

Parish News

St Mary's, Woodkirk

March 2021



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Who's who at Woodkirk

Vicar of St Mary's: **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**
Woodkirk Vicarage, 1168 Dewsbury Road,
Dewsbury, WF12. 7JL
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
Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001

Dep Churchwarden: Pernoe Liburd

Deanery Synod Reps Brian Gledhill
Gary Mortimer

Verger: Gail Townsend 0113 252 8710

Organist: Jason Hawkins

PCC Secretary: Dawn Tattersfield

PCC Treasurer Barbara Tate

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 & David Townsend 0113 2528710

Weekly News Sheet:. Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org
Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.
Mobile: 07745 301746
Contributions for the Weekly News Sheet
by Thursday evening please.

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Laura Mortimer,
Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, Sandra Gledhill, Pernoe Liburd, Jason Hawkins,
Heather Hawkins, David Townsend.

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

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Welcome!

Enjoy reading this Parish magazine and, if you wish to know more about Church Groups, please get in touch with the Movers and Shakers - their names are on the inside front & inside back covers. Service times are on the back page. You'd be most welcome to join us. May God bless you and all whom you love.

Parish News by Post

This magazine can be delivered monthly by sending a minimum donation of £12 a year to cover magazine costs including post and packaging to: Margaret Longden, 64 Woodkirk Gardens, Dewsbury WF12 7JA. Call Margaret on 01924 473064. It's a brilliant gift for friends or family living near or far. Cheque's to Woodkirk PCC please.

Web site & Twitter

Further news and pictures of what is happening at St Mary's can be found on our web site located at: www.stmarywoodkirk.org

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

Tomorrow will be a good day.

Captain Sir Tom Moore

Vicar's Letter

As I write this letter I am sat in my dining room looking out of the window. The day is warmer than it has been, the sky is blue and when I walked the dog this morning there was plenty of evidence of spring flowers in the churchyard. All seems good with the world today.

And yet, we are in Lent, a penitential time when Christians give something up as a self-sacrifice, and reflect on their relationship with God and repent for the things they have done wrong, or sometimes Christians will take something up extra eg prayer time, extra scripture readings etc and spend time deepening their faith.

My feelings this year, as I am sure many of you have or are experiencing is that we have lost enough, we have been challenged enough, and we have sacrificed much for the good of humankind during this pandemic and so my advice this year has simply been to be kind to yourself.

We will come through Lent stronger if we are kind to ourselves, we do have the hope of resurrection on Easter Sunday when once again we have a new start, a chance to turn towards God, a chance to live our lives in a new way thinking not of ourselves but of others.

The pandemic seems to me to have been an extended period of time similar to the three days between Good Friday and Easter Sunday where we experience the depth of loss, the hopeless and emptiness with a future that holds nothing but dread.

The Disciples had no idea what Easter Sunday meant. They only knew that Jesus had died in the most cruel and vicious way on a cross, and

if the authorities could crucify Him then it could be any of them next and so they hid in fear. It wasn't until the women went to the tomb and found it empty, and Jesus appeared to the Disciples that they began to realise all that Jesus had taught them was true. They understood in a new way the fullness of the Gospel message.

We, as a country, and as individuals have grieved for the loss of loved ones, the loss of businesses and jobs. Our children have lost their schooling and so much more besides.

We now stand as the Disciples did so many years ago on the brink of hope (though they didn't yet know it) as the Government lays out its four stage plan for the country. So many eyes were on the cross that day as Jesus died, so many eyes will be set on the 21st June as the end of the pandemic but though we don't know it yet, it is also the beginning of a new life, a different life, a better life but only if we continue to be sensible and think of others which is the very basis of Christian faith.

Jesus died on the cross for you and for me, so we could have that relationship with him, to encourage and enable us to be more than we can be for the benefit of each other, to think of those worse off than ourselves. We all need that Easter hope in our lives.

My prayers are with you

Sharon

Starry, starry night...

At the end of February there was much jubilation when a NASA 'rover' called 'Perseverance' landed successfully on the surface of Mars.

It's funny isn't it, I don't know about you, but I don't always think a lot about the stars and planets. But even setting aside the triumph of NASA and their 'rover', on two occasions recently I particularly made a note of looking at the stars. I was really giddy, I think it was during December, on a really clear night when, consulting an online map of the night sky, to be able to identify the planet Venus. I had noticed Orion and the Plough constellations but spotting a planet suddenly made me Sir Patrick Moore's able assistant!

As I stood there at my back bedroom window looking at those constellations I suddenly felt a feeling of awe and wonder and started to think about a biblical link about it.

Now I've set myself a challenge of reading the Bible in a year and one of the benefits of this is that things pop up and then you sort of half remember, and this happened on this occasion as I wondered about the stars. I looked back and found what I was looking for in Psalm 8, in particular verses 3 and 4 which say;

'When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them'.

I have a book of reflections on the psalms and Peter Graystone writes about psalm 8. He says..."Astronomy was a new science when this psalm was written. In Babylon, astronomers were

beginning to map the sky, and they already had tables accurately predicting lunar eclipses. However, they had no concept whatever of the vast numbers and distances that we know are involved, now that present day astronomers can turn their gamma ray telescopes toward the void. To the believer, then as now, gazing upward results in awe at the majesty of God and his love for humanity. To the sceptic, it affirms the impossibility of a creator being responsible for such an insignificant thing as human life on planet earth.

The reflection then refers to verse 2 which mentions ‘...praise out of the mouths of babes...’ and explains that regardless of whether the scale of the cosmos strengthens a belief in God or does the opposite, a baby has thoughts more powerful than a psalmist or scientist, a baby doesn’t attempt to explain God, nor measure him, nor reject him. A baby just wonders.

Nobody – not even the world’s most aggressive atheist – would tell a child that it’s ridiculous to be in awe of what is just a random evolutionary blip in the great godless progress of the cosmos. Instead, a child is encouraged to marvel.

Psalm 8 is a reminder that a little more childlike astonishment would be good for us all from time to time.”

For my own part, it did make me feel a little insignificant, but I think that is the point. However insignificant we feel, God made us and GOD LOVES US. God took time out of his macro creation project making everything from a formless void (Genesis 1:2) and in the midst of all that He made you and me.

If ever I sit and listen to Professor Brian Cox (Oh how I wish he’d been my physics teacher at school! (no offence dear Mr

Pearson!)) when he starts talking about the speed of light and other matters of particle physics, whilst I do find them interesting, and would love to understand them, after not very long 'my brain hurts' just trying to understand it all.

And yet, amongst all this 'Physics' amongst all the macro numbers of however many million or even billion light years away those little specks of light we call planets and stars are, whilst we look up at the night sky and wonder, we can also ponder that the God who made all this, also paused in the mightiness and created you and me, and not only that, cares for us and wants a relationship with us.

I'll finish with the very fitting words from the last verse of psalm 8...

'O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!'

Happy stargazing.

Love Dawn



The Characters of Easter: Judas

For Christians, we understand that Judas's story is at the centre of the **Easter** story. You cannot enter the Lenten season, break bread on Maundy Thursday, mourn on Good Friday, or rejoice on Resurrection. Without first passing through the still-shocking, hard-to-believe but true story of Judas Iscariot and his betrayal of Jesus.

Before Judas descended into infamy, he was a disciple of Jesus Christ, an Apostle, one of the twelve men chosen as part of Jesus' earthly ministry. It's hard to get Judas's kiss of betrayal out of our heads and it's hard to un-see his hands clasped around a bag of silver coins as he's leaving the temple treasury. Maybe if we parachuted into first-century Israel and interviewed the people who knew the most about Jesus of Nazareth, sat down with Jesus' closest friends and family, and queried the critics, maybe we would hear from them that they thought all those who followed were loyal, devoted, gifted men in this Jesus movement and Judas, son of Simon, was one of them.

We don't know when Jesus called Judas or the circumstances around it. We don't know when the Judean first laid eyes on the Galilean preacher, the unconventional rabbinic revolutionary from Nazareth. But what we do know is that he left whatever he was doing in his previous life to follow Jesus. We gloss over this as we read the gospel narratives, as if to be a disciple in those days was as simple as a twice-a-month visit to an air-conditioned building and the lip-syncing of a few worship songs. But to follow Jesus in the first century was a radical move, something only those on the devoted fringe were willing to do. Sure, Jesus drew crowds at times, swelling after He fed the thousands on the hillsides or healed the lame and the sick. But the crowds were fickle and also left when He spoke hard things (John 6:60).

Yet Judas didn't walk away then, didn't abandon Christ. Judas, for three years (imagine spending three years of your life doing anything), was locked in. And it's not like he was just a spectator; he, like the other disciples, was empowered by Jesus for a unique apostolic gospel ministry:

Summoning the Twelve, he gave them power and authority over all *the demons and to heal diseases*. *Then he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)*

Think about this. Judas Iscariot, yes, that Judas Iscariot, "proclaimed the kingdom of God" and healed the sick. There were people, many perhaps, whose hearts turned toward Christ because of Judas's preaching and whose sicknesses were healed by his hand. What is more, imagine what Judas saw in his three years side by side with Jesus. He witnessed Jesus still a raging sea with His words. He saw disabled men and women walk, the blind find sight, the demon-possessed find freedom. Judas participated in the miracle where Jesus took a little boy's lunch and turned it into a buffet for a stadium full of hungry people. Judas was there when a decomposing corpse named Lazarus shook off his grave clothes and came stumbling out of a cheap tomb. He saw Jesus give eternal life to the woman at the well, listened to Jesus preach in the synagogues, heard Him deliver the Sermon on the Mount.

Judas saw all of this, live. Participated in it. He did ministry in the name of Jesus. Judas was a gospel preacher. Remember Judas walked with Jesus for three years. He saw the greatest life ever lived up close and personal. You can't have a better model of faith than Jesus or a better environment for forming faith than Judas had in walking with the Saviour. It's hard to fathom. If you knew Judas, if you bumped into him in the market in Hebron or were in the crowd gathered as Jesus taught on the shores of Galilee or

caught a glimpse of Judas as he accompanied Jesus to the temple, would we be convinced, in our minds, that there were few people on the planet as all-in, as committed to the kingdom of God as Judas. So, Jesus' inner circle trusted him, so much so they made Judas the treasurer, the one who managed the books and collected the money for their fledgling movement.

Judas was loved, gifted, sacrificial. We will get to the betrayal, but we must first see Judas as the friend, the fellow Apostle, the devoted follower of Jesus. "My close friend," King David wrote centuries earlier in a foreshadowing of later betrayal of a future Son of David, ". . . has turned against me" (Ps. 41:9)

It is hard to believe that the one who saw Jesus up close, who preached salvation and whose hands brought healing, could turn on the One who called him. And yet looking back it might not be that surprising. Even in the words we see Judas use to describe Jesus: You will notice in the gospels he never calls Jesus "Lord." In Matthew, when he asks Jesus, "Surely not I, *Rabbi*" (Matt. 26:25). In the garden at Jesus' arrest, all the gospels have him addressing Jesus as "teacher." Never Lord. Contrast this with Thomas touching the resurrected Jesus, exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Or the disciples asking about their possibility of betrayal, saying "Is it, I Lord?"

But not Judas. Maybe this is significant. That he who was to be the traitor did not call him Lord but teacher, as if to have an excuse, upon rejecting the Lord, for having betrayed at most a teacher. And thus we see someone so very *close* to Jesus, who did "many wonderful things" in Jesus' name, who was familiar with the Jesus language and experienced in the Jesus movement, but never made Jesus Lord.

Jesus, as we know, is still with us today, but it is Jesus who demands we take up a cross, who promises are very important in our live, even in our suffering, who isn't content with being one of many options in our live, but demands our worship?

The truth is, while we easily dislike Judas at Easter, can we say at times in our life we have not been a bit like the betrayer than we would like to admit. We can easily be tempted to see Jesus as a vessel for our aspirations than as the Lord of our lives, the one worthy of worship and adoration and praise.

This Easter, maybe it would be helpful for us to remember that as we stand at the foot of the cross we too may have betrayed Jesus, from time and time, Jesus is faithful and just to all who repent, he forgive our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). While we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us.

Just one question to finish with when Jesus picked Judas to follow him did he already know he would be the one to betray him?

Gail

2021 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Well with a churchyard that stretches to over 11.5 acres, that's a fairly big garden for our birdwatch!!

You may remember that Dave Townsend and I took part in this event last year, but unfortunately didn't see an awful lot of birds. Well this year Dave and I were joined by two other 'willing' volunteers Gary and Caz, who both, despite having limited knowledge of birds, spent an hour in the churchyard keeping watch.

Well as was the case last year, we again could hear lots of birds, but not many of them landed.

Poor Caz sat for an hour and didn't see a single birdie (might have been the catsuit you were wearing Caz tee hee!) Dave saw a robin, blackbirds and pigeons, Gary had quite a good hour seeing sparrows, Blue Tits and Starlings, but I think I came out on top as a regular 'Bill Oddie' seeing Collared Doves, Magpies, Woodpigeons, a Blackbird, a Robin, blue tits and a little Coal Tit.

What was exciting was that the two Blue Tits I spotted seemed to be checking out a bird box that is in one of the mature trees, so perhaps we'll have a little family out in the churchyard this spring.

Margaret Longden also took part in the birdwatch in her back garden and I was able to submit the sightings for her onto the RSPB site, she had spotted Dunnocks, Blue Tits, Starlings, Sparrows, a Woodpigeon, Blackbirds, Collared Doves and Robins, and whilst Margaret is used to seeing lots more birds. Unfortunately during her 'hour', there was a Sparrow hawk keeping watch overhead so probably some of the birds that Margaret normally spots were keeping a low profile!

I would like to say a big thank you to my fellow 'twitchers' Gary 'Bill

Bailey' Mortimer, Caz 'Michaela Strachan' Bromley, Margaret 'Ellie Harrison' Longden and Dave 'Chris Packham' Townsend for all their help, especially as they had much cooler and breezier weather than I did which may have had an impact on the numbers of birds around at the time.

I will tell you a funny story that happened on the morning I was heading to the churchyard to complete my birdwatch hour...

A household near where I live have a rather large bird as a pet, I have only seen it a couple of times, but then recently on a local community facebook page, there was an appeal for information on sightings of this bird, it appeared that it had 'escaped'.

On the morning of my birdwatch I was heading for the garage to get something I could sit on in the churchyard and came to a sudden halt. Of any feathered friend I've seen sitting on our garage roof, I was unprepared for the sight of a bird of prey with a three foot wingspan! Yes indeed it was the missing bird, which it turns out is a Harris Hawk, a 'commonish' bird of prey kept as a pet for falconry.

Luckily, our neighbour was able to entice the bird from our roof back to its own garden, but it did make me giggle, I felt like ringing the RSPB Birdwatch Team and telling them that sadly I hadn't seen much in the way of garden birds but happened to have a bloomin great bird of prey land on my bird table!!

Isaiah 40:31

*"...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles..."*

Love and Eagles!

Dawn

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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)

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116 123
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National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

Pastoral Care

Telephone Calls—We understand times have been difficult—please know we are here if you need anything. Gail Townsend is our Pastoral Minister and she regularly telephones those who are unable to leave their homes at this time. If you would like Gail to give you a weekly call then please do not hesitate to contact her on 0113 252 8710.

Baptisms—We are still able to arrange Baptisms but with a limited number of people attending depending on tier levels—if you wish to make an enquiry or book a Baptism please contact Barbara Tate on 0113 253 1266.

Weddings, funerals, Ashes, or the reading of banns—in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events. Again there are limitations on numbers depending on tier levels. Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 0113 252 8710 or email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Notice Sheets—If you would like to receive a copy of our weekly Notice Sheet via email—then please drop me an email giving me permission to add you to the list.

We are GDPR compliant-vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Is God Going to Wipe Out the Ocean?

I've always loved the idea of being by the ocean. And in particular the beauty of looking out at the ocean and the ships, visualising where they are sailing to on that beautiful ocean. I'm not even a great swimmer and I was captivated by this view of the ocean. I hope to see the ocean again soon. But in Revelation 21:1, it says:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

If this is any indication, then I had better do it now. One of the greatest elements of God's creation is the sea, so why is he going to wipe it out? Has he got something against the ocean?

It's helpful, especially in a book like Revelation, to consider the importance of metaphor. All throughout the Scriptures the sea and the ocean is symbolic of chaos, danger, and evil. It's not surprising, then, that the great beast will come out of the sea (Rev 13). This is the place where all that is unpredictable and chaotic comes from.

So it's not surprising then that to a non-seafaring Israelite the sea would be happily eradicated. If God is going to create a new-heaven and new-earth where there isn't going to be crying or death or mourning then it's not surprising that he'd rid the earth of this nasty beast called the sea.

Author Philip Ryken's wrote:

The sea represents everything that chafes and frets under the dominion of God; everything that is out of our control. But there is nothing like that in the new heaven and the new earth. Everything there is under the orderly blessing of God.

Revelation 22:1 says: -

Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

And Verse 17:

Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters."

Reading these passages, I see no reason why God would remove the oceans.

First, let us consider what would happen if John had only said that we were getting a new heaven and a new earth? In a biblical worldview the cosmos is divided in three parts. The heavens (sky), the earth (land), and the sea. If God only redeems two of those three—and a great beast has already come out of sea to destroy the good—what would make us think this isn't going to happen again? So, it's absolutely necessary that John has everything within his scope of redemption.

But what type of redemption is this? The second reason I would view this as not a literal removal of the sea has to do with the nature of the new heaven and the new earth. What God is doing is making all things new by means of renewal and restoration. So, if the sea is no more, then the sea which is removed would be the old chaotic sea of the old order. My third reason. Consider the biblical storyline. Is there a literal sea in God's good creation? Are ocean's from after the Fall, or remnants of the flood? Consider Genesis 1:6. "God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good." If God is restoring humanity to an Edenic paradise doesn't it

make sense that the flowing waters of Eden, untainted by human sin, would not also be present in the new creation?

We cannot be dogmatic on this point because Scripture is not explicit. There is enough within the text of Scripture to push us towards a more metaphorical reading of Revelation 21:1, but not enough to be definitive. Maybe there will not be a sea.

But one thing we can be certain of. Christ, our King, has conquered and all evil and chaos has been defeated. There is no more uncertainty or pain or any other oceanic turmoil. It is peace. And it is beautiful.

I cannot swim well enough to snorkel in the oceans of today. The ocean still symbolises fear for me. It is beautiful, but it is fearsome. As we wait for Gods return to earth, we remember the last verses in Revelations 20:

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

And 21: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.

Gail



ST HILD THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE DECLARES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

A major theological training college with facilities in the Huddersfield area is looking to better protect God's creation by formally recognising the climate emergency.

St Hild College, which offers teaching in Sheffield, Mirfield, York and online, is taking steps to reduce its carbon emissions as it works towards carbon neutrality.

In 2017 St Hild became the first theological college to be awarded the A Rocha Eco-Church Bronze Award, and, in the four years since, environmental concerns have remained high on the college's agenda due to the work of the student-led Eco-Team.

The staff-student group is now pushing forward with the college's plans to address the climate crisis and to spread an urgent message of change to all its partner organisations.

St Hild hopes to influence not just the churches in which its students serve but also the schools, charities and businesses that those church members are involved in.

Mark Powley, Principal of St Hild, said: "Recognising a Climate Emergency is crucially important, and I am delighted St Hild is taking this step.

"As Christians we are responsible for protecting God's creation – and part of this means we must speak out about climate change.

"The crisis is happening now.

"Extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels and high levels of atmospheric carbon are resulting in catastrophic suffering for our fellow humans and the animal world.

"Far from being an empty gesture, I believe our recognising will not only cut the carbon footprint of the college but will also help the St Hild community, and the churches and organisations we are connected with, to be beacons of hope.

"I would like every church and Christian organisation to join us in making a formal declaration of the climate emergency during 2021."

Zero Carbon Church: You must be Joking!

By Jemima Parker

I can always get a laugh or at least a raised eyebrow by explaining that as part of my role as environment officer for the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, I'm encouraging our 600 or so churches to become carbon neutral in the next ten years. However, for many churches this will be quite a simple exercise that could be achieved this year. How?

Firstly, we need a bit of clarity on what net zero carbon or carbon neutral means. The Church of England has decided to start by only counting its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emission for the commitment to be net zero by 2030. That means carbon dioxide produced from directly burning fossil fuels (gas/oil heating and petrol/diesel used for church business travel) and carbon emitted from using fossil fuels to generate electricity.

What about the "net" carbon emission? Some activities take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere for example as trees grow they lock carbon into their leaves, trunks and roots and store it away. So tree planting can count as a carbon offset.

There are four steps to take to become a carbon neutral church.

Number 1: Measure the carbon footprint of the church. The new Energy Footprinting Tool which is part of the Online Parish Returns does most of this for you when you enter your energy bills. Or you can use the 360Carbon tool on the Climate Stewards website. Now you know where your carbon is coming from.

Number 2: Switch your electricity supply to a 100% renewable tariff. You can do this through the diocesan Green Journey scheme or another supplier. Now you have a clean no carbon electricity supply. If your church heating is electric you are nearly at net zero.

Number 3: If your church heating is gas or oil there are some longer term plans to be made to replace this with an electric based system such as under pew heating, electric radiators, far infra-red panels, air source or ground source heat pumps. In the meantime you could switch to a carbon offset gas tariff (such as the one offered by the Green Journey) to compensate.

Number 4: Church related travel may be a bit more complicated to calculate. Clergy and volunteer travel expenses or a survey to estimate these journeys by car will provide a reasonable evaluation. Reducing journeys by car, switching to public transport or active travel for those that can, car sharing and holding some meetings online will all help. Over the next ten years the move to electric vehicles will cut emissions for remaining journeys. What remains needs to be offset to bring the balance to zero.

There are many reputable and local carbon offsetting schemes, Climate Stewards is a Christian charity that offsets carbon at a cost of £20 per tonne of carbon dioxide. So if a church had 4 tonnes of carbon left after switching to a renewable electricity tariff, it would cost £80 a year to be net zero carbon.

There are a number of churches locally and nationally who are already carbon neutral, why not join them?

More detailed advice is available on the environment pages of the diocesan website www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/zero-carbon-church

Eco Top Tips

March – Going shopping

Make a list before you go food shopping to help avoid over impulse buying and buying food you will end up throwing away.

Reduce your impact on the environment by buying second hand when you can. Ebay and charity shops are good sources of reused items.

When you need to buy a large item research it carefully. Think about how long it could last, how much it costs to run, what it is made of, where it is made, can it be recycled at the end of its life. Better quality items often last longer and so cost you less over time.

Tempted to buy in impulse when you are shopping? Get in the habit of coming back the next day or week when you have thought through if you really *need* to buy it.

April – In the bathroom

Spend less time in the shower. Spending one minute less in the shower each day will save up to £7 off your energy bills each year, per person. Heating water uses a lot of energy.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins

Turn off the tap while cleaning your teeth. The clean water that flows out of your tap needs energy in many stages of processing and transport before it gets to the tap. Don't waste it!

If your toilet cistern holds more than 6 litres of water (likely if it was installed before 2001) put a Hippo Water Saving device (or a brick) in it to save water each time you flush (eg <http://www.hippo-the-watersaver.co.uk/>)

Fit a water efficient shower head (if you've got a shower that takes hot water straight from your boiler or hot water tank).

This will reduce your hot water usage while retaining the sensation of a powerful shower.

Switch to eco cleaning products which biodegrade in the sewerage system and don't damage aquatic life in our rivers and seas. They also contain less harmful chemical for us too.

May – In the utility room

When using a washing machine ensure there is a full load and turn down the temperature. Heating the water to higher temperatures uses more energy.

Electric tumble dryers use energy. If it's a nice day dry your clothes outside. In the winter most drying is done by the wind, so check the forecast for wind days and nights as you can hang washing overnight (as there is no dew in the winter).

Irons use a lot of electricity to get hot – only iron clothes that really need it.

Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as clothes for cleaning jobs rather than buying new cleaning clothes.

June – Holiday highlights

Going for a day out to the beach? Take a bag in your pocket and pick up any litter you see.

Planning your day out or holiday journey? Use public transport if you can to reduce your carbon emissions. Travelling by train or ferry to Europe can be part of the adventure.

If you are planning to fly for your holiday make sure you carbon offset the carbon you generate from your flight eg with Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org/

Holiday waste? When you are away try to take as much care to save energy, recycle, prevent food waste as you would at home.

Deanery Synod Report for Armley Deanery 2020

The plan at the start of 2020 was to have two Armley deanery only meetings (in January and July), and two Joint Leeds Deanery Synod meetings at St George's Leeds in March and October.

In January Armley Synod met at Ven Bede, Wyther, to discuss the new diocesan strategy, how we could use it as a resource, and how it might work alongside what we are already doing in our parishes. The evening was presented by Revd Sharon Wilkinson, and her questions stimulated a helpful discussion and greater understanding of the issues.

The Joint Synod in March had a focus on lay training, with a presentation by Revd Angela Hannafin on the range of courses now available. See <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/> A number of participants shared their experience of using the Discovery course, and synod members discussed in groups what training they had appreciated in the past, and would value for the future.

The planned Armley deanery meeting for July was cancelled because of the pandemic situation.

The subject in October (a Joint Synod on Zoom) was health and well-being, with an interesting perspective from Revd Dr Gillian Straine (Guild of St Raphael) on what the healing ministry is, that it is about having a full, right relationship with God, not just physical healing, and she explained that it can involve sacramental ministry, pastoral care, and dying well. The meeting also heard from Revd Canon Ben Rhodes, head of chaplaincy, Leeds teaching hospitals, about the role of chaplains and the impact of COVID in Leeds.

We are thankful for the work of Revd Lindsey Pearson (Area Dean), David Jorysz (Armley Deanery Lay Chair), and Jo Sarkar for her administrative work on our behalf.

Revd Sue McWhinney (Armley Deanery Secretary).

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.



THE PARABLE OF THE ATHEIST AND THE GRIZZLY BEAR

An atheist was walking through the woods
'What majestic trees! 'What powerful rivers! 'What beautiful animals!
He said to himself.
Suddenly, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him.
He turned to look . . . and saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him.
He ran as fast as he could along the path.
He looked over his shoulder & saw that the bear was closing on him
He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer
and then He tripped and fell.
Rolling over to pick himself up, he found the bear was right on top of
him....reaching towards him with its left paw ... and raising the right
paw to strike ...
At that instant the Atheist cried out, 'Oh my God!'
Time Stopped ...The bear frozeThe forest was silent
A bright light shone upon the man,
and a voice came out of the sky ...
"You deny my existence for all these years, you teach others I don't
exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident
Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament?"
"Am I to count you as a believer?"
The atheist looked directly into The Light
"It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a
Christian now ... but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?"
.. a pause ...
"Very well," said the voice ...
The light went out.
The sounds of the forest resumed ...
And the bear dropped his right arm
brought both paws together
bowed his head & spoke ... "Lord, bless this food, which I am about to
receive"
Trevor

Albert's March Quiz

1. Who created the fictional world of Lilliput?
2. What is an affidavit?
3. What was Madonna's first UK number one single?
4. What is the official anthem of the Women's Institute?
5. What Day made famous by a film starring Bill Murray, is celebrated every February 2nd?
6. The battle of Spion Kop took place in what war?
7. What name links the International Court of Justice, a former leader of the Conservative party and a character from Babylon 5?
8. What international newspaper was founded by Mary Baker Eddy?
9. Pyongyang is the capital of which country?
10. What is the most northerly capital city in the world?
11. The Tivoli Gardens are in which Scandinavian capital city?
12. Which composer wrote Clair de Lune?
13. What was the make of the Doc's car in the film 'Back to the Future'?
14. What is the highest mountain in Africa?
15. Explorer Ferdinand Magellan was from which European country?

(Answers on page 35)

Church Mouse Tales

One fine morning my friend Hubert, the Black Canon saw me approaching - a feat in itself as his eyes aren't that good these days and I'm not so tall.

'So Misha can you remind me where we are up to with the Abbott?' He asked a little concerned.

'Yes, well, you sent him a letter thanking him for the nice service he performed at Christmas'.

'Yes – that's right.' Hubert smiled at the memory.

'Yes, well - then he sent a letter back thanking you for thanking him for the nice service he performed at Christmas'.

'Yes, he did, yes. Very kind, very kind.'

'Then you sent him a letter back thanking him for thanking you for thanking him for the nice service he performed at Christmas'.

'So I did, yes - a really nice gesture, I felt...'

'Then he sent a letter back thanking you for thanking him for thanking you for thanking him for the nice service he performed at Christmas'.

'Ah yes, exemplary.' Hubert's smile was unfaltering.

'...and that's where we are up to...'

'Oh I see. Well I'd better send him a letter then....'

'Does this go on for a long time?' I asked curiously.

'Oh no – only until the next event takes place. One wouldn't want to be impolite.' Hubert seemed surprised by the question.

'When will that be?'

'Easter...'

'And then what happens?'

'I'm sure I'll be able to thank him for the nice Easter service.....'

I couldn't help the little shudder in my spine..

Misha.



To send or not to send. That is the Question.

It was pleasing to read in the pew sheet that £465 had been raised for Church funds, by people making donations in lieu of not sending Christmas Cards this year. I know the writing of Christmas cards can be a chore, and indeed expensive due to the cost of postage. However, there are many reasons why Christmas cards are sent, one of which is contained in the following poem which I invite you to read.

*There is a list of folks we know all written in a book,
and every year at Christmas time we go and have a look.
And that is when we realise that those names are a part,
not of the book they are written in, but of our very heart.*

*For when you've met somebody, the years cannot erase,
the memory of a pleasant word or a loving face.
Never think our Christmas Cards are just a mere routine,
of names in a list, forgotten in between.*

*For be you a relative or friend or just someone we've met,
you happen to be one we'd rather not forget.
And whether we've known you many years or few,
in some way you have had a part in shaping the things we do.*

*So, as you read this message that we send at Christmas time,
know that we send you our love while you are on our mind.*

I cannot think of a better way of conveying the meaning of The Christmas Story, that of love and goodwill to all men, than by sending or receiving a Christmas Card. May this Tradition long continue.

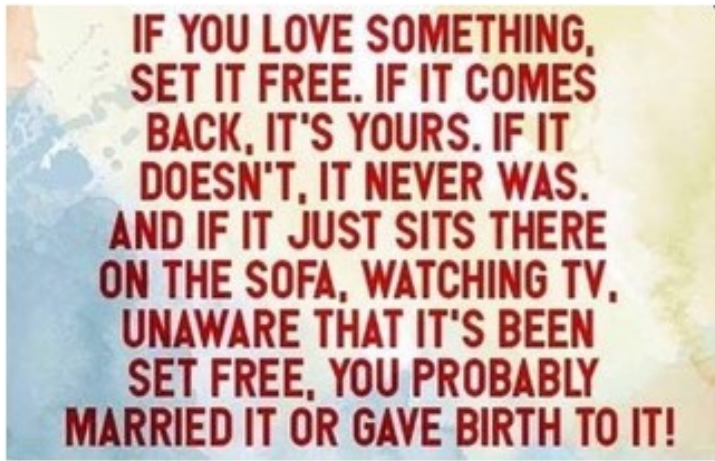
Trevor Sykes

Answers to Albert's Quiz

1. Jonathan Swift, 2. A sworn written statement 3. Into the groove, 4. Jerusalem, 5. Groundhog Day, 6. Boer War, 7. Hague, 8. Christian Science Monitor, 9. North Korea, 10. Reykjavik, 11. Copenhagen, 12. Debussy, 13. DeLorean, 14. Mt. Kilimanjaro, 15. Portugal.

Albert Shaw

Trevor's Comedy Corner



EVOLUTION 🤪



2019

2020

2021

The 3 stages of life...

1. You don't want to
sleep but you have to.

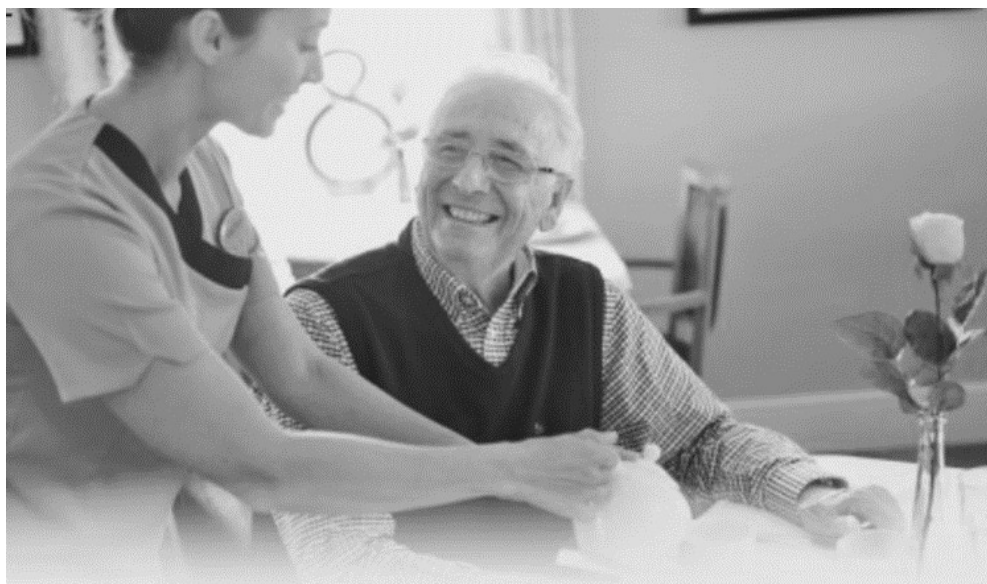


2. You want to sleep
but you can't.



3. You don't
want to sleep
but you do.





Lydgate Lodge *a great place to live*

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

Son of Resident at
Lydgate Lodge

(carehome.co.uk review)

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

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

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

Passing by? Pop in for a cuppa ...

Lydgate Lodge Care Home

Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ

lydgate.lodge@idealcarehomes.co.uk

01924 355 020

ideal carehomes

idealcarehomes.co.uk

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—We welcome into our Church family:—



DEATHS



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

Trevor Masters; Brian Butterfield; Geoffrey Ginger; Audrey Gill; Donald Shaw; Doreen Rita Killingbeck.

WEDDINGS

We are looking forward to having weddings in 2021.

Watch this space!



Tumble Bees



Pre-School Gymnastics

The Hive @
Woodkirk Valley Country Club

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Toddler Classes



Fun Themed Terms
Badge &
Certificates

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

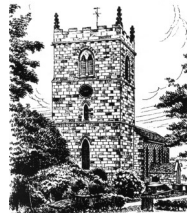
Parish Centre Rentals

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

**Nominal Cost is £60 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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3 HOLLY COURT
TINGLEY

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

Playgroup Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

9:30am to 11.25am

Becky Schofield 07811 146958

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children

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

Cheryl 07948271688

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

4th Sunday of the Month

10:30am in Church

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm

Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm

Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

Keep Fit Class Thursday 8:00pm (Over 60's)

Margaret Hampshire 01924 476721

Young at Heart 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

Diary and Services in March

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

14th March - Mothering Sunday

28th March - Palm Sunday

Holy Week

(Currently streamed but look out for updates on Facebook)

Mon 29th March Reflective Service at 7.00pm

Tues 30th March Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm

Weds 31st March Reflective Service at 7.00pm

Thurs 1st April Maundy Thursday - Reflective Service and Watch 7.00pm

Fri 2nd April Good Friday - Solemn Service at 2.00pm

Sat 3rd April - Easter Vigil and Service of Light 8.00pm

Sun 4th April - Easter Sunday - 10.30am He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia.

.....

**Each Sunday there will be a Holy Communion Service
10.30am**

**Each Wednesday there will be a Holy Communion Service
10.00am.**

**There will be streamed Lent Reflective Services on
Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm**

.....

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

Each Monday and Friday—Morning Prayer at 9.00am

Each Tuesday—Evening Prayer at 6.00pm

Each Thursday-Night Prayer (Compline) at 9.00pm

**Please see Page 31 for details of how to join a streamed
service**