Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

November 2026





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£1.00

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Who's who at Woodkirk

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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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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.

As I write this month's letter, we find ourselves well into autumn. The days are growing shorter, the evenings are drawing in, and the familiar colours of the season are beginning to transform our gardens, parks and countryside. There is something both beautiful and reflective about this time of year. The trees remind us that change is a natural part of life, while the falling leaves invite us to pause and consider what it means to let go, to make room for something new, and to trust in the promise of renewal.

Autumn can be a busy time, as routines settle after the summer and the demands of work, school and family life gather pace. Yet perhaps this is precisely when we most need to make space for stillness, prayer and the quiet presence of God.

One of the wonderful things about the Christian faith is that we do not have to look for God only in extraordinary events or dramatic experiences. God is present in the ordinary moments of our lives: in a conversation with a neighbour, in a kind word offered to someone who is struggling, in the laughter of children, in the comfort of friendship, and in the simple beauty of the world around us.

Sometimes, of course, we find it difficult to recognise God's presence. Life can be demanding, and the news is often filled with stories of conflict, uncertainty, hardship and suffering. Many people face worries about finances, health, loneliness or the wellbeing of those they love. In such circumstances, talk of hope can seem rather distant from the realities of everyday life.

Yet Christian hope is not about pretending that everything is well. It is about believing that, even when life is difficult, we are not abandoned. God walks with us through the shadows as well as the sunshine. The psalmist writes, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4). These familiar words do not promise that we will never experience sorrow or fear. Rather, they remind us that we need not face them alone.

This is at the heart of our life together as a church. We gather for worship not because we have everything worked out, but because we need God and one another.

We come with our joys and our sorrows, our questions and our uncertainties, our gratitude and our concerns. In prayer, in Scripture, in the sharing of Holy Communion and in fellowship with one another, we are reminded of the love that holds us together.

The church is much more than a building, important though our church buildings are. They are places of prayer, celebration, remembrance and refuge. Generations have come through their doors to mark the great moments of life: baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as the quieter moments when someone simply needs somewhere to sit and be still. These buildings tell stories of faithfulness across the years.

But the living church is made up of people: people who serve, encourage, listen, pray, welcome and care. Much of this work happens quietly and without recognition. A visit to someone who is housebound, a telephone call to a person who lives alone, the preparation of refreshments after a service, the careful arrangement of flowers, or the willingness to help with a practical task may seem like small things. Yet these are often the very ways in which God's love becomes visible.

Jesus repeatedly drew attention to the importance of small acts of kindness. He welcomed those whom others overlooked and taught his disciples that greatness is found in serving others. We may not be able to solve every problem in our community, let alone in the wider world, but we can make a difference in the lives of those we meet. A smile, a listening ear or an offer of help can be a powerful expression of Christian love.

As a parish, we have much to be thankful for: for those who give their time and talents, for those who pray faithfully, for those who support the church financially, and for all who contribute to the life of our community in so many different ways. Every contribution matters, whether it is seen by many people or known only to God. If you are one of those who quietly keep things going, please know that your service is valued and appreciated.

This season also invites us to remember those who have died and those who grieve for them. As we approach November, with its particular opportunities for remembrance, many of us will think of loved ones whose absence is still deeply felt. Grief does not follow a timetable, and anniversaries or familiar autumn traditions can bring memories close to the surface.

The Christian faith gives us permission to mourn honestly, while holding on to the promise that death does not have the final word. In Christ, we place our trust in the God whose love is stronger than death and whose light shines even in the darkness.

Perhaps, during the coming weeks, we might each find one small way to make room for God in the ordinary business of life. It might be a few moments of prayer at the beginning or end of the day, a walk taken with a thankful heart, a visit to someone we have not seen for a while, or an invitation extended to someone who might otherwise feel left out. We might also consider whether there is someone in our community who needs encouragement, practical help or simply the reassurance that they are not forgotten.

We do not need to do extraordinary things to live out an extraordinary love. We are simply called to follow Christ, one step at a time, trusting that God can use even our smallest efforts for good.

As the autumn leaves fall and the natural world prepares for winter, may we be reminded that every season has its place in God's purposes. There are times of growth and times of waiting, times of celebration and times of sorrow. Through them all, God's faithfulness remains constant.

May the coming month bring you moments of peace, opportunities to serve, reasons to be thankful and the assurance of God's presence wherever your path may lead.

With every blessing,

Sharon

Woodkirk Walking in Autumn.

Hi there

Woodkirk walkers gathered at Church on Saturday 17th October and then car shared to Anglers Country Park near Crofton. It was a beautiful morning, breezy and cool out of the wind but pleasantly warm when the sun came out.

We started off walking around the lake, following the Room on a Broom trail, sadly I'd left my broomstick at home! We spotted lots of birds, the large Canada and Brent Geese, a Black Swan, great crested grebe's, cormorants, it was lovely with many families out enjoying the weather.





(Lapwing photo courtesy of Rosie)

On our way back we called in at the hide to do a bit of birdwatching and were delighted to see some lapwings and Rosie called in at another hide and spotted goldfinches, great tits, blue tits, robins, chaffinches, a buzzard and a squirrel.

We then sat at the visitor centre and enjoyed our sandwiches in the sunshine then after a rest we set off on the woodland walk. Thank goodness for Rosie and her Girl Guiding experience, I'd have got hopelessly lost!



It was beautiful with the autumn colours, leaves and pinecones everywhere, and being sheltered from the wind by the trees it was very pleasant.
We walked just over 5 and a half miles and really enjoyed it.
Our next walk is scheduled for Saturday 21st November which will be around Middleton/Rothwell, further details nearer the time in the weekly newssheet.

Woodkirk Walkers





Wednesday Special Event

11 NOVEMBER
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Lord you are the giver of Love.

Lord you are the giver of love,
holding our life in your hands,
filling our hearts and feeding our souls,
granting your grace from above.
You are the giver of light,
shining on us and on all,
yearning to help and ready to guide,
bring an end to the night.
You are the giver of joy,
Aching to fill us with cheer,
making us glad and bring delight,
bliss that no ill can destroy.
You are the giver of peace,
Striving to make the world whole,
Hungry to heal and thirsty to mend,
Longing for hatred to cease.
You are the giver of all,
Eager to bless us each day,
Hands open wide, you freely impart,
gifts to enrich and enthral.

With thanks to Gail.

George. Jemima & Tommy. The Ten Leopards

George & Tommy pop up.
Tommy. Hi George,
George. Hello Tommy.
Tommy. Where's Jemima?
George. No idea, probably doing girlie things with her girlie friends.
Tommy. What girlie things?
George. Oh, ya know, playing with Barbie and stuff.
Tommy. Who's Barbie?
George. Who's Barbie? who's Barbie? Don't tell me you've never seen Barbie?
Tommy. No, never heard of her.
George. She's got long blond hair, stunning blue eyes and a figure to die for and a boyfriend called Ken.
Tommy. No chance for us then?
George. Barbie's a doll you plonker, ya know like we have Action man.
Tommy. Who's Action man?
George. Ya Dad.
Tommy. Only kidding, I actually have an Action man.
George. Give over.
Suddenly Jemima pops up.
George. Oh, you've decided to join us then?
Tommy. Yeh, we were getting worried about you, we thought you'd run off with Barbie and Ken.
Jemima. WHAT!?
George. Ignore him Jemima, but where've you been?
Jemima. Reading my Bible and didn't notice the time.
Tommy. What ya reading the Bible for?
Jemima. I've been chosen to tell a story to the kids in Sunday School.
Tommy. What about?
Jemima. Jesus and the ten lepers.
Tommy and George drop behind the wall in shock.
Jemima. What's wrong with you two?

From behind the wall.
George. I don't think we want to stick around for this one, what do you say Tommy?
Tommy. Yeh, I'm with you on this one George.
Jemima. What on earth is wrong with you two?
George. Where're frightened.
Jemima. Frightened of what?
George. Them big fast cats with spots.
Tommy. Yeh, them Leopards.
Jemima. You idiots, I said lepers not leopards, now come back up, you're perfectly safe.
George and Tommy pop back up.
Jemima. You both okay now?
George. I think so.
Tommy. What are lepers?
George. Oh here we go again, tell him Jemima.
Jemima. No Tommy, as I said, it's not leopards it's lepers. Lepers are people with a skin disease they call leprosy. Leprosy is a contagious disease with lots of sores, you may even lose fingers and toes, and to this day in many cases it's very difficult to cure.
George & Tommy. Urghhhhhhhhh.
Tommy. Leopards would look funny without any fingers or toes.
Jemima. Paws.----------Why have you gone quiet?
George. You told us to pause.
Tommy. Ha ha, good one George.
George. Okay Jemima, tell us your story about the ten leopards.
Jemima. Lepers George, it's lepers.
George. Okay, crack on.
Jemima. Well, the story can be found in the bible in Luke chapter 7 verses 11-19. It starts where Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He travelled between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going along, ten men met him. They all had a skin disease called leprosy.
Tommy. Were they leopards?
George. Shut it Tommy. Please proceed Jemima.
Jemima. Thank you George. They were standing close by but they wouldn't come too close.

Tommy. Why?
Jemima. The lepers weren't allowed to go too close to other people because the people might catch what they have.
Tommy. Oh, right.
Jemima. They called out to Jesus with a loud voice.
George. I thought there were ten of 'em.
Jemima. How do you mean?
George. Surely, a loud voice should be voices!
Tommy. Stop butting in George, let her crack on or we'll be here all day.
Jemima. Thank you Tommy. As I was saying. They called out to Jesus with a loud voice. "Master have pity on us"
Tommy. Sounded like they really needed help.
George. Yep.
Jemima. Jesus saw them and said "Go show yourselves to the priests.
Tommy. Why did Jesus tell them to show themselves to the priests?
Jemima. Jesus said they should show the priests they were healed even before they could see their healing. The priests were the men who decided whether or not they were healed from leprosy. Only the priests had the authority to declare these men healed and clean and could return to their families and communities.
Tommy. Got it.
George. I hope not.
Jemima. While the lepers were on their way they looked and saw all their terrible sores were gone and their skin was healed from head to toe.
George. Just like that.
Jemima. Yes George, just like that, Jesus healed them from a distance with just a word. Jesus is God and he can do anything
Tommy. That's more than a word.
George. Wiil ya belt up Tommy?
Jemima. I imagine they were all celebrating and dancing all around.
George. Yeh, dancing's a lot better with all ya toes.

Jemima. Yes George, and when one of them saw he was healed he came back to Jesus. He praised God with a loud voice and threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Samaritans weren't very well liked by the Jewish people, they considered them to be outsiders.
Tommy. Why did he use such a loud voice?
Jemima. Well, just as the men were shouting for Jesus to have mercy and heal them at the beginning of the story, this man was now shouting in a loud voice to thank Jesus. He bowed down in front of Jesus and thanked him.
George. Did the other nine men just scarper then?
Jemima. Wow, ya both full of good questions today. Jesus asked the man "weren't all ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Didn't anyone else return to give praise to God except this outsider? Then Jesus told him to get up and go and said to him "your faith has healed you."
Tommy. Maybe the other nine were thinking, "he told us to go to the priests, we were only doing as we were told and I've got lots of things to do now that I'm normal, I'll thank him later."
Jemima. Could be Tommy. However, we must always remember to thank God. As a matter of fact, a good Bible verse for us to remember for thanksgiving, which, by the way is coming up very soon, is Psalm 9 verse 1 it says "I WILL PRAISE YOU LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART."
Tommy. Can we please go now before them ten leopards come back.
Jemima. Yes, I have to get back to Barbie and Ken.
George. And Action Man for me.
ALL. Bye bye everybody, bye bye.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

ST MARY'S CHURCH

10.30AM

In remembrance of those
who served and sacrificed.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Update

Hi folks
I just wanted to update you on a conversation I had with the Macmillan Coffee Morning Team back in October.

I rang them to get the appropriate information to be able to pay in our donations and when I confirmed how much we had raised at our coffee morning, the lady I was speaking to told me that we had raised enough to pay for a Macmillan Nurse for a day.

This tangible evidence of what our money goes towards I thought was lovely and something I wanted to share with you, after all if you hadn't supported the coffee morning, we wouldn't have been able to do this.
Thanks as always.

Dawn



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.

The Stables

Anyone who visited Croft House Vet Surgery would remember the gantry on the right side which you could look through and see the main farmyard and the fields down to the Babes. There were two windows in the passageway. Originally the surgery was a farm cottage, made redundant when the “new “semis were built. The cottage was always linked to the barn - the window in the passageway originally was the door to the stables for the working Shire horses with traditional split stable doors. I well remember those gentle giants coming out of the stables (though I was very young at the time) and I clearly remember the last shire foal being born.

When the tractors came, the horses were sold on and the stables used for general storage. Later, when I was a young teenager, I was given the job of helping destroy the stable divisions, solid wood structures built to withstand Shire horses leaning against them. I know now that it was sacrilege to destroy them, but Dad wanted them out so we could build pig pens to expand the pig fattening business to supply Walls for bacon.

Eventually it became impracticable to have pigs there and we expanded the pig buildings at Grange farm. We began rearing our own dairy young stock, so it was time to demolish the brick walls of the pig pens. This left us with a clear empty building for the individual calf pens. They were individual because if calves run together, they will suck anything that looks like a cow’s teat so they will suck each other’s navels, allowing sometimes very serious infections up into the abdomen. The calves can see each other and socialise though.

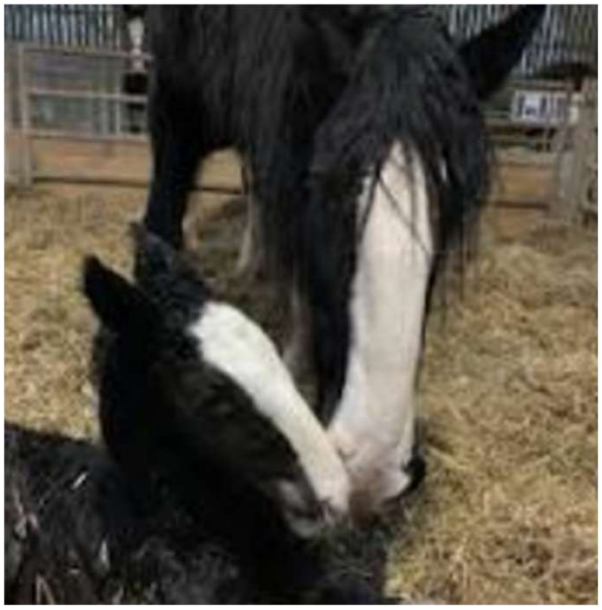
After eight weeks they were grouped together. This continued for a number of years until we started using calf hutches in the open air. These allowed the calves fresh air, warm hutches with deep straw bedding and more space. I first saw calf hutches in Canada where winters are much colder and their calves were very healthy with no respiratory disease. So the calf shed was empty again. Whatever next?

The Millenium was fast approaching. Did we have an empty shed for a party for local people? So the shed was pressure washed yet again, whitewashed and the walls were covered in red, white and blue parachute material and filled with borrowed tables and chairs. Invitations were given to neighbours and friends.

A barbecue was set up and people brought salads and puddings (plus a little drink!) At midnight we had fireworks in the nearest field followed by loud “oohs and ahhs” There were two casualties however, one teenager, taken home with “food poisoning “, however she was observed consuming a bit of alcohol. Another young man was sick after “lining his stomach with milk “after drinking alcohol!

The shed remained empty for a few months until it became part of the expanding veterinary surgery. Whilst the surgery was being knocked about and expanded Cath had to work in portacabins over the winter months. After a number of years in the new surgery Cath sold the practice and retired. The practice that bought Croft House then resold the business to another firm which eventually closed the practice and now there is a “To Let” sign on the wall. What happens now?

Richard (Oakes)



Remembering with Love and Hope

November is a month when remembrance takes a particularly important place in our lives as a nation, as a community and as a church. As the days grow shorter and the landscape takes on its quieter winter colours, we are invited to pause, to reflect and to remember those who have shaped our lives and whose absence we continue to feel.

For many, November begins with All Saints' Day on 1 November, followed by All Souls' Day on 2 November. These days have a special significance within the Christian tradition, offering us an opportunity to give thanks for the lives of those who have died and to reflect on the promise of eternal life that lies at the heart of our faith.

All Saints' Day celebrates the saints of the Church, both those whose names are remembered throughout history and the countless faithful people whose lives of love and service may never have been widely known. All Souls' Day invites us to remember more particularly our own departed loved ones: family members, friends and all those whose lives have touched ours. We remember their kindness, their laughter, their wisdom and the memories that remain precious to us.

Grief is a deeply personal experience. For some, the passage of time brings a gentle easing of sorrow; for others, the sense of loss remains very close, even many years later. A familiar song, a special date or an ordinary moment can suddenly bring someone vividly to mind. There is no timetable for grief, and no single way to mourn. As Christians, we need not hide our sadness or feel that our faith requires us to be strong at all times. Jesus himself wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. His tears remind us that love and sorrow belong together, and that God understands the pain of human loss.

Our Christian hope, however, offers us more than memories alone. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). These words do not remove the pain of bereavement, but they point us towards the promise that death is not the end of our story.

We entrust those we love to the mercy and keeping of God, whose love is greater than anything that separates us from him. Remembrance Sunday brings a different, though closely connected, dimension to this season. Across our villages, towns and cities, people gather at war memorials, in churches and at civic ceremonies to remember those who have given their lives in conflict. The two-minute silence is a powerful act of collective remembrance, allowing us to stand together in gratitude, sorrow and hope.

We remember not only those who died in the two World Wars, but also the men and women who have served in conflicts since, those who continue to serve in our Armed Forces, and all the families whose lives have been changed by war. We also remember civilians caught up in conflict, and those today who live with the terrible consequences of violence, displacement and loss. Remembrance is not simply an exercise in looking backwards. It challenges us to consider how we live today. If we truly honour those who suffered and died in war, we must also ask what we can do to build a more peaceful and compassionate world. Peace begins not only in international agreements and the decisions of political leaders, but also in the way we treat our neighbours, resolve disagreements, welcome strangers and seek understanding where there is division.

The prophet Micah speaks of a time when people “shall beat their swords into ploughshares” (Micah 4:3), a vision of a world in which weapons of destruction are transformed into instruments of life and nourishment. It is a beautiful and challenging image, reminding us that God's desire is for peace, justice and the flourishing of all people.
As a church, we hold together remembrance, mourning and hope. We make space for tears, give thanks for lives well lived, honour courage and sacrifice, and pray for those who suffer today. Our services during November offer opportunities to light candles, hear familiar words, keep silence and place before God the names and memories we carry in our hearts.

Whether you are remembering a loved one who has died, attending a Remembrance Sunday service, or simply reflecting quietly at home, you are welcome to bring your thoughts and feelings before God. You do not need to have the right words. Sometimes silence itself becomes a prayer.

May this November be a time when we remember with gratitude, mourn with honesty and hope with confidence. May God comfort all who grieve, strengthen all who work for peace, and help us to cherish the preciousness of every human life.
And may we carry the lessons of remembrance into the days ahead, living with greater kindness, deeper compassion and a renewed commitment to the peace of Christ.

Sharon
All Services are advertised in this magazine… please take a look.

Just a Thought.

Whilst on holiday I hired a mobility scooter to get from our apartment to the swimming pool and snack bar (no I wasn't drinking all day). It was a winding track zig zagging all the way down.
Cath walked down the steps, and she got to the pool area before me. I would meet several people on the way down. I smiled at everyone and said hello. Some people neither smiled or replied. I thought, surely you are on holiday. Are you going to be miserable the whole time? My thoughts went back to an old autograph book we found at home when we were kids. Someone had written the following:
Smile a while and while you smile, another smiles and in a while there'll be miles of smiles, just because you smiled. Keep smiling.
Richard (Oakes).

Green Thinking...

Hi there

Do you know what a Bison, a Basking Shark and a Jellyfish all have in common?

No?







Well they all have awareness days in November.

National Bison Day is celebrated in the USA on the first Saturday in November each year. It is an annual celebration of the significance of the American bison, a majestic animal that since 2016 has been adopted as the National Mammal of the United States.

World Basking Shark day is the 3rd November

The basking shark is classified as endangered due to a period of intensive hunting in the last century from which they are struggling to recover. Basking sharks are threatened by a variety of things including changes to their food source through increasing sea temperatures and climate change. Although shark sized a basking shark is actually a fish and is the largest fish found in UK waters.

Jellyfish share their awareness day with the basking shark on the 3rd November.

World Jellyfish Day is a day to appreciate and celebrate jellyfish, which are not, in fact, a fish at all.

Now the reference to these amazing creatures was a bit of an attention getter... there is another awareness day that we can all take part in, and on a personal note, my husband David will be delighted for me to take part in....(see next page)…

BUY NOTHING DAY?

Buy Nothing Day takes place on Friday November 27th, it's a 24 hour detox from consumerism and an opportunity for you to tune into the impact we have on the environment through shopping.

People around the world will make a pact with themselves to take a break from consumption as a personal experiment or public statement, and the best thing is - IT'S FREE!!!

You might think...What is THE POINT?

As consumers we need to question the products we buy and challenge the companies who produce them. We are beginning to witness true risks to the environment. Everyone should be doing their bit by taking simple proactive actions to solving the climate crisis and we believe Buy Nothing Day is a great place to start.

HOW DO WE TAKE PART?

Participate by not participating!

Literally, doing nothing is doing something! However, committing to consuming less is a big start to helping the environment too.

Recycling is great, but reducing is better! If we all take simple steps to cut down on what we consume then collectively, we will change our attitude towards single use packaging, and our throw away culture.

TAKE ACTION! - END THE ADDICTION TO SINGLE USE!

Let's face it, most food packaging is made up of single use plastics or cardboard. Even if the packaging is sourced from recycled materials, we often forget about the carbon footprint involved in reclaiming these materials and the manufacturing process of creating a new product.. Over half of the single use packaging manufactured every year still ends up in landfill!

TAKE ACTION! Cut back on single use bottles, plastic cups, cutlery, ready meals and takeaway packaging. Re-usable coffee cups and water bottles are a great way to start.



TAKE ACTION! Choose plastic free or packaging free gifts! Avoid wrapping paper with laminates, gold or silver foiling, coloured shapes and any type of glitter as none of these types of wrapping can be recycled.

BUY NOTHING DAY – A HISTORY

Buy Nothing Day was started by Adbusters in the early 90's and has since grown into an international event celebrated in more the 50 countries. It is a simple idea, which challenges consumer culture by asking us to switch off from shopping for a day.

The UK campaign and website was created in 2000 by Michael Smith a graphic designer who cares passionately about environmental and ethical issues. The message has always been simple, ‘Shop Less, Live More’. Twenty one years on - the message couldn't be any simpler - WE NEED TO CONSUME LESS! Recycling is good - reducing is better!

There are serious issues linked to shopping, which expose the environmental and ethical consequences of consumerism. In rich western countries - only 20% of the world population are consuming over 80% of the earth's natural resources, causing a disproportionate level of environmental damage and unfair distribution of wealth.

As consumers we need to question our culture of shopping. We all have different needs and ultimately we are all consumers and will never be able to escape culture altogether. But this shouldn’t stop us from questioning the products we buy or challenging the companies, who produce them. After all, what are the true risks consumerism poses to the environment and developing countries? The arguments are infinite - but there is no reason why we shouldn’t be looking for simple solutions now because one day we may be forced to change. The issues connected with Buy Nothing Day are broad and deep, however, the campaign focuses on promoting ethical and responsible consumerism, recycling, re-using and ultimately cutting back on what we consume - its a big challenge!

People have become aware that large corporations are exploiting labour conditions in developing countries using up vital resources because they are cheap and there aren't the systems to protect workers or the environment like there are in the west. The gap between the rich and poor nations is growing in spite of the much-heralded benefits of globalisation, there are still 1.3 billion people world wide who live on less than $3 a day and a similar number of people do not have access to clean water.

Workers rights in developing countries are frequently violated, including payment of low wages and long working hours. The lives of workers may also be endangered by poor health and safety provision. Child labour is rife in developing countries, and forced labour still exists. Unfortunately most people don't think of these things while shopping.

Supporters of globalisation offer economic growth as a solution to world poverty. They propose that impoverished nations and individuals can eventually attain a standard of living similar to our own through the 'trickle down' of wealth. However, the current globalisation model is leading to an increase in world poverty and inequality.

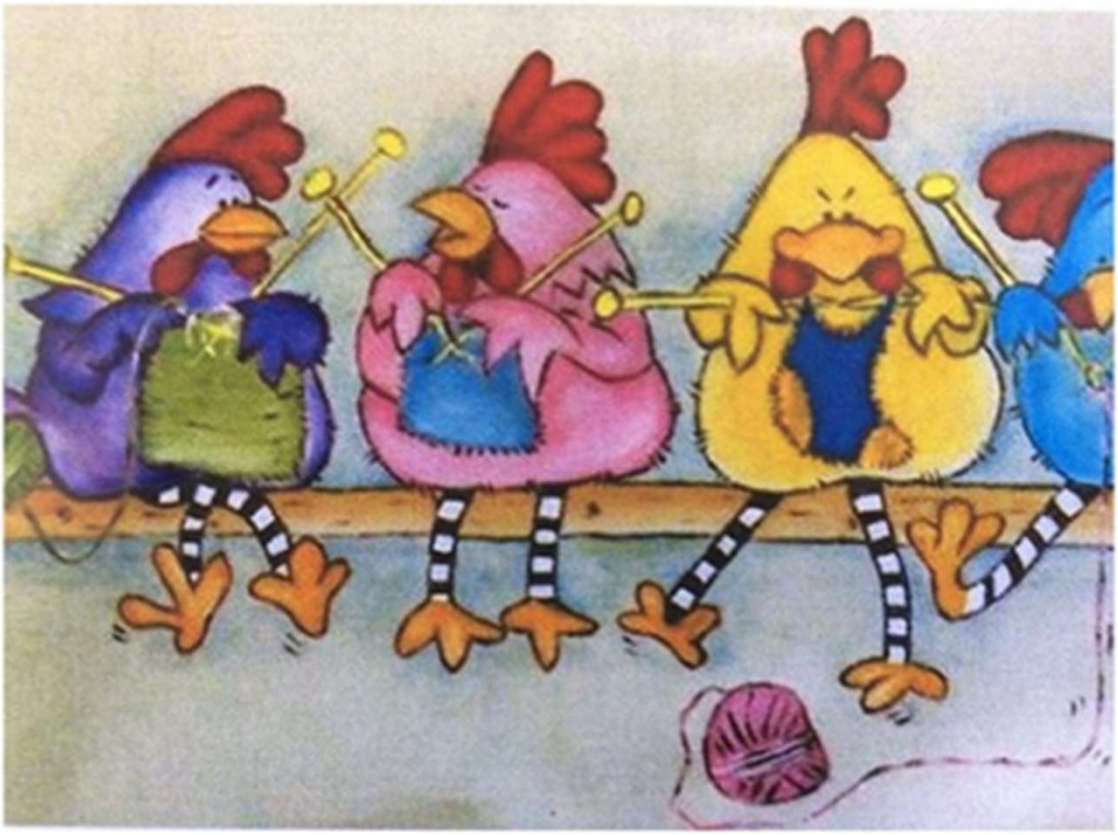
Buy Nothing Day is non-confrontational, it’s not a protest. All we ask people to do is switch off from shopping, have a bit of fun, use their imagination and simply escape consumerism for a day. If people laugh at the ingenuity and genius of Buy Nothing Day, then we’ve got their attention and we're opening the door to change.

Dawn



WWW.BUYNOTHINGDAY.CO.UK

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


St Mary's Church, Woodkirk
Community Christmas Tree Festival
Fri 4th - Sun 6th December 2026
Friday 4th 4.00pm to 8.00pm
Saturday 5th 10.00am to 6.00pm
Christmas Fair in Parish Centre 10.00am - 2.00pm
Sunday 6th 12.00pm until after the child friendly carol service with refreshments between 4.00 and 5.00pm

Clashing in the Aisles!

I'm sure it has happened before, but I seem to have noticed particularly this year that some supermarkets/shops are having a bit of a merchandise identity crisis. I looked one way and was assailed by everything one might want to join in with any Hallowe'en activities, then went around a corner and saw early Christmas offerings!

Every year I try and be better prepared because I know I will get busier as we progress through Advent and although I think 'Oh I'm doing OK' someone tells me that they're baking a Christmas cake or freezing dishes ahead and realise I'm probably going to be as last minute as always.

But there is one thing I want to take on board this year and that is to try and plan for a greener Christmas. With a little forward planning (which is why I am writing this in November) we might find that we can celebrate Christmas in a way that does as little harm as possible to creation, and perhaps even does some good.
So, here are a few suggestions for a **Greener Christmas:**
Real trees are more environmentally friendly than artificial ones. If you buy one, get one that was grown as locally as possible AND make sure that it is recycled. Or perhaps like me you have a faithful artificial tree that you store carefully and bring out each year. Ours was bought in the sale after our first Christmas together and is still beautiful nearly 30years later.
If you have children or grandchildren who like Advent Calendars, go for a reusable one that can come out year after year. Most of the shop sold ones can't be recycled.
Gifts: When looking for gifts try to make sure that what you buy is Fairtrade and/or ethically produced AND that the recipient actually wants it! You may be able to find gift items in charity shops or on local 'free' sites. You might make some gifts for family and friends, using your baking or crafting skills. You might give a promise of some of your time as a gift – to babysit, walk the dog, cook somebody a meal etc

Gift wrapping can be made SO much greener. Make reusable cloth gift bags. Wrap items in brown paper and add coloured (reusable) string or ribbons. (Most wrapping paper – especially the glittery stuff – can't be recycled, and neither can Sellotape.
Christmas cards: A lot of us like to give and receive Christmas cards, although the price of postage does make them a bit expensive these days. For your Church family send one card to all that we can display in church, or if you haven't already got your cards look for ones that have the FSC mark which shows they have been sustainably produced, buy from charities AND *avoid the glittery ones*.

Shared meals can be a wonderful part of Christmas celebrations. Plan meals carefully to avoid over-catering and the food waste that will inevitably follow otherwise. Food waste that goes into landfill produces large quantities of methane, that powerful global warming gas.
Christmas Crackers: do you really need them? Most of the contents will end up in the bin by the end of the day.

Christmas is a celebration of 'the Word made flesh', of God taking on physical form and coming to live amongst us on this precious planet. The incarnation of God in Christ tells us – amongst so many other things – that 'matter matters', that this earth and all that lives on it is important to God. So as we celebrate Christmas, let's try to do it in a way that really honours creation.

Dawn x




ST MARY'S, WOODKIRK
Christmas
Fair
SAT 5TH DECEMBER
10.00AM-2.00PM
TOMBOLA, STALLS,
FOOD, CAKES & FUN

Christingles, can you help?



Hi friends

It's that time of year again when I'm looking for some lovely volunteers to help make the 250 Christingles we need for our two services on Christmas Eve.

Could you spare an hour or two on Wednesday 23rd December and join us from 3.00pm to help create these wonderful little orange globes of light and loveliness.

We have some very experienced helpers, but we are also always on the lookout for new members to come and join us (you may even be able to munch a few spare sweeties too).

No experience necessary, just warm clothing and a sense of humour!

We hope to see you at 3.00pm in Church on Wednesday 23rd December.

Thanks as always.
Dawn x

Christingle

The Children's Society

November Recipes

Hi there

Yes I know it's only November, but in the spirit of trying to get organised I thought I'd share with you some ideas for preparing ahead for Christmas, or one or two ideas for using up any leftovers to help us reduce the potential for foodwaste.

Funnily enough, I didn't come across any recipes for using up leftover chocolate....I wonder why that might be !!!

Look to the last 2 recipes which are ways of using up your pumpkins after hallowe'en (or making use of reduced price pumpkins in early November!)



Roasted roots and sage soup

This sounds good enough to eat now, why wait for Christmas!

This recipe is for 2 servings so multiply up if necessary.

Ingredients

1 parsnip, 2 carrots and 300g turnip, swede or celeriac, peeled and chopped. 1 garlic clove (or more to taste) skin left on. 1 tbsp oil
1 tsp maple syrup. ¼ small bunch of sage leaves picked, 4 whole, the rest finely chopped. 750ml vegetable stock. Grated nutmeg.
1½ tbsp fat-free yogurt.

Method

•Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Toss the root vegetables and garlic with 1 tbsp oil and season.

•Tip onto a baking tray and roast for 30 mins until tender. Toss with the maple syrup and the chopped sage, then roast for another 10 mins until golden and glazed.

•Brush the whole sage leaves with ½ tsp oil and add to the baking tray in the last 3-4 mins to crisp up, then remove and set aside.

•Scrape the vegetables into a pan, squeeze the garlic out of the skins, discarding the papery shells, and add with the stock, then blend until very smooth and creamy. Bring to a simmer and season with salt, pepper and nutmeg.

•Divide between bowls. Serve with a swirl of yogurt and the crispy sage leaves

Mini salmon & dill puffs
These look like a nice alternative to a sausage roll.



Ingredients
185g pack poached salmon fillets
200g full-fat soft cheese
small handful chopped dill
375g sheet puff pastry
1x egg beaten

Method

•In a food processor, pulse the salmon, soft cheese, dill and a little seasoning until just combined.

•Unroll a sheet of puff pastry and cut into 3 pieces lengthways.

•Divide the filling along the middle of each piece, brush borders with beaten egg, then fold up and seal.

•Cut each roll into 8-10 bite-size pieces, then place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment, cover with cling film and freeze. (Or follow next instruction to bake straight away)

•To serve, glaze with beaten egg and cook at 200C/180C fan/gas 6 for 25-30 mins until puffed and golden.

Two recipes to use up pumpkin...



Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients

1 large onion and 2 carrots, peeled and Chopped. 2 garlic cloves. 1 bay leaf.
25g/1oz unsalted butter
2 tbsp olive oil
1 medium pumpkin (prepared weight about 850g/1lb 14oz) deseeded and roughly chopped
1 medium-sized floury potato, such as Maris Piper, roughly chopped
1 litre/1¾ pint vegetable or chicken stock, a little extra may be needed
100ml/3½fl oz double cream
3 tbsp pumpkin seeds
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Put the onion, carrots, garlic, bay leaf, butter and half the olive oil into a large pan. Cook over a low–medium heat for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are tender but not coloured.
Add the pumpkin and potato, mix to combine and cook for a further 2–3 minutes.
Pour in the stock, season with salt and pepper and bring to the boil.
Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer, half cover the pan with a lid and continue to cook for about 40 minutes until the squash is really tender when tested with the point of a knife.
Pick out the bay leaf and blend the soup until smooth.
Add the cream and a little more stock if the soup is on the thick side, taste for seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as required.
Meanwhile, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin seeds and fry quickly until the seeds start to pop. Remove from the pan.
Ladle the soup into bowls and serve with a swirl of cream and the toasted pumpkin seeds.

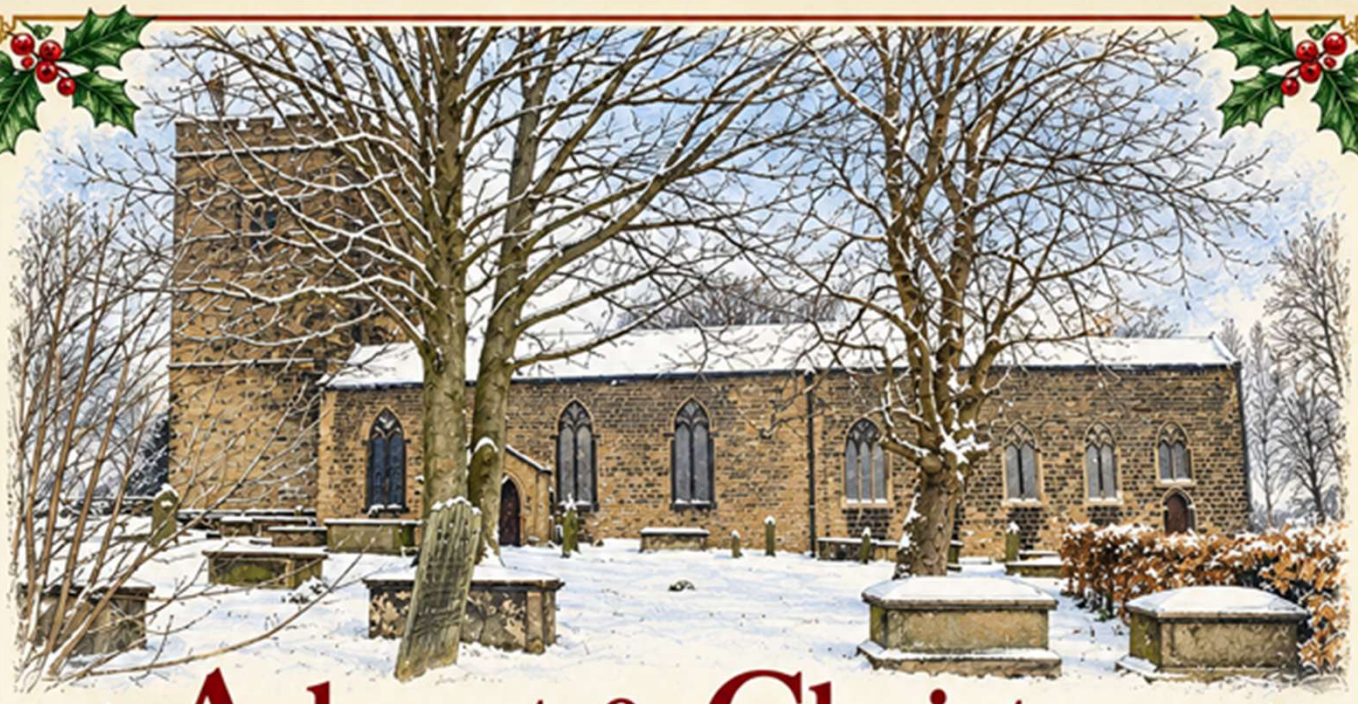
Vegan pumpkin loaf cake



Ingredients
For the cake
220ml/8fl oz unsweetened almond milk
1 tbsp apple cider vinegar or distilled white vinegar. 125ml/4fl oz neutral oil, plus extra for greasing.
1 tbsp maple syrup. 1 tsp vanilla extract
200g/7oz pumpkin purée (see Recipe Tip). 350g/12oz self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder. 165g/5¾oz caster sugar
1¼ tsp ground mixed spice or chai spice. 1/8 tsp fine salt.
For the icing
150g/5½oz icing sugar. 1½ tbsp maple syrup
1 tbsp unsweetened almond milk

Method

To make the cake, grease and line a 25x16cm/10x6¼in loaf tin with baking paper. (This is roughly a 1.8kg/4lb loaf tin.)
Stir together the almond milk and vinegar in a jug. Leave to stand for 10 minutes until slightly curdled. Whisk in the oil, maple syrup, vanilla extract and pumpkin purée.
Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
Sift the flour, baking powder, caster sugar, mixed spice and salt into a large bowl. Pour the milk mixture into the flour mixture and beat with a balloon whisk for 30–40 seconds, or until completely smooth. Do not overmix.
Pour the batter into the loaf tin and knock the tin on the worktop several times to remove any air bubbles. Bake in the centre of the oven for 50–55 minutes. Do not open the oven for the first 50 minutes or the cake may deflate.
To test if the cake is cooked, insert a cocktail stick into the centre. It should come out clean with just a few moist crumbs attached. If there is still wet batter on the stick, bake for a little longer.
Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin for 15 minutes. Carefully remove the cake from the tin and leave to cool fully on a wire rack.
To make the icing, mix the icing sugar, maple syrup and milk in a bowl. Pour the icing over the top of the cooled cake and leave to set for 1–2 hours at room temperature. Cut the cake into slices and serve.



Advent & Christmas
at St Mary's Woodkirk

We would like to warmly invite you to our Advent and Christmas services and events.

Sunday 29th November
Holy Communion 10:30am

Wednesday 2nd December
Holy Communion 10:00am
Advent Quiet Time 3:00pm

Friday 4th December
Christmas Tree Festival in Church 4:00 – 8:00pm

Saturday 5th December
Christmas Tree Festival in Church 10:00am – 6:00pm
Christmas Fair in Parish Centre 10:00am – 2:00pm

Sunday 6th December
Holy Communion 10:30am
Christmas Tree Festival in Church 12:00 – 4:00pm
Family Carol Service 4:00pm

Wednesday 9th December
Holy Communion 10:00am
Advent Quiet Time 3:00pm

Sunday 13th December
Family Nativity Service 10:30am

Wednesday 16th December
Holy Communion 10:00am
Advent Quiet Time 3:00pm

Sunday 20th December
Holy Communion 10:30am
Carols by Candlelight 4:00pm

Wednesday 23rd December
Holy Communion 10:00am

CHRISTMAS EVE
Thursday 24th December

Christingle Service* 3:00pm
(targeted at under 7s)
Christingle Service* 5:00pm
(targeted at over 7s)
**Everyone is welcome at either service*
Midnight Mass 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday 25th December

Christmas Family Holy Communion 10:30am

Sunday 27th December
Holy Communion 10:30am

Wednesday 30th December
Holy Communion 10:00am

For more information visit:
www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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: (no quiz this month).

Due to the many articles provided by our great content providers we have no room for a quiz this month!
But don't worry Albert's Quiz will be back next month and whilst Albert may not be able to write our quizzes anymore, we will keep his (and Sally's) legacy going in the pages of this magazine. Many thanks to them both for their great contributions.

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:**



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.

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- 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

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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 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

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Tel 0113 2525374

An independent family business, the 5th generation of the Marshall family who were established in 1891. The family pride themselves on their caring and understanding of the bereaved and offer a complete funeral service including a pre-paid funeral 'plan'.

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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
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

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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:

November

Monday 2nd: All Souls Service – 7pm.

Sunday 8th : Remembrance Sunday 10:30am

Wednesday 11th : Act of Remembrance 10.55am

Saturday 14th : Remembrance Coffee Morning in church – 10am-12pm

Thursday 19th: Lydgate Lodge Holy Communion.

Saturday 21st : Woodkirk Walkers Hiking Group - 11.00am

December: See Page 41 for Advent and Christmas Events.

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