations for refreshments on Sunday 27th.

Your generosity (and love of tea or coffee and cake!) means I will be able to send £300.

Thank you so much.

Secondly, I have been receiving Children's Society home collection boxes over the last few weeks and have added up all the coins that you have saved over the past 12 months.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that all that small change added up to over £400 which is fabulous seeing as a lot of it was in small change.

In these days of so many calls on our monies I am so grateful for your ongoing support, it really does make a difference.

With love and thanks

Dawn

**The
Children's
Society**

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 Wedding Co-Ordinator Gary Mortimer on 07740 760556 or email: gary@stmarywoodkirk.org

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.

Mary of Magdala

Magdala: important agricultural, fishing and trade centre of ancient Galilee.

Mary's name can mean: Tower, greatness.

Her name can mean: Rebellious, bitter.

Mary rebelled against God in her earlier years.

She tried to control her life, do her own thing, yet ended up losing control. Lost control to evil spirits who inhabited her body and brought darkness.

Physical and mental issues are often associated with demon possession. Not just one but seven demons. They brought her severe pain, grief, and regret.

These conditions were not God's will, but the power of Jesus might be made manifest through them.

Alone, tormented, without hope, in terror, and hurt--yet Jesus brought her into the light because she trusted in Him.

People marvelled because of the authority that Jesus possessed; he commanded unclean spirits and they obeyed Him.

Great transformation in her life, as this demon possessed woman became a loyal follower of Jesus

She was witness to cross, burial, empty tomb, and resurrection of Jesus.

She was the first one to speak with Jesus after the resurrection.

It was a dark world she lived in before she met Jesus.

It is a dark world we live in.

Families torn apart by quarrels, or misunderstandings, wars brought on by greed, violence on our street, unrest in neighbouring countries, the loss of loved ones young and old.

Sometimes the darkness is our doing, sometimes circumstantial, and sometimes afflicted on us by others.

One of the darkest time for me was having 2 strokes, and coming to terms the life I would now have to lead, not being able to continue the with the rolls I had been able to do before, the slowing down, the darkness and confusion of having to come to terms with a new normality.

What has been the darkest part of your life so far?

Despite the darkness of Mary's life, Jesus brought her light. She needed to be in the light and so do we.

Magdala means tower, yet Mary didn't find strength within herself or her location in life, she found only weakness.

Maybe in our lives we consider ourselves religious yet we how much time do we spend on spiritual things. How much time do we spend bible reading. Are too busy!

Let us make sure that where we are is not keeping us from being in the light.

For Mary she was rebellious and bitter. These characteristics extinguished any chance of light coming into her life.

Rebellion as the sin of witchcraft.

If you think about it the Bible is right. Rebellion is worshipping the wrong person. It is worshipping yourself; thinking that you are better than God and know better than Him.

Mysterious paradox: Bible says if you take control of your life, you will lose it. That is what happened to our friend Mary.

Within ourselves there just is not enough light for us to live the way we should live.

When we give up our rebellion and live for God instead of ourselves, we learn what it means to be in the light and what it means to really live.

Bitterness is another element that tosses water on the light that wants to rise in our lives. It's when we allow the injustices, pain, and regret of life to overshadow the light being shined in.

Have experiences left us bitter? Come to the light! He will take that bitterness and relieve the heavy burden we have been carrying.

Jesus the man who cast out the seven demons from Mary, will help us too.

We can learn as Mary did that no one and nothing can completely extinguish the light. He is always there.

It is all based on whether or not we will allow the power of Jesus to be manifest in our lives. Remember, no matter what amount of effort we put in, it will not produce results without Jesus.

Gail.

Down on the Farm.

Farmers are often criticised for thinking of animals as numbers not as characters but because of health reasons and legalities they have to be identified. If something happened to Betsy, how does the farmer tell the Ministry of Agriculture which cow Betsy is? Now every cow has a passport as soon as they are born, not because they might go to France or Germany but to travel with the animal even if she just travels next door.

Each animal has two ear tags, one plastic to be visible from several metres away and a smaller metal tag both covering the same number. If a cow or calf moves to another farm, the passport must travel with her. One farm in Ireland was unable to show passports for every animal and the whole herd had to be slaughtered.

That's enough of the legal side. In the 30s and 40s the herd size probably averaged around 20 or 30 so it would be easy to name and remember every cow but with larger herds and workers needing time off, it would be impossible for replacement workers to know every cow, which cow kicks, which cow has been injected with antibiotics so her milk cannot go into the milk tank, which cow is new calved so her milk goes to feed the calves. so each cow must be identified. If you are behind the cow, you can't see her ear tag so that is no good - so began the use of freeze-branding. I've witnessed this several times and haven't seen any reactions like you see with hot branding.

You might think that in a large herd nobody knows which cow is which, but I can say that I knew every cow in the herd. I knew mothers and daughters and what family they were from. One cow came into the herd from another farm. Her name was Grace, so all her daughters and granddaughters were called Grace. You can imagine that we could soon have a lot of Graces running around so they all had a second name from their father. We had Soothill

Griffland Grace and Griffland Grace 2, her full sister (Griffland being the father). Soon there were quite a few Graces in the herd, so the family name Grace became like a surname and the sire's name became the first name.

When a young cow calves for the first time when she's from a family of nervous cows, you know she is likely to kick the milk machine off, so you stand with her and talk to her kindly and stroke her to keep her calm.

Of course, there are times when they can catch you out. When the sad time came and we sold the cows, most of them were sold to one farm. Half of them went on one load and the haulier said he'd be back in two days. After one day, one cow left on the farm was acting strangely. I was totally confused until I realised she was a twin. Although they weren't always together, she was missing her twin, but they were together again the following day. That knowledge came from knowing all of my cows well. I still miss my friends, the cows.

I think back over the years of various families, remember the first Christine that came in a group bought from John Jackson of Beningbrough Hall farm. She had already had her 2nd calf and I would class her as a small pretty cow. She lasted until she was about 15yrs old, milked really well and bred every year and she gave us some exceptional daughters. She was freeze brand 45. Her first daughter was Griffland Christine 283. She was a beautiful cow, taller than her mother, milked well but she was susceptible to hypocalcaemia (milk fever).

I remember one night checking the calving pens and found her flat out, almost dead with the calf partway out. Luckily Cath was with me, and she gave her a bottle of calcium into the vein as I helped the calf out.

Luckily, she survived and was quickly up on her feet tending to her newborn calf.

I remember her mother lasted longer than she did. That was quite some time ago, but when the herd was sold there were still several Christines in the herd.

So yes, I remember families, some lasted well but some were easily forgotten but the best ones I'll remember forever.

Richard Oakes.



Richard at a Show

Rap of Ages

Once I was a Rocker in a downtown Mecca,
Kicking up my heels with the rest of the gang.
I still feel like that Rocker but now I'm an old bed blocker,
Feeling very guilty taking up a room in a Hospital bed.

Written by Alice:

'When I was in Hospital after my hip op, waiting to move to a recovery hub.'

Ezekiel

I have just finished reading the book of Ezekiel, so I thought I would share some of it with you.

During the time of the divided kingdom, when Israel was divided into north & south, into Israel & Judah. Both had been unfaithful. Israel had been destroyed.

In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Judah. Ezekiel - 17 years old at the time - watched and as he watched he felt his dreams slipping away.

In 597 BC Ezekiel himself was taken into exile with 10,000. By his 30th birthday Ezekiel found himself among the exiles by the Kebar River.

Ezekiel receiving a call to be a prophet. (Ezekiel 1:1).

What's a person to do who's called to do something he doesn't want to?

What's a person to do when he loses all hope of ever seeing his dreams fulfilled?

Ezekiel tried to be faithful.

Jeremiah had told the exiles what they should do. (Jer 29:4-7).

Ezekiel had done it. He built himself a house, married the girl of his dreams and set about doing all the good that he could possibly do.

But it wasn't enough.

In 586 BC the beautiful temple at Jerusalem was destroyed.

The same day, Ezekiel's wife (the delight of his eyes) died.

At the height of despair, God gave Ezekiel a vision.

It's recorded in Ezekiel 37:1-10.

It is called the vision of **The Valley of Dry Bones**. In it, God tells Ezekiel what to do in a hopeless situation. He tells him to:

1. Prophecy (Ezekiel 37:4)

We need the ministry of the prophet.

Everyone who prophesies, speaks to the word of God.

They are in counsel with God until they are called to minister His Word. Then they faithfully declared His Word to his people.

2. To the Bones (Ezekiel 37:4)

In the vision, you're either a bone or a prophet.

When Ezekiel prophesied:

If you want to see your bones, come together, learn to prophesy, but not just to the bones.

3. To the Spirit (Ezekiel 37:9)

We're talking the Holy Spirit.

When you talk to God, it's called prayer.

When you prophesy to God, it's called ... prophetic prayer.

When you talk to God, he already knows what you are going to ask for.

And then we wait to receive his answer. Which is not always the answer you want. But in time you will know he is right.

That's called ... the prayer of faith.

Ezekiel was challenged:

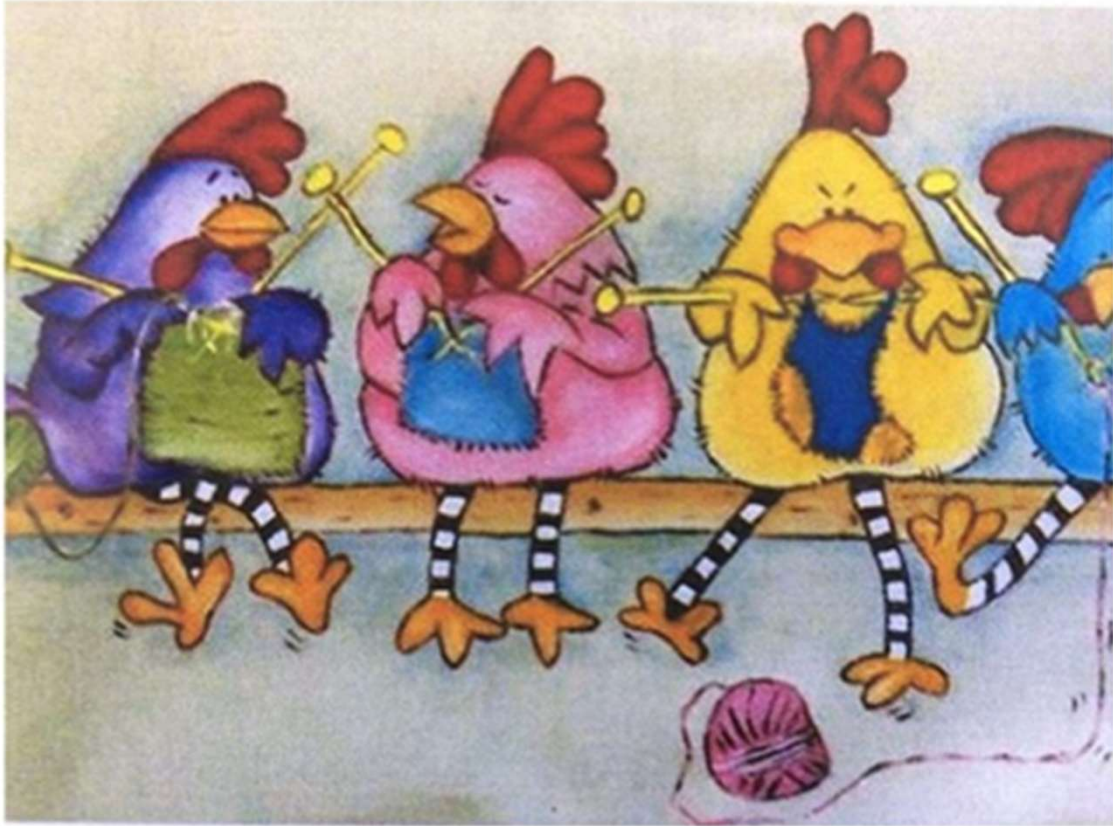
To go to a place he didn't want to go. To minister to a people he didn't want to minister to. To pick up the ministry of prophetic prayer. But he went. It was a trying time for him as they did not want to listen, but he persevered, because he knew God was with him. And it was a challenge he would win with God's help, however long it would take.

Ezekiel fulfilled his call. Will you fulfil yours?

Amen

Gail

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

Harvest and the Farm.

When I was a young boy, harvest festivals were almost tales of a distant past. St Paul's, Hanging Heaton was hardly a country parish, and we had the only farm in the parish. Yet the church was bedecked with sheaves of straw around the pulpit decorated with flowers and people brought whatever home-grown fruit and vegetables they had spare, to be given to the old people of the parish.

Now it is rare to see perishables, mostly it comes in the form of tins and packets, all a long way from where it was grown. It still goes to the needy.

Recently I lost a close friend, a fellow farmer from the Doncaster area. His life was all farming. His hobby was ploughing. He never stopped. He was 85 when he died. Talking to his wife, she said he was looking forward to buying some more cows as his son had extended the building that housed the cows. No slowing down for him.

His wife stated that the family wanted his funeral to be as close to the harvest festival as possible, as every year they put a hand plough on the altar surrounded by farmers gifts of vegetables, a lovely sight for a true farmer, such a gentle man.

Richard Oakes



October Recipes

Hi there

Well, I guess we're now in meteorological Autumn, but the first few days of October seem not to have got the memo as it's still quite pleasant. However, I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking how soon the nights seem to be drawing in.

I thought this month that I would share some recipes you can make in a 'batch cooking' way so that you cook once but can eat over several days or freeze portions for later.

Saucy lentil gnocchi ragù

An extremely saucy and comforting ragù-style dish that skips the meat but does not skimp on flavour. Made in one pot, it really couldn't be easier!

Ingredients

1 tbsp [olive oil](#)

1 tsp [paprika](#)

1 tsp dried [oregano](#)

½ tsp dried red chilli flakes (optional)

5 [garlic](#) cloves, blended or finely chopped

1 [onion](#), blended or finely chopped

2 [celery](#) sticks, blended or finely chopped

250g/8oz [chestnut mushrooms](#), blended or finely chopped

2 [carrots](#), peeled and blended or finely chopped

2 tbsp [tomato purée](#)

3 tbsp dark [soy sauce](#)

400g tin [chopped tomatoes](#)

1 [vegetable stock](#) cube

400g tin [green lentils](#), drained

1 tsp [sugar](#) (any white [sugar](#))

2 x 400g packets fresh [gnocchi](#)



salt and freshly ground [black pepper](#)
fresh [basil](#) leaves, sliced, to garnish
vegetarian hard [cheese](#) or dairy-free alternative, finely grated, to
serve (optional)

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Stir in the paprika, oregano and chilli flakes and fry for 1 minute to infuse the spices. Add the garlic, onion and celery and cook for a few minutes until softened. Add the mushrooms and cook for 5 minutes to draw out their moisture. Add the carrots and cook for a further 2 minutes.

Mix in the tomato purée and soy sauce.

Pour in the tomatoes. Refill the empty tomato tin with boiling water and the stock cube, stir until dissolved and then pour the stock into the pan. Add the lentils and sugar and mix everything together.

Simmer for around 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until it begins to thicken but still remains saucy. Season generously with salt and pepper.

Add the gnocchi directly into the sauce, stir through and cook for a few minutes until soft and ready to eat. (If freezing leave out the gnocchi)

Serve in bowls and garnish with a handful of the basil. Serve with a good sprinkling of the cheese, if using.

Make and freeze salmon and broccoli pie

I don't mind salmon but sometimes I have to 'disguise' it and make it seem like I'm eating something else! This recipe looks ideal 😊 ...

Ingredients

600ml/20fl oz milk

½ medium onion, finely sliced

1 large bay leaf

2 fresh salmon fillets (around 280g/10oz)

35g/1¼oz butter

35g/1¼oz plain flour

50g/1¾oz mature cheddar, coarsely grated

½ small unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only

small bunch (around 10g) dill, roughly chopped (optional)

200g/7oz broccoli, cut into small florets (see tip)

sea salt and black pepper

For the mash

900g/2lb floury potatoes,
peeled and cut into chunks

50g/1¾oz butter

100ml/3½fl oz milk.



Method

A third fill a large saucepan with water, cover with a lid and bring to the boil.

Add the potatoes to the boiling water, cover loosely with a lid and return to a simmer. Cook for 15 minutes or until very tender but not falling apart.

Meanwhile, pour the milk into a medium saucepan, add the sliced onion and bay leaf and bring to a gentle simmer, stirring occasionally. Place the salmon carefully into the warm milk skin-side up. Cook over a low heat for 2 minutes (do not allow to boil). Remove from the heat, cover with a lid and set aside for 10 minutes. Drain the potatoes in a large colander, then return to the pan and mash with the butter until smooth. Beat in the milk and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Boil the broccoli florets in a separate pan for 2 minutes and drain well.

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.

Strain the fish through a sieve into a large bowl, reserving the milk.

Melt the butter in a medium saucepan and stir in the flour.

Gradually add the reserved milk, whisking well between each addition, until smooth.

Bring the sauce to a gentle simmer and stir in the grated cheese, lemon zest and dill, if using. Whisk over a medium heat for 2 minutes or until thickened, smooth and creamy (use a silicone covered whisk if making the sauce in a non-stick pan). Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Break the fish into chunks, removing any skin or bones and stir the fish and broccoli gently into the sauce. Divide between 3–4 small pie dishes, or a single 1 litre pie dish (see tip).

Spoon the mashed potatoes on top, starting around the edges before moving into the centre. Place on a baking tray and cook for 20–25 minutes, or until golden and bubbling

(Tips - Cut the broccoli into small, bite-sized florets, so they are distributed evenly throughout the sauce. You'll need around 175g/6oz broccoli florets once trimmed. Individual enamel pie dishes work well for this recipe and mean the fish pieces are easy to freeze too – great if you are making ahead. Simply cover and freeze before baking.

Defrost overnight in the fridge and then cook as above, adding 5–10 minutes extra time to account for the chill factor. Leftovers can be stored in the fridge for up to 2 days and reheated in the microwave.

Slow cooker ratatouille

Batch cook some colourful veggies then on a grey day you can serve this ratatouille with whatever you fancy.

Ingredients

2 tbsp [olive oil](#)

1 [red onion](#) sliced

2 [garlic cloves](#)

2 [large aubergines](#) cut into 1.5cm pieces

3 [courgettes](#) halved and cut into 2cm pieces

3 mixed peppers cut into 2cm pieces

1 tbsp tomato purée

6 [large ripe tomatoes](#) roughly chopped

small bunch of [basil](#) roughly chopped, plus a few extra leaves to serve

few [thyme sprigs](#)

400g can [plum tomatoes](#)

1 tbsp red wine vinegar

1 tsp [brown sugar](#)

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large [frying pan](#) and fry the onion for 8 mins until translucent. Add the garlic and fry for 1 min.
2. Turn the heat to medium-high, add the aubergines and fry for 5 mins until golden. Stir in the courgettes and peppers and fry for 5 mins more until slightly soft.
3. Add the tomato purée, fresh tomatoes, herbs, canned tomatoes, vinegar, sugar and 1 tsp salt and bring to the boil.
4. Transfer to the [slow cooker](#) and cook on low for 5-6 hours or until everything is soft and the sauce has thickened. (Or if you don't have a slow cooker transfer to a casserole dish and use your oven on a very low heat).
5. Season, scatter over some extra basil, and serve.



And not batch cooking but a sneaky dessert you can size down for an individual treat 😊

Quick sticky toffee puddings.

Ingredients

4 large chocolate muffins crumbled

50g large sultanas

small knob of [butter](#) for greasing

For the sauce

50g [light muscovado sugar](#)

50g [butter](#)

75ml [double cream](#)

[vanilla](#) ice cream, to serve.



Method

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Mix the muffins with the sultanas. Divide between 4 buttered ramekins or one baking dish. Cover with foil and bake for 8 mins until just warmed through.

Meanwhile, place the sugar, butter and cream in a small pan and gently heat together, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Pour the sauce over the muffin mixture and serve warm with ice cream.

Albert's Quiz

1. During which process does water change from liquid to gas: a) Freezing, b) Evaporation, c) precipitation
2. Which traditional board game features two kings and two queens?
3. What are the last set of teeth to emerge in a human adult?
4. What word, beginning with letter O, refers to the Japanese art of paper folding?
5. What is the only type of fruit that has seeds on the outside?
6. In the story of The Three Little Pigs, what did the second pig make his house out of?
7. From which London station does the Hogwarts Express leave from in Harry Potter?
8. How many corners does a hexagon have?
9. In tennis, the word 'love' means having a score of what?
10. What is the Hulk's main superpower?
11. Where do Aladdin and Abu find the magic carpet?
12. What type of sport is a slalom associated with?
13. What type of skirt is typically worn by a ballerina?
14. Which dinosaur has three horns?
15. Which of these landmarks would you find in Peru: a) Leaning Tower of Pisa, b) Eiffel Tower, c) Machu Picchu
16. In the UK, what letter is displayed on a vehicle to indicate a newly passed driver?
17. What is the heaviest land animal on Earth?
18. In Irish folklore, what type of creature can be described as a little bearded man who wears a green hat and coat?
19. What type of flower is associated with Remembrance Sunday?
20. Where is a scorpion's sting located?

Answers on P38

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.Evaporation 2.Chess 3.Wisdom Teeth 4.Origami
5.Strawberries 6.Sticks 7.King's Cross Station 8.Six 9.Zero
10.His strength 11.In the Cave of Wonders 12.Skiing 13. A
tutu 14.Triceratops 15. Machu Picchu 16.P (Probationary)
17.Elephant 18.Leprechaun 19.Poppy 20.At the end of its tail.

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:**



Sylvia Hull

**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 or evenings.

Regular long term bookings negotiable.

Nominal cost is £75.00 for 3 hours.

Weekend hire for birthday parties, celebrations and much more. Nominal Cost is £75.00 for 3 hours.

**Contact: Cath Oakes 07796713750
for more information**

BENNETT OF MORLEY

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CHRISTINE BENNETT
RACHEL STONES

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TINGLEY

What's on

(please contact the leaders for further information)

ABC Group

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

Knit and Natter

Come and enjoy help with crafts or
just chat Wednesday 1.00-3.00pm.
Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239

Line Dancing

1.00-3.30pm Tuesday
Contact Helena 07719946917

Pilates

Monday & 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:

October

Sunday 4th : Songs of Praise (in church) - 4pm

Saturday 10th : Harvest Supper & Quiz – 6pm

Sunday 11th : All Age Worship – Harvest Festival 10.30am

Saturday 17th : Woodkirk Walkers Hiking Group - 11.00am

Friday 30th : Coffee Morning in church – 10am-12pm

November

Monday 2nd: All Souls Service – 7pm.

Sunday 8th: Remembrance Sunday – 10:30am

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