

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Happy Christmas !

December 2020



This Month..
Trees & Stables; Home Sweet Home;
Christmas 2020; Light in Darkness.

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

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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

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Forget Me Not Friends Memory Café
is for those in need of support, especially
those affected by dementia, their families and carers.

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Refreshments are served and there is no charge.

Please join us for tea, coffee and cake, a chat and a laugh. Meet both new and old friends and reminisce.



**Forget me not
Friends**

**St Mary's Church, Woodkirk
Dewsbury Road
Tingley
WF12 7JL**

For more information please contact Jane on 07969 640396 or visit our Facebook page Forget Me Not Friends Café Tingley.

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.

Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year

to all our readers.

Vicar's Letter

One of the things that clergy spend a lot of time doing, as you might expect, is thinking about Christmas! We usually start thinking about it around January, reflecting on what went well the previous year and what we might change for the year to come.

It then drops off the radar for a few months as we prepare for Easter, but when things calm down again over the summer we spend our idle moments trying to remember what we had decided back in January and coming up with wildly creative and completely impractical ideas for things we could do in the winter to come.

Generally those wildly creative ideas never make it off the drawing board, and we end up doing more or less the same as usual – even (and I'll let you in on a trade secret here) re-using the odd sermon if we're confident that the congregation had indulged in enough pre-service sherry or mulled wine to have forgotten our deeply profound and meaningful reflections the previous year.

This year, however, has been completely different. Planning ahead for Christmas this year has felt more like a game of Snakes and Ladders where one roll of the dice can send you sliding back down a completely different path and you have to start all over again!

So we have made some plans for holding services both in Church and online, and we are excited about what we're hoping to offer to help our communities celebrate Christmas this year. But we also know that a word from the Prime Minister, or an uptick in local cases, could scupper some of these plans and send us back to the drawing board.

All this uncertainty has given me a new perspective on the Christmas story itself, because the more I reflect on it in this year of disruption, the more I realise how disrupting the events of the first Christmas were for those involved.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married, they no doubt had their plans for what their lives would look like, until the angel Gabriel turned up and sent all their plans out the window. Then, just as they were getting used to the idea that they would have a baby, the emperor ordered a census so they had to set off away from home on the long journey to Bethlehem. Not what they had planned at all.

Or what about the shepherds, sat happily in their fields just doing their job until the angels appeared and sent them running into the village to find the new-born Jesus.

And then there were the wise men, sent on a perilous journey to a far off land because of the appearance of a new star in the sky. None of these people could have predicted or planned what would happen to them, but when the disruption came they went with it and in doing so they met God face to face.

We all approach Christmas with our own sets of expectations and hopes, rituals and traditions, and after all we've been through this year it may feel heart-breaking that we won't be able to celebrate in the ways that we usually do.

But perhaps this Christmas, this strange and disrupted Christmas, gives us an opportunity to learn anew from Mary and Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds, and to allow the strange turn our lives have taken to lead us closer to the God who is always with us.

Love as always

Sharon

New Trees and a Stable

This past Saturday our master carpenter, Dave, managed to saw a few bits of wood and lo and behold we have a stable outside church (*I'm blushing now - Editor*) – it will be completed for next Sunday when the Church will reopen for the 10.30am Said Holy Communion Service.

As we were unable to hold the Christmas Tree Festival this year, and as I was unsure if the church would be open in December, we have placed two Christmas Trees outside of church (see next page too). Names can be written on baubles in indelible ink/or a personalised tree bauble could be used. It has been a tough year for so many this year so let us together pray for those names that will be placed on the trees.

Sharon



Prayer Trees



Prayer Trees
Please feel free to hang a
bauble in memory of your
loved one and/or for prayers
to be said

In our Christmas Tree Festival last year one of the most popular trees was the Prayer Request Tree and so we have placed two Christmas Trees outside the main door of Church. We hope that you will come and hang a bauble either in memory of a loved one or for a request for prayer for a loved one or a situation. This has been a tough year for everyone. Remembrance and prayer are so important. Come join us and fill these trees with memory and prayer.
Sharon

Advent Gifts/Christmas Cards

At this time of year we usually ask if people want to buy St Mary's Church and Advent Gift and I put a list in church with the consumables we use in church such as candles, wafers, wine etc etc. Times are hard at the moment and as we have not used many consumables this past year we are not this year going to do this.

Last year quite a few members of the church donated money to St Mary's Church instead of buying Christmas Cards for each other. If you want to do that again this year then please let me know and I will ensure that a Christmas Message from you to everyone is placed on a board in Church for people to safely see.

A big thank you to our Averille Millburn, the lady who normally prepares our flowers in Church, who made our beautiful advent wreath which was lit for the first time today.

Sharon



Light in the Darkness

The Clergy in Leeds have been thinking about how difficult a time this has been for all people and how in the depths of these winter months and in the midst of lockdown and the pandemic how we as individuals need light in the darkness. As Christians we believe that the light is Christ. We are asking people to print off this logo and place it a window with some white Christmas lights as a sign that there is hope in the darkness that we find ourselves in at the moment.

Sharon



Prayerful Thought: Home Sweet Home

Hi there

Over the last few days of November the weather was grey, drizzly and rather dismal and it started dropping dark (well gloomy) after 3 o'clock!

It just so happened that whilst driving through this gloom after visiting my mum, as I came off the motorway at the Tingley roundabout, I suddenly thought of home. I was only about five minutes away from my warm and comfortable house, and so I started thinking about this.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have all had to spend a lot more time at home this year than many of us would normally. For some that may have been novel, a chance to catch up on long outstanding tasks, maybe redecorating, perhaps building works etc. Sadly for some, this may have meant stronger feelings of loneliness.

My first thought though, was about how lucky I was to have a home to call my own with sound roof, walls, floors, windows and doors (I like to keep it that way by not letting David undertake any DIY, tee hee!).

I have only ever lived in two places, my family home where my mum and brother still live, and the home I have shared with David since we got married over twenty years ago.

Some of you may be the same as me and not moved house very much, where some of you, through your situation at work or many other reasons may have moved a few times.

Then I started to think about people for whom their home is not a refuge; is not a place to snuggle up by a fire, but a place of danger, of abuse. This led me on then to think about those who don't have a home at all, and for many different reasons. Some due to addictions, some due to breakdowns, some fleeing violence.

After these thoughts, I really counted my blessings that my experiences of home are positive ones.

I then thought about Jesus and whether He had a home?

I seemed to remember something in the Bible about birds having nests and animals their dens but the Son of Man had no home and when I looked it up I discovered the passage I was thinking about was in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 8 verse 20 which says;

Jesus answered him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest."

Interested I consulted the internet to see what else I could find and discovered an article which talked about another passage this time in Mark's Gospel (Mark 2:1) which refers to the people hearing that '...[Jesus] had come home...'

The article goes on to explore whether the use of the word 'home' was an idiom for other things for example the King James Bible has "in the house" for Mark 2:1 and we know from Matthew 8:14 that Peter had a house in Capernaum.

The article goes on to talk about the fact that Jesus must have lived somewhere during the time between the brief references to his childhood in the gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) for example the family's escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:14) and His visit to the Temple in Jerusalem at age 12 and obedience to His parents (Luke 2:41-51) until he reached the age of about 30 when he begins his ministry

The article says that in some bible commentaries (books that explain in more detail and provide interpretations of passages by chapter and verse) they seem to say (if they say anything at all) that Jesus was at Peter's house. (One goes so far as to say that Jesus had no home other than Peter's after he began his ministry.) This is the opinion of the article, I haven't, at this stage, looked any deeper into the subject personally.

It seems quite appropriate to be talking about Jesus and our homes as we start Advent (the weeks of preparation leading up to Christmas) and season of calendars with chocolates hidden behind little doors!

Because whilst the bible doesn't prove conclusively whether Jesus had a home or not, we can of course welcome him into ours.

Whilst rules are being set up to enable some of us to meet in 'bubbles' over the 24th to 27th December this year, many of us will perhaps take the decision to not put our health at risk after being cautious all year, by pausing on our usual gatherings, some of us will be taking advantage of the lifted restrictions.

But we can all welcome Jesus into our homes, we can all make room for him. Because of the ongoing restrictions, our celebrations will, by necessity, be different, but Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

The nativity is one of the most well known stories as played out usually, by thousands of children in thousands of school plays up and down the country. Baby Jesus, Emmanuel, 'God with us'.

Whether you are having a low key Christmas or whether you will be (within restrictions) pulling out all the stops, I hope you can make room in your home for Jesus, the symbol of hope and saviour of all.

With God's Love and Peace

Dawn xx

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(24hrs free)

Mind
0300 123 3393
(Mon-Fri 9-6)

Victim Support
0808 168 9111
(24hrs)

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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 9-5or8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

House Collection Boxes - Complete !

I want to say a big thank you to our wonderful Collection Box holders, who have come up trumps again this year with their boxes full of change. There may be one or two of you I haven't seen, but fear not you can keep hold of your box until next year.

I was a little bit concerned about how we would fare for our collections this year, as I know from my own box, I hadn't had much change to put in due to now using contactless and card payments when shopping.

I should have known that you would manage, and manage you did. Plenty of you sis have plenty of change, and those who didn't wrote generous cheques, so I am delighted to confirm that the total raised from your boxes this year was a wonderful £638.25.

We are one of 4000 house box collection networks which continue to raise vital funds for the work of the Children's Society.

Thank you as always for your generosity.

Dawn Tattersfield



The Christmas Season

What we know of the birth of Jesus comes to us as divine revelation in the inspired words of the gospels. The Christmas story comes from the scriptures. These passages are some of the most well-known Bible verses in history.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we will read these passages again and again. They are familiar and comforting, because we have come to these passages so often, maybe we might be tempted to think that there is nothing new for the Holy Spirit to reveal through these words.

That would be a mistake, because the Bible narrative of the birth of Christ is not only inspired storytelling but also useful in bringing us to a strong relationship with God.

The birth narratives—like all Scripture—the great love God has for all his people. These passages are filled with challenges to our faith and the encouragement we need to grow in God. .

Hear are some of the things that came into my mind as I re-read the story of Jesus first:

Poor Joseph

God did not get his approval before acting. Can you imagine the real-life shock of these words: “Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18). Mary received an angelic visitation and the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph received the worst news of his life.

God “drafted” Joseph into a difficult position—would the Almighty ever do the same to us? Have we ever considered the implications of God’s sovereignty? If we affirm that we belong to him are we willing to be drafted as Joseph was?

Right Relationships

The narrative reveals the actions of a righteous man. In his confusion and pain, Joseph’s first concern was for Mary; he “did not want to expose her to public disgrace” (1: 19). How many of us would have this priority? Perhaps this is why the scripture labels Joseph a “righteous man.” Scripture is demonstrating what true righteousness looks like in action.

It's revealing as well that the scripture describes Joseph's righteousness not in terms of his relationship to God, but in terms of his relationship to Mary. True righteousness extends in two directions—toward God and man.

How to Respond in a Family Crisis

Joseph resisted the urge to act rashly. Even in his concern for Mary and her reputation, he was still determined to divorce her (in modern terms, "break the engagement"). Yet verse 20 reveals that he took time to *consider* his actions.

When Joseph was faced with the impossible, he did not rush to judgment.

The scriptures do not indicate how long he waited, but he took time to consider his actions. And in that period of time, Joseph positioned himself to hear from God in a most unusual manner:

God Speaks Through Dreams

"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife.'" God gave Joseph a dream, a dream that would change his life forever. This must have been some dream.

Engagement, unexpected pregnancy, and an out-of-this-world explanation would be enough to give anyone dreams. But God chose a dream as the means to provide divine direction, and Joseph recognized the dream as God's personal leading.

In fact, dreams are mentioned no fewer than four times in Matthew 1 and 2. I believe scriptures are teaching us that God can guide his children through dreams. Imagine: in an emotionally charged situation, just when we would be tempted to ignore our dreams, God is present: leading, directing and guiding—sometimes through dreams.

By the way, there is no indication that Joseph heard anything else from God until after the baby was born. He remained faithful to God's instructions for months, all based on one dream!

The Christmas season offers an opportunity to learn the truths found in God's word. The Gospels are also the stuff of God's instruction to his disciples.

Gail

PG Wodehouse and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego...

Early on in November, I joined in with streamed Morning Prayer which was led by Rev Sharon.

The reading that morning was from the book of Daniel, Chapter 3 verse 19 to the end and was the story of Nebuchadnezzar being so enraged against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because they refused to worship his God, that he threw them into a fiery furnace.

If you don't know the story, then do have a look at chapter three.

If you have read (or heard the story) you know that of course God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abdnego from the furnace and they survived and Nebuchadnezzar gave them positions of responsibility within his court.

However, as much as I know the bible story, on occasions when I hear the names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abdnego, I am reminded of coming across their names in somewhere completely unbiblical, in the works of P G Wodehouse, creator of Jeeves and Wooster and of Lord Emsworth of Blandings.

On this occasion the quote I was thinking about came from a short story called Lord Emsworth and the Girl Friend. It is a short story within a collection gathered together under the title 'Blandings Castle'

Lord Emsworth is a rather dotty peer with a domineering sister and a garrulous but exceedingly likeable brother called Gally.

On this occasion the story is recounted of the day in the year that Lord Emsworth dreads the most, the August Bank Holiday when the gates of Blandings Castle are thrown open to the public and Lord Emsworth has to give a speech, as follows;

“It always seemed to Lord Emsworth in analysing these entertainments that the August Bank Holiday at Blandings Castle reached a peak of repulsiveness when tea was served in the big marquee. Tea over, the agony abated, to become acute once more when he stepped onto the platform and cleared his throat trying to recollect what he had planned to say. Conditions during the tea hour, the marquee having stood all day under a blazing sun, were generally such that Shadrach, Meshach and Abdnego, had they been there, could have learned something new about burning fiery furnaces”

I don't mean to be flippant about Shadrach, Meshach and Abdnego, on the contrary, I have looked at it closer since I discovered it in the above book. I am fascinated by Wodehouse's use of not only this story but other biblical references within his books.

If you've not come across the books of P G Wodehouse then I commend them to you as pure escapism and in my case, on occasion, rib ticklingly amusing

Alan Ayckbourn wrote of Wodehouse *“A genius...Elusive, delicate but lasting.He created such a credible world, that sadly, I suppose never really existed, but what a delight it always is to enter it and the temptation to linger there is sometimes almost overwhelming.*

Whilst Marian Keyes wrote; *“The ultimate in comfort reading because nothing ever bad happens, or even if it does, it's always sorted out by the end of the book”*

And Downton Abbey writer Julian Fellowes said “ *P G Wodehouse remains the greatest chronicler of a certain kind of Englishness, that no one else has ever captured quite so sharply or with quite as much wit and affection*”

I know our choice of reading material is a very personal thing, but if you're faced with a grey and miserable day and need a diversion then I can recommend them as a good read to curl up in a chair or on the sofa with.

I always enjoy reading about dear dotty old Lord Emsworth, his inimitable butler Beach and the anecdotes of his brother Sir Galahad Threepwood.

You never know, you may come across more biblical references in addition to the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abdnego.

Happy reading.

Dawn



Christmas 2020 – A bit different

Hi folks

At the time of me writing this, we are just about to come to the end of Lockdown 2 and into the, only slightly less restrictive Tier 3 category. And whilst I know Rev Sharon is beavering away, trying not to tear her hair out on trying to keep up to date when planning our Christmas Services, what I do know, is that whatever transpires, we, sadly, will not be gathering in the large numbers we do normally, in or around Church.

I do love sending Christmas cards, but because I think I am unlikely to see many of you in person during these next few weeks, I have decided not to send individual Christmas Cards to church friends this year, I hope you don't mind. In lieu of buying cards I will instead, make a donation to church funds.

Here is a photo of some Christmas Cards I have cross stitched, with my sincerest wish that you all have a wonderful (under the circumstances) Christmas.

Love and Best Wishes

Dawn



"Jesus is Lord."

It may not be all that common these days to see these words regularly throughout our day. Printed on a bumper sticker. Worn on a T-shirt. Even spray-painted on the side of a motor way. While proclaiming Jesus' reign is never a bad thing, the danger is that we can overuse it that it can become a cliché. A cute slogan. About as connected to God as a polite response when someone sneezes.

To the first-century Christians, however, "Jesus is Lord" meant something far more. With Caesar as the obvious ruler of the entire known world, it was not only commonplace, but expected that when someone was greeted publicly, he was supposed to say, "Caesar is Lord," and to say it like he meant it. So when the early Christians chose to say, "Jesus is Lord" as their declaration, they were literally choosing to align everything with Jesus, even their own lives. Their words were not trite statements. They were downright treasonous. They echoed a subversive rebellion against the establishment that clearly resonated their allegiances and alliances. Those three words changed everything.

And shouldn't the same be true for today? If we sing it in church, wear it on a bracelet, and put it on our cars, then we need to really live out what it is saying. While the words may cost less in many settings, they should not mean anything less to those saying them.

Today we live in a world ruled by consumerism. The world lives with its obvious loyalties to power, religion, greed, sex, and other idols in clear rebellion to God. But for those making this declaration, none of these is our lord. Not anymore. Jesus is Lord. We are rebelling against their rebellion.

If we are to take a similar subversive mindset as the early Christians, choosing to live out the Gospel in the world, showing people an irresistible Kingdom ruled by an irresistible King, we have to ask ourselves the question: how is this supposed to change the way that we live? Here are a few practical reminders.

We need to deconstruct a false view of God's Kingdom. Many people today have made the kingdom into the kingdom of religion rather than the kingdom of God. As such, we could be producing passive spectators rather than active participants in the kingdom mission. No more! King Jesus calls us to subversively stand and fight.

Secondly, we can live as ambassadors of the kingdom in small, subversive ways.

Actually, the way we can make our biggest difference is by being active in small ways. We can go out into the parish, or hold hospitality events in



church or homes, to show people how to live a kingdom mission. We can accomplish this by living in a manner directed by and empowered by our King. We are meant to be noticeable not just by the way we talk or the things we oppose, but rather by the high standards with which we operate.

Our lives should be radically different, yet we cannot accomplish this on our own strength. We need the Holy Spirit to work in us and draw people's attention toward the Son. As the Spirit accomplishes this, we need to show and share the love of Christ.

Sometimes we say that sharing Christ and serving the community in the name of Christ are two sides of the same coin, but this is a poor metaphor. God's mission is not two things. It

is one thing; some parts of that mission are given to the church gathered and some are given to the church scattered. Regardless, I think we are called to live for Jesus' Kingdom mission.

God has already started His victory in our world, but it is not yet finished. While we wait for His completion, we join Him in destroying the devil's works and establishing more and more outposts of His Kingdom.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom" (Luke 12:32,).

He has. He will. And its subversive nature changes you, those around you, and ultimately the world.

Gail



In the beginning...

Trevor's Funny Bone

Adam & Eve's Dog

Adam and Eve said, 'Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us.'

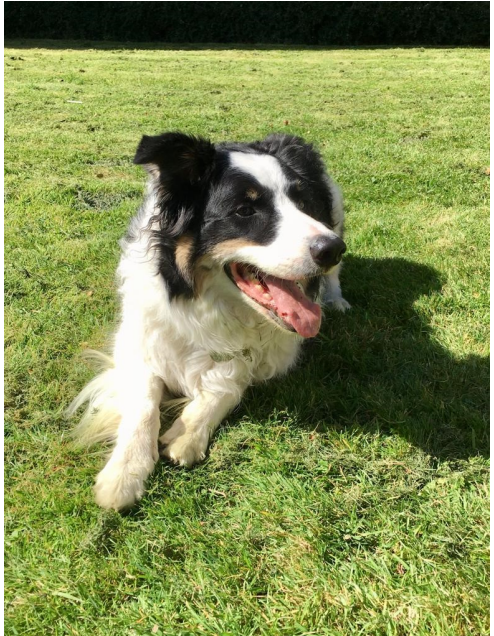
And God said, I will create a companion for you that will be with you and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves.

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve
And it was a good animal and God was pleased.
And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, 'Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal..'

And God said, 'I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG.'

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.



And they were comforted.
And God was pleased.
And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, 'Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well.'

And God said, 'I will create for them a companion who will be with them and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration.'

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the Supreme Beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility.
And they were greatly improved.
And God was pleased.
And Dog was happy.

And the Cat . . .

**...didn't give a fig leaf one way
or the other...**



Albert's Christmas Quiz(es)

Christmas number ones without "Christmas" in their Titles

1. IWTHYH (TB-1963)
2. GGGOH (TJ-1966)
3. E(TFMITW) (BH-1971)
4. MXE (S-1973)
5. TNQLG (SWSC-1980)
6. SYL (RAR-1982)
7. MAW (CR-1988)
8. MB (MB-1993)
9. 2B1 (SG-1996)
10. CWFI (BTB-2000)

Christmas carols amongst the 20 most popular

(name them from the initials given below for each word in their titles)

1. S.N.H.N
2. I.T.B.M
3. H.T.H.A.S
4. O.C.A.Y.F
5. O.L.T.O.B.
6. O.I.R.D.C.
7. J.T.T.W.
8. A.I.A.M.
9. G.R.Y.M.G
10. D.D.M.O.H

Albert

Answers on page 34

Church Mouse Tales

My friend Hubert, the Black Canon, was sitting in the quire pew opposite the Monk's door - where he usually sits when in reflective mood. I sidled up beside him and sat quietly too - for a while....

'IT'S CHRISTMAS !!!!!' I declared loudly.

Hubert's eyes widened in surprise .

'You have shattered the quiet calm and reverence of the moment.' he said quietly but with no less force of emotion.

'Apologies,' I said, 'but it's just an exciting time!'

'Well, yes', he agreed, 'but we can all appreciate it in different ways....'

'Just imagine', I went on, 'if it had happened during this time of lockdowns and viruses?'

'Yes, that would have been difficult,' he agreed.

'Mary and Joseph wouldn't have been able to travel to Bethlehem....'

'No', agreed Hubert.

'Well - not unless, that is, the Donkey was in their bubble....'

Hubert furrowed his brow - as he does at times of consternation.

'.....and the shepherds and kings wore masks.....'

The furrows seemed to deepen further.

'.....the Angel would be OK though. I think all Angels come virus free.....'

I'm sure they do Misha', he agreed smiling now. 'I'm sure they do.'

'..and the baby too....' I added.

'Definitely!' he laughed.



Quiz Answers:-

Christmas number ones without “Christmas” in their Titles

(score one point for each correct song title and performer)

1. I want to hold your hand - The Beatles (1963)
2. Green, Green, grass of home - Tom Jones (1966)
3. Ernie, The fastest milkman in the west - Benny Hill (1971)
4. Merry Xmas everybody - Slade (1973)
5. There's no-one quite like Grandma - St. Winifred's School Choir (1980)
6. Save your love - Renee and Renato (1982)
7. Mistletoe and Wine - Cliff Richard (1988)
8. Mister Blooby - Mister Blooby
9. 2 become 1 - Spice Girls
10. Can we fix it - Bob the Builder (2000)

Christmas carols amongst the 20 most popular

1. Silent night, Holy night
2. In the Bleak Midwinter
3. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
4. O Come All Ye Faithful
5. O Little Town of Bethlehem
6. Once in Royal David's City
7. Joy to the World
8. Away in a Manger
9. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
10. Ding, Dong Merrily on High



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

Wednesday 2nd December	Said Holy Communion Reflective Advent Service on Hope	10am 7pm	Join us on Facebook Live Join us on Facebook Live
Sunday 6th December	Said Holy Communion Family Carol Service with the Nativity Story	10.30am 4pm	Join us in church or on Facebook Live Join us on Facebook Live
Wednesday 9th December	Said Holy Communion Reflective Advent Service on Peace	10am 7pm	Join us in church or on Facebook Live Join us on Facebook Live
Sunday 13th December	Said Holy Communion Blue Christmas-A service for those who find Christmas difficult	10.30am 4pm	Join us in church or on Facebook Live Join us in church or on Facebook Live
Wednesday 16th December	Said Holy Communion Reflective Advent Service on Love	10.00am 7pm	Join us in church or on Facebook Live Join us on Facebook Live
Sunday 20th December	Said Holy Communion 9 Lessons and Carols and/or Music	10.30am 4pm	Join us in church or on Facebook Live Join us in church or on Facebook Live
Wednesday 23rd December	Said Holy Communion Reflective Advent Service on Joy	10.00am 7pm	Join us in church or on Facebook Live Join us on Facebook Live
Christmas Eve			
Thursday 24th December	Christingle Service and setting up Crib Said Midnight Mass	4pm 11.30pm	Join us on Facebook Live Join us in church or on Facebook Live
Christmas Day			
Friday 25th December	Christmas Day Said Holy Communion	10.30am	Join us in church or on Facebook Live

For more information visit: www.stmarywoodkirk.org or www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk.

St. Mary's additional on-line Services at Christmas.

The following Services are Live on Facebook:

Mon 7th	9am	Morning Prayer
Tue 8th	6pm	Evening Prayer
Thurs 10th	9pm	Night Prayer
Fri 11th	9am	Morning Prayer
Mon 14th	9am	Morning Prayer
Tue 15th	6pm	Evening Prayer
Thurs 17th	9pm	Night Prayer
Fri 18th	9am	Morning Prayer
Mon 21st	9am	Morning Prayer
Tue 22nd	6pm	Evening Prayer

This is in addition to the Services listed on Page 35

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.**

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:

- Barbara Hazzlewood
- Betty Farthing
- Luis Del Valle
- Dennis Roughsedge
- Mary Collins
- Lewis Thornton

WEDDINGS Please pray for all couples who married at St Mary's, especially:



ADULT BALLET

COME AND JOIN OUR FUN, FRIENDLY BALLET TECHNIQUE CLASS. THE CLASS IS PERFECT FOR "EXPERIENCED BEGINNERS" BUT ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME.



WITH EMILY HUMPHREYS



Wednesdays

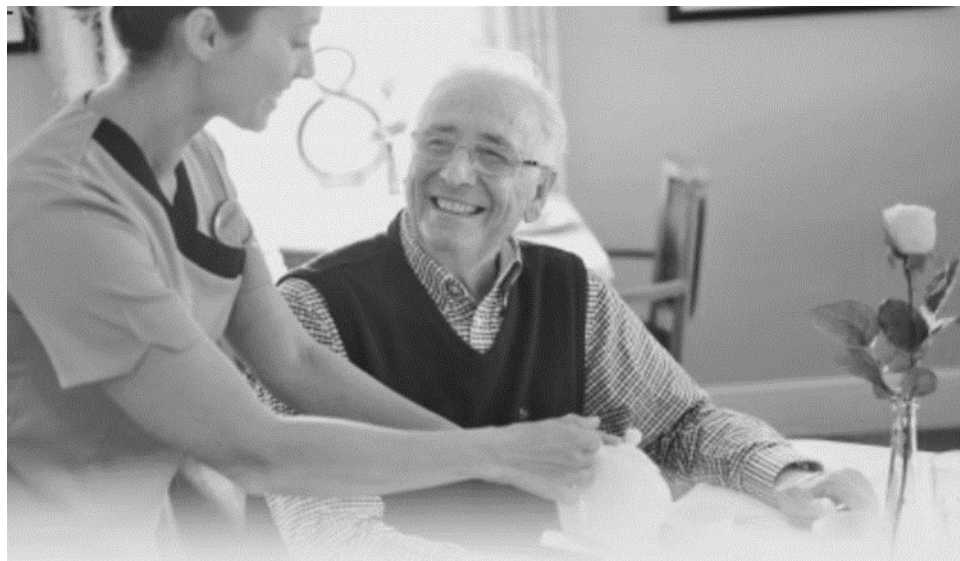
8PM - 9PM

£6 Drop In

St Marys Parish Centre, Woodkirk

**To book your place: [Facebook.com/evhdance](https://www.facebook.com/evhdance)
emily@humphreys.dance**

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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

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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

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

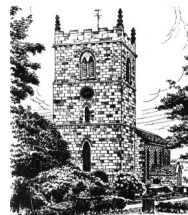
Parish Centre Rentals

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

**Nominal Cost is £50 for
3 hours.**

**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

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RESIDENCE
3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

What's on

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
Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721

Young at Heart 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:00pm
Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078

Beavers Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm
Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877

Cubs Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm
Marianne Ingham 07778 542302

Scouts Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927

Explorer Scouts Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm
Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Services (See inside for Covid Services)

1st Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the month:

10:30am All Age Worship with Holy Communion

A Service for all the family.

3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

10:30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month (4 times per year)

10:30am All Age Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesdays:

10:00am Holy Communion

3rd Thursday:

11:00am Holy Communion at Lydgate Lodge

Morning Prayer 9.00am—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

To arrange for **Baptisms** please contact: Barbara Tate on:

0113 253 1266

Baptisms held at 12.30pm on 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays

To book **weddings, funerals, or the reading of banns** please contact our Coordinator, Gail Townsend (0113 2528710) email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org