

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

Spring 2022



March 2022



Worship Online at:
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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.

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started”

Mark Twain

Vicar's Letter

At the end of the day I have a couple of reflective apps that I listen to and one of them is called, Our Daily Bread – and on the 23rd February the reflection was entitled, “The Challenge of the Stars” which was written by Tim Gustafson and I think it is worth repeating part of that reflection here:-

“In the early twentieth century, Italian poet F. T. Marinetti launched Futurism, an artistic movement that rejected the past, scoffed at traditional ideas of beauty, and glorified machinery instead. In 1909, Marinetti wrote his Manifesto of Futurism, in which he declared “contempt for women,” praised “the blow with the fist,” and asserted, “We want to glorify war.” The manifesto concludes: “Standing on the world’s summit we launch once again our insolent challenge to the stars!”

“Five years after Marinetti’s manifesto, modern warfare began in earnest. World War I did not bring glory. Marinetti himself died in 1944. The stars, still in place, took no notice.”

“King David sang poetically of the stars but with a dramatically different outlook. He wrote, “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” (Psalm 8:3-4). David’s question isn’t one of disbelief but of amazed humility. He knew that the God who made this vast cosmos is indeed mindful of us. He notices every detail about us – the good, the bad, the humble, the insolent – even the absurd.”

“It’s pointless to challenge the stars. Rather, they challenge us to praise our Creator.”

Sadly people do not learn and as I write this Russia has just invaded the Ukraine and entered Kiev with 135 people dead and families fleeing the area to safety. Russian tanks are making their way to the area. By the time you read this how many more people will have taken refuge, how many more will have died?

That war is never good, of that we all know. It destroys the very base of humanity; and yet, countries go to war. They fight over invisible borders and materialistic values, they fight over things that should not matter, over an Earth that they don't love as their own. They fight the rich man's war, to appease his hunger for power and money, and they destroy generations and generations of values and culture. They sow the seeds of mistrust and insecurity, and make a mockery of the term human rights. And yet, there is war. And there is constant, unrelenting fear.

Albert Einstein said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

Right at the end of his life, Jesus Christ, on the eve of his crucifixion, spoke to his disciples and he said something very memorable. 'In the world you will have trouble, but do not be afraid, I have overcome the world.'

May God be with those who suffer today.

My prayers are with you.

Sharon

Bishop Nick's Blog.

The Invasion of Ukraine

The Ukrainian national anthem begins: "Ukraine is not yet dead, nor its glory and freedom".

This might sound a bit hollow as we digest the news that war has returned to Europe and Ukraine is being invaded by the Russian bear from next door. Ukrainians have vowed to defend their country, to shed their blood if they have to, and to defend their identity as well as their territory. Vladimir Putin will learn that simply declaring a state to be invalid or 'fake' does not render it so.

Ukrainians are no strangers to conflict or sacrifice. This is a land which saw millions killed under the jackboot of a dictator who, to echo Putin's line, had no greater obligation than to "defend the security interests of our own people". Of course, the false pretexts of Hitler were no more convincing than are the pretexts of the Russian dictator today.

Yet, his false prospectus, built on lies, fabrication and propaganda/disinformation, has been trailed for more than two decades. In contrast with many leaders in the West, Putin took a long term view decades ago and has strategically worked up to today. Conceived in shame (at the meek collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991) and born in ruthlessness, his imperial drive has been observed by Russia-watchers with increasing concern, but little action. The West has watched, sometimes colluded, often ignored what was before our eyes.

A small cameo: I recently met the Russian ambassador in a couple of meetings in the House of Lords. It was obvious that he was subject to a different reality from the rest of us. Watching the humiliation of Putin's security council as they had, one at a time, to stand and unequivocally agree with him, it became clear that the behaviours displayed in the film *The Death of Stalin* are not merely satirical. They certainly aren't funny.

There are many tragedies at play here. One is that, contrary to

the words used by our own Prime Minister just a few days ago, Putin's decision to invade Ukraine was never to come as a "shock" to anyone. You don't move half your military to the border of a neighbouring country without intent. Threats to apply sanctions against Putin's people and his economy do not stand up as powerful when the memory of twenty million dead in the Second World War is kept alive every day. Sacrifice flows through Russian veins like an oligarch's money through London. This invasion is not a shock and politicians should not pretend it is.

A second tragedy is that Ukraine stands alone. The country is not in NATO, so cannot invoke the obligation of NATO partners to defend each other militarily. So, as President Zelensky has made absolutely clear in his recent dignified and powerful speeches, defending his people and country with words and sanctions will not save the lives of the people who will soon be too dead to defend. We are watching with our own eyes what we thought had been consigned to bloody history in the 1930s when Hitler used similar language and pretexts to occupy other countries; think Poland and the Sudetenland for starters.

History never repeats itself, but echoes can be felt for generations. Think of the children of Ukraine and the conflicts of the future that are being born in them today.

So, what to do while western governments think about stopping individuals from shopping in London or New York or Paris – or banking processes are curtailed, causing an as yet unknown impact on the world and its markets (which ultimately means 'ordinary people's lives')? What to do while Putin sheds blood in a country that is not his and knows that Ukraine will not be defended militarily by its wordy neighbours?

Two things come to mind. First, we must put pressure on our own government to defend Ukraine and shut off completely the wholly immoral flood of corrupt money that flows through London. And that includes money paid to political parties here "by people registered to vote". It has been evident for more than two decades that economic sanctions alone will not move

Vladimir Putin.

Secondly, we can join with those in Ukraine itself in praying with and for those standing alone in fear and suffering an indescribable fate. I am not stupid: some people will describe prayer as pointless wordiness that achieves nothing. Well, prayer is not just about bringing our fears and hopes and dreads and concerns to God, but it is also about learning to look through the eyes of God who loves justice, condemns lying and misrepresentation, and abhors the violence of the powerful. (If you don't believe me, read the book.) Prayer changes us before it changes anything else. Common prayer shuts us up, opens us up, reframes our priorities and calls us to a practical solidarity with those who suffer.

Christians across Europe – including in the Anglican community in Kyiv itself – will be joining in prayer on Tuesday at 18.00 GMT and this will be streamed.

These are dangerous times. The invasion, though not remotely surprising, is evil. “Ukraine is not yet dead, nor its glory and freedom.” But, the suffering is real.

Bishop Nick



Dim image in a mirror

It's funny how things just make connections sometimes out of a number of different incidents.

I attended a funeral recently and the bible passage read during the service was 1 Corinthians 13, then David mentioned he needed to make an appointment at the opticians, then whilst sorting through some paperwork I came across a note I had made for myself some months ago about light pollution and being able to see stars clearly.

This caused me to think about verse 12 in 1 Corinthians 13 which says;

“What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—as complete as God's knowledge of me.”

The note I made for myself reminded me that when I look out of the window at the night sky from home, I do see stars, but only the really bright ones, because of the light pollution in the area. I was away in a place with very little light pollution, and happily it was a clear night. I looked out of the window and yes, could see stars.

At first I was a little disappointed as I didn't feel I could see many more than I can at home, but as I stood there at the window, gradually more and more stars came into focus.

This also reminded me of the creation passage in Genesis 1:6-7;

Then God commanded, “Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places”—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. 8 He named the dome “Sky.”

And I thought about how at first my view of the stars was unfocussed, I only saw the equivalent of a dim image in a mirror,

however, the longer I stood there, the more I focussed and the more my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I was able to see more clearly.

If we think about that for a little bit, our modern lifestyle gets in the way of our faith, our busy lives get in the way of spending time with God, like light pollution, they take away our focus and we see less of what God wants us to see.

The stars are not dimmer, it is our view/sight/focus that needs to adjust in order to see things as God wants us to.

It seems appropriate that my article focuses on “focussing”, as we are at the beginning of another Lent. A time for perhaps giving something up, or perhaps taking something up...
Can you set aside time to be with God during Lent?

You may think, “I haven’t time”, “I’m too busy”, “I don’t know how to pray”, “I don’t know where to start”.

Whilst these may be very valid reasons, they are not insurmountable – you don’t have to give up hours per day, just 10 minutes of quiet reflection, or listening to reflective music, reading the weekly bible readings Rev Sharon includes on our weekly pew sheet, joining in a streamed service of Morning Prayer (Mon & Fri 9.00am), Evening Prayer (Tues 6.00pm) or Night Prayer (Thurs 9.00pm), or perhaps joining one of Rev Sharon’s Lent reflections starting on 9th March at 7.00pm are all ways you can connect with God during this Lenten season.

Going back to Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, he says “when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear”, when Jesus comes then we shall see clearly.

Let us take time in Lent to sit and focus, let the light pollution of our busy lives recede to enable us to see clearly the knowledge and power and love of God in our lives.

With love

Dawn x

Nancy Stephenson – Rest in Peace.

Sadly, Nancy passed away unexpectedly on the 8th February in Pinderfields Hospital– a long time member of the church along with Philip, her husband who died in April 2020. Nancy was born on 3rd July 1935 at 8 High Street Morley. She had one sister, Shelagh.

Nancy and Philip were married in 1958 and were able to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary in 2018, receiving a letter of congratulations from the Queen.



As a war child Nancy ended up near Bolton, Lancashire when Nancy's Father had to move in 1940 as he worked on Radar systems and the manufacturing was moved from Yorkshire to Chadderton, Lancashire. Some of the Mills in the area were used as makeshift POW camps during the war and housed German and Italian POW's. Over a period of time Nancy and friends got to know one of these POW's whilst he worked on nearby construction projects. He was an artist named Kurt Gival and he would paint pictures in his spare time. He would trade these pictures for other items and Nancy's Mother obtained one of his pictures by trading it for some cigarettes.

Nancy also belonged to a Sunday School in WW2 and they used to sing 'Alternative' Christmas Carols which she found very amusing. This is one she showed me a few years ago:

Good King Wenceslas looked out
Of his bedroom 'winder'
All at once he did fall out
Onto a red hot cinder

Brightly shone his bum that night
Tho' it hurt most cruel
When a peasant came in sight
With a poultice made of gru-uel.

Nancy kept this delight in these playful poems and songs and later wrote one or two of her own. Here is one she gave to me in 2013 and we published in the February magazine:

A Valentine's Day Lament.

Oh woe is me, alas and alack, you all will 'ear me cry,
To get meself a Valentine I'd like – but 'ow to try?
I dream at nights me prince will come, and sweep me off me feet,
I laugh and joke with other folk, but I'll never 'ave that treat.

I 'aven't much to offer 'im, but p'raps me faults 'e'll overlook,
Which are a lot I might admit – BUT I like to read a book!
You remember Eric Morecombe; well I'm a bit like 'im, with wearing of
me glasses,
I grope myopically around, so men never make me passes!
Alt: ...Morecombe, I wear glasses just like 'im
I grope myopically around - will no-one take me in?

Me legs resemble Ernie Wise, short, 'n' fat, 'n' hairy
I'd never get booked in Pantomime to be a pretty Fairy.
Me 'air 'as 'elp from Boots you know, it colours up real nice,
But when I've 'ad me beauty sleep, it's like a nest of mice.

Me Dentist says me teeth are good, the few that I've got left,
'e matches up me others with an 'and that is so deft.
Me figure should be hour glass shaped, but resembles more a pear,

Still, it's nice to 'ave a big behind, for sittin' on a chair.

So what 'ave I to offer 'im, this lover of me dreams?
I cover up me blemishes, so all is not what it seems.
I'll just 'ave to 'ope 'e loves me, and 'as the biggest of big 'earts,
Cos I'm more like a Curate's Egg, not bad, but good in parts!

Nancy leaves behind her daughter Julie, son Ian and grandson Alex.
David

House Box and Christingle Collections

Hi there

I want to say a big thank you to you all for your ongoing support of the Children's Society through your donations in house collection boxes and supporting our Christingle Services.

Our Collection Box holders came up trumps again this year with their boxes full of change raising an amazing £617.28.

In addition to this from the collections at Blackgates School Concerts, our Christingle Services on Christmas Eve and the little Christingle Candle collection boxes, you also raised a brilliant £323.96. A big thank you to our Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs who contributed by taking candle boxes home and returning them after Christmas so many thanks for that.

Thanks to you all, as with the money raised the Children's Society can continue to be there for children in this country who feel scared, unloved or that they don't matter.

Thank you as always for your generosity.
If you do not have a home collection box and would like one, please contact me (07840 739239) and I can sort out a box for you.

Dawn Tattersfield



Big RSPB Birdwatch

Well hello there. I just wanted to update you on our results for the RSPB Birdwatch which we undertook in the churchyard at the end of January (why they can't do it in July is beyond me!!)

Dave Townsend undertook his watch on Friday 28th January with Sally and I doing ours on the Sunday (the weather was so atrociously windy on the Saturday we didn't even try and do any bird spotting).

All three of us saw a greater variety of birds this year than we have previously. Over the combined three hours that we spent birdwatching (and acknowledging that these may be the same birds!) we saw the following:

Bird	Spotted	Bird	Spotted
Blackbird	9	Robin	6
Blue Tit	12	Pidgeon/Woodpidgeon	11
Great Tit	8	Starling	18
Long Tailed Tit	11	Mistlethrush	1
Sparrow	1	Magpie	1
Goldfinch	4	Wren	4
Great Spotted Woodpecker			1

This is a vast improvement on previous year's bird counts and my grateful thanks to Dave and Sally for their help. It was bitingly cold when I did mine and can't have been any warmer for Sally or Dave.

These types of monitoring events are a snapshot in time and I think the wider variety of birds we have spotted encourages us to continue to make progress with the churchyard and our work for the environment.

I'm taking the award for best bird spotted with my seeing our churchyard woodpecker!

If you would like to get involved in next year's watch please let me know so that I can add you to my intrepid team of twitchers.

Dawn

St Mary's

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National Centre for Domestic Violence
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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.

Talk To God About Your Anxieties

I think maybe anxiety may be a species of fear. It's the paralyzing fear of "what if." It's the fear that something we dread might possibly come true.

Maybe there's a solution to anxiety: the assurance everything is going to be okay.

But the world gives us no such assurances. We find ourselves surrounded by myriad real dangers resulting in an endless list of "what if." It's no wonder human beings are so afflicted with anxiety. And our anxieties only increase our misery by adding countless imagined dangers to the very real ones in front of us.

But God. God the Son stepped into this dangerous, demonic world, where even man's greatest efforts to ensure safety are ultimately and decidedly defeated by death. And when he did, he made the most audacious claim ever uttered by human lips: for every person who believes in him, everything is going to be ultimately, gloriously, eternally, inexpressibly, wonderfully okay (John 3:16; 11:25–26). Then to demonstrate the reality of his claim, and therefore its trustworthiness, he decidedly defeated death and announced "all authority in heaven and on earth" had been given to him (Matthew 28:18).

With this authority, he says to everyone who believes in him, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life" (Luke 12:22). Jesus — and all the promises that are now Yes in him (2 Corinthians 1:20) — is the antidote to anxiety. What he accomplishes for us and promises to us is the ultimate triumph over all that terrifies us. He does not promise us escape from misery in this world. He promises that he will redeem every misery (Romans 8:28), and that in him we will overcome the worst the world can do to us (John 16:33; Romans 8:35–39). In Christ, everything is going to be ultimately, gloriously, eternally, inexpressibly, wonderfully okay. Therefore, Jesus



says to us, right now, right where we're at, "Do not be anxious." He says this knowing our past, our temperament, the seriousness of our current crises, and how intense we fear the possible dread may become reality.

"Do not be anxious" can seem like an impossible command. But this should not surprise us. Jesus commands us to believe that "everyone who lives and believes in [him] shall never die" (John 11:26). Jesus commands us to love one another just like he has loved us (John 15:12).

Of course, the command to not be anxious is humanly impossible. But as with nearly every other command for the Christian, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27).

The only way we can fulfil this command is "by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving," making our requests known to God, trusting a specific promise. Then his peace, surpassing all our understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ (Philippians 4:6–7). We cast our anxieties on God (1 Peter 5:7), and cease to be anxious in the strength he supplies (1 Peter 4:11). Maybe when our anxieties talk to us. Let us try not talk back to them. Let us talk to God.

This is typically hard because anxieties often disguise themselves in our imaginations. They feel like such realistic scenarios and therefore emotionally compelling to dwell upon. Anxieties can even impersonate, taking the form of people — often people we know. These are some of the most insidious to fight.

In real life, these people might be family members or friends or fellow church members or co-workers or acquaintances or people we only know by reputation. They might be people with whom we disagree on an issue, or with whom we have a relational strain, or with whom we are in serious conflict. They might be people we fear misunderstand us, or fear disappointing, or fear exposing our weakness or ignorance in front of, or fear confronting with a hard truth, or whose sin we fear might be a symptom of deep spiritual issues, or whose influence we fear might damage our loved one or our church.

Whoever they really are, something about them provokes anxiety in us. And our anxiety then can come to us in our imagination in

the form of that person and start talking to us. It says provocative things to us, and we reply. Before we know it, we have engaged in a lengthy argument in our heads that arouses all kinds of emotions and leads us to think and feel uncharitably toward the real person. But we haven't talked to them at all. We've talked to our anxiety — we've talked to ourselves and sinned not only in indulging faithless anxiety, but in failing to love that person. God never instructs us in Scripture to fight anxiety by arguing with it. It never works. Scripture only instructs us to cast our anxieties on God in prayer and trust him to meet our needs, whatever they are (1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6–7, 19). There is righteous anxiety, like Jesus's in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:38–39), Paul's for the churches (2 Corinthians 11:28), and parents' godly concerns over the spiritually dangerous influences their children will face in the world.

What keeps these anxieties from turning sinful is when we, like Jesus and Paul, translate our fear-fuelled concerns into prayer requests, weaving them with thanksgiving for graces we've received from God and all the promises he's made to us (2 Peter 1:4), and give them over to God. When this occurs, a spiritually beautiful exchange takes place: God receives glory as the all-sufficient, abundantly generous object of our faith (2 Corinthians 9:8), and we receive the joys of experiencing the mind and heart guarding peace that surpasses our understanding before we receive our request (Philippians 4:6–7), as well as the eventual provision we need.

Prayer can be the key to escaping the snare of anxiety. Don't listen to your anxieties, and don't talk back to them. Especially beware of anxieties in disguise. Direct your talk to God and cast all your "what if" concerns on him because only he can give you the assurance that everything will ultimately be okay.

Gail

Scriptures: 1 Peter, 2 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians 1:20, 2 Peter, John 11:25-26, John 11:26, John 15:12, John 16:33, John 3:16, Luke 12:22, Luke 14:33, Mark 10:21, Mark 10:27, Matthew 26:38, Matthew 28:18, Philippians 4:6, Romans 8:28, Romans 8:35, Romans 8:35-39

Prayerful Thought – “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,”

Hello there. Why is it, do you suppose, that things that we have done many times without mishap, sometimes go wrong?

One morning in January I had washed and dried my hair and proceeded to straighten it using hair straighteners which are basically two hot plates of metal I iron my hair with! An operation I have carried out so many times over the years without mishap, until this particular morning when for some unknown reason I decided to try and straighten my hand too...OUCH!

Well at first it wasn't too bad, I ran my hand under the tap etc etc and all seemed well, until a couple of days later when the back of my hand (obviously not as tough as the palm) decided to blister. I'm pleased to report that now over a month later my hand is just about healed, but it did make me think about things we do regularly and then do something different, and it also reminded me of the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 v 15 where Paul writes;

“Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body...”

I also thought about the saying “The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing” as it was my right hand using the straighteners which managed to burn my left!

I suppose I should have realised, but hadn't really before, but this saying comes initially from the Bible (you can find it in Matthew 6:3b).

“... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”

There are two ways to think about this incident (well three if you count my first aid training!). I could focus on the hand being part of the body as Paul urged the Corinthians, or on the issue of behaviour that we do without thinking until one day something

changes, sometimes for better, sometimes for worse, but do we learn from that?

I sat back and had a little think about an example of someone in the Bible who was just doing an ordinary, everyday thing, but then something happened and their behaviour changed, and I came up with the Samaritan woman at the well. You can find this story in John 4 v6-26.

Jesus is resting in the heat of the day by a well. By rights there should be no-one there as people tended to shelter out of the heat of the day, but a woman appears to get water.

Now this is unusual as women, who would be responsible for gathering the day's water, tended to go at the start of the day, it was a chance to catch up with other women probably for a good gossip, but this woman is alone and is avoiding meeting others, yet here she makes an encounter, the most important encounter of her life, she meets Jesus.

I'll not go into the full story as you can read that yourself, but Jesus speaks to the woman, we never know her name, whom he shouldn't really speak to. He knows all about her and tells her about the 'living water' that he offers and she accepts it.

Not only does the woman accept Jesus but she leaves her water jar and goes back to the city and tells everyone "Come and see a man who told me everything I had ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

The Samaritan woman told many people about Jesus and many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony.

Just an example of how a simple day to day encounter can have far reaching consequences. I only hope next time I move my hand quicker!

Love and ouch!

Dawn x

Church Mouse Tales

As I was a little bit bored, I decided to set out and find my friend Hubert, the Black Canon and engage in some light conversation. Unusually, he was to be found at the tower end of the church – a place he was not known to frequent, much preferring the quire and altar sections for his ruminations.

‘Are you lost?’ I asked lightly, when I eventually traced the low humming sound of a hymn or monastic chant that often accompanied Hubert as he went about his daily routines.

‘No, no’ he replied, ‘I am where I need to be – just making my daily rounds.’

‘Oh good. Are you also who you want to be as well?’, I said, starting my light conversation without further ado.

‘Who else would I want to be?’ he asked looking a little puzzled.

‘Haven’t you ever wondered what it would be like if you were the Abbott, say for example?’

‘The Abbott? Oh no – I wouldn’t want to be him.’

‘Anyone else?’ I asked. Hubert thought for a moment.

‘I’d rather be a sparrow than a snail.’ He declared.

‘Would you?’

‘Yes – I would – if I only could – I surely would.’

‘I can see that,’ I agreed. ‘You can just fly across these swollen rivers and streams we have right now. Imagine trying to cross them if you were a snail?’

‘Yes’, he agreed, ‘that would be a bridge over troubled waters.’

‘It would – you would soon wish you were homeward bound,’ I nodded trying to look my wisest.

‘Ah – home where my thought’s escaping – where my music’s playing...’ Hubert said wistfully.

‘Where your loves lies waiting, silently for you?’ I asked cheekily.

‘Well I wouldn’t go that far...’ he seemed a little perplexed.

‘Maybe just the sound of silence then?’ I asked tentatively.

‘Yes it’s very comforting sometimes to say: hello darkness my old friend - I’ve come to talk with you again....and the vision that was planted in my brain. Still remains.’ Hubert stared into the distance and the silence lingered.

‘I only came for some light conversation.’ I protested. ‘Next time I’ll just go for a day out.’

‘Where will you go?’ asked Hubert looking a little worried.

‘Scarborough Fair.’ I replied defiantly.

Misha x

John the Baptist and Toothpaste!

Now I know what you're thinking..."What on earth is Dawn on about today?" well, I'll elucidate...

Last time I needed toothpaste I tried a different one, and well it was OK but it was not like my previous choices, it didn't make foaminess which almost all my other toothpastes tended to do, it wasn't what I expected.

"So what's that got to do with John the Baptist?" I hear you cry...

Well I remember not too long ago that one of our readings was from Luke's Gospel chapter 7:18 – 23 which is the occasion when John the Baptist was in prison and he dispatched two of his disciples to ask Jesus "Are you the one who is to come, or are we waiting for another?"

The reason why this came to mind was that like my toothpaste, Jesus wasn't what John the Baptist or indeed many other people were expecting.

You see, in a well known Messianic prophecy Isaiah had said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound..." (Isaiah 61:1-2) Elsewhere Isaiah had also said: "The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Isaiah 35).

Psalm 118 looks forward to the coming of the Messiah when He will set up His kingdom. There are also several references to being protected by God and being placed at his side to destroy the nations. This was what John was hoping for. This is what John prayed for. And it was not happening. People expected a mighty King with power to overthrow the yoke of Roman rule.

But that wasn't the way Jesus ministered to the people, he was

healing people, meeting people, sharing food with people.

John had questions about the way Jesus did his ministry, he didn't feel that Jesus was doing it right, but that wasn't the case, just because Jesus wasn't ministering to the people in the way John had, that's not the same as doing it wrong.

Jesus was not what John expected, John wanted lots of preaching on repentance and judgement to come. But Jesus was having too much fun. He was laughing too much and loving sinners too much and it made John uncomfortable, hence his question "Are you the one who is to come, or are we waiting for another?"

Jesus says, "Blessed is he who is not offended because of me." In other words, "Blessed is he who is not scandalized by the way I do ministry. Or the way I reach out to people. Or the way I love people."

We don't know whether John's fears and doubts were relieved as the Bible doesn't tell us, sadly not long after this event John is killed by Herod. But the question really isn't so much about John as it is about us and the way we handle our hopes and fears when things aren't happening in the way we expected they might.

Jesus may not always meet our expectations, neither perhaps does the ministry He carries out, but He says to us don't let that keep you away from me, come to me, voice your doubts and concerns. Let me show you who I really am. I will show you what is important to me.

So when you have doubts, do three things.

1. Turn your doubts into questions
2. Turn your questions into prayers
3. Turn your prayers to God.

It's okay to doubt, just as long as you turn to Jesus. (And perhaps I should change my toothpaste!)

With love

Dawn x

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

Alberts Double Trouble Quiz

This Quiz is divided into 2 sections (General Knowledge and Multiple Choice)

General Knowledge

1. In 1066 who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day?
2. From which county in the UK did Eccles cakes originate?
3. Where is the smallest bone in the human body located?
4. In which classic children's book is it "always winter but never Christmas"?
5. Which world famous film actor dies on Christmas Day in 1977?
6. How many sides does a heptagon have?
7. Turf Moor is the home ground of which Premier League Football Club?
8. Donald Trump made a cameo appearance in which Christmas Film?
9. In which city will the 2028 Summer Olympics be held?
10. Gordon Sumner is the real name of which famous British musician?
11. In which city is the world's tallest building?
12. In which much loved U.K sitcom was Dawn Tinsley a character?

Multiple Choice

1. When did Wham's "Last Christmas" first reach number one? a) 1984 b) 1987, or c) 2021?
2. Which of these actresses hasn't played Queen Elizabeth 11 on screen? a) Judi Dench, b) Helen Mirren or c) Olivia Colman?
3. Christmas won't be Christmas without presents is in which book? a) Little Women, b) A Christmas Carol or c) How the Grinch stole Christmas?
4. Who said "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans? a) Elton John, b) John Lennon or c) Elvis Presley?
5. Which Christmas song features the lyrics "All the lights are shining so brightly everywhere and children's laughter fills the air"? a) All I want for Christmas is you, b) I wish it could be Christmas Every Day, or c) Driving Home for Christmas?
6. What animal does Ross from "Friends" dress as when he can't find a Santa outfit? a) Penguin, b) Llama or c) Armadillo?
7. How many different types of chocolates are in a tin of Quality Street? is it a) 10, b) 12 or c) 15?
8. Which of these is not a real cheese? Is it a) Ticklemore, b) Timberdoole or c) Tinytim?

(answers on page 33)

Dates for Your Diary

Sun 6 th March	10:30am Holy Communion 1:30pm Holy Baptism
Wed 9th March	1:30pm Funeral 10am Holy Communion 11am Lent Reflections in Church only 7pm Lent Reflections on-line only
Sun 13 th March	10:30am Holy Communion
Mon 14th	7:30pm PCC Meeting
Wed 16th	10am Holy Communion 11am Lent Reflections in Church only 7pm Lent Reflections on-line only
Sun 20 th March	10:30am Holy Communion 1:30pm Holy Baptism
Wed 23rd	10am Holy Communion 11am Lent Reflections in Church only 7pm Lent Reflections on-line only
Sun 27 th March	10:30am Holy Communion
Wed 23rd	10am Holy Communion 11am Lent Reflections in Church only 7pm Lent Reflections on-line only
Fri 1st April	2pm Funeral
Sun 3rd	10:30am Holy Communion 1:30pm Holy Baptism
Wed 6th	10am Holy Communion 11am Lent Reflections in Church only 7pm Lent Reflections on-line only
Sun 10 th	10:30am Holy Communion - Palm Sunday 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.

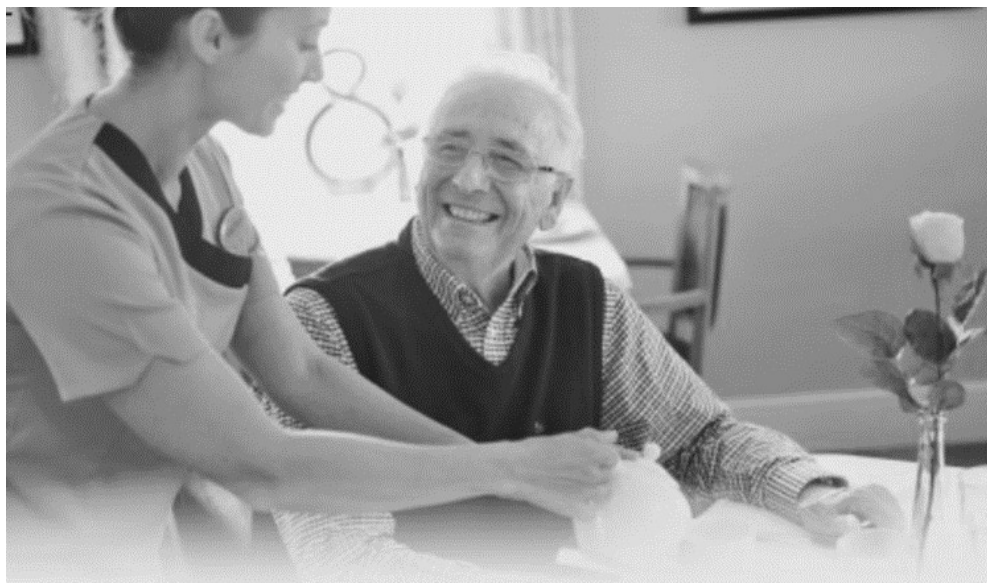


QUIZ ANSWERS (General Knowledge)

William the Conqueror (King William 1), (2) Lancashire, (3) The Ear, (4) The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe , (5) Charlie Chaplin , (6) Seven, (7) Burnley FC, (8) Home Alone, (9) Los Angeles , (10) Sting, (11) Dubai, (12) The Office.

ANSWERS (Multiple Choice)

2021, (2) Judi Dench, (3) Little Women, (4) John Lennon, (5) All I want for Christmas is you, (6) Armadillo, (7) 12, (8) Tinytim. Albert



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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:-
Elijah John Cheetham-Smith



DEATHS

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

Tracy Howes



WEDDINGS

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



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To advertise in St Mary's Parish Magazine

Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

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Parish Centre Rentals

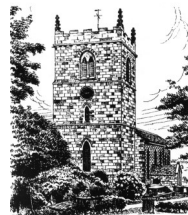
We have space for Groups who may be interested in using the Parish Centre at various times of the week.

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

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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

Playgroup Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

9:30am to 11.25am

Lauren Adamson 07885626603

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children

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

Nikki Esberger 07932026419

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

4th Sunday of the Month

10:30am in Church

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm

Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm

Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

Young at Heart 2nd & 4th Thursdays 2:00pm

Brenda Dixon 0113 253 4078

Beavers Friday 5:00pm to 6:15 pm

Joanne Rutledge 07950 580877

Cubs Friday 6:30pm to 7:45 pm

Marianne Ingham 07778 542302

Scouts Friday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Trevor Holdsworth 0113 253 0927

Explorer Scouts Friday 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm

Chris Ingham 07816 517838

Diary and Services this Month

Sunday Services.

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

Weekday Services

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

Special Services in November:

Tuesday 2nd November—All Soul's Service—7.30pm

Thursday 11th November—2 min reflective silence
10.50am for 11.00am—Outside Church

Sunday 14th November—Remembrance Day—10.30am

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