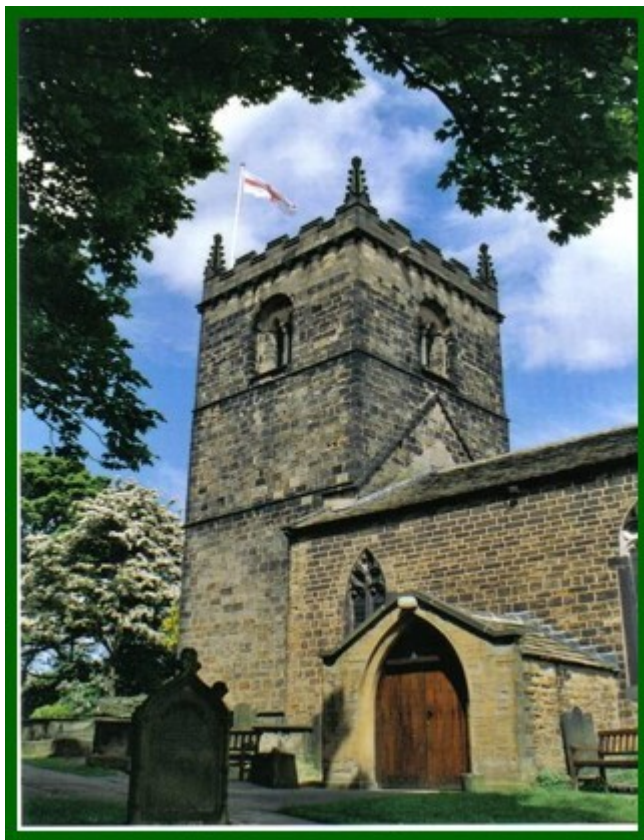


Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

June 2022



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.**
Woodkirk Vicarage, 1168 Dewsbury Road,
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01924 472375/07539466724
E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
- Reader:** Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963
- Lay Pastoral Minister** Gail Townsend 0113 2528710
- Churchwardens:** Gary Mortimer 01924 405790
Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
- Assistant Churchwardens:** David Townsend, Pernoe Liburd
- Deanery Synod Reps** Brian Gledhill
Gary Mortimer
- Verger:** Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710
- Organist:** Mr Stephen Parker
- PCC Secretary:** Dawn Tattersfield
- PCC Treasurer** Barbara Tate 07792 211095
- Social Chairman:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
- Parish Centre Hire:** Sally Shaw 01924 475048
-
- Child Protection Officer:** Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963
- Health & Safety Officer:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Dawn Tattersfield 0113 2525963
- Electoral Roll Officer:** Dave Townsend 0113 2528710
- Data Protection
and Legacy Officer** Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001
- Magazine Editor &
Weekly News Sheet:.** David Townsend 0113 2528710
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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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.

**“As full of spirit as the month of May,
and as gorgeous as the sun in
Midsummer.”**

William Shakespeare

Vicar's APCM Report 2022

It is fair to say that when we reopened Church in April 2021 after a fairly lengthy closure we were once more stepping into the unknown. God's providence during this time was evident in many ways – only a few members of the church had experienced Covid and thankfully they were not admitted to hospital.

We (being the PCC) proceeded with caution and made decisions for the safety of the whole congregation and through the year we have cautiously and optimistically moved forward in our worship and our lives together as God's family.

I have now been at St Mary's for nearly 6 years and instead of the flourishing church of 3 years ago, Covid has taken its toll and like all churches we have begun an intentional building up programme of our church family as well as focussing on children with the aim of bringing families back into the fringe of church life. We still have a way to go with regards to bringing back the common cup, children's corner and the family service but I assure you we will get there in due course.

In last year's Report I ended with the following: "as someone who believes in God's providence we will come through this pruned but stronger at some point in the near future".

I believe that to be true – we have had to learn to worship differently and with others whom we do not meet in person but whom we meet on line. We are equals on a journey together, God's children, growing in faith and discipleship. The online presence we have is missional both for those who would never have entered a church building but also for those congregation members who can no longer attend church.

I would like to pay tribute to all those who shouldered the burden and workload during the past year. The Wardens, Licensed Lay Minister, Pastoral Minister, Treasurer and PCC should be congratulated on their hard work and thoughtful deliberation of the events that unfolded this year. Decisions taken were always for the best interest of the most vulnerable whether that be closing down or opening up. In some sense the opening up and "getting back to normal" is more difficult because what is normal? This is something we will continually have to review and

inevitably the future will be new with some gains and some losses. Financially, we have been blessed, with the majority of people continuing to give as normal, however, we have less income overall and last year we managed to pay 62% of our Parish Share. The Diocese continues to be 2 million pound in debt and whilst they are doing everything they can to reduce costs, as have we, they cannot continue to pay out if they cannot collect Parish Share. So with that in mind we are aiming to pay 80% of our Parish Share this year and hopefully 100% next year. Our Treasurer continues to produce a yearly budget and whilst there is still insufficient money coming in on a weekly basis - it is more now than it was last year, and we are grateful for that. My thanks goes to the Treasurer for all her hard work.

I truly believe St Mary's has the possibility to be a really thriving and self-sufficient church and together we built up so much in the first three and half years of my tenure which was cruelly eroded by the pandemic. In other words what we have done once we can do again and do it better and to this end my commitment to you is that I intend to stay as Vicar until retirement or the Diocese makes changes.

The Parish Hall has done well with bookings and I'm grateful to Sally for managing this.

We have a faithful congregation who have also watched out for each other and have followed the advice of both the Government and the advice of the PCC with respect for each other in the wearing of masks. I am glad to report that at this present time weekly church attendance has almost returned to pre-pandemic numbers, however, many churches are down more than 50% in their attendance.

Each and every one of us has a role to play and you will note I am deliberately not singling any one person or group out. We are first and foremost all Christians, called by our Baptisms to action, with the authority of Jesus given to each of us. We are all important to God, we are all unique, and we all have our differing gifts and talents, but the call remains the same, to serve our community and each other, to go and tell the good news, and to have an active faith.

I, and the PCC, place great value on everyone who volunteers for a role

and it is my place to encourage and equip, to support and to nourish, to protect and to love each of you in this place. I would like to think that we have grown together and truly become family.

There have been a number of special services that have taken place which have been well supported and received. Some have been challenging for many people. Services over Christmas and Easter were well attended and appreciated by many. Advent and Lent Reflective Services were well received.

We have had little contact with the three local primary school as they have not been having visitors into school but Hill Top Primary did attend Church for their Easter Service and I am hopeful that worship will begin again in all schools in due course. One really positive piece of news is that I had a class visit church from Woodkirk Academy and it looks like we will be able to make more connections with them in due course.

We have a talented team of gardeners and maintenance workers who are able to turn their hands to anything and whose abilities save us money and witness to the community. I could not function without their help and the help of the Community Payback Team.

Preaching, pastoral care and baptisms have continued and grateful thanks goes to those involved though these haven't been without their challenges.

It was with great pleasure that we employed a New Organist and Cleaner and I can honestly say it has been like a breath of fresh air and much appreciated by everyone.

We also offer thanks to our Flower Lady who each week expertly puts together beautiful arrangements of flowers which she does prayerfully and which beautify our church for worship.

There are many unsung heroes who tirelessly give of their time - St Mary's Guild who are responsible for cleaning the brasses and altar linen though this has been difficult for various reasons this past year, the Cleaning Team who keep our church so clean and presentable, the Sides-people who offer welcome and the Tea Persons who offer hospitality, to the readers and intercessors on our rotas - thank you

for serving God and this church.

We have positive links with the Uniformed Organisations, St Mary's Playgroup and the ABC Group. Thank you to all of you who lead and make it possible for young people to experience something new.

Throughout all of this the PCC have been working in the background to ensure the smooth running of the church. Our church wardens are fully invested in what they do and work hard in their respective areas of expertise, for those who hold the extra burdens of PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod Reps thank you to all of you. It goes without saying that all our legal requirements, safeguarding, health and safety and much more are kept in order by some very talented and dogged people who make sure as a PCC we are effective.

One big development this year is the raising of money towards the East Window. After definitive reports were undertaken we were quoted £70,000 more than six months ago. This is a big undertaking and although we have raised a lot of money there is a lot more to do before we can proceed. The £70,000 figure is likely to increase due to the rising costs of materials. Thank you to all that have contributed and to all those that have put on events, or walked, or cooked etc to raise money.

What the future holds for us as a church is unknown but as I am a cup half full sort of person and believe passionately in God's providence I believe we are held safe in God's hands whilst we seek a future that honours him and seeks to do his will. The one thing I would ask is that we all take time to pray each day for this church, for our community and for each other.

While I said I am not going to name or single anyone in this Report - be assured I do know you by name and I am honoured and privileged to be your Vicar.

Sharon.

WARDEN'S APCM REPORT 2022

The last twelve months have been eventful to say the least due to Covid 19. However, the life of The Church has had to progress as well as possible. First of all, a lot of work has gone on in the Parish Centre. After the recent refurbishment we found that the flat roof above the toilet area had come to the end of its life and had to be replaced. This has now been completed. At the end of 2021 we found that the Parish Centre cellar had developed a serious infestation of dry rot causing crawling fungus to spread throughout the whole of the cellar. After seeking expert advice, we were told that everything in the cellar had to be removed and disposed of to enable the complete cellar area to be treated and fumigated. This work has now been carried out and completed and now the cellar is fit for purpose once again. The cellar will be completely repainted in due course.

The external fall pipes of the Parish Centre had received some damage causing the drainage to become blocked. The damaged fall pipe sections have now been replaced. The three rainwater drains have now been risen up above ground level and drain covers applied to prevent any further blockages occurring.

The Parish Centre toilets have been newly decorated and the passage between the main hall and the toilets will be re-decorated in due course.

Now to the Church itself.

In September 2021 our Quinquennial inspection was carried out by our Architect. We can confirm that apart from a few minor points, the fabric of the Church is in a pretty sound condition, however we

have an ongoing programme of pointing to certain outside areas of the Church. As many of you are aware, the east window is in desperate need of repair. After the survey was carried out the sum of the repair was found to be in the region of £70,000 which will undoubtedly increase due to the timescale of acquiring grants. We have set up a grants committee who are in the process securing said grants.

As for the externals of the Church, i.e. the Churchyard. A huge vote of thanks goes out to The Community Pay-back Team who help maintain this huge space together with a small Church Yard Team. A big thankyou to all concerned.

Going forward, we hope to be having numerous social events in a further effort to raise funds for the East Window, and look forward to your continued support.

Finally, it is an honour to serve our church as church wardens and hope we can continue to be of service in the future.

Brian Gledhill & Gary Mortimer.

Church Wardens. St Mary's Woodkirk.

PCC Secretary's Annual Report 2022

PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, and this report covers the period April 2021 to March 2022. Meetings have been held via Zoom and also face to face. The meetings always begin with prayer.

There are a number of standing items on the agenda which include the important areas of Finance, Health and Safety and Safeguarding and Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) which amongst many things also includes mission and social events

These items provide a structure that enables us to direct our thoughts and actions. We keep our knowledge up to date and ensure all necessary legal requirements are met in both Health and Safety and Safeguarding.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held in Church on the 16th May 2021.

After all the upheaval from the pandemic in 2020, it was good to start to return gradually to some sort of normality, and here are some highlights from the year to share with you:

Worship

Services resumed face to face cautiously for Easter 2021, but have continued to be live streamed via Facebook in order to continue to support our online community.

April

The East Window glass report from the conservators was received. An initial costing just for the restoration of the glasswork was £33,250 plus VAT plus an additional £1,500 for guards to be out on the exterior of the windows. There will be additional architectural costings in addition to this.

May

From mid May there was the next stage of easing of lockdown restrictions which relaxed some social distancing and an increase in attendees for Baptisms and Weddings with the PCC agreeing that the maximum attendance in church should be 50 people. Also

in May, Wednesday Holy Communion resumed.

June

Further easing of lockdown restrictions was scheduled for mid / late June but it was decided, in case there were any last minute hitches, to move the date of the Family Fun Day to the 14th August.

July

The repair to the Parish Centre Flat Roof was completed in July. Gail and Sharon had a frustrating time liaising between the Registrar and wedding couples due to changes in the wedding registration system. A new card payment machine had been received too.

There was no PCC Meeting in August as the PCC took a well earned break

September

The Architects recommendation for the Company to undertake the structural work on the East Window was discussed and agreed. LYCiG had recommended replacing the ovens in the Parish Centre and we were very grateful for a donation which covered this cost. The electric pads on the Defibrillator were due to expire in November, and again, after an appeal in the Parish Magazine, generous donors had covered the £90 cost. It was also fabulous that the Parish Centre users returned over the first few weeks in September following long absences due to the pandemic.

Very positive reports were received on the success of the Family Fun Day and also the weekly opening up of the Church during the summer for coffee/tea and Cakes. Both were very successful.

Dates were set for the Heritage Day in September, the Harc=vest Festival and Supper and the Christmas Fayre and Christmas Tree Festival.

We also discussed the need for a new organist following the departure of Jason and Heather, and we agreed to look to

appoint someone to relaunch and run our ABC Group.

October

In October we set up a 'Grants Group' to focus on the application for grants towards the £70K costs of restoring the East Window, and we received a favourable Quinquennial Report which is a testament to how well the PCC care for and maintain our church buildings. Very positive feedback was received following the Harvest Festival (With Hill Top School back in Church for their service, and bringing their food gifts for the Foodbank). The PCC also approved and adopted a Parish Environment Policy which was produced by the Environment team.

November

The Harvest lunch at the end of October received very positive feedback as did the All Souls Service, and a special thanks went to Dave Townsend for an excellent 'Remembrance Tableau' he set up in the 'Stable' just outside church.

In December the meeting only discussed urgent matters of business, which were to agree a faculty for the East Window and the agreement of how much to send to the Diocese towards our Parish Share.

January 2022

In January the PCC met without Rev Sharon as she took a very well earned holiday, her first in over 2 years. The PCC discussed some issues raised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) on our faculty application for the East Window, and Dawn circulated updated safeguarding information and asked PCC members to undertake some online safeguarding training on raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse which we were being asked by the Diocese to complete.

February

Our PAT (Portable Electrical Equipment) Testing was completed

and Dawn gave a presentation on the implementation of a new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard system which we were required to adopt. Much work had been done in getting everything together to input into this new system, but thanks to the diligence and application of the PCC we not only met, but in some cases probably exceeded the dioceses expectations for the implementation of this. Grateful thanks were expressed to the PCC for their attention to this vital area. We can confirm that we meet all necessary legal requirements in our responsibilities for Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

At the time of writing, the PCC has not approved the minutes of the March 2022 meeting (the PCC did not hold a full meeting in April due to it falling in Holy Week).

As you have seen, your PCC have been very busy this year, and met in February to make plans for 2022. The PCC continue to work diligently, and though small in number are big hearted and continue to strive to provide support for the church and community we serve.

Dawn Tattersfield PCC Secretary March 2022

My Pastoral Ministry

I hope you do not mind, but I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on my Pastoral ministry. Jesus was described as the shepherd who takes care of his sheep, and it is He who is the perfect pastoral minister. However, just as a good Doctor, should not just see the complaint of their patient but see the whole and treat accordingly so it is with Pastoral Ministry.

As a pastoral minister we are called to see the whole person before us - what are their needs? Spiritual, physical, relational or social? We cannot just see one aspect, each are held in tension and each overlap.

In John 11 Jesus arrived at Bethany after Lazarus had died. Martha and Mary both approached Jesus with exactly the same words, "If you had been here my brother would not have died." Jesus did not reply with identical statements. He gave Martha practical hope, but Mary emotional empathy. Jesus knew the people he was caring for and treated them as individuals.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14, Paul gives instructions to the church, that they should respect and esteem the leadership. And he gives instructions to the leadership. There are people who are idle - they need admonishing or exhorting. There are those who are fainthearted and discouraged - they need encouraging and comforting. There are those who are weak - they will need your devotion and help. And every one of them will need patience.

It would be profoundly ineffective to admonish the fainthearted, help the idle, or to encourage the weak. The fainthearted need care, not rebuke. The idle need a change of perspective, not help to carry on as they are. The weak need practical help, not words.

There are 5 points I hold dear to my heart, these are: –

Healing

Enable spiritual wholeness as well as physical, social and relational.

Sustaining

Help and support given at times of sickness, grief, sorrow, fear and loneliness.

Guiding

To help and assist a confused/distressed person to make confident choices between alternative courses of thought and action – in other words to help people to grow morally and spiritually and understanding how to apply this to their lives.

Reconciliation

To re-establish broken relationships with self, others and God – outwards often not obvious to them but can be observed would be guilt, depression, shame and hatred. Reconciliation through acceptance and forgiveness.

Nurturing

To enable people to develop their God given potential.

These can be one of the great challenges of pastoral ministry, and of caring too. I learnt the need to grow in sensitivity and discernment to the people I care for. I could if not careful tend toward a harshness with others that will bruise and harm many, and also tend toward a tenderness toward everyone that will actually be unhelpful to them.

I have learnt the need to listen well, watch carefully, pray diligently, and keep in mind that in pastoral care situations there will be multiple factors at play - the circumstances of the person, their relational dynamics, their own sinful responses, their triggered responses from previous hurts, their understanding and ability to think through life clearly, their underlying health issues or hidden fears, insecurities and self-awareness etc.

The truth is that there is not one of us who can see even themselves clearly and fully, let alone others. We are severely restricted in our ability to really understand others. I hope that my calling as pastoral ministry at St. Mary's will always be driven by the Grace of God, and it is an honour to serve.

My thanks go to Rev. Sharon, the PCC and you all for your support, through my ministry.

God bless

Gail

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NEVER ALONE

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(24hrs)

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

Mind
0300 123 3393
(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—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.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Year ended 31st December 2021

I am pleased to report that we have held our own, financially, with the exception of the payment of our Parish Share. This year we managed to pay 61.44% of the demand. This was slightly more than we expected to be able to pay. Our cash balances at the end of our financial year show our reserves of £11708.97 - this remains untouched and is increased by small interest payments quarterly. Our Current Account balance of £12824.50 reflects our working capital - we aim to keep a minimum balance of £10,000 which represents six months running costs, However, this figure also includes restricted amounts which have been raised or donated for the East Window Fund.

The Churchyard upkeep and the Forget me Not café:

The Forget-me-Not cafe did close when we went into lockdown and has so far not re-opened. We also designated £500 per month towards any repairs and renewals for both church and the parish centre. All our running costs have been paid.

Gift Aid has been claimed from HMRC and continues to be claimed on a quarterly basis. We have also claimed allowable VAT paid on the reports for the East Window project.

The Parish Centre is now let on a regular basis and brought in an income of £5,000, not quite as much as the previous year but in the circumstances we are happy with this. The Parish Centre continues to be well used and we are hopeful for a regular income going forward.

I am grateful to Richard Atkinson who has again audited our Accounts without charge.

Thanks to the members of the PCC and Rev Sharon for their help and support in the last year.

As we look forward in 2022, our new challenge is to pay a larger percentage of our Parish Share which has now increased £39,875

With God's help and support from all we will succeed.

Barbara

What's On at St. Mary's

Queen's Jubilee Weekend – Sunday 5th June

Afternoon tea will be served in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Tickets are on sale from Brian at a cost of £7.50 which includes a full afternoon tea and some Prosecco to make a toast! Tickets are selling fast. Please bring your best singing voice as Stephen will be playing those well known songs that we love. Any money raised will go to the East Window Fund.



Family Fun Day

This will take place on Saturday 23rd July between 10.00 and 2.00pm in the Vicarage Gardens. Please keep the date free.

All the usual fun, activities, café and treats.

It's A Wonderful Time to be a Christian

Our world is facing turbulent times. Political unrest is unceasing. The racial divide is deepening. Fear and frustration swirl frantically. This leads to only one logical conclusion for me: It's a wonderful time to be a Christian.

As Christians we uniquely equipped to thrive in tumultuous times, not because we are great, but because our God is. As we consider the darkness of our days, I'd like to share five reasons I think it is a wonderful time to be a Christian..

1. Some people may be intrigued by Christians.

Whether it be through media stories, political reports, or comedy sets, "Christians" some are characterised as whiny, entitled children. We are perceived as looking down on others while blinded to our own shortcomings. We are seen as outdated, overrated, and irrelevant.

Yet, when someone meets an actual Christian these days, they often are intrigued.

Our convictions are peculiar, but the gentleness and respect with which we hold them is refreshing (1 Peter 3:15). We don't demonise those we disagree with, but treat them with charity, as we want them to treat us (Matthew 7:12). We engage with humility because we know that we too are imperfect and need God to change us as well. "The peace Jesus provides is strong enough to hold back the gates of hell, and weather the storm we face today."

Our community is also peculiar. When they observe the church, they may find a people who are not naturally united. We come from different cultures, vote for different candidates, march for different causes, and often have little in common — except Jesus. When people spend time with us, they perceive a love marked by patience, charity, hospitality, and mindedness.

Now, not everyone will like us Christians when they first meet us .

But God's word promises that he will use our love to change people's opinion of us and (more importantly) of our God:

Keep your conduct among [non-believers], so that when they speak

against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:12)

If Christians will engage their neighbours with courageous, humble, honest, servant-hearted love, people will be pleasantly surprised.

2. Christians have the answer for racial reconciliation.

The rock of racial unrest has been rolled over i our world. Out from the darkness have crawled sorrowful reminders that our progress is incomplete. The anger and apathy that swirls around our brokenness tempts many to despair.

Yet Christians know Jesus provides a better way. On the one hand, we cannot simply say Jesus is enough and expect peace. The issues are far too complex and wounds too deep for a superficial balm. The hard work of praying, fasting, listening, learning, confessing, repenting, forgiving, and changing is required.

On the other hand, maybe we must say Jesus is enough, for he himself is our peace.

Jesus is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. (Ephesians 2:14)

We have already been reconciled in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16–20). While labouring to apply this reconciliation takes hard work, we must remember that he has made us one — even if we don't feel like it (Ephesians 4:1–3). The peace Jesus provides is strong enough to hold back the gates of hell and weather the storm we face today. To me I feel the world does not have an answer like Jesus. They have no power and no lasting solutions. But we have an opportunity to show them the unity that Jesus prayed for and purchased with his blood (John 17:20–21).

At the cross alone, fear mongering, finger pointing, and apathetic indifference are put to death, and real reconciliation comes to life.

3. Sometimes God has brought unreached peoples to us.

For centuries, our churches have been praying, raising money, and sending workers to take the good news of Jesus to people who have

not heard. This work is important and must continue, but we can't overlook what God is doing in our own backyard.

God has brought unreached peoples to us.

"What would happen if Christians opened their homes and their lives to the strangers who live next to them?"

Though policies surrounding immigration are debated, the reality of immigration is not. Tens of millions of legal and illegal immigrants have settled in different part of Europe . Many have fled war-torn countries and are seeking a fresh start. Many are seeking hope which cannot be found in their home counties.

4. Persecution is purifying us.

Jesus promised that following him would be costly. He warned, "If they persecuted me, they would also persecute you" (John 15:20). Ostracism and affliction have marked the church since its beginnings. Many minority groups have tragically endured oppression, but as a whole, our church in the UK has known freedom to worship Jesus. In fact, public worship has not only been encouraged. Churches have opened their doors for hospitality , in the hope people will see us as trustworthy, and acceptable to everyone.

I hope that the pressures in our world today will push us deeper into Christ. As this happens, maybe we will be pruned and purified, and that we are maybe forced to search his word to explain our convictions (1 Peter 3:15). And that we find the importance of prayer becomes undeniable.

In his mercy, God uses persecution to purify our profession of faith to the point that we can honestly say, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you" (Psalm 73:25). Persecution should never be sought, but when it comes, we can trust that God will use it for our good.

5. We are closer to seeing Jesus than ever before.

The hour has come for us to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (Romans 13:11)

Every generation since Christ's ascension has clung to this promise. As time has passed, it has only become truer. Whether Christ will return in our day is yet to be seen, but the horizon is brightening as the day is darkening. As a believer I see this with hope that my eyes and senses will one day see his approaching glory.

Until now, many of us have gone days or weeks without even giving thought to the Lord's return. Our love for the world has drowned out the need to hope in the world to come.

"Whether Christ will return in our day is yet to be seen, but the horizon is brightening as the day is darkening."

Yet, in God's kindness, today is a new day. As we grow in our love for Christ, our hearts will be oriented toward heaven. We will find the chatter of the world emptier and the promises of heaven fuller.

The Lord's return cannot leave us unaffected. Let it move us to prayer for perseverance (Mark 14:38). May it press us to risk all to reach the unreached (Matthew 24:14). Let us ready ourselves for our heavenly bridegroom, and let his coming keep us sober, knowing it could interrupt our next breath (Luke 12:40).

It is a wonderful time to be a Christian. God is working among all nations, including ours. Let us not despair or be deceived but lift our eyes in hope to him who is coming soon.

Gail

St. Mary's makes the Diocesan News.

Six churches from across Yorkshire are celebrating this month after being awarded over £32,000 from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust (YHCT), including St Mary the Virgin in Woodkirk.. St Mary's have received some £7000 to go towards window repairs in the church. St Mary's dates from around 1100, with the original tower still in place. The remainder of the church was rebuilt in the 1830s after a storm blew in the roof in 1832. The East window contains fragments of medieval stained glass that, but repairs are now needed in order to secure the window.

The Revd Sharon Wilkinson, the vicar at St Mary's, raised £4000 from a sponsored walk towards the cost of the repairs and is determined to see the project completed before she retires. Revd Sharon said: *"We are delighted to have been awarded this grant from the YHCT. Our beautiful East window is over 150 years old and is now in need of urgent repair to ensure it can be in place for another 150 years. St Mary's is well loved and much used by both the congregation and the local community, who have pulled together to help with fundraising. We have held tea parties, tours and open days to raise funds and I am undertaking another sponsored walk in September and am confident we will reach our target. "*

The future of many churches is under threat due to crumbling roofs, windows and stonework. The YHCT works to ensure these places of worship are kept in good repair, recognising the contribution they make to society at large and the support they provide to local communities.

The funding provides a vital lifeline to places of worship who have been unable to carry out their usual fundraising activities over the past couple of years, and at a time when many are increasingly providing a number of essential services to local communities, such as food banks and credit unions.

Tom Ramsden, Chairman of the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust, said: "Thanks to the generosity of our Friends and donors, we have been able to support a wide range of places of worship.

"Over the past couple of years we have witnessed the important role churches play in bringing their local communities together and helping them thrive.

"Now, more than ever, they need our help to ensure those churches continue to support their communities for many years to come".

A Poem by Jean Douglas

An earth-shattering Virus made this a strange year,
Bringing tears and frustrations and absolute fear,
When finding new vaccines was a challenge-unique,
As nations closed down and our lives turned so bleak,
Yet, as history shows, we move on, we make do,
Strength and kindness make's heroes and humour
shines through,
Then our scientist pulled out the stops and are near to
presenting the whole world with news of good cheer.

Perfect timing as stresses become so demanding and
much comfort-eating sees waistlines expanding.
Which caused my G.P. to "Tut-Tut" and advise
"Eat Better", Eat less and much more exercise,
Or cholesterol and diabetes may bloom,
And dire consequences could certainly zoom!

Well! instead of a gym and a diet concocter,
Perhaps I should go to plan 'B' and change Doctor?
However, on the door of my refrigerator is a new sign I
hope will be my motivator, to zap all those inches all
gathered with stealth:-

"BEWARE"

THINGS IN HERE CAN BE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH !

But with hundreds of diets, I can only conclude
Stop eating that 4 letter word they call **FOOD!**

Jean Douglas

*Many thanks to Jean for this light hearted summary of
our recent times and struggles. Editor.*

St, Mary's, Woodkirk



Come along and join us for a

“Knit & Natter”

(or just a natter!)

Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm

Commencing October 20th

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Contact Elaine on 07894 402332

ALBERT'S Seventies Music Quiz

1. Which Irish rock band released a song in 1976 called 'The Boys Are Back In Town'?
 2. Which Alice Cooper song begins with the lyrics, 'Well we had no choice, All the girls and boys, Makin all that noise' ?
 3. What was the name of the sheriff in Bob Marley and The Wailer's song 'I Shot the Sheriff' ?
 4. Which band released a version of 'Video Killed the Radio Star' in 1979 ?
 5. 'Rocket Man' was a hit song in 1972 by which English male singer ?
 6. Which SKA group sang the lyrics, 'Hey you, don't watch that watch this! This is the heavy heavy monster sound' ?
 7. Which song by The Jackson 5 includes the lyrics 'Easy as 1, 2, 3' ?
 8. What is the opening line to Queen's song 'Bohemian Rhapsody' ?
 9. Which female artist sang 'You've Got a Friend' and 'Will You Love Me Tomorrow' ?
 10. From which song do the lyrics, 'Young man, there's no need to feel down, I said, young man, cause you're new in the town' originate ?
 11. Which song earned Gloria Gaynor the best-selling single of 1979 in the US ?
 12. What is the opening line to Elvis Presley's 'The Wonder of You' ?
 13. Which Brotherhood of Man song won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest ?
 14. Who was the lead singer of The Carpenters ?
 - 15.** Which male artist had a UK Christmas number one in 1970 with 'I Hear You Knocking' ?
 16. 'Le Freak' was a hit song in 1978 by which American band ?
 17. What is the opening line to Abba's song 'Money, Money, Money' ?
 18. Which Michael Jackson song includes the funky lyrics, 'You gotta feel that heat, And we can ride the boogie' ?
 19. Which Jamaican artist released a song in 1974 that begins with the lyrics, 'Everybody was Kung Fu fighting' ?
 20. Which American band released a song called 'That's the Way in 1975 ?
- (answers on page 33)

Dates for Your Diary

June

Wed 1st 10am Holy Communion

Sun 5th 10:30am Holy Communion

12:30pm Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea with live music

Wed 8th 10am Holy Communion

Sun 12th 10:30am Holy Communion

1:30pm Holy Baptism

Mon 13th 7:30pm PCC Meeting

Wed 15th 10am Holy Communion

Thur 16th 11am Lydgate Lodge Holy communion

Sun 19th 10:30am Holy Communion

Wed 22nd 10am Morning Praise with Gail

Sun 26th 10:30am Holy Communion

1:30pm Holy Baptism

Wed 29th 10am Holy Communion

July

Fri 1st 10am-12pm Coffee Morning in Church

Sat 2nd 2pm Wedding

Sun 3rd 10:30am Holy Communion

1:30pm Holy Baptism

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!

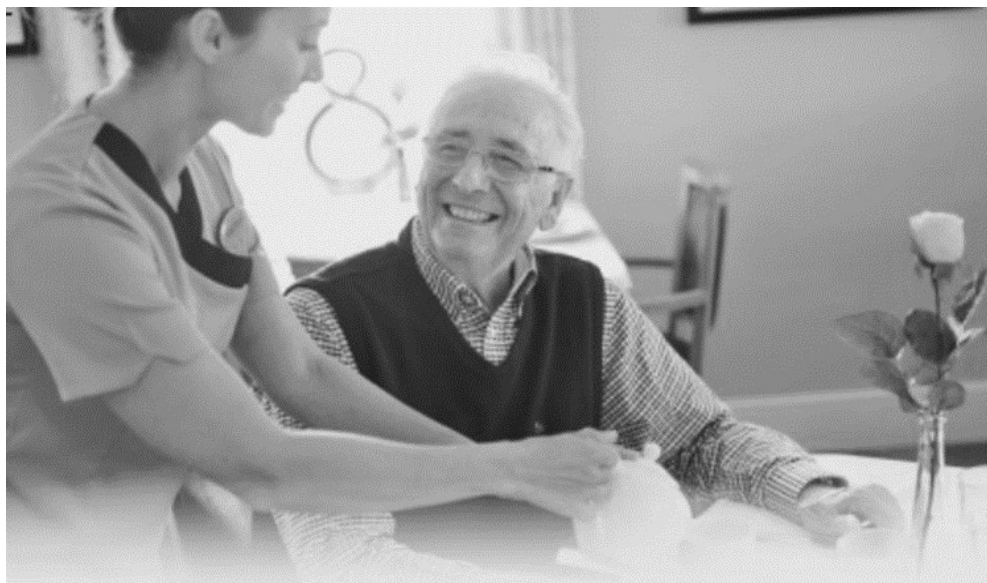
**Go to: [facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)
Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.**

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

1. Thin Lizzy 2. School's Out 3. Sheriff John Brown 4. The Buggies 5. Elton John 6. Madness: One Step Beyond 7. ABC 8. Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy? 9. Carole King 10. YMCA by the Village People 11. I Will Survive 12. When no-one else can understand me 13. Save Your Kisses for Me 14. Karen Carpenter 15. Dave Edmunds 16. Chic 17. I work all night, I work all day, to pay the bills I have to pay 18. Rock with you 19. Carl Douglas 20. KC and The Sunshine band
Albert



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.

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Passing by? Pop in for a cuppa ...

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:-
Freddie James Hesford
Oscar James Umpherville
Hugo Xander Thresh



DEATHS



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

Clarice Gough
Connie Lazenby

WEDDINGS :
Bryony Danielle Glew &
Matthew Craig Child



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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

Local fully qualified Ladies Mobile Hairdresser with over 20 years' experience.

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. Regular long term bookings negotiable.

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

Loving.
Living.
Learning.



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

BENNETT OF MORLEY

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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

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

Knit & Natter Group: Wednesday 1-3pm

Elaine 07894 402332

Services

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

See Page 36 for more details

Please see inside for details of how to join a streamed service