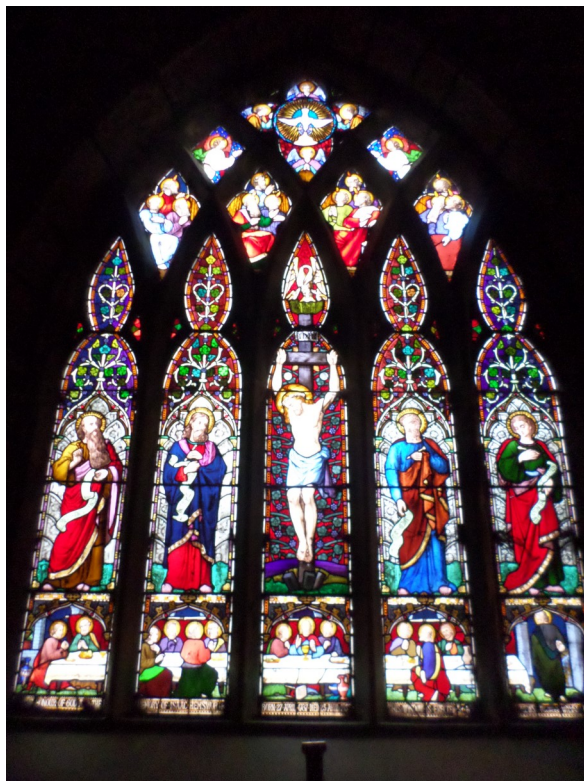


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

May 2021



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

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

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Lay Pastoral Minister Gail Townsend 0113 2528710

Churchwardens: Gary Mortimer 01924 405790
Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Dep Churchwarden: Pernoe Liburd

Deanery Synod Reps Brian Gledhill
Gary Mortimer

Verger: Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

Organist: Jason Hawkins

PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

PCC Treasurer Barbara Tate

Social Chairman: Brian Gledhill 01924 405790

Parish Centre Hire: Sally Shaw 01924 475048

Child Protection Officer: Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963

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Electoral Roll Officer: Dave Townsend 0113 2528710

**Data Protection
and Legacy Officer** Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Magazine Editor & David Townsend 0113 2528710

Weekly News Sheet:. Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org
Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.
Mobile: 07745 301746
Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Laura Mortimer,
Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill, Pernoe Liburd, Jason Hawkins,
Heather Hawkins, David Townsend.

If you enjoy the magazine— a donation of 60p really helps to keep it going!

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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers. Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. May God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by Post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £12 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.

Web site & Twitter

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at: www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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

We are on Twitter: twitter.com/stmarywoodkirk

Wheelchair Access

A wheelchair is available to help people move easily between the

Let your **hopes**, not your hurts,
shape your future.

Vicar's Letter

It is hard to believe that we are in May already – where has the time gone? Throughout lockdown there has been a sort of enforced quietness and stillness, a period of time that has taken us back to the simpler things of family life. It has not been unusual to see multigenerational families walking around together, families with young children following the various community trails that have been planned and put together by the community, the rise of local community groups such as Tingley, Ardsley & Thorpe- VIRAL KINDNESS (WF3 Kindness). It seems to me like the community spirit that was around in the 50's and 60's when everyone knew their neighbours and watched out for each other.

I know I am ready for more contact with family and human beings and I am sure you are too but as we come out of lockdown, with further expected loosening of limits in the middle of May and with the promise of “back to normal” in June it would be so nice if we could take some of the lessons we have learned and work out a new future with some old fashioned values maintained.

Working from home has given thousands of people the opportunity to do their job, save on travelling time and have found that their work hasn't suffered but that their balance of life is better simply by saving two hours travelling time – never mind when you think of the thousands who would have used cars or vehicles to get to work.

Time spent together as families is important and do we have to go back to the old ways? Can we not build a new future, leave behind those things that didn't work before lockdown and keep some of the things we have learned during lockdown in order that we can have a more balanced life. It isn't material things that sustain us - love, peace and friendship are all that matters. As a Christian, we also would say there is a spiritual dimension to our lives that we find all these things through Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

There is no doubt churches have suffered this year and by that I mean the people who attend the building, as the church is the people of God. Going on line and streaming live has allowed people to continue to gather together for worship and through streaming there have been opportunities for new people to gather and worship from all different parts of the world. Some of those people may never have crossed a church doorstep in real life and they have found a real hunger for that spiritual dimension that is only found In Jesus Christ.

Far too many people have lost loved ones throughout the pandemic, too many people have not had the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones and it is still frightening when you see pictures on the tv of people in India dying on the street, gasping for breath in cars and on pavements outside hospitals who are full and have no oxygen.

We can offer our prayers but government leaders need to pull together, and work for the good of every country. How long it will take them to learn that no country is an island? That we all need each other and that there is enough for all should governments be brave enough to choose that option.

In the Bible, in the Old Testament there was a system written into law, that farmers could not glean all of their fields, they had to leave the edges of the fields so that those who were poor, widowed etc could feed themselves.

In Deuteronomy 15:1-2 it states that

“At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbour. He shall not exact it of his neighbour, his brother, because the Lord's release has been proclaimed.

This was an opportunity for people to get back on their feet, a redistribution of wealth, and it was a law that Jews lived by and still live by today.

Jesus came to replace the law. He came with love and compassion for all. He mixed with the outcasts and the paupers, the diseased and the tax collectors. Jesus came to love each of us in a very special way and He asks us to do the same to our brothers and neighbours. He doesn't say love your neighbour as you would like to be loved. Jesus goes further and says love your neighbour as I have loved you – that is so much harder to do but worth thinking about when we have abundant life and others have no life.

The 10th May to the 16th May is Christian Aid week. A week that we support at Church and our Reader, Dawn Tattersfield is planning to do a five mile walk that week which would normally be sponsored. As there can be no sponsor sheets this year if you would like to make a donation to Christian Aid on behalf of Dawn walking then please either put it in an envelope and mark it for Christian Aid and put it through the Vicarage door OR you can pay directly into our bank account and we will transfer it to Christian Aid – please mark it Christian Aid.

Thank you.

Sharon



The patience of Job...

Hi there

I was inspired to write this article when I was sat, stuck in traffic a few weeks ago.

One of my pet hates is getting stuck in traffic, I would rather travel 5 extra miles to keep moving than sit in stationary traffic. I can also be impatient when I'm looking for something online, I click on a website link and get the "Spinning Wheel" for ages before a website loads, I usually return to the search and go for another link that may load faster!

But it made me think; whilst I may have little patience in these instances, for other things, for example cross stitch or embroidery, I have patience enough to sit sewing for hours, even unpicking and redoing if I've gone wrong.

When thinking about patience, many of us would think of the words I have used in my title, 'The Patience of Job' but until researching this article, I didn't actually realise this phrase was included in the bible...yes it really is, funnily enough though, not in the Book of Job.

You have to look in a King James Version of the Bible, and look at James 5:11 to find the phrase.

In more recent translations of the Greek word 'Hupomone' (in KJV translated as patience) most biblical scholars now agree it means something more like 'endurance' so you wouldn't find the phrase in more recent translations.

The King James Translation of the Bible (out of the ones I looked up) had the most occasions of the word 'patience' occurring 33 times, all those in the New Testament, with Revelation topping the

list with 7 times closely followed by James with 5 occurrences, 3 of those being in the 5th Chapter of James.

But it wasn't only Job who had patience, if you think about it, what about Abraham?

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations even though when God first made this promise he and his wife Sarah, didn't have any children. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 when they had their son Isaac, so they had to be very patient.

Then we have Joseph (of coat of many colours fame) one of 12 brothers and Great Grandson of Abraham. He was sold by his brothers as a slave and had to have patience that God had a plan for him, which, thanks to his skill in interpreting dreams, ended up with Joseph becoming a very powerful man.

Our next patient person was Simeon. You can read where he is mentioned in Luke 2:22-34.

Now I don't know much about Simeon, this is the exciting thing about researching articles, because I find little pockets of information that interest me. For example, I knew that one of Jacob's sons' was Simeon, but that was many many years before Jesus so it wasn't him, so I delved a bit further (oh how fabulous is the internet for stuff like this!) and found that this Simeon was one of the seventy two Jewish Scholars asked by Ptolemy II Philadelphus, the Greek king of Egypt, to translate the Torah (The first five books of the Old Testament) from Biblical Hebrew to Greek for inclusion in the Library of Alexandria.

According to a tradition in the Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Orthodox Churches, as Simeon hesitated over the translation of Isaiah 7:14 : "Behold, a virgin shall conceive..." and was going

to correct it to γυνή (woman), an angel appeared to him and told him that he would not die until he had seen the Christ born of a virgin. This would make him well over two hundred years old at the time of the meeting described in Luke, and therefore miraculously long-lived, and very patient! And of course after their meeting, Simeon praised God with the song 'Nunc Dimittis, which is part of the evening and night prayer services.

My last example of someone exhibiting patience is Jesus. I'd not really thought about Jesus' patience much in biblical terms, I often ask Him to be patient with me! But if you think about it, throughout his ministry Jesus showed patience with His disciples and most of the people he met (there were one or two notable exceptions!).

But think about Jesus' ministry, whilst it may have been only two to three years in length, he never stopped. He was always talking to people, teaching people, healing people. He was rarely alone, usually only when he wanted to pray. And Jesus had to have patience with people, particularly the disciples, trying to get them to understand what He was telling them. I can only think of one occasion when Jesus shouts at a disciple and that is when he shouts at Peter "Get thee behind me Satan" when Jesus is trying to explain to the disciples about his impending death. (You may know of other instances).

Jesus patiently trained the disciples, even after His miracles and proclamations of being the Son of God, the disciples were often confused as to who Jesus was.

Today we think of the disciples as being mature men of faith. But if we read through the gospel accounts, Jesus was still trying to teach them how to persevere in prayer up until the moment He was taken to be crucified.

When we look at these examples of patience in the bible, we actually realise that Job isn't perhaps the best example of patience, however, he did endure much torment and disaster before his faith in God was rewarded and everything was restored to him.

The thing is, we can be impatient, just like anyone else, but in our faith journey we have to recognise that the timescale is not set or controlled by ourselves. Yes there are times when we can set a timescale for something, for example reading the bible in a year or praying every day during Lent etc, but ultimately, where our faith journey takes us is up to God.

Some of you, perhaps like me, have been coming to church ever since you were a child, some of you may only be at the beginning of your journey, some of you may feel that you are approaching the end of that journey.

But remember the examples of patience mentioned above. In some cases many years had passed, but one thing was the same in all cases...they all continued to trust God and maintain a relationship with Him.

Whatever task God has called us to do, we need to continue doing the work even if progress seems slow, or non-existent. Remember the cases above, and next time I'm stuck in traffic I'll perhaps remember Simeon and the many years he patiently waited.

With Love
Dawn x

Message in a bottle.

Recently I was walking around the churchyard and came upon a glass bottle. I picked it up 'tutting' to myself about the litter-bugs, assuming it was a coke bottle or similar that had been discarded, but on closer inspection it was a John Smith's beer bottle from Tadcaster – making it potentially a few decades old (see picture). After a bit of research, it seems these are still quite common so



not worth a fortune (a tenner on a good day) so we might have to keep it for a few more decades. Finding this old bottle made me wonder about the glass making industry and how it all started....

Glassmaking dates back at least 6000 years, long before humans had discovered how to smelt iron. Naturally occurring obsidian glass was used by Stone Age societies as it fractures along very sharp edges, making it ideal for cutting tools and weapons.

Archaeological evidence suggests that the first true synthetic glass was made in Lebanon and the coastal North Syria, Mesopotamia or ancient Egypt.

True glass did not appear until the 15th century BC. However, red-orange glass beads excavated from the Indus Valley Civilization date to before 1700 BC (possibly as early as 1900 BC) and predate sustained glass



production, which appeared around 1600 in Mesopotamia and 1500 in Egypt.

During the Late Bronze Age there was a rapid growth in glassmaking technology in Egypt and Western Asia. Archaeological finds from this period include coloured glass ingots, vessels, and beads.

Examples of Roman glass have been found outside of the former Roman Empire in China, the Baltics, the Middle East, and India. The Romans perfected cameo glass, produced by etching and carving through fused layers of different colours to produce a design in relief on the glass object

During the 13th century, the island of Murano, Venice, became a centre for glass making, building on medieval techniques to produce colourful ornamental pieces in large quantities. Murano glass makers developed the exceptionally clear colourless glass called *Cristallo*. Murano is still famous for its glassware today.



Murano Glassware

By the 17th century, glass was also being produced in England in the Venetian tradition. In around 1675, George Ravenscroft created a formula for lead crystal glass, making him famous. The glass was very clear and ‘sparkled’ when made but would tend to deteriorate over time, going cloudy - or ‘crizzling’ as it was called, making this a throw-away product. He married Helen Appleby from Yorkshire around 1670.

Glass making in England

In England 1500–1800 there was a revival in local glass production. Medieval glass had been limited to the small-scale production of forest glass for windows and vessels, predominantly in the Weald. The organisation of production evolved from the small-scale family-run glass houses typical of forest glass-making to large monopolies granted by the Crown.

Local Glass Production areas.

Hailwood & Ackroyd of Beacon Works, Morley, founded 1897.

The company traded as Ackroyd and Best until 1927, also at the Beacon Works. They were well known as one of the UK's leading makers of miners' flame safety lamps. In 1927 The company re-formed as Hailwood and Ackroyd and in 1929 advertised as Manufacturers of Glassware, Table and Illumination, blown and pressed in crystal, opal and other colours.

Glasshoughton & Castleford

Glasshoughton had glassworks before Castleford and it supplied most of the coal for Castleford's industries until the big, modern pits opened at Wheldale, Fryston and Glasshoughton itself from the late 1860s. In the 1870s, the locale was well known as *Houghton-Glass* for its mines and quarries, producing excellent limestone and an excellent sand used by glass makers and iron foundries.

The history of the modern Castleford glass industry dates back to 1829 when four glassblowers from Hunslet, Leeds, founded the Mear Glass Bottle Works at Whitwood Mere. In the late 1880's Castleford was reputed to be the largest bottle manufacturing centre in Britain, producing over twenty million bottles annually, mainly for export.

Bagley's Glass - Knottingley

Bagley's heyday was the period between the World wars (1918-1939) when the firm became a leader in inexpensive domestic pressed glassware. This was achieved by its wide range of products, and a Royal seal of approval. Founded in 1871 as a bottle works in Knottingley, Bagley's branched out in 1912 into two new areas – lead crystal and pressed glassware.

Bagley's pressed "crystal" was very popular right up to 1975 and enabled a range of inexpensive luxury items to be made.

Catcliffe, South Yorkshire.

The **Catcliffe Glass Cone** is a glass cone in the village of Catcliffe in South Yorkshire, England. It is the oldest surviving structure of its type in Western Europe, and it is a Grade I listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument. Only three other glass cones survive in the United Kingdom; at Leamington, Wordsley and Alloa.

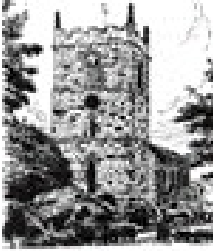
The glassworks cone was part of the Catcliffe glassworks, which was established in 1740 by William Fenney. He had previously been the manager of the glassworks at Bolsterstone that was owned by his mother-in-law. The brick cone has archways around the base to allow maximum air entry. It is approximately 20 metres (66 ft) high.



Today there are not many glass making firms left in Yorkshire with the notable exception of Gillies Jones at Rosedale near Pickering, who make their glass using only hand crafted methods and continue a tradition in the area dating back 400 years.

David

Memorial Wall Hanging



Hi there, just a reminder about our Memorial Wall Hanging.

We are remembering those in our community we have lost during the pandemic lockdowns with a memorial wallhanging.

If you lost a friend or family member between 23rd March 2020 and 23rd March 2021 (due to any reason not only Covid) you can have a leaf added to our fabric memorial tree.

You can sew your own or we have a small team who would be happy to sew one for you.



All leaves must be returned by 23rd June 2021 in order that the wall hanging can be assembled for dedication and display.

This image is used for illustrative purposes only.

For further details and the template, please see our website

www.stmarywoodkirk.org or contact Dawn Tattersfield directly;

Email - dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org

Or Telephone 07840 739239)

(Once completed your leaf can be brought to church, dropped off at the Vicarage or it may be possible to arrange to collect it).

Christian Aid – Sponsored Walk



Once again we are asking for your help as part of our wider area support for Christian Aid.

Whilst Christian Aid help with many different emergencies, for this year's Appeal they are focussing on the Climate Emergency. The climate crisis hurts us all, but people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people like Rose are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

Dawn will be undertaking a sponsored walk of 5 miles, during Christian Aid Week with our local Morley District Christian Aid Committee following a route supplied by them from West Ardsley Methodist Church over the fields to Gawthorpe then back via Kirkhamgate and Thorpe Lane.

Your sponsorship could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every donation can help change lives.

If you would like to sponsor Dawn, or make a donation to Christian Aid you can do so via the church bank account details are given below:-

Yorkshire Bank Morley

Sort Code 05-01-31

Account – Woodkirk PCC 31405751

Please put Walk in the reference. Or you can leave donations in the plate in church after a service (Cheques payable to St Mary's Church PCC).

Thank you in advance for your support.

(Oh and your prayers for a dry day too please!!!)

Dawn x

Help available at the Numbers below...

NEVER ALONE

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0808 800 5000
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National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247
(24hrs free)

Mind
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(Mon-Fri 9-6)

Victim Support
0808 168 9111
(24hrs)

Cruse Bereavement
0800 808 1677
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

ChildLine
0800 1111
(24hrs)

Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

Respect - Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327
(Mon-Fri 9-5 or 8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

Pastoral Care

Telephone Calls—We understand times have been 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 0113 252 8710.

Baptisms—We are still able to arrange Baptisms but with a limited number of people attending depending on tier levels—if you wish to make an enquiry or book a Baptism please contact Barbara Tate on 0113 253 1266.

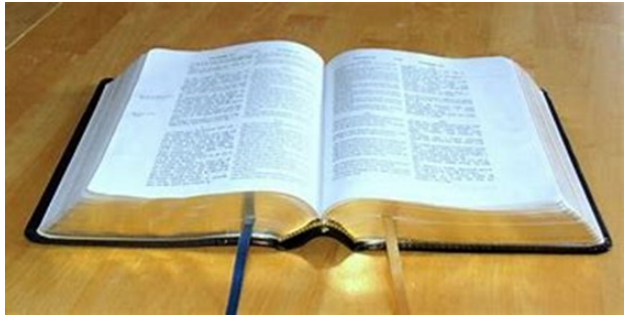
Weddings, funerals, Ashes, or the reading of banns—in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events. Again there are limitations on numbers depending on tier levels. Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 0113 252 8710 or email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org.

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.

We are GDPR compliant-vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Some Bible Verses That Have told me about God's Deep Personal Care

When reading the Bible, I find some verses have left a deep impression on me, so I decided as I am reading, I will write them down in a book. So, I thought I would share some of them with you.



When I feel like God is far off? I like to turn to these verses and remind myself that God cares for me. Do you ever wonder if God really cares for you? We can all be tempted to feel like that from time to time. I think we can all relate to how David felt in **Psalm 22:**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? Psalm 22:1

We can feel like God has forsaken us. That he is far away. That he doesn't see our pain or hear our groaning. One of the greatest challenges we may face on a regular basis, is what will we believe – our feelings and emotions or God's Word. Our feelings are real. We really feel them. They are strong. But our feelings are a poor barometer of the truth. Though they are true feelings, they are not always the truth. God's word is the truth, whether we feel it or not. So, when we FEEL like God is not near, we must remember his Word. We must remember his promise.

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." Isaiah 41:13

God does not simply send an angel to hold our right hand. The God of heaven and earth personally holds our right hand. He says that we are not to fear because he personally helps us – "I am the one who helps you."

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your

God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

I think here God says that he personally will be with us, strengthen, help and uphold us. For this reason, we need not fear or be dismayed when facing or going through tough times.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43.2

We will all “pass through waters” and rivers of hardship and uncertainty and walk through the fires of life. But God promises, “I will be with you.” Personally. Presently. In the midst of the fire, like he was with **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego**.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 32.8

This is one of my favourite verses. God himself, the fountain of infinite wisdom and knowledge, promises to personally instruct and teach his children. And he promises to counsel us with his eye upon us. He is watching over us every second. He never slumbers nor sleeps. And he counsels us step by step, day by day, with his eye constantly watching over our every step.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23.1-3*

In this, one of the most well-known passages in the Bible, God tells us he cares for us intimately and personally. He leads us. Feeds us, gives us rest in him. Our good shepherd feeds us and refreshes us in his word – in green pastures. He personally restores our souls when we are weary and drained. He personally leads us in paths of righteousness for his name's sake – so that we will bring glory to his name.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Isaiah 40:11

Our **good Shepherd** gathers us in his arms and carries us “in his bosom,” a picture of intimacy and closeness and deep care, and he gently leads us.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5.6-7

God is not so busy running the universe that he doesn't have time for our petty worries. He tells us to cast all our anxieties on him. Why? Because HE CARES FOR US. He cares about us. He cares about our children and families. He cares about us in our work. He cares about our church. He cares for us, that we can have joy and strength.

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! Psalm 40.17

The Lord takes thought for us individually – “the Lord takes thought for ME.” We personally are always on his mind. He knows us intimately when we are “poor and needy” spiritually, emotionally, or physically. And because he takes thought for us, he is our help and deliverer. So, cry out to him!

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34.17-18

Are you broken-hearted? Crushed in spirit? The Lord is near to us. He is with us and identifies deeply with us. If God tells us to weep with those who weep, how much more does he feel for us in our sadness and pain. And he tells us to cry for help, because he hears the cries of those, he has made righteous by the blood of Christ. And our personal Saviour will deliver us out of ALL our troubles.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2.13

We were once far off from God, but when we believed in **Jesus**, God brought us near by his blood. How near? We are one with Christ, in union with him. Adopted as God's children. No longer far off, but family.

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13.5

God will never leave nor forsake us. This is how we can be content in every circumstance. We have God himself, the fountain of life and every good thing, and he will never abandon us.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

Talk about intimacy! Jesus calls us his friends! Intimate friends. Friends are intimate and share with each other. And Jesus makes known his Father and his Father’s words and ways to us.

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Isaiah 49.15

I love this verse. Human mothers have a deep care and affection and concern for their nursing children. Human mothers have deep compassion on their infants. Yet sometimes, they may forget. Yet God has more compassion and care for us than the most loving mothers on earth. He will never forget to care for us or fail to have compassion on us.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When we are afflicted, we can run to “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” And there is no affliction he will not comfort us in – he comforts us in “ALL OUR AFFLICTION.” So much so that we can pour out God’s comfort on others in their pain.

I hope these verses encourage you as much as they have encouraged me through the years. Isn’t our God wonderful? God cares for you.

Amen

Gail

Wind...(No not that sort!)

Hi there

A few weeks ago I was on one of my daily walks (to meet the goal I had set myself) and it was a bit windy. I was pootling along Lowry Road when I looked up and there was a black sack caught up in the wind and I stood and watched it for a few minutes as it dropped to the ground then was lifted up again floating and swooping high and low completely controlled by the wind.

This reminded me of the passage in scripture; something about you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. I looked it up and I found that the passage I was thinking about was in John's Gospel Chapter 3 verse 8. The Message translation says this;

“You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next.”

Well I'm not so sure about that!

How many times when visiting Blackpool did you head for the seafront around 'Woolies corner' it was always windy there, or how about when you've just had your hair done and you come out of the salon and it's suddenly windy and blows your hair into disarray once more, and how many of you remember the iconic movie scenes in the Wizard of Oz and Mary Poppons and my most favourite Winnie the Pooh and the blustery day?

The other certainty is that whenever I'm cycling the wind will never be behind me, but always in my face, making it harder to pedal (particularly when I'm heading home and my legs are tired!).

I also remembered Michael Palin referring to a poem when filming his first travel series 'Around the World in 80 days' I think it was when he was travelling from Dubai to Bombay on the dhow when he quotes from 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

"Day after day, day after day, we stuck nor breath nor motion. As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean
All this inspiration just from a black sack blowing about in a breeze!

As I thought about it a little more, I thought I would see how many times 'wind' appears in the Bible and in the Good News Translation wind appears 204 times, (although some of these were 'window' references) the majority of references, 150, were in the Old Testament.

This shouldn't be too much of a surprise to us really when you think about it, as often in the Old Testament God spoke to prophets and the people through wind, I bet some of you can think of a few examples yourself (and if you can't here are a few for you to look up...);

How about Exodus 14:21 *"Moses held out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind. It blew all night and turned the sea into dry land."*

Or how about the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11 *"Go out and stand before me on top of the mountain," the Lord said to him. Then the Lord passed by and sent a furious wind that split the hills and shattered the rocks—but the Lord was not in the wind."*

Then we have one of the occasions where God answers Job. I always think that God sounds very much like your dad telling

you off about something when you were younger and thought you knew better than he did! Job 38:24 *“Have you been to the place where the sun comes up, or the place from which the east wind blows?”*

A new one to me that I liked was Proverbs 25:23

“Gossip brings anger just as surely as the north wind brings rain.”

My final reference is one from the New Testament, and it is an important story as it appears in all four gospels. It is the story of Jesus in a boat with His disciples. Jesus falls asleep in the boat on the lake when a storm blows up, the disciples wake Jesus and he rebukes the wind and commands it to be still. (Matthew 8:26, Mark 4:39, Luke 8:24 and John 6:18).

At the risk of my article becoming a bit ‘long winded’! Tee hee. I decided to ‘Google’ wind and it may make you smile to learn that the answers that come up are inexhaustible!

You can read about the four major wind systems; the Polar and Tropical Easterlies, the Prevailing Westerlies and the Intertropical Convergence Zone. Then there are three types of wind belts: the trade winds, the prevailing westerlies, and the polar easterlies, and you can learn about how wind is classified by the Beaufort scale.

There were many more links I could have clicked on, but think I’ve wittered on for long enough about wind...

But be honest? When you read the title, you were thinking about the other meaning of ‘wind’ weren’t you?

With love and may your prevailing winds be gentle.

Dawn x

The Ragman.

I stumbled upon a story most strange like nothing my life, my street sense, had even prepared me for.

Even before the dawn one Friday morning I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys of our city. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes both bright and new, and he was calling in a clear, tenor voice: "Rags!"

Ah, the air was foul and the first light filthy to be crossed by such sweet music.

"Rags! New rags for old! I take your tired rags! Rags!"

"Now, this is a wonder," I thought to myself, for the man stood six- feet-four, and his arms were like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and his eyes flashed intelligence.

Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city?

So I followed him. My curiosity drove me. And I wasn't disappointed.

Soon the Ragman saw a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing, and shedding a thousand tears.

Her knees and elbows made a sad X. Her shoulders shook. Her heart was breaking.

The Ragman stopped his cart. Quietly, he walked to the woman, stepping round tin cans and dead toys.

"Give me your rag," he said so gently, "and I'll give you another."

He slipped the handkerchief from her eyes.

She looked up and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new that it shined. She blinked from the gift to the giver. Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing:

He put her stained handkerchief to his own face; and then he began to weep,

to sob as grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking.

Yet she was left without a tear.

"This is a wonder," I breathed to myself, and I followed the

sobbing Ragman like a child who cannot turn away a mystery.

"Rag! Rag! New rags for old!"

In a little while, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage.

A single line of blood ran down her cheek.

Now the tall Ragman looked upon this child with pity, and he drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart.

"Give me your rag," he said, tracing his own line on her cheek, "and I'll give you mine."

The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage, removed it, and tied it to his own head.

The bonnet he set on hers. And I gasped at what I saw: for with bandage went the wound! Against his brow it ran a darker, more substantial blood-his own!

"Rag! Rags! I take old rags!" cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman. The sun hurt both the sky, now, and my eyes; the Ragman seemed more and more to hurry.

"Are you going to work?" he asked a man leaned against a telephone pole.

The man shook his head. The Ragman pressed him: "Do you have a job?"

"Are you crazy?" sneered the other.

He pulled away from the pole, revealing the right sleeve of his jacket, the cuff stuffed into the pocket. He had no arm.

"So," said the Ragman. "Give me your jacket, and I'll give you mine."

Such quiet authority in his voice!

The one-armed man took off his jacket. So did the Ragman - and I trembled at what I saw: for the Ragman's arm stayed in its sleeve, and when the other put it on he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs: but the Ragman had only one.

"Go to work," he said.

After that he found a drunk, lying unconscious beneath an army blanket, an old man hunched, wizened, and sick.

He took that blanket and wrapped it round himself, but for the drunk he left new clothes.

And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman.

Though he was weeping uncontrollably, and bleeding freely at the forehead, pulling his cart with one arm, stumbling for drunkenness, falling again and again, exhausted, old, old, and sick, yet he went with terrible speed.

I wept to see the changes in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps to know what drove him so. The little old Ragman - he came to a landfill. And then I wanted to help him in what he did, but I hung back, hiding. He climbed a hill. With tormented labour he cleared a little space on that hill. Then he sighed. He lay down. He pillowed his head on a handkerchief and a jacket. He covered his bones with an army blanket. And he died. Oh, how I cried to witness that death!

Every other face had faded in the wonder of this man, and I cherished him; but he died. I sobbed myself to sleep. I did not know - how could I know? - that I slept through Friday night and Saturday and its night, too.

But then, on Sunday morning, I was awakened by a violence. Light - pure, hard, demanding light - slammed against my sour face, and I blinked, and I looked, and I saw the last and the first wonder of all.

There was the Ragman, folding the blanket most carefully, a scar on his forehead, but alive! And, beside that, healthy! There was no sign of sorrow nor of age, and all the rags that he had gathered shined for cleanliness.

Well, then I lowered my head and, trembling for all that I had seen, I myself walked up to the Ragman. I told him my name with shame, for I was a sorry figure next to him. Then I took off all my clothes in that place, and I said to him with dear yearning in my voice:

"Dress me.."

He dressed me.

My Lord, he put new rags on me, and I am a wonder beside him.

The Ragman, the Ragman, the Christ!

Gail

How do I join an on-line Service?

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

Go to: [facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)

Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

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



Alberts “Sick to Death” Quiz

1. “The rest is Silence” was the last words spoken by which Shakespearean character?
2. The Mantoux test was introduced to screen for which disease?
3. In 1967, Louis Washkansky was the first person to undergo what operation?
4. Which medical condition is also known as Daltonism?
5. Diplopia is the medical name for which condition?
6. The wailing of which mythological spirit warns of impending death.?
7. In 1983 who sang “Total Eclipse of the Heart”?
8. Which part of the Body is inflamed by Encephalitis?
9. Which Agatha Christie novel relates to tragedy on a famous river?
10. Name the theme song of the James Bond film “Quantum of Solace”
11. Allergic rhinitis is more commonly known as what?
12. “A time to Kill” was a debut novel of which bestselling author?
13. The Russian revolutionary Leon Troksky was killed with which weapon?
14. In 1975 which British sculptor died in a fire in her studio?
15. “Sororicide” is the murder of which family member?
16. In which year did Napoleon Bonaparte die?
17. “Epidemic parotitis” is the medical name for which disease?
18. Who sang the theme tune to the James Bond film “Tomorrow Never Dies”?
19. What is the skin condition “malaria rubra” more commonly known as?
20. Which playwright was murdered by his lover Kenneth Halliwell (1967)?

(Answers on page 37)

Church Mouse Tales

After a little light lunch - it was light too as there are not so many berries, seeds and nuts around at this time of year - I sought out my friend Hubert, the Black Canon.

'It's quite sad', he began, 'that we have been unable to hug for so long now'.

'Yes', I agreed, 'although to be honest, it is being able to curl up in your pocket all cosy and warm and have a little snooze is the thing I have been missing the most'. I let out a little sigh. 'It's been over a year now since I could do that'.

Hubert looked at me a little sideways.

'Well there could be some good news on that'. He suggested.

'Could there?' I asked hopefully.

'Yes - because of the continued reduction in cases of Covid, the government are all set to relax the rules later this month'.

'Are they? That sounds wonderful Hubert - what are they going to do?'

'Well, I've heard..' he looked around to see if anyone was listening, '...they are going to allow sleeping in pockets from May 17th onwards..'

'They are! Wow that's amazing Hubert I can hardly wait...'

'But... ' he held up a cautionary hand.

'But what? - there can't be a 'but' - surely?' I felt a little knot of anxiety in my stomach.

'...you will still need to wear a mask.'

'Is that all?' I let out a huge sigh of relief. 'I can manage that no problem! I'm so relieved - it's been so long I've even forgotten how much it means to me. I'm so happy Hubert, I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to that!'

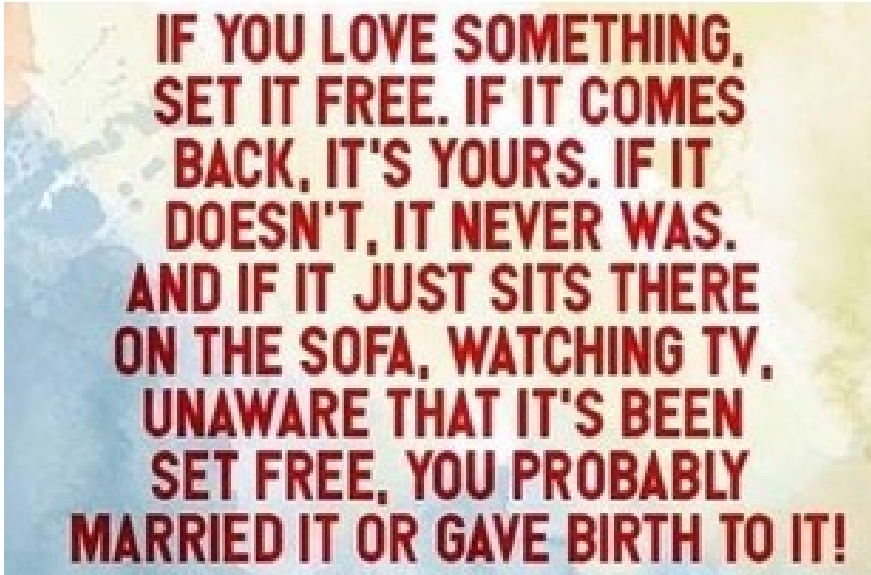
'That's good, Misha, you have been very patient.'

He turned and walked away - although I'm sure I saw a small tear in the corner of his eye. Don't know what that was about....



Misha x

Giving menfolk a bad name...

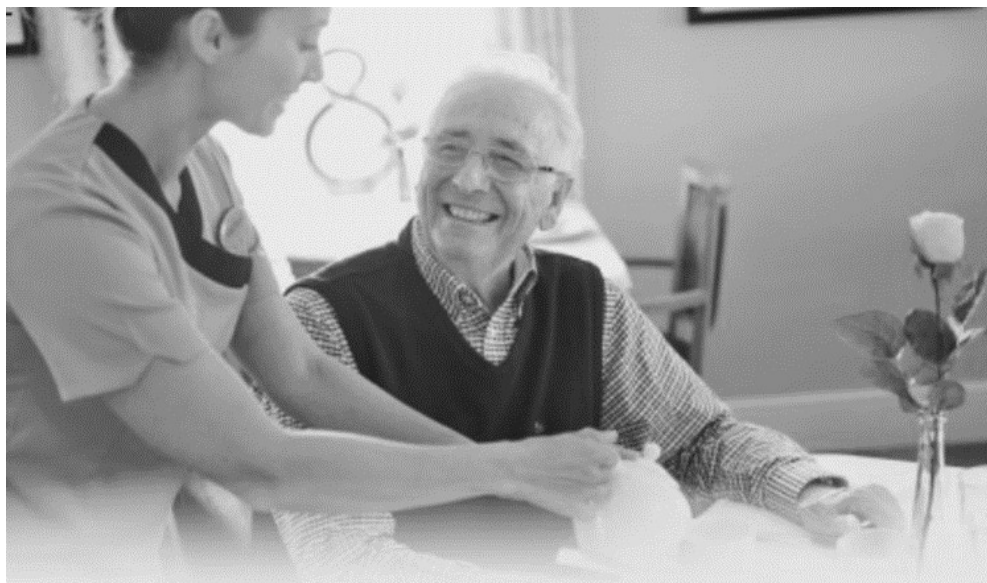


Trevor

QUIZ ANSWERS

(1) Hamlet, (2) Tuberculosis, (3) Heart Transplant, (4) Colour Blindness, (5) Double Vision, (6) Banshee, (7) Bonnie Tyler, (8) Brain, (9) Death on the Nile, (10) Another Way to Die, (11) Hay Fever, (12) John Grisham, (13) An Ice Pick, (14) Barbara Hepworth, (15) Sister, (16) 1821, (17) Mumps, (18) Sheryl Crow, (19) Prickly Heat, (20) Joe Orton.

P.S I hope you all find the quiz questions an improvement over the constant Covid broadcasting which we have suffered in the last few weeks. Hopefully, things will soon be back to normal.
Albert Shaw



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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:—



DEATHS



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

- Mavis Marsden.
- Alice Lodge.
- Margaret Reid.
- Benjamin Russell.
- Mark Langley.
- Tony Canning.

WEDDINGS

We are looking forward to having weddings from May 2021 onwards.



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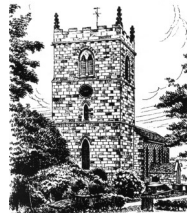
Parish Centre Rentals

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

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What's on (please check with the leader due to current tiers)

Playgroup Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

9:30am to 11.25am

Becky Schofield 07811 146958

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children

Wednesday 9:15-11:00am (Term time)

Cheryl 07948271688

Stepping Stones Sunday Children's Group (3-12 years old)

4th Sunday of the Month

10:30am in Church

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm

Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm

Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

Keep Fit Class Thursday 8:00pm (Over 60's)

Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721

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

Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078

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 in May

Sunday Services.

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

Weekday Services

Mondays 9am	Morning Prayer
Tuesdays 6pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays 10am	Holy Communion in Church & On-line.
Thursdays 9pm	Night Prayer
Fridays 9am	Morning Prayer

Special Services in May:

Sunday 16th May: 10:30am Holy Communion including APCM. Please arrive by 10:10am for this service.

Note: In May Wednesday Services will be in Church for the first time this year as well as streamed via St Mary's Facebook Page.

Please see Page 34 for details of how to join a streamed service