

# **Parish News**

**St Mary's, Woodkirk**

**Happy Easter**

**April 2021**



**Worship Online at:  
*Facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk***

**[www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)**

## Who's who at Woodkirk

**Vicar of St Mary's:** **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**  
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**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](http://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](https://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

What changed because of Easter? Unbelievers scoff at resurrection. Theologians debate the empty tomb. No one can “prove” Easter. But one thing is clear: the first Easter transformed a motley band of fearful, confused disciples into joyful witnesses to the risen Jesus. Their experience of Jesus as the Christ changed them into fearless proclaimers of the Good News in the face of persecution and to the ends of the known world.

What changes in *our* lives because of Easter? The world is still a mess. From the coronavirus pandemic to climate change's growing impact, the Trump administration's scorched-earth policies after Joe Biden's election, the Azerbaijani-Armenian war over Nagorno-Karabakh, and a deadly conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region, it has been an eventful year. Suffering has not disappeared. Death still comes to all. As individuals or as tribes, ethnic groups or political parties or nations, we inflict pain on one another. But the risen Christ invites us to stand close to those who suffer: “Come, put your fingers into the wounds in my palms and your hand into the gash in my side.”

Some of us sidestep suffering, thinking that avoiding it brings happiness, but God stands with the broken-hearted. When we stand with the suffering, we encounter the God of mercy. Easter compels us to seek others wherever they are suffering, especially where suffering occurs on a vast scale. Once you know these things, you will be blessed if you put them into practice.

**This is the way forward:** believing that we share one planet, depend upon one another for survival, and are able to ease one another's paths. Life isn't about keeping track of our advancements or lapses in virtue; it's about keeping our eyes fixed on God. It's about God inviting us to drop our defences and to turn toward a new way of loving. When love holds the scales, as the poet Kabir says, they stop working. There is no need to measure, compare, mete out justice, or give each person her due; none of us deserves what God is always giving.

Many of us are still much more comfortable with a just God than a merciful God. We're bothered by those strange parables about the day laborers who work only one hour and get the same pay as those who toiled a full shift under the hot sun. We don't

understand why Jesus commends the cheating servant who cooked the books and slashed the amount due from his master's creditors. We want life to be fair. We work hard at being good; we want to get what we deserve. But of course, we never get what we deserve from God. We always get mercy, pressed down and overflowing, undeserved and wondrous. From that experience of God flows Easter joy. We are loved, held, and cherished, no matter what.

Author Richard Rohr, in *Hope Against Darkness*, writes: *The wonder of the resurrection stories in the Gospels is that Jesus has no punitive attitude toward the authorities or his cowardly followers; and the followers themselves never call for any kind of holy war against those who killed their leader. Something new has clearly transpired in history. This is not the common and expected story line. All Jesus does is breathe forgiveness (John 20:22).*

Reconciliation, compassion, forgiveness, and community all become possible when we experience Easter. God longs for our hearts and wants us to draw closer, but also closer to our neighbours near and far. Easter is a call to solidarity.

Once we are grounded in God, we are compelled to be with people who are not like ourselves. Why? Because God is other, and comes as a stranger. In opening up to people and ideas we find strange, we become open to encountering God. We must take risks, venture into relationships that stretch us, and include strangers in our circle. It's not a burden but a gift. Where else can we expect to meet the God whose best name is "surprise"?

Easter means we live for others and not for ourselves. Many centuries ago the Sufi poet Rumi wrote:

*Become the one that when you walk in,  
Luck shifts to the one who needs it.  
If you've not been fed, be bread.*

An extraordinary description of Eucharist. Pray to become someone from whom luck shifts, so that the other may get more. Even if you are hungry, focus on your neighbours and find ways to be bread for them. Feeling lonely or depressed? Do something for someone else! Think nobody pays attention to

you? Give your attention to others instead. Give thanks, not just when you have your daily bread, but that you can be bread for others. Then God's own joy will grow in your heart.

We see in scripture that when God is active people move toward solidarity, away from their natural tendency to stay in their comfort zones of family, clan, or chosen people. Use God's eyes to look out at our world. See others as God sees them, as a beloved. Love wants to be with the beloved. That is the movement underlying all solidarity.

Easter in the real world means becoming more and more loving. No matter what our calling in life, our real work is to carry this love as comfort for all who long for God, to go everywhere God goes, which is always outward to the stranger, the alien, the poor, and the forgotten – the nobodies of this world. That is the source of Easter joy.

Easter is love stronger than death, love that is itself a martyrdom, costing everything. It is not cheap grace. It is not warm, fuzzy feelings, or syrupy spirituality. How can we speak of God amid unspeakable suffering? All we can say is that God lives in these forsaken places, and is there before us. Our God is the God of loss and diminishment and failure; the God of refugee camps, abandonment, misunderstandings, pain, loneliness, and slow deaths; the God whose life seemingly ended on a cross, but who in that very surrender transformed suffering once and for all. That is the Good News.

The Easter stories in scripture are giddy with surprises and delirious joy. We too live in Easter. The only Jesus we can know is the risen Christ. We ought to pore over these stories and ask: How is this happening in *my* life now? Where does God appear to wipe away tears, to give me courage, to keep me from backsliding into old ways, to invite me to feed his sheep?

With so much to be grateful for we grow in love. A joy that does not depend on external circumstances bubbles up in us. This joy is God's Easter gift to us, and nothing can take it from us.

Sharon

## **Prayerful Thought – Who do you trust?**

I was walking through the churchyard a week or two ago before all the leaves started growing, and looking up spotted a nest in one of the big trees near the church. This got me thinking about trust...

I never had a tree house when I was growing up, and I have a specific memory of once falling out of a tree, winding myself and being afraid to move as I thought I had really hurt myself (strangely enough I can't remember climbing trees after that, apart from helping my dad trimming a tree at home in the garden!)

The thing is, birds trust that where they build their nests will be suitable for the raising of their family, they don't doubt that the tree is sturdy enough to hold them and their eggs and young and will withstand the inevitable strong winds that are part of our weather.

I seem to remember my Grandma saying something about if rooks had built their nests towards the tops of branches the weather was set to be fair, if they were lower down then it was going to be windy!

So what about us? Who do we trust?

Well if we have a look in the Old Testament, in Proverbs 3:5 we find a clear guide... "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight"

I looked at my trusty online bible for how many times the word trust (or trustworthy) is used. In the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are 198 occurrences. I don't think I was surprised to discover that the majority of uses of the word trust are in the Old Testament(OT), a total of 124 times to just 17 in the New Testament(NT).

I've set myself the challenge of reading the bible in a year and

have been wading through the 'Pentateuch' (The first five books of the OT) which, as it involves lots of instructions to Moses from God and the setting up of all the Jewish laws and customs and sacrifices etc, there were some areas that were quite challenging. But I am also learning lots of 'stuff' that I have come across in New Testament references by Jesus, and in Psalms and things like that so it's quite interesting too.

One of the things I learned was in Numbers 20 when God told Moses and Aaron that whilst they were responsible for leading the Israelites through the wilderness to the Promised Land, they themselves would not enter it. It stemmed from an occasion when the Israelites were complaining (I discovered they did quite a lot of complaining!) to Moses and Aaron, that there was no water, and they were questioning why God had led them out of slavery to die in the desert. So Moses and Aaron went to the 'Tent of Meeting' and 'The glory of God appeared to them'. God told Moses to assemble the congregation and command the rock to yield its water. However, Moses didn't, he struck the rock with his staff and water poured forth.

God was angry because Moses had not done as he asked and trusted that commanding the rock would work. The story ends at verse 13 saying "These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarrelled with the Lord, and by which he showed his holiness"

This also reminded me of part of the Morning Prayer service which we do online on a Monday and Friday morning. These words are used in 'The Song of Triumph' which we say during 'Ordinary Time' "Harden not your heart as at Meribah in the wilderness", and I have looked this up and it comes from Psalm 95.

This psalm is titled 'A call to worship and obedience' and we find the words from Morning Prayer in verse 7.

In a reflection by Barbara Mosse, she refers to this and says; The second part of the psalm begins with a warning 'Oh that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts...' reminding readers of the time the Israelites had tested God and argued with Moses and that the psalm ends bleakly and angrily with God vowing that his people 'shall not enter into my rest' (v 11).

She goes on to ask what the reader thinks about this? Do we really worship a God who lashes out in anger whenever his 'children's human frailty gets the better of them'? She says clearly, that she believes not. Rather that we are being invited, if somewhat dramatically, to trust God first, rather than as a last resort.

Trust can be a difficult thing, especially if you have been let down by someone you trusted in the past. Indeed, trust is something that is built up, and is a great privilege if you are trusted by someone.

So who do you trust?

Will you be like the Israelites in the wilderness, or like the birds building their nests high up in the trees?

Remember Proverbs 3:5...

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely  
on your own insight"

Love and prayers

Dawn x

## What happened on Good Friday? How is Good Friday celebrated?



Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so, they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop, and brought it up to His mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

"Good Friday services are not intended to make us feel good. They are intended to make you reflect on the fact that – bad stuff happens to good people – because it does. Bad stuff happened to Jesus – and it happens to us and sometimes it does not make sense." As we place our lives into Gods - as Jesus placed his life into his fathers, we must trust that whatever lies ahead of us we also must put our trust in the Father.

The cross grieved the disciples. They were grieved because of Christ's death. Had He died by accident or from robbers they could have accepted it. But to voluntarily surrender to His enemies just did not make sense. His death seemed so senseless, so futile, so wasteful. Could it have been avoided? No. He chose to die for us. The disciples had seen Jesus perform many miracles. They had seen Him raise people from the dead. They knew He could have saved Himself if He wanted to. But He did not. He actually let them kill him.

The most amazing things about the Easter Story is not only the resurrection of Christ! As truly astounding and miraculous as that was, Jesus promised it would happen!  
I believe one of the other amazing thing about the Easter story

is the men Jesus entrusted with His Kingdom and His Kingdom's work! Can we see it? Fishermen like Andrew, Peter, James, and John. Matthew the tax collector and Simon the zealot!

ORDINARY MEN. That is the AWESOMENESS of God, that His belief and trust in common men could not be daunted or shaken! He believes in us. Jesus believes in us! ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN! Teachers, businessmen, construction workers, secretaries, homemakers, salesmen, mechanics, white collar workers, blue collar workers, even preachers! Jesus believes that you and I CAN make a DIFFERENCE in the world in which we live.

Jesus told the thief, 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' This meant the thief would be with Jesus right then upon the thief's repentance and confession. Oh what a glorious day it was for him and what a glorious day it is for you and me. Is today, yours and my day. The message of the cross, while terrible, contains a message of hope for us all. Through the power of Christ on the cross beams there is forgiveness and a new chance at life because of what Jesus accomplished there for us. While the cross is a symbol of grievous suffering and a torturous death, it is also a symbol of the great compassion of our God."

Good Friday was not so good. We like the story of the Conquering King – but we squirm at the thought of a Suffering Servant. Yet that is what Jesus was – He was our Suffering Servant – before He became our Conquering King." But here is one man in history whose last words not only tell us a great deal about Him, but also tell us a great deal about how we should live our lives."

If Good Friday were all there were, then we as Christians would be the most depressed and depressing people on Earth. But we know Good Friday is not the whole story, is it? We know that there is a resurrection Sunday. It is a day of victory. We call it Easter." There is a cost to every gift and the Gift of Easter was bought and paid for on Good Friday." Good Friday is Good News, especially if we are experiencing something of the pain and anguish of Good Friday ourselves. God knows and God



cares. God has been there Himself, in Jesus. The genuine existential certainty of God's love for us by dying on the Cross is what enables coping with whatever God wants the outcome to be, be that joining Him in heaven.

The death of Christ on the cross has the power to forgive our sins and grant us salvation. By the stripes of Jesus, we are healed from our sicknesses and diseases. Through His death on the cross, we are delivered from the scourge of curses and receive the blessings of God. We receive comfort in all our sorrows because He carried our sorrows and grief on the cross."

And because of Jesus' death on the Cross, for our salvation, we can now take our stand: not betraying Jesus, not denying Him, not judging Him, not condemning Him, not rejecting Him, not mocking Him, not cursing Him, not flogging Him, not killing Him--but standing there at the foot of the Cross with others who love Him, and putting our arms around one another for comfort and strength so that when we are asked later what happened we can say: 'I was standing at the foot of the Cross... "

"Today we are filled with the stark reality that the cross is a symbol of death, death which was meant for us. On Easter, we see the joyous glory that the cross is a symbol of hope as we walk the road of life." See His great love again for us as we stand as a child of God. He paid the price so that we would never have to be punished before a holy God. The very Son of God died for our sins, every wrong thought, action, deed. Imagine a room full of candles and as each one goes out, see the last one shining dimly in the room--the Son of God there dying for this dark wicked world. Then His light goes out. He has died for you and me. Let us bear in ourselves these thoughts today, reflect on this awesome sacrifice of God Himself. Feel the pain and the wounds of Him who did such a thing for you and me."

Amen

Gail

## Carry on Camping...

Noooo nothing to do with Barbara Windsor!  
Are you, or have you been a camper?

I've never been a canvas camper, except for a week when I was in my second year of High School, not too bad an experience, but never repeated. I was very lucky as a child that we as a family had a touring caravan and so I have many happy memories of trekking off to far flung southern climes (we had family in Cornwall), and enjoying wonderful places like Cheddar Gorge, and then as we got older of staying in static caravans, something we still do when enjoying our annual jaunt to Bournemouth.

It wasn't all sunshine though, I have a vivid memory of a week's holiday at Great Yarmouth where it seemed to rain an awful lot, and of a static caravan adventure on the Jurassic coast where we were on a caravan site near a high point called 'Golden Cap' when we had really strong winds and I was grateful the caravan was anchored to concrete hard standing by some strong looking bolts!

Well, I was reminded of 'camping' recently when reading through Numbers.

As you may have seen in some of my other articles, I am aiming to read the Bible in a year this year and I am currently onto Deuteronomy. Now I don't know about you, but starting at the beginning of the Bible, I certainly have read passages from Genesis and Exodus before, but can't recall very often reading parts of Leviticus, Numbers or Deuteronomy.

Well Numbers is the 4<sup>th</sup> book of the five books of Moses,

containing God's instructions for his people (also known as the Pentateuch or Torah). As its name suggests, it includes lots of numbers! - and covers 38 years in the history of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness.

The 'numbers' refers to a number of census' that were taken during that time. But it also includes lots of instructions, laws and customs including details on sacrifices that had to be made when the people failed to follow these instructions.

What is also given are the strict rules to be followed for the travelling of the tribes of Israel (The 12 sons of Jacob).

The first census lists over 600,000 men of fighting age (the rule of thumb when counting) and this excluded all the men of the house of Levi as they were given special duties looking after everything to do with the Tabernacle. It was when I was reading about all this that I thought about camping.

There were 8,580 men alone caring for the tabernacle, and we read about not only the actual care of the Tabernacle tent itself with all its coverings but in addition all the sacred items like candlesticks, plates, bowls, lamps etc etc, many things that made up this most holy place.

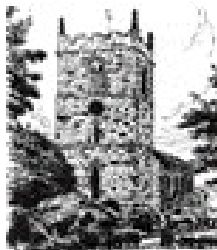
If you think about the over 600,000 men plus their families, plus the Levites, then about all their equipment, plus you then have to remember that there would have been all the flocks of sheep and cattle, the goats and the doves for sacrifice as well as for survival.

All these were God's people, wandering in the wilderness for 40 years!

That's some camping trip!

With love and happy camping! Dawn x

## St Mary's Church Memorial Wall Hanging



The 23rd March was a National day of reflection.

At St Marys we would like to remember those in our community we have lost throughout the pandemic lockdowns and are putting together a Memorial Wall Hanging of a tree with each leaf in memory of loved ones we have lost.



This image is used for illustrative purposes only.

If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please see the additional information provided on our website [www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org) and our Facebook Page.

Please contact Dawn Tattersfield;  
[dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org) (Telephone 07840 739239)

## Yorkshire Wisdom

### T'Sower

A farmer went aht ta sow corn in 'is field. 'T scattered it all arahnd.

T'birds mun 'a' been watchin' aht fer 'im fer the'd etten sum afoar it touched t'grahnd.

Sum on it fell at t'edge a' t'field.

'e'd 'ardly 'ad time ta draw breeth afoar t'nettles, thistles an' dandelions 'ad sprung up an' choaked it ta death.

Aye, an' sum on it fell on t'stony grahnd – it grew quick wi' nice green shooits, but it sooin deed off i' t'sunshine fer ther' wer' nooa depth to its rooits.

Sum on it fell wheer it wer' meant to o' t'well manured earth, wheer t'muck wer rich an' fertile an' a good 'arvest sprung ta birth.

Sum times ahr lives are like yon farmer's field, God's words we just dooant 'eed an' sum times it leets fer a day or two afooar it's choakedbi ahr selfish greed.

Aye an sum times we set off l'reyt good form but ageean thers nooa depth to its rooits an' summat comes up an' draws us away sooa it dees off baht bearin' frewt.

But if we're nobbut just ready ta listen ahe 'earts like a well prepared field, why then thers nooa limit ta' t'arvist 'at God's word in ahr lives can yield.

Brian Walshaw



## Help available at the Numbers below...

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**National Domestic Abuse Helpline**  
**0808 2000 247**  
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**Mind**  
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**Victim Support**  
**0808 168 9111**  
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**Cruse Bereavement**  
**0800 808 1677**  
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

**ChildLine**  
**0800 1111**  
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**Action on Elder Abuse**  
**0808 808 8141**  
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**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](mailto: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](mailto:vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org).

## **Where can you find peace?**

As well as reading the Bible in a year, I am also following the daily reflections in the UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) Word for Today booklets.

This particular heading was the thought for the day on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. It shared Psalm 29:11 'The Lord blesses his people with peace' (NIV). It went on to say that Increasing our pace has decreased our peace.

Not long ago we marked the passage of time in seasons which begat monthly calendars, which begat day timings which caused minute minders, we now have personal organisers and mobile phones with calendars and to do lists, alarms and reminders.

What does it lead to?

As our productivity goes up, our quality of life seems to go down. We've become obsessed with speed, we end up with a lot of plans we can't accomplish and a full schedule that can't be followed.

The paradox of our time saving gadgets is that we end up with no free time. So where can we go to find peace? To the one whose name is Prince of Peace. Today he's saying to you "If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well being like the waves of the sea (Isaiah 48:18).

This made me think about the pandemic and the lockdowns we have endured over the past year. How often had we said to ourselves, 'Never in a month of Sundays' and it was suddenly



like I'd been given initially 3 months of Sundays, when everything else I normally do and get caught up in doing, stopped.

Suddenly, I had all the time with which to do all the things I like doing, like my hobbies, crafting etc.

What I did discover is that I had far too many hobbies, and that even though I was completing a number of craft things that had been in an unfinished state for quite a while, I would never have enough time to do everything I had, so I started to review all my crafts and identify those things I really wanted to do, and to carry on doing versus the things I could limit or stop doing. I probably still have too much expectation of what crafting I can complete – C.A.B.L.E (Crafts Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy!!) but I am getting better.

I also found time to discover other things I enjoy and have read quite a lot and also done some jigsaws, which I have always enjoyed doing but rarely had time to do.

The problem is that I can feel like I'm being lazy if I'm not dashing hither and thither. I always remember when I was at work that some days I felt like I hadn't achieved very much, I used to complain that I "...hadn't made many widgets" the thing was, working in Human Resources/Personnel, sometimes you had days where you spent most of the day dealing with people, talking and supporting etc, so although I may not have completed things off a 'to do' list I had been busy all day. Then on other days where papers were written, reports completed, etc etc I felt that I had been much more productive.

I find that now, even though I am retired. If I have done some housework, washing and ironing, batch cooked some meals,

worked in the allotment etc I feel like I've been productive, but if I have sat reading, doing some cross stitch or spent some time with a jigsaw, I feel like I have been lazy!

At the time this came up in my thoughts for a day, I had just spent a frantic few days being really busy with some grant applications for my Girls Brigade Group, trying to secure some funding to help us restart after the pandemic (which we are hoping to do sometime after the 21<sup>st</sup> June) and I recognised that I need to make sure I build in time for relaxing and doing the things I enjoy (anyone who is retired will tell you, some days you can find yourself busier than when you were at work!).

I don't think I can easily sit and do nothing, I'm not that kind of person, but I do find cross stitching particularly relaxing and it often gives me time to relax and be at peace with my thoughts.



As some lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, and as the vaccination programme continues to make excellent progress, and we all start thinking about returning to some kind of normality, may we recognise the need for times of peace in our lives for our own mindfulness and remember Psalm 29:11  
‘The Lord blesses his people with peace’

God's Peace  
Dawn x

## **Giving up something for Lent**

Well, here we are in Holy Week, less than a week to go before Easter Sunday.

Of course as well as celebrating Jesus rising from the dead, we also come to the end of our 'fasting' during Lent.

Now it's been a few years since I gave something up for Lent. I fobbed myself off with thoughts that I was following a prayer plan, or taking up something. But this year I decided I would have a go at giving something up.

I have tried on previous occasions to give up a whole host of things under the heading of 'treats' which included; chocolate, biscuits, desserts, cake, sweets etc, all the things that should be occasional treats but become part of my everyday munching, I have never managed it before and have usually ended up breaking my 'fast' after only a few days.

Well I started off full of vim and vigour, replacing biscuits with fruit at lunchtime and cutting out chocolate with a coffee in the evening etc and it was going well.

I continued with this fast but it has on some occasions been really hard, and it has made me realise, I rarely deny myself things.

Add to that, David occasionally suggesting that I could have a single piece of chocolate, no one would know! But no, my resolve has held and I'm feeling quite pleased with myself.

I got to thinking about that passage in the Bible about 'deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me', and I found this same reference in Matthew, Mark and Luke. This is an indica-

tion of how important a point it was.

It follows the occasion when Jesus had asked the disciples who the people said He was and Peter had replied 'You are the Messiah' to be closely followed, when Jesus refers to his upcoming death of Peter falling spectacularly from grace by becoming a 'stumbling' block to Jesus and the 'Get thee behind me Satan' from Jesus.

This is followed by "Then Jesus said to his disciples, whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24).

Jesus was talking about the cost of being a disciple, and even though, in the UK we are free to practice our faith without being persecuted, there is still a 'cost' to being a Christian.

The commitment we make to Christ is a lifelong one; it means that if we are going to receive the forgiveness of the cross, then we have to be ready and willing to carry the cross for ourselves, to follow where Christ leads us.

We need to be prepared to give our very best through our gifts and talents to him and his church so that we may be known as his disciples.

I'm sure that some of you are now saying, I don't have any gifts, or I have given in the past, it's time for someone else to do things now, but regardless of whatever reason could be given, we must remember that Christ didn't get to Golgotha and say, OK. I've changed my mind; I don't want to save humanity.

After his death on the cross Jesus came back to the disciples to prepare them for what lay ahead, and to give them the great

commission, the disciples had no idea what to expect, but the key is, the cross wasn't the end, but the beginning.

Fasting through Lent is one way I have chosen to 'deny' myself something. It doesn't make me better than anyone else, even though it has helped kick start my diet! But it has helped me focus on what Jesus gave up for me, much more than a few sweet treats.

But the most exciting thing is, that he is there for each one of us, and whether we have obvious gifts, or ones that are well hidden even from ourselves, choosing to follow Christ will help us discover those talents, and will enable us to share in the knowledge and love of God.

May I wish you a very blessed Easter, and no I don't think I'll be eating chocolate for breakfast (although I could always get a box of coco pops or some Pain au Chocolat!!).

With love and treats Dawn x



## Goals!

Please read on, I'm not talking about football tee hee!

I attended an online Diocesan study day a few weeks ago which I found really interesting. However, at one stage the speaker referred to goals and showed us a slide with the following statements on it...

*The goals that are most closely and rigidly connected to key aspects of 'who I want to be' (or hope I am) are the most important.*

*We can tell which goals are most valued in our lives by how upset we get when they are thwarted.*

And the speaker went on to talk a little more about 'Life goals and feelings' and 'Life goals and wellbeing'

It was funny that as I listened and thought about it, I realised that I hadn't really any goals, setting goals is not something I can honestly say I have consciously done.

The I thought about the past year and the pandemic and lockdowns, and I realised that I had set myself what I would say were more 'tasks' than goals, like completing crafts that have been 'works in progress' for a while, or spring cleaning etc.

But then in January I did set myself a goal.

Because of all the walking I had been doing during lockdowns, I had been using an exercise app that comes with my mobile phone. It really just records your steps and route etc but it also gave you 'medals' for completing certain challenges and I'd achieved 1 or 2 previously, but then noticed that I could get a

'medal' for walking 10,000 steps a day for 21 days, so that is what I set out to do.

Suddenly I had a goal, and despite the fact that a few days into this goal it snowed like billyo! I still went out and got my 10,000 steps in. I completed my 21 days and subsequently got my virtual 'medal' only then to note that there was another medal available if I completed 10,000 steps a day for 100 days. I looked at the calendar, and thought, well I'm already 21 days in so I may as well see if I can do this other medal. I never knew I could be competitive! Here I am now having completed over 80 days of walking 10,000 steps and it has made me go out and do my steps whatever the weather, even getting up and going out sometimes before breakfast to make sure I got my steps in.

If we were not in lockdown, I doubt I would have attempted this goal as I would have been busy doing other things which may have got in the way, as it is, I should complete my 100 days on the 18<sup>th</sup> April.

I decided to look up the word 'goals' in my online Bible and was somewhat surprised to discover that in the New International Version (NIV) it is mentioned eight times, all in the New Testament and all but one (which in Luke's Gospel) they are all in letters from Paul to various people/communities namely Romans, Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians and Timothy.

If you think about it, when Paul was travelling, spreading the Good News of the fledgling Christian faith throughout the Mediterranean, he was constantly urging them to become followers of Jesus, to give up Roman and Greek ways and in many cases he used himself as an example in his urging. If you look at Philippians 3:14

He says *“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

I think we have to be careful not to set too many goals or we can end up over taxing ourselves trying to meet them all. But we can all set little goals for ourselves which give us something to aim for.

The more I think about it, I have done a fair bit of goal setting so far this year. There is this walking one, you may have heard me mention in a separate article about my aim to read the Bible this year, and you may have come across another article about my giving up something for Lent. Have you set yourself any goals? Perhaps finishing the crossword each day, or reading any particular books?

If we cannot think about any goals we could set ourselves, or don't think we're interested, then we only need to look at Paul's urging of the Philippians, we can all press on toward the goal God has set for us...

Here's to us all scoring goals whether for earthly or for heavenly benefit safe i the knowledge that in God there is no offside rule!

Happy scoring

Love Dawn x



# HOLY WEEK

## AT ST MARY'S, WOODKIRK



### LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK [FACEBOOK.COM/STMARYWOODKIRK](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> HOLY COMMUNION	<b>28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b> 10.30AM
<b>MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b> MORNING PRAYER REFLECTIVE SERVICE	<b>29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b> 9AM 7PM
<b>TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b> MORNING PRAYER STATIONS OF THE CROSS	<b>30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b> 9AM 7PM
<b>WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b> HOLY COMMUNION REFLECTIVE SERVICE	<b>31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH</b> 10AM 7PM
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> REFLECTIVE SERVICE	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL</b> 7PM
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> REFLECTIVE SERVICE	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL</b> 2PM
<b>EASTER SATURDAY</b> EASTER VIGIL	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL</b> 8PM
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> HOLY COMMUNION SONGS OF PRAISE	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b> 10.30AM (CHURCH OPEN AM ONLY) 6PM

## 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.**



## Albert's Sayings & Quotations Quiz

Which of the following sayings originated in the Bible and which are quotations from Shakespeare plays?

You could mark them with a 'B' or an 'S'

1. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
2. Frailty, thy name is woman.
3. A fly in the ointment.
4. More in sorrow than in anger.
5. A drop in the bucket.
6. Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
7. A wolf in sheep's clothing.
8. To the manor born.
9. As old as the hills.
10. Brevity is the soul of wit.
11. At his wits end.
12. I must be cruel only to be kind.
13. Bite the dust.
14. More sinned against than sinning.
15. Can a leopard change its spots?
16. Full of the milk of human kindness.
17. Eat, drink and be merry.
18. It is a wise father that knows his own child.
19. In the twinkling of an eye.
20. The world's mine oyster.

(Answers on page 37)

## Church Mouse Tales

My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, sat in his usual quire pew, staring straight ahead.

'Hello.' I greeted him amiably.

'Oh hello Misha', he replied with a smile, but I could see the cogs were still whirring.

'You're deep in thought', I offered as a conversation opener.

'Yes - perceptive as usual Misha', he replied, 'I'm considering the environment.'

'The environment?' I repeated vaguely.

'Yes - I'm wondering what we might do to reduce pollution...'

'Er - are we causing much pollution?'

'Well, no - at least I'm not...'

'Well no - possibly a 300 year old apparition doesn't adversely affect air cleanliness to any significant degree...but that only leaves me?' I said, now a little concerned about where this was heading.

'Yes - that is what I was thinking..' Hubert placed the tips of his fingers together before continuing. 'What are you going to do to help save the planet Misha?' he asked, looking over his horn rims at me.

'Me? Well I er, that is - I'm not sure what a mouse should do?'

'I can help you there, Misha', he smiled benevolently.

'You can?' I asked now slightly nervous.

'Well after much careful consideration and having given the matter the full force of my extensive knowledge and experience, I have come up with a brilliant idea.'

'Yes?' I asked with baited breath.

'You can grow your fur longer.' he sat back looking pleased with himself.

'I can grow my fur longer?' I repeated slightly dazed and confused.

'Yes - that way you will keep warmer so you won't need to eat quite so much - so less impact on the environment.....

Brilliant don't you think?'

'The word I was thinking of begins with a 'B' too'.....

Misha



## Suffer Little Children

Jesus 'ad come ta' ahr village ta speyk - a nice shady spot 'e'd fahnd under t'trees bi t'village well.

Fowk wer' sat rahnd 'im o' t'grahnd - sum mothers browt ther bairns aht ta see 'im an' shuvved 'em ta't front a' t' crahd.

Peter an' John telled 'em ta tekk 'em back 'ooam Jesus wer' tired 'e'd werked vary 'ard.

Jesus said 'Dooant stop 'em thru comin' f'er ah want 'em t'come to me'.

'e oppened 'is aarms an' cuddled 'em – an' sum sat on 'is knee.

'e said 'We'd ta listen an' beleeeve like a bairn at what 'e wer' sayin' wer' trew, then we could gooa live i' 'eaven wi' 'im wheear we'd all be medd over like new'.

Ah stood an' listened to what 'e said an' watched t'bairns sat on 'is knee.

'e reyked aht t'cuddle another young bairn, ee but ah wished it wer' me.

Brian Walshaw

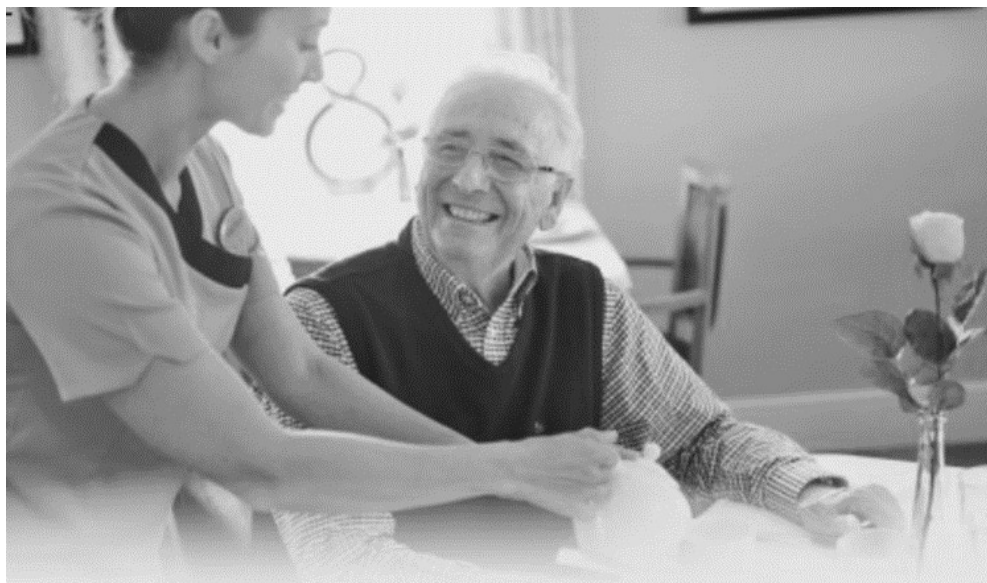


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## Answers to Albert's Quiz

All the odd numbered sayings originate from the Bible. The even numbered phrases are quotes from Shakespeare!

Albert Shaw



## **Lydgate Lodge** *a great place to live*

*"Lydgate Lodge  
is a lovely environment  
for residents and relatives  
alike providing excellent care  
and facilities."*

Son of Resident at  
Lydgate Lodge

(carehome.co.uk review)

Lydgate Lodge makes a real difference to the lives of our residents, offering 24 hour residential and dementia care in luxurious surroundings and with an inclusive fee package.

Lydgate Lodge's caring and highly trained staff cherish our residents, assisting them to remain independent and ensuring they enjoy an active lifestyle.

*A home is more than just bricks and mortar - it is a place you feel safe, well cared for and relaxed.*

*Passing by? Pop in for a cuppa ...*

### **Lydgate Lodge Care Home**

Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ

lydgate.lodge@idealcarehomes.co.uk

01924 355 020

**ideal** carehomes

idealcarehomes.co.uk

# 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:

**William Dickinson; Margaret Dickinson; Beryl Linton.**

## WEDDINGS

We are looking forward to having weddings in 2021.

Watch this space!



**Tumble Bees**



Pre-School Gymnastics

**The Hive @**

**Woodkirk Valley Country Club**

**Baby and  
Toddler Classes**



**Fun Themed Terms  
Badge &  
Certificates**

**[www.tumble-bees.co.uk](http://www.tumble-bees.co.uk)**

**07866 618455**

**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**



## Shirl's Curls

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Shirley brings the professional salon experience to you in the comfort of your home, without the stress of travelling or parking.

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**

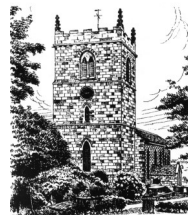
## Parish Centre Rentals

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

**Nominal Cost is £60 for  
3 hours.**

**Contact: Sally Shaw  
01924 475048 for more  
information.**

**Loving.  
Living.  
Learning.**



 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  

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**Diocese of Leeds**

# BENNETT OF MORLEY

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o*

***Tel 0113 2525374***

**An independent family business,  
the 5<sup>th</sup> 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'.**

*o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o*

### CONSULTANTS

**CHRISTINE BENNETT  
RACHEL STONES**

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

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** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 April

Currently all Wednesday Services and will be streamed via St Mary's Facebook Page.

### Holy Week

(Streamed online only on Facebook)

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April Maundy Thursday - Reflective Service and Watch 7.00pm

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> April Good Friday - Solemn Service at 2.00pm

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Easter Vigil and Service of Light 8.00pm

### **Easter Sunday Service In Church:**

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday - 10.30am He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia. (Also available online).

6pm Songs of Praise - streamed on-line only.

.....  
Mon 5th to Fri 9th April - No Services in church or online.

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

Each Wednesday there will be a Holy Communion Service 10.00am - online only.

April 12th - PCC Meeting online.  
.....

Weekly Services streamed via St Mary's Facebook page:-

Each Monday and Friday—Morning Prayer at 9.00am

Each Tuesday—Evening Prayer at 6.00pm

Each Thursday-Night Prayer (Compline) at 9.00pm

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