

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Emmanuel—God is with us!

December 2021



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

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**
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Assistant Churchwardens: David Townsend, Pernoe Liburd

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Gary Mortimer

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PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

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Weekly News Sheet.: Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org
Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.
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, David Townsend.

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

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**"Blessed is the season
which engages the
whole world in a
conspiracy of love."**

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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 church and Dewsbury Road. Just ask.

**"Once in our world,
a stable had something
in it that was bigger
than our whole world."**

Vicar's Letter

Here we are at the beginning of December and if you are like me you may be wondering where the time has gone this year—maybe that's just a sign that I'm getting older and the time passes more quickly. Everyone seemingly has too much to do this month as we prepare for Christmas by buying presents, preparing food and deciding who is eating with whom.

So how do we stop and appreciate the season of Advent which this year begins on Sunday 28th November?

Advent is the season that begins four Sundays before 25th December. Advent lasts for four weeks and prepares us for Christmas.

We all know Christmas right? Shopping for presents, decorating the tree, singing carols, making gingerbread houses, sending cards, enjoying holiday parties, making a list.. And checking it twice.

However, there is a lot more to it.

Christmas is Christ entering our world and Advent is expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, and joyful preparation for God coming into our lives and hearts in all moments, in all places, and in all times—past, present and future - commemorating the birth of Jesus, welcoming God into our lives every day, and preparing for Christ's second coming.

Advent prepares us for these events and reminds us there's joy in waiting. Advent even begins a new year for the Church.

Advent is NOT waiting in line to see Santa, rushing around shopping or a race to 25th December

Advent is different from Lent because it's a season of hope, not repentance. Lent is a spring cleaning of our lives. Advent is a cosier time like getting your home ready to welcome a special

guest ... Jesus ...the one we've been waiting for.

The Advent colours are not red and green but purple and rose like the candles on the Advent Wreath. A new candle is lit each week. The third week is rose for Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means Rejoice, don't lose hope. The expected guest has almost arrived.

The progression of the season is also marked with an Advent Calendar with daily surprises (to help with joyful waiting).

Remember Advent isn't about shopping, stressing, planning or buying, it's about expecting, waiting, hoping, and praying.

If we are sick of Christmas by 25th December ... We haven't done Advent correctly. So, this Advent add some meaning to our waiting. Volunteer at a hospital, or soup kitchen, spend some extra time in prayer, be patient with our family, count down the days with an Advent calendar, speak kindly to strangers, go to church and ...share hope with those who need it most while you wait for this very special guest.

We all have things to do and things that need to be done and when you have young children or perhaps grandchildren taking them to see Santa Claus may well be important but it is equally important to take them to a Nativity or a Christingle Service. We may have to rush around at some point to do the Christmas Food Shop but as we plan that we should also plan a time to be still and go to a carol service or pray. It's about balance but it is also about recognising the best present at Christmas is the gift of God's son, Jesus, given to us—Emmanuel means God is with us and for that we should be on our knees in gratitude and thanks that God loves us so much he sent his son to earth, to redeem us by his death on the cross. The Stable and the Cross go hand in hand and we ought to prepare for both.

Wishing you a very blessed Advent and Christmas.

Love and peace—Sharon

Advent and Christmas

at ST MARY'S, WOODKIRK



We would like to warmly invite you to our Christmas services, in person or on Facebook Live

<i>Sunday 28th November</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook Live	10.30am
<i>Wednesday 1st December</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook Live Online Advent reflection on Facebook Live	10am 7pm
<i>Sunday 5th December</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook live	10.30am
<i>Wednesday 8th December</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook live Online Advent reflection on Facebook Live	10am 7pm
<i>Friday 10th December</i>	Christmas Tree Festival in Church	4-8pm
<i>Saturday 11th December</i>	Christmas Tree Festival in Church Christmas Fair in the Parish Centre	10am-6pm
<i>Sunday 12th December</i>	Family Nativity in Church and on Facebook Live Christmas Tree Festival in Church Family Carol Service in Church and on Facebook Live	10.30am 12-4pm 4pm
<i>Wednesday 15th December</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook Live Online Advent reflection	10am 7pm
<i>Sunday 19th December</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook Live Carols by Candlelight in Church and on Facebook Live	10.30am 4pm
<i>Tuesday 21st December</i>	Blue Christmas in Church and on Facebook Live	7pm
<i>Wednesday 22nd December</i>	Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook Live Online Advent reflection	10am 7pm
Christmas Eve		
<i>Friday 24th December</i>	Christingle Service (Targeted at under 7's) in Church and on Facebook Live Christingle Service (Targeted at Over 7's) in Church and on Facebook Live Said Midnight Mass in Church and on Facebook Live	4pm 5pm 11.30pm
Christmas Day		
<i>Wednesday 25th December</i>	Christmas Day Holy Communion in Church and on Facebook Live	10.30am

For more information visit www.stmarywoodkirk.org or follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk/

Meet our New Organist—Mr Stephen Parker



I have been involved with Church music since I joined the Church choir at Ossett Parish Church in 1986. I don't come from a Christian family nor was I ever encouraged to learn to play the organ but God had a plan and I do believe it is a gift. I only joined the choir because there was a gang of us from Gawthorpe who ran into the church disrupting the service and we ran in and shouted out Halleluia. The then Church Warden Ron Brian came and spoke to us, rather than tell us off he asked us to come in and sit in the wardens pew at the back. It was fairly well to do with very smartly dressed people in suits, fur coats and hats we must have looked like a set of roughs. I went back for a few weeks because Ron had been so nice and welcoming. He asked if I was interested in joining the choir and introduced me to the then organist Keith Senior. I was keen to join as you got paid 'ten bob' a service and extra for singing at weddings. I soon became fascinated with the huge pipe organ and wanted to know everything about it. Keith was a great encourager and offered to give me some formal lessons in return for me doing lots of jobs. My parents would not pay for the lessons nor did they want me to be in the choir and they definitely didn't want me to play the organ, but I was determined and continued to follow my passion. I then had more formal piano lessons to improve my technique and learnt to read music - my teachers were John Kinsley and Jeane Knowles. The lessons went very well but I wanted to be on the organ so I used to go to St Marys at Gawthorpe in the evening and they let me play the organ after the service and even play the odd hymn during the service. The then vicar Rev Stephen Mitchill was a very good organist and he too encouraged me to learn more and play for weddings once I could master the music. I then became involved with the Dewsbury Team Parish

and the then Rector John Hawley was keen for me to play at the 6 churches in the team. This was a real chance to gain valuable experience and I played a lot at St Matthews, St Marks and at Dewsbury Minster where David Windle who was the organist really encouraged me and brought me on with a wide variety of musical styles. David is now on the staff at Blackpool Tower and plays regularly in the Ballroom on the world famous Wurlitzer (which I have played and it was a life long ambition to do this). When at Dewsbury Minster I went for further organ lessons to Leeds Minster with Jonathan Lilley who went to be assistant at Ely Cathedral and I also had further lessons with Phillip Tordoff at Halifax Minster. There have been many people who have encouraged and supported me over the years and I have been truly blessed. My longest organist role so far was at Dewsbury Minster for over 20 years. I was also the organist at All Saints Roberttown and St Marys Mirfield. My last post (two Churches) was in Horbury - St Johns Horbury Bridge and St Peters Horbury are both firmly rooted in the Anglo Catholic tradition and I have enjoyed the richness of the liturgy and ceremonial worship there for the last 4 years.

This was a very responsible post with 2 churches to play for and a choir to run. But the job became vacant here at Woodkirk and I've been playing for Weddings and Funerals here for well over 13 years but I've not played for Sunday Worship. I'm very much looking forward to this next chapter in my musical career and Journey of Faith. Music has and is for me an expression of my faith and it can be a powerful way to bring people closer to God. I look forward to working with you and getting to know you as I begin this new ministry here at St Marys.

On a personal note I have had various jobs, when I left school I began an apprenticeship with a church organ builder but I found this work very technical and was beyond my capabilities. I then worked at the Mermaid fish restaurant in Dewsbury, frying and preparing fish in what was then a very busy town centre restaurant with outsales. I later went to work at Woodlands Care Home in Mirfield where I worked for 11 years - this was a very rewarding job and I eventually became activities coordinator working with over 80 residents with alzheimers. A chance then came to go self employed playing at Dewsbury Crematorium and local churches for weddings and funerals. I have done this for 14 years and have played for thousands of funerals and hundreds of weddings but because this job can vary week to week I have some regular hours at Dewsbury Minster as a caretaker/cleaner (this supplants my income on the quiet weeks when there are no funerals to play for). I have a caravan on the East coast at Filey, I enjoy reading, collecting antiques, going to live concerts and shows and generally socialising with family and friends (and do enjoy a drink and a good laugh). So heres to this new and exiting chapter at St Marys Woodkirk. Who knows what God will have in store or where the journey will lead us as I seek to lead you in worship.

Stephen (Organist)

Classical Music and Hymns

I think I've spoken before about my eclectic taste in music, referring to my 'Spotify' digital music playlist which contains many pieces of music from 70's disco, 80's the best music era! and segueing effortlessly into some favourite classical music pieces.

Well this month I've been thinking about those hymns that are set to classical (or more recent) orchestral pieces.

For example, who doesn't think about 'I vow to thee my country' when hearing Holst's Jupiter from the Planet Suite, or how about 'Going Home' to Dvorak's New World, Glorious things of thee are spoken to music by Haydn, or perhaps 'I cannot tell, why He whom angels worship' when hearing Londonderry Air/Danny Boy.

Well I am a bit of a fan of the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams (VW), and a few weeks ago we sang a well known hymn to a well known VW piece, 5 Variants of Dives and Lazarus, in hymn terms known as 'Kingsfold'.

I'm sure some of you will by now have recognised the hymn as being 'I heard the voice of Jesus say'. I cannot hear this classical piece without remembering the words of the first verse of this hymn;

*I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad,
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.*

However, it does this beautiful hymn a disservice if I neglect to include the remaining two verses, which are;

*I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
till travelling days are done.*

I am truly blessed that one of my favourite classical music tunes is united with one of my favourite hymns.

It starts off in a bit of a sad vein with Jesus telling the weary to come to him for rest, which we can read about in Matthew 11:28 'Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest'.

I think this is something it takes a long time to realise. Speaking from my own experience, I rarely admit that I am weary it is usually other people who tell me to take it easy! And sadly it is only usually when I am unwell that I realise how weary I've got.

But then this hymn reminds us, as we can read about in John 4 from verse 7, in the story of Jesus and the woman at the well, that Jesus provides us with 'living water' "...Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life"(v14), to quench our thirst and revive our souls.

But first we must ask.

Jesus is inviting us, ‘come unto me and rest’ I’m freely giving you this living water.

Jesus is our dark world’s light, and as the evenings draw in, let us remind ourselves that when we answer Jesus’ call to rest awhile, to spend time with him in prayer or perhaps some Bible study, we can ‘drink that living water’ and walk through life with the best of travelling companions.

May we all find that resting place where He can make us glad.

Love
Dawn.



Walk with Jesus

The more I walk with Jesus, the more I’m intrigued with the apostle Paul.

Beyond the great demonstrations of the Holy Spirit’s power and the vast territories influenced by his evangelistic voice, I find myself drawn to his humanity. He is one of the most revolutionary people noted in Scripture, yet he is also one of the most accessibly transparent.

His conversion displays one of the most fascinating contrasts of a before/after transformation, but many of his character traits remain intact. In his letters, Paul does not mince words in sharing his insecurities, his frustrations, and his sufferings. He virtually shames the

C

hurch in Corinth regarding his right to receive financial support from the churches although he doesn't ask for it (1 Corinthians 9). He later points to his own deficiencies while also doubling down in a classic tirade about his rightful place as an apostle, making a robust argument full of shallow comparisons and thick sarcasm (1 Corinthians 10–12). He puts Peter on full blast for his hypocrisy in a way that would make most Western ministers blush due to the “lack of love” in his delivery (Galatians 2:11–14).

His humanity is also observable in his interactions with the churches he planted and served with. Luke accounts Paul's final address to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17–38) as an emotional scene where Paul pours out his affection for the church in word and deed, firmly declaring his actions as observable by those in his company. In stating “my hands ministered to my necessities,” he gives us a picture of the leader who works a separate job to provide for his own needs, releasing the burden from the church. He seems so human. How do we look at Paul maybe he doesn't just seem human; he is human. After his seemingly arrogant and self-glorifying treatise, he is still brought to the deafening discovery that only God's grace is sufficient for his weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:9). We also begin to discover anew his regular pleas for the churches to earnestly *pray for him*, but Paul invites intercession for himself.

If Paul, being a pastor of pastors, can document his weaknesses for all to see in Scripture, how much more should we as modern Christians articulate our dependency on Jesus. How refreshing the gospel becomes when it becomes good news for us all.

Only Jesus, the chief Shepherd, the righteous High Priest, could wear humanity flawlessly. Only he could bear our failures in perfect submission to the righteousness of God and conquer the grave with all glory and honour due his name.

Gail

CAPTION COMPETITION



What are the Alpacas thinking or saying?

Please submit your answers either in a sealed envelope to me at church or via email vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Best answer chosen by Dave and Gail will receive a prize!



St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Community Christmas Tree Festival

Come and see our Christmas Tree's
decorated by our local community

Festival Opening Times

Friday 10th December
Tree Viewing 4pm-8pm

Saturday 11th December
Tree Viewing 10am-6pm

Sunday 12th December
Nativity Service 10.30am
Tree viewing 12noon - 4pm
Family Carol Service 4pm

For more information visit www.stmarywoodkirk.org or follow us on facebook
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ChildLine
0800 1111
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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—At the moment we are continuing to arrange Baptisms and we will follow the relevant guidelines set out by the government. We will keep in touch with you if you have already booked if anything changes. If you wish to make an enquiry or book a Baptism please contact Barbara Tate on 07792 211095.

Weddings, funerals, Ashes, or the reading of banns—in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events. Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 0113 252 8710 or email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org. We will follow government guidelines throughout this winter and if we need to inform you of changes then we will contact you when and if the government makes changes.

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.

Christ the King - Sunday 21st November

As promised, please find below, the activity I would have liked us to undertake as part of my sermon for Christ the King, but didn't have time to do.

We celebrate Christ the King, according to Cyril, Patriarch and protagonist in Alexandria in the 5th Century AD to recognise and acknowledge that Christ has dominion or power over all things, and this short activity helps us think about the areas of our lives where we have control or duty, those things entrusted to us, whilst reminding us that we are only stewards of these things, God trusts us with them.

Before you start you need five lengths of yarn/thread/string/gardeners twine!!! (Probably about 12" or 15cm long). You are going to use the fingers of your hand to think about different areas of your life.

We look at our hand, focussing on our thumb, the strongest digit. As we do so we think of our areas of strength, our talents, our skills. Choose a piece of yarn to represent the things you are good at, and attach that piece of wool to your thumb leaving a long end. This is the rein that controls our talents.

Next, our index finger: this points the way. Choose another piece of yarn to represent your ambitions and goals, the direction you are headed, this may feel like a bit of an unguided area. Attach the yarn to your index finger again leaving a long end.

Next is our middle finger, our tallest finger: here we think of important people in our lives, the people we admire and follow, perhaps friends and or colleagues, once again leaving a long end, attach this yarn to your middle finger.

Then our ring finger - this is for relationships, this could be with family, with friends, church members, colleagues, again take your yarn and attach it to this finger.

Finally we come to our little finger, the weakest finger – we think about the weaknesses in our lives, are there areas we are finding a struggle? Even if we cannot control circumstances, we can control how we react, attach your last piece of yarn to your little finger.

Hold your hand palm up, gather the five pieces of thread together in your other hand and pull gently, they are all controlled by one hand, these 5 strands are the reins of our lives, these are some of the areas where we are acting as stewards for God. He gives us strengths and talents and good things for us to enjoy and use. God entrusts us with the reins of our lives.

However, remember, we are not supposed to act like the servant who hid his masters money, but to use God’s gifts for the benefit of others, but also, as you think about the meaning of each of those strands, you can remove the yarn, those reins on our lives, and symbolically relinquish ultimate control to God, the rightful King.

With love
Dawn



St Mary’s Playgroup Woodkirk

Sessions Are

- Monday 9.30 - 11.25
- Tuesday 9.30 - 11.25
- Thursday 9.30 - 11.25

All sessions are £9.50 each , paid termly.

For more information please email -
stmarysplaygroup12@hotmail.co.uk

Or check out our Facebook page -
St Mary’s Playgroup Woodkirk

Charity number 1083568



Do we need a little humour in our church?

Then enjoy this letter from a 9 year old boy.

“Dear NASA:

My name is Jack and I would like to apply for the planetary protection officer job. I may be nine but I think I would be fit for the job.

My sister says I am an alien. Also, I have seen almost all the space and alien movies I can see. I have seen the show Marvel Agents of Shield and hope to see the movie Men in Black. I am great at video games. I am young, so I can learn to think like an Alien.

Sincerely,

Jack

Guardian of the Galaxy

It seems crazy that this young boy would actually be considered for such an important job description.

But this is exactly what God does with us.

If we surrender to Him, the creator of the universe wants us use us to spread the Gospel to the world.

I can't think of a more important job, can you?

Blessings Gail

**The
Children's
Society**



We are planning to hold our two Christingle services on Christmas Eve however, before then we need to make our Christingles.

If you would like to come and help us assemble the Christingles for these services, we will be in church from **10am on Thursday 23rd December.**

You don't need any previous experience! Come along and join a friendly and industrious 'production line', with refreshments and laughs included. With love and cocktail sticks! Dawn x



ST MARY'S CHURCH WOODKIRK

Christmas Fair

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER

• 10AM-2PM •

- Tombola • Raffle • Books •
- Food & Drink • Craft Stalls •
- Fun & Games •
- & Much More

ST MARY'S PARISH CENTRE
DEWSBURY ROAD, WF12 7JL

Don't miss our CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL in church
*FRI 10th Dec (4pm-8pm), SAT 11th Dec (10am-6pm) &
SUN 12th Dec (12-4pm)*

For more information visit www.stmarywoodkirk.org or follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk/

What's in a Canticle?

Canticles, we say them as part of our services and I dare say in years gone by, Vicars and choirs would probably have chanted or sung them.

The dictionary definition of a canticle is;

- A) A nonmetrical (without particular rhythm) hymn derived from the Bible and used in church liturgy)
- B) A song, poem or hymn that is religious in character

Well, at the end of September, at the Wednesday service, we said a canticle together and it resonated with me, I wanted to share it with you. At first I asked Sharon where Canticles came from but then saw that in this instance it was based on Isaiah, I couldn't find the particular translation but the New International Version (NIV) is fairly close.

The canticle went like this;

*Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.*

¹ *Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;*

² *let the wicked abandon their ways,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;*

³ *Return to the LORD, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.*

⁴ *'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,' says the LORD.*

⁵ *For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

⁶ *As the rain and the snow come down from above,
and return not again but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,*

⁷ *Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread to eat,*
⁸ *So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me fruitless,*
⁹ *But it will accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the task I gave it.*

I'm afraid I don't look at the Old Testament that much, the only things I know about Isaiah was that he was a prophet and the Book of Isaiah is the second longest in terms of chapters (66) only beaten by the Book of Psalms (150).

I can't explain why this particular passage resonated with me, but it sort of felt like God reassuring me that He won't give up on me.

I am told to seek God and call upon Him, and that He will richly pardon those who have mercy.

The canticle reminds us that although God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours, nevertheless he provides for us.

The rain and snow come down and cannot return from whence they came, but they water the earth, helping seeds to grow, making crops grow and providing us with our daily bread.

I think perhaps the last two verses are what really made me think. God's word will not return to Him fruitless, but will accomplish the purpose he gave it, and succeed in its task.

The task of God's word is to inform, instruct and inspire and I think I can safely say, this canticle did that for me.

With love and canticles!
Dawn.

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Christmas Eve
Friday 24th December

3pm (aimed at under 7's*)

5pm (aimed at over 7's*)

*Everyone is welcome to join us at
either service

Join us in church or on facebook live



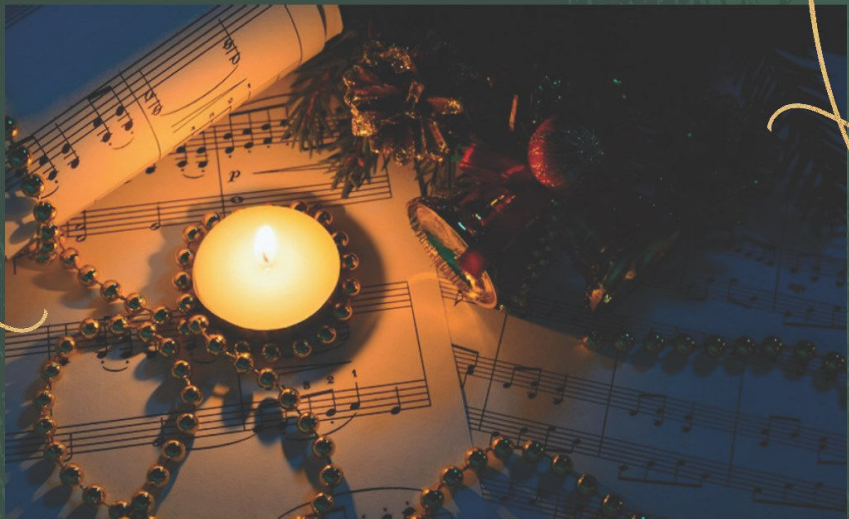
In aid of the Children's Society

For more information visit www.stmarywoodkirk.org or follow
us on facebook www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk/

ST MARY'S CHURCH WOODKIRK

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
4PM

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ON
FACEBOOK LIVE

For more information visit www.stmarywoodkirk.org or follow us
on facebook www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk/

The Best Sermons are Lived....

Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

Today, I asked my mentor—a very successful business man in his 70's—what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

Today, after a 72 hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."

Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.

Today at 7.00am, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3.00pm I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.

Today, as my father, three brothers and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."

Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.

Today, in the cutest voice, my 8 year old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, “Why?” She replied, “So you can help me save the planet”. I chuckled again and asked, “And why do you want to save the planet?” “Because that’s where I keep all my stuff,” she said.

Today, when I witnessed a 27 year old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2 year old daughter’s antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across the campus to my class and as he was leaving he said “I hope you feel better soon.”

Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an email that said “Thinking of you today. If you need me, I’m a phone call away.” It was from a high school friend I hadn’t seen in 10 years.

Today, I was travelling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn’t eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, “We can share it.”

The best sermons are live, not preached....

Trevor Sykes

Mood Swings

A man was riding his Harley along a California highway, when suddenly the sky cleared above his head and in a booming voice, the Lord said: “Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.”

The biker pulled over and said, “Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want.”

The Lord said, “Your request is materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific, and the concrete and steel it would take!

It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind.”

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, “Lord, I wish that I and all men could understand women; I want to know how she feels inside, what she’s thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing’s wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy.”

The Lord paused for a moment ...

Then the Lord replied,

“You want two lanes or four lanes on that bridge?”

Trevor Sykes



Church Mouse Tales.

The other day, I asked my friend Hubert, the Black Canon - innocently, you understand - what he might do on his day off?

‘Day off?’ he cried, with pained expression, ‘I’m a man of God you know, I live a quiet and humble life with meagre food for my belly - a simple existence of prayer and study.’

‘Even more reason to have a day off’, I observed. ‘A day off is still a day’, he mused, ‘there is sunrise and sunset and things to do in between. A person can’t just miss the day out completely – it simply can’t be done.’ ‘Well no, the point is, you can have a day when you can choose to do something – or do nothing. It’s up to you..’

I folded my arms in satisfaction. ‘Hmmm’, he looked perplexed, ‘I’m not sure I follow.’ It was clear my simple explanation had not had the desired effect. I tried a different approach. ‘It’s a day,’ I explained, ‘when you can set the prayer list and pick the hymns too.’ His eyes widened. ‘Keep your voice down!’ he whispered. ‘Don’t let the Abbott hear of this...this...Anarchy!’

‘Oh – did I mention?’ I asked lightly, ‘the Abbott is here..’ ‘What!’ ‘Hello Brother Hubert’, said the Abbott with a smile. ‘Er – hello Abbott – I was just saying, I am about to start the prayer rota – after I’ve cleaned....’

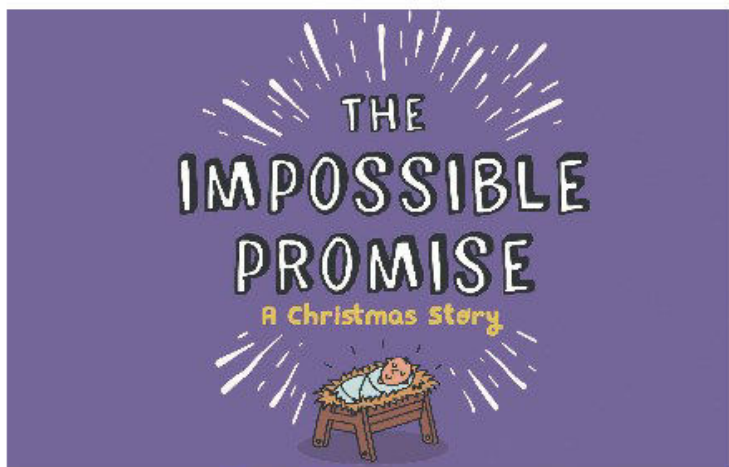
The Abbott held up his hand. ‘It’s fine Brother Hubert’, he smiled, ‘it’s my day off – let’s not talk shop...what about a nice cup of tea?’

Hubert smiled at the Abbott then looked at me with accusing eyes. I smiled back innocently....

Misha x

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

Nativity Play



All Welcome

**Come dressed as a character
from the Christmas Story!!
(Whatever your age!!)**

Sunday 12th December at 10.30am

Albert's Christmas Quiz

1. Name the town where Jesus Christ was born?
2. Who was the Roman Emperor at the time of his birth?
3. Which member of the Royal Family was born on Christmas Day?
4. By what name is the 'Helleborus Niger' better known?
5. Name Santa's reindeers (excluding Rudolph)?
6. Who had a 1974 Christmas No.1 with 'Lonely this Christmas'?
7. Name the 1994 film in which Richard Attenborough played Santa Claus?
8. Which horse won the 1964 Derby?
9. In 1949 who first recorded 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'?
10. In which year did Linda McCartney pay £3,000 for a turkey 1995/96/97?
11. In 1734 who composed the 'Christmas Oratorio'?
12. Name the Three Wise Men.
13. Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
14. In which year did the Goons walk backwards for Christmas, 1954/55/56'?
15. What is the name of the little boy in Raymond Briggs' story 'The Snowman'?
16. What is myrrh?
17. Who had a 1970's Christmas No 1 with 'I believe in Father Christmas'?
18. Who sang 'I wish it could be Christmas every day'?
19. What happened in the Thorneycroft Chase at Wolverhampton on 26 December 1899?
20. Who wrote the song 'White Christmas'?

Answers on Page 37

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 28th November—Advent 1—10.30am

Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd December – Advent Reflections 7:00pm
online only.

Sunday 5th December—Advent 2—10.30am

Friday 10th – Sunday 12th December – Christmas Tree Festival

(times Friday 4:00pm – 8:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm, Sunday
1:00pm -4:00pm finishing at 4:00pm with children’s Carol Service)

Saturday 11th December – Christmas Fair – 10:00am – 2:00pm (Parish
Hall)

Sunday 12th December—Advent 3—Nativity Service 10.30am

Sunday 12th December—Children’s Carol Service 4.00pm

Sunday 19th December—Advent 4– 10.30am

Sunday 19th December -Carols by Candlelight 4:00pm

Tuesday 21st December – Blue Christmas Service 7:00pm

Friday 24th December—Christingle Services at 3.00pm and 5.00pm

Friday 24th December – Midnight Mass – 11:30pm

Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day – 10:30am

Sunday 26th December – Feast of St. Stephen – 10:30am

Wednesday 29th December – No 10:00am Service

Sunday 2nd January—Epiphany

NB The last daily office (morning, evening and night prayer on
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) will be on Tuesday 21st
December and will recommence on Monday 3rd January at 9.00am.

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)

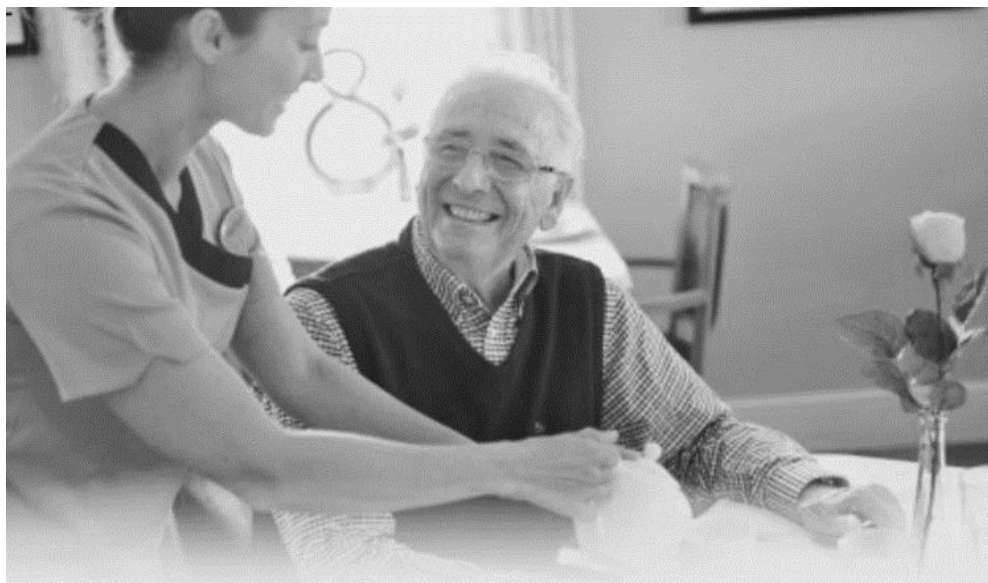
Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

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



QUIZ ANSWERS for Albert's Christmas Quiz

1. Bethlehem 2. Augustus Caesar 3. Princess Alexandra 4. The Christmas Rose 5. Dancer Prancer, Dasher, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen 6. Mud 7. Miracle on 34th Street 8. Santa Claus 9. Gene Autry 10. 1995 11. J S Bach 12. Belshezzar, Caspar, Melchior 13. Isaac Newton 14. 1956 15. James 16. A gum resin 17. Greg Lake 18. Wizzard 19. 'Good Friday' fell on Boxing Day 20. Irving Berlin



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alike providing excellent care
and facilities."*

Son of Resident at
Lydgate Lodge

[carehome.co.uk review]

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idealcarehomes.co.uk

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:-

Henry Kellett & Hunter Kellett

Rory Edwin Stanley Grealey

Bodhi Hughes

Ivy Erica Popple

Darcie Beau Delaney

Florence Joana Jurgilaite

Lumi Rose-Ann Williams



DEATHS



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

WEDDINGS

We pray for all who are preparing for marriage in the coming months



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Did you know?

We place our Parish Magazine on our website each month therefore YOUR Advert reaches many more people.

To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

Quarter Page £35.00

Half Page £70.00

Full Page £110.00

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To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 015

Parish Centre Rentals

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

Nominal Cost is £60 for 3 hours. Regular long term bookings negotiable.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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Living.
Learning.



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OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

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RESIDENCE
3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

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

Playgroup Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

9:30am to 11.25am

Lauren Adamson 07885626603

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children

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

Nikki Esberger 07932026419

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

Young at Heart 2nd & 4th 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 this Month

Sunday Services.

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

Weekday Services

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

Special Services in December:

Weds 1st 7pm	Advent Reflection	On Line
Weds 8th 7pm	Advent Reflection	On Line
Weds 15th 7pm	Advent Reflection	On Line
Weds 22nd 7pm	Advent Reflection	On Line

Please see Page 37 for details of how to join a streamed service