

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

May 2024



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

www.stmarywoodkirk.org

Who's who at Woodkirk

- Vicar of St Mary's:** **Reverend Sharon Wilkinson.**
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E-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org
- Reader:** Dawn Tattersfield 07840 739239
- Lay Pastoral Minister** Gail Townsend 07792 975814
- Churchwardens:** Gary Mortimer 07740 760556
Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
- Assistant Churchwardens:** David Townsend
- Deanery Synod Reps** Brian Gledhill
Gary Mortimer
- Verger:** Gail Townsend 07792 975814
- Organist:** Currently vacant
- PCC Secretary:** Dawn Tattersfield
- PCC Treasurer** Barbara Tate 07792 211095
- Social Chairman:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
- Parish Centre Hire:** Sally Shaw 01924 475048
-
- Child Protection Officer:** Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239
- Health & Safety Officer:** Brian Gledhill 01924 405790
Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239
- Electoral Roll Officer:** Dave Townsend 0113 2528710
- Data Protection
and Legacy Officer** Neal Pinder-Packard 0113 252 4001
- Magazine Editor** David Townsend 0113 2528710
Email: Dave@stmarywoodkirk.org
Magazine Articles by the 20th of the month.

Elected Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Gary Mortimer, Neal Pinder-Packard, Dawn Tattersfield, Laura Mortimer,
Barbara Tate, Gail Townsend, David Townsend, Brian Gledhill, Cath Oakes

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

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Contact: The Editor (see page 2)

Annual Fee for Advertising:

Quarter Page £35.00

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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.

Vicar's APCM Letter

As always, I will start with a very big thank you to all who have served God at St Mary's this past year. Your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed and I think one of the most positive things about St Mary's is it's unity and that we have grown together as one family, not always agreeing but always working together to seek God's mission and to individually grow in faith.

The Wardens, Licensed Lay Minister, Pastoral Minister, Treasurer (and Deputy) and PCC should be commended for the work they have undertaken this past year.

The PCC have worked tirelessly again this year to ensure that the best possible care has been taken of the fabric of the building and that all relevant local and national procedures have been adhered to.

The PCC have also given equal weight to mission, pastoral care, preaching and teaching, encouraging and enabling others to become involved in the life and worship of St Mary's. Dawn our Licensed Lay Minister has gone above and beyond in responding to invites to prepare worship services, preach and lead services. In her many other roles, particularly around Safeguarding and Health and Safety, Dawn has excelled and ensured that we as a PCC and those in named positions have completed all relevant training and DBS checking as required by law.

Despite a very difficult personal year for our Pastoral Minister Gail, slowly she has recovered and re-entered into her main role of pastoral care for those in church and for those who no longer can attend church by taking Home Communion to them. I think for her it has been a 9 month period of learning patience, that said, it was my pleasure to relicense Gail for a further 3 year period as Pastoral Minister to St Mary's Church, Woodkirk and thank Gail for her many long years of service in this role.

Dawn in her role as Environmental Officer and with the support of a small group of congregation members, along with the support of the congregation, brownies, rainbows, cubs, scouts, hilltop school, articles, preaching and teaching has ensured that

all relevant tasks and sections have been completed so that we as a church were proud to receive a Silver Eco Award.

The Church Wardens, Brian and Gary have done a wonderful job in supporting me as Vicar and have many and varied roles within church and also out of

Church as they are both members of the Deanery Synod – which is a forum that attempts to share good practice and knowledge so that all churches benefit from such shared experiences.

Financially, this has been an extremely difficult year. We did not meet our Parish Share last year and this year we are falling behind once more at an even greater rate. Inflation has hit most people hard and giving is slightly up but the number of givers are down. No one likes to think of paying the Parish Share but put simply if you can't pay your mortgage you lose your home and the Diocese cannot continue to train vicars, pay vicars and keep vicarages going without such monies being paid.

That said, we have a Treasurer (and deputy) who are extremely responsible, and produce a budget, monthly reports, and three monthly reports against budget. Barbara (and ultimately Cath) will report to the PCC each month and it is the PCC who is ultimately responsible for all outgoings and incomings. Thank you both for all your hard work month by month and in the production of the year end accounts that are sent to Diocese.

In light of this financial position, I am left with no option but to preach and to teach in the coming months about giving both as an act of generosity and as an intention of our faith journey. I also think it will help to see exactly what is spent and where it is spent.

As you know we have been fundraising for the East Window and just before Christmas we found out that we had been turned down for a Heritage Lottery Grant which if granted would have enabled us to complete this work. We have now gone back to them to see if they can advise us how to make this grant application successful. It can feel depressing at times because the quotes given are only for six months which means we will have to get new quotes, but we have to continue to drive this forwards as much as we can. Thank you to all who have generously given.

We continue to successfully rent out the Parish Hall which is used

by the following groups: Line Dancing, Pilates, ABC, Knit & Natter, Young at Heart, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Parish Hall is also rented out for parties and events on an ad hoc basis and my thanks goes to Sally who organises these extra events.

We continue to have good relationships with all those who hire the hall and appreciate the support of our uniformed organisations at our All Age Services and particularly at Remembrance Sunday.

One important thing to mention is that the Knit & Natter group have been very successful in reaching and engaging into the community with their Post Box Toppers and it is my pleasure to let you know that they have been nominated for an Award in the prestigious WF3 Awards which run each year.

The children's group ABC has been running well on Wednesday and Thursday mornings to such an extent that we opened ABC once a week in the school holidays. Thank you to Charlotte who runs this group so successfully. All Age Worship continues every second Sunday and the puppets have been an integral part in this service. Thanks to Brian and Sandra.

We continue to stream all our Services on our Facebook page and we are now averaging 18/19 people on a Wednesday morning and around 35/40 on a Sunday morning. Morning, Evening and Night Prayer have become an integral part of our home worship.

Advent and Lent Groups were well attended and for our most recent in person Lent Group almost 50% of our congregation attended. They are challenging, and discussion can get heated but the egg sandwiches are always a winner except for one member who has ham! Feed back from many who attended appreciated the spiritual nature of these groups and the challenges posed.

As a church we meet regularly with non church members through births, deaths and marriages – baptism, funeral and wedding services allow us to meet people in their happy and sad places, a time often when God is recognised and questions are asked. So thank you to all those who sensitively minister to those in need at these particular and important times in their lives.

Congratulations to Colin and Joanne Lenton who were confirmed at

St Peter's Church, Morley by Bishop Arun. They greatly appreciated the support of those who went to with them from St Mary's.

We have several community events Family Fun Day, Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Festival and these are well supported with all the local schools displaying Christmas Trees. It is a pleasure that Dawn and I go into the local schools on a monthly basis and I am one of the Governors at Hill Top Primary Academy.

We have continued to have tentative links with Woodkirk Academy and we have been asked to do assemblies and there have been talks of setting up a Christian Union. Dawn and I are waiting to be DBS checked for this.

As a PCC we are indebted to the Gardening Team consisting of Dave, Brian, Gary and Brian; and the Community Payback Team for their continued work on the churchyard. Without them we could not maintain the amount of work that needs to be done.

We also had to say goodbye to our previous Organist Maryon Hardie and this position remains vacant at the present time. We welcomed Anne Pinder-Packard as our new Florist and my thanks to her for all her hard work.

There are many unsung heroes who tirelessly give of their time – St Mary's Guild who are responsible for cleaning the brasses and altar linen. The Cleaning Team who keep our church and Parish Hall so clean and presentable, the Sidespeople who offer welcome and the Tea Person's who offer hospitality, to the readers and intercessors on our rotas – thank you for serving God and this church.

I am truly blessed to be the Vicar at St Mary's Church and I will continue to pray for God's providence to be upon us and guide us in our life and mission as we move forwards.

I stand by the fact that I lead in an open style, and that my door is always open for discussion or a cup of coffee.

You will be in my prayers.

Sharon

TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023.

Sadly another year when we have struggled to keep our heads above water. After we joined the Parish Giving Scheme, we had hoped that our donors who gave via the Planned Giving Envelope system would move over to the Parish Giving Scheme. This has only happened in a few cases. The scheme continues to work well with the monthly donations being received in the first week of the month and Gift aid donations a week later. Our monthly Standing Order donors continue and the Gift Aid on these donations is claimed quarterly. I also claim GADS on an annual basis (this is gift aid on small donations - under £20). The Parish Giving System is saving me some work but not as much as I had hoped!

Our efforts in raising money for the repair of the East Window continues. In May we decided to put £25,000 of the money already raised on deposit with CCLA, in a separate account to our other investments. By the end of the year this had made £444 in interest. Sadly our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was turned down. Our Parish Share for 2023 did not increase and remained at £39313 - we paid £23500 of this, just under 60%. Our Share for 2024 has, however increased to £43244, an increase of 10%.

We have not felt the full impact of the increase in heating and lighting bills as we were on a fixed rate contract until the end of August. Whilst the last quarter bills have increased, we only took out a one year contract and so hope to benefit from the lower prices when we renew in 2024. St Mary's Church Tel: 01924 472375 e-mail: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org Rev'd Sharon Wilkinson Woodkirk Vicarage 1168 Dewsbury Road Dewsbury WF12 7JL.

Our usual annual Fund Raising took place and the Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Festival exceeded all expectations this year making over £2,000. Our Annual Family Fun Day made over £1,600. We also

held Coffee Mornings and Soup Lunches.

I may sound like a broken record, but we do aim to pay more of our Parish Share - things keep happening to stop us. Things like Trees falling down, walls falling down, new lights needed in Parish Centre, Lightening Conductor repairs. We continue to designate £500 per month towards these repairs which are mostly unexpected, along with our running costs which continue to go up.

As usual my grateful thanks to Richard Atkinson who continues to be our Independent Examiner for no cost. I am also grateful for the help and support of Rev Sharon and the rest of the PCC. In anticipation of my demise, Rev Sharon has enlisted Cath Oakes to eventually take over the Treasurership. (I'm not giving up yet) but thanks to Cath for being willing and being on the learning curve.

As always we will count on God's help to get us through.

Barbara
PCC Treasurer

PCC Secretary's Annual Report 2024

PCC Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, and this report covers the period April 2023 to March 2024. Meetings are face to face and always begin and end with prayer.

There are a number of standing items on the agenda which include the important areas of Finance, Health and Safety and Safeguarding and Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) which amongst many things also includes mission and social events. These items provide a structure that enables us to direct our thoughts and actions. We keep our knowledge up to date and ensure all necessary legal requirements are met in both Health and Safety and Safeguarding.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held in Church on the 21st May 2023, and here are some highlights from the year to share with you.

Worship

We continue to live stream services onto Facebook Sunday to Friday with Daily prayers Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri and streaming of in person Holy Communion Services on Wednesday and Sunday. These services are well received by those who don't necessarily reside in the Parish, but also when attendance in person is not possible. Providing thoughtful and relevant services continues to be a core focus for the Ministry team.

Health and Safety

We continue to undertake monthly monitoring for Health and Safety Purposes, Four members of PCC received Fire Marshall Refresher Training and all necessary reporting and monitoring of this vital area is maintained.

Safeguarding

We ensure that our Safeguarding Policies and procedures are up to date, using a Diocesan tool called 'Parish Safeguarding Dashboard' which supports this and also ensure, on a rolling programme that all 'office' holders keep their Safeguarding Training up to date.

Summary from PCC Meetings

April

We started with some good practical activities with the completion of the painting of the Parish Centre Corridor and the Lightning Conductor was serviced and updated to meet new requirements. Within LYCiG (Leading Your Church into Growth) we talked about the Easter Services and we talked about future planned events for the Coronation, World Bee Day and Christian Aid Week. We also discussed necessary succession planning for key roles in the church.

May

We received updated quotes from the contractors for the restoration of the East Window which increased the overall cost by just over £8,500. Arrangements had been made with a local trainer who was going to provide Heartstart 'CPR' Training. We reviewed the Coronation Afternoon Tea which had been a hugely successful event, and confirmed the date of the Family Fun Day.

June

We were delighted to learn that over £1,600 was raised at the family fun day, Sharon had pushed the event on local social media sites which proved worthwhile as lots of families attended the event. Some of our policies were reviewed and adopted, and 10 people had attended the Heartstart Training.

July

Internet banking was now up and running so expenses can be paid by bank transfer reducing the number of cheques needing to be written. Cath Oakes had agreed to shadow Barbara as Treasurer as part of succession planning. Dates for Coffee mornings on Fridays throughout the summer were shared and volunteers fixed for running them. There had been a really successful Teddy Bears Picnic (held in the Parish Centre due to the weather) with 30 children and adults attending. Two 'Bug Hotels' had been installed thanks to the Rainbows and Brownies, and the goodie bag being presented to years 5 and 6 following a poster competition was shared. This included some items from Leeds City Council's Recycling /Education Team. One of the large beech trees in the churchyard had lost a big branch and the appropriate diocesan approval was received to undertake the necessary tree work with an arborist being booked to undertake the work.

There was no PCC Meeting in August as the PCC took a well earned break although the PCC joined together for a social event.

September

There had been a successful Heritage event on the 9th September with the church registers open for viewing, food available and churchyard tours as well as information boards sharing historical information from the church and war memorial as well as updates on the churchyard progress, environmental endeavours and local history groups in attendance. The environment group were also delighted to share that the application for an Eco Church Silver Award had been approved.

October

The large fallen beech branch had been dealt with. The Defibrillator Battery had to be replaced, and unfortunately a request to local councillors to help with funding had proved

fruitless. Due to the essential benefit to the community of the defibrillator, the battery was provided by church funds. It was confirmed that tople testing was undertaken in September, and a Safeguarding Update Report was presented to the PCC by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

November

A new set of defibrillator pads had been purchased to replace a set that were used in late September. These were funded by a generous donation. Maintenance work on the boiler and some leaks in the Parish Centre were dealt with and a new fridge was bought. We reviewed All Souls and Remembrance Services and discussed setting up for the Christmas Tree Festival and Fair and arrangements made for the New Years Eve Picnic Lunch.

There was no meeting in December.

January 2024

All necessary follow up tasks from the tople test had been completed, sadly there were one or two additional leaks in the parish centre to sort out. Barbara was having 'fun' with the utility company trying to install a smart meter. Christmas events and services were reviewed and although a number of the team had been ill with colds etc over Christmas all services had been held, well attended and enjoyed. Soup lunches introduced in the Autumn were to resume and it was agreed that the Silver Eco Award would be presented by Rev Sharon in February. There would be a special service at the end of January for Gail's recommissioning as Lay Pastoral Minister, and there was to be a Episcopal area Confirmation service in Morley at the end of February.

February

Another tople test had been completed with Thomas providing some excellent photographs for the 'Friends of Woodkirk Churchyard' Facebook Page, and the leaks had been sorted in

the Parish Centre. The Safeguarding Policy and Procedure were reviewed and adopted for this year and four members of PCC had completed a refresher Fire Marshall Training Course.

March

The minutes of the March meeting are due to be approved at the PCC meeting being held on 8th April and so cannot be included in this report, but will be added to my 2025 report.

As you can see, your PCC have been very busy this past year and continue to make plans for 2024/25. The PCC continue to work diligently, and though small in number are big hearted and continue to strive to provide support for the church and community we serve.

Dawn Tattersfield PCC Secretary April 2024

Knit and Natter APCM Report

Wednesday afternoons 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Our knit and natter group have been meeting for two and a half years and in that time many knitted, crocheted and stitched items have been completed by the lovely members of the group. Much tea, coffee and cake has been munched and lots and lots of nattering has been done.

However, this is not all, because since we started October 2021 we have been able to donate £1,750 to the Church East Window Appeal



and also the wonderful ladies have used their skills for items for a stall at the Christmas Fair as well as contributing to my constant requests for things for postbox toppers and appeals from hospitals for blankets, hats and hearts.

We lost founder member and 'Mrs Speedy Knit' Elaine in October but happily we have had some new members too so our numbers are around 14 ladies who meet weekly and enjoy sharing our crafting passions as well as having lots of fun.

We were delighted to be nominated in the WF3 Kindness Awards and will be attending their big gala evening on the 7th April. We don't do our community knitting for awards, but still it was lovely that people thought so highly of our work to nominate us. Each time I put up a topper I am amazed by all the lovely comments we receive from our community with some people making a special trip to take photos etc.

We are working on two new toppers which will be placed in the coming months, and my thanks to all the amazing ladies who give of their time and talents during our weekly sessions.

Dawn Tattersfield

(Occasional knitter and Chief Natterer!)



APCM 2023/24 WARDENS REPORT

The fabric of the Church remains in a reasonable condition. We continue to try and work in line with our architect's quinquennial report, however some of his recommendations stretch currently beyond our reach financially.

The East Window continues to be a concern, although funds have been raised through grants and kind donations. We applied to The Heritage Lottery for the remaining amount, unfortunately this was declined due to us not meeting their criteria. We will continue to pursue other means of funding going forward.

The toilets at the back of church have been repainted along with the storage cupboard area.

A section of the churchyard perimeter wall adjoining the private house at the far end collapsed onto the private property. This has been repaired to a high standard and is now safe and secure.

Regarding the Parish Centre. We discovered a couple of roof leaks, one to the main roof and another to the roof above the corridor to the toilets. The main roof damage was repaired by a member of the payback team who was a professional roofer, at no cost to us for which we are truly grateful.

The leak over the toilet area was repaired in house at a minimal cost. The lighting in the main hall had become obsolete and had to be updated. All the lights have now been replaced with modern led lighting which should last for years to come.

To conclude. Our thanks go out to the payback team for everything they do for us, especially the maintenance of our churchyard.

As Wardens we will continue to serve our church to the best of our abilities.

Brian Gledhill.

Gary Mortimer.

Help us raise £'s to fight poverty



Once again we are asking for your help to support the work of Christian Aid.

Whilst Christian Aid help with many different emergencies for this year's Christian Aid Week Appeal they are asking us to raise funds to help 'Push back against the inhumanity of poverty'.

Poverty pushed Aline in Burundi to the brink of survival. She was abused, homeless and hungry. But Aline pushed back harder. With Christian Aid funded small business training she achieved what had seemed impossible, a vital income for her and her children.

Gary, Dave and I will be undertaking a sponsored walk of approximately 6 miles on Thursday 16th May (we're hoping the sun will shine on us!).

A sponsor form will be available in church or you can speak to any of the three of us. If you feel able to sponsor us, any amount no matter how large or small would be brilliant.

You can also donate via the church bank account details are given below:-

Virgin Money

Sort Code 05-01-31 Account Number: 31405751

Account Name: Woodkirk PCC

Please put Walk in the reference.

You can also leave donations in an envelope in the plate in church after a service, or pay using your card in the machine at the back of church. (If you do donate via the card machine can you let myself or Barbara know so that we can see it is allocated to Christian Aid).

Once again, thank you so much, in advance, for your support.

Dawn x

GEORGE JEMIMA & TOMMY.
A GHOST STORY

Jemima pops up all alone

Jemima Oh, that's funny, where's the terrible two

From behind the wall.

George. Come on Tommy, hurry up, she'll only kick off if we're late.

Tommy I've just stood in some dog poo, give me a minute.

Both pop up.

Tommy. Hello Jemima, sorry we're late.

Jemima. Phew, what's that smell.

Tommy. Must be George.

George. Aw yeah, rock on Tommy.

Jemima. Ok, you're both here now, so what's occurring?

George. Nowt really, you Tommy?

Tommy. Nowt, just chilling.

Jemima. Aw come on boys, we've just had Easter, you must have done something or gone somewhere.

George. Yeah I suppose so, where have you been rocking Tommy?

Tommy. Oh, I got dragged into going round some garden centres with my mum cause she wanted some flowers for church, she did buy me lunch though.

George. And what about you little miss sunshine?

Jemima. Oh, I had a lovely Easter. I visited Harewood House.

Tommy. And did you see any Hares?

George. I love you Tommy.

Jemima. No Tommy, Harewood House is a stately home.

George. And I suppose you ended up at Betty's Tea Rooms in Harrogate?

Jemima. How did you guess?

George. BORING!!!

Tommy. So where did you go then George?

George. Blackpool, the costa blanca of the north.

Tommy. My dad says it's more like costa packet.

Jemima. Well, you're both wrong, it's called Las Vegas of the north, not costa blanca.

George. Oh yeah, it's just like Las Vegas, the waves thrashing up over the prom, the wind blowing ya fish and chips out of your hands while nearly getting run over by a tram.

Tommy. Anyway George, what did you do in Blackpool?

George. I went to the Clever Beach.

Jemima. Pleasure Beach.

George. I know it's The Pleasure Beach, but that's a matter of opinion.

Tommy. Why, what happened?

George. The first bit was very funny actually.

Jemima. Oh, please do tell.

George. Well, we saw this little kiosk thing with a sign over it saying Gypsy Petulengro Fortune Teller, so my dad said he was going in.

Tommy. And!?

George. I went in with him, and sat at this table was this old hag, which I can only describe as looking like Miriam Margolyes with her head bashed in.

Jemima. So, go on.

George. Well, she said to my dad, "what can I do for you". My dad said, "I would like my palm read". So, she hit it with a spanner.

Jemima. Get away!!

Tommy. Did you go on The Big One George?

George. Do you mean that great big roller coaster?

Tommy. Yep!

George. I did, but I threw up.

Jemima. What.? When you got off?

George. No, halfway down the first massive dip.

Tommy. What happened?

George. I couldn't help it, I just let rip. The worst of it is that we were sat in the front seats and the thing was going that fast, so my sick went straight over my head. The people in the next three rows back were not right happy, I can tell you.

Tommy. Ughhhhhhh!!

George. My Mum told me I had a weak stomach, I told her I threw it as far as I could.

Jemima. Did you go on anything else George?

Tommy. Yeah , The Ghost Train, that's my favourite.

George. Nah, I don't like ghosts.

Tommy. Don't be daft George, there's no such things as ghosts.

George. There is too.

Jemima. How do you know George?

George. Cause I've seen one.

Jemima. Where?

George. In our garden shed.

Tommy & Jemima. WHEN!?

George. Last week.

Jemima. Come on then, tell us all about it.

Tommy. Yeah, come on George.

George. Well, me and my dad were in the shed early evening, just before dark, putting the lawn mower and other stuff away. We both turned round to leave when we saw the dark figure of a man stood in the corner of the shed. He was a ghost, cause you could sort of see right through him.

Tommy. Who was he, did he say anything?

George. Oh, yeah, in fact he was very friendly. He spoke to us, he said he was the ghost of a very famous gardener from the past. He said he was Percy Throwup or something like that.

Jemima. Percy Thrower, you idiot.

Tommy. Shush Jemima, go on George.

George. My dad said he didn't believe in ghosts, and no one's going to believe me when I tell em. So Percy said "Well take my photograph then." So, my dad ran into the house and came back with his camera.

Jemima. So, what happened then?

George. Well, me and Percy sat posed together on the bench. My dad said say cheese, clicked the camera, and the blooming flash didn't go off.

Tommy SO!?

George. My dad got the flash working again but when he turned around Percy had disappeared.

Tommy. So, you didn't get his picture then?

George. No.

Jemima. I suppose it was a case of the spirit was willing, but the flash was weak.

Tommy. What did I tell you, there's no such things as ghosts and until I see one for myself, that's how it is with me.

George. OOOHH!!! We've got our very own doubting Thomas here Jemima.

Jemima. Yes George. It reminds me of the gospel reading in church on Sunday. Remember when the disciples were in the room talking about Jesus when Jesus appeared and stood among them. They were startled and afraid, thinking they saw a ghost and Jesus said to them "Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and feet, it is myself. Touch me and see. Doubting Thomas....."

Tommy. That's me.

George. Shut it, Tommy. Go on Jemima.

Jemima. Doubting Thomas touched Jesus' hands and feet. Jesus said "a ghost does not have flesh and bones. As you see, I have. Jesus then ate with them and then said to them "This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms. He said to them "The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations" You are witnesses to all these things.

Tommy. Wow, I think I might believe in ghosts now.

George. Rock on Tommy. Let's go.

Jemima. Say goodbye boys.

George & Tommy. Goodbye boys.

All pop down and start singing from behind the wall.

All. There's something strange in the neighborhood, who ya gonna call.

GHOST BUSTERS!!

Pastoral Care

Telephone Calls—We understand times are 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 07792 975814.

Baptisms—If you wish to make an enquiry or book a Baptism please contact Barbara Tate on 07792 211095 in the first instance. Barbara will then arrange to visit you and book your Baptism into our Diary.

Funerals & Ashes - in the first instance please contact our Verger who co-ordinates these events.

Our Co-ordinator is Gail Townsend on 07792 975814 or email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org.

Weddings and Banns

In the first instance please contact our Vicar or Church Warden Gary Mortimer on 07740 760556 who co-ordinates these events.

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.

15th Morley (St Mary's Woodkirk) Scout Group APCM report for Scout Group - 2023 to 2024

1. Leaders – Beavers – Joanne (Beaver Boss), section assistants Laura, Madeline, young leader Matilda, occasional helpers Michelle. Molly.
2. Leaders – Cubs – Marianne (Akela), Ben, section assistant Oliver, young leader Harry.
3. Leaders – Scouts – Trevor (Skip), Gareth, Jason and section assistants Helen, Charlotte.
4. Meeting place St Mary's Woodkirk Church Hall Fridays 5.00 to 9.30pm.
5. Beaver Report. Beavers – 14 (12 male 2 female) We have been working towards activity and challenge badges and had fun cooking, writing stories and crafting as well as scientific experiments, Mother's Day cards. Paracord friendship bracelets with Easter build a sweet cone. We have undertaken activities relating to seasonal events with an occasional party, Christmas party and many beavers have earned badges – Safety, 1st Aid, Cooking/ pancake making, healthy eating, and two beavers have been presented with the Chief Scouts Bronze award – highest award in the beaver programme. We have had joint cub and beaver activities; a fun night with movies in December at Tingley HQ and a Canoeing session at Aldwark water activity centre last year. We also attended the Morley Dick Whittington pantomime in February 24 with the Cubs and Scouts. Many beavers attended the SLAM District Funday and Sleepover last year and the beaver district bowling competition in March 24.
6. Cub Report Cubs – 17 (10 male 7 female) As a group we have participated in District Events, mixing with other Cub Scouts in the District, and meeting new friends. Highlights from this were the District Activity Day at Phoenix in September and District Unihoc competition this March. Last October we attended the District Cubs Creepy Crawly overnight weekend on a severe wet weekend which had to be moved to an indoor venue at last minute.

In February, the Cubs attended Morley Town Hall for the annual Pantomime along with our Beavers and Scouts. We also went kayaking and had a sleepover with our Beavers at Aldwark Water Activity Centre in July. We have attended our Remembrance Day service in November 23, St George's Day Parade in April 23, and family services each month at St Mary's but need to encourage more attendance subsequent to our new members, following Covid who have not yet acknowledged this encouragement.. We have embraced the You Shape initiative, building on the Cub Scout's ideas into the programme we have provided. As a Pack we've also worked towards our Musician and Local Knowledge badges as well as Nights Away, Time on the Water and Nautical Skills Stages 1 and 2 badge. It is with great joy that we were able to resume and attend the District Cub International trip to Disneyland Paris last year 2023 with a few of our cubs going. We are also looking forward to planning new outdoor adventures with re-visits to Aldwark and expanding our skills and badge work.

7. Scout Report Scouts -- 20 (15 male 5 female) We had a good attendance from Woodkirk St Mary's beavers, cubs, and scouts at the Public St George's Day Parade last April 23, re affirming our promise and taking in the activities and pageantry of the occasion. Early May last year scouts attended the District Phoenix Activity Day, camping overnight. Last June 23, 6 of our scouts went to Aldwark canoeing centre gaining Time on the Water and canoeing stage badges. Last Summer July 2023 many of our cubs and scouts attended the County Challenge 23 weekend at Bramham Park (with our beavers arriving for the day on Saturday) Extensive activities were available over the weekend. One of our beavers came 2nd in the Talent competition and received a certificate for his endeavours from the County Youth Leader. The weekend was fraught with low level thunder and lightning on Saturday evening an experience not to be forgotten. One of our scouts last Summer earned the Chief Scouts Gold Award – the

highest award to be gained in the scout's badge programme. Over July and Early September 2023 scouts practiced for the Campercraft w/e at Blackhills Campsite and won the Entertainment Trophy. A few scouts attended the worldwide October JOTI 2023 (Jamboree on the Internet) talking to scouts across the world with an o/n stay at our District Phoenix campsite HQ. In January 2024, 8 scouts entered the District Bowling completion at Hollywood Bowl. This February our beavers, cubs and scouts attended the annual Panto at Morley Town Hall to watch Dick Whittington. This March 24 our cubs and scouts held a joint camp with 5th Tingley Cubs at Wake Up Walesby campsite, near Robin Hood Centre, Nottinghamshire undertaking campsite maintenance, before the camping season started, which went towards badgework, with free activities on the Sunday morning as a thank you from the Walesby staff. Badge work has included model making, hikes /navigation, cooking /pancakes, orienteering at Oakwell park. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our leaders, sectional assistants, occasional helpers and young leaders who work and help across the sections, as a team effort to create the opportunities for our young scout association members. Also, a thank you to our support group of parents for their continued and valued help in providing back up at section and group events and to our Church Sponsors for the use of the Parish Centre.

Group Leaders TAH 27 03 2024

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WF3 Kindness Awards Success

I am delighted to be able to write this article, to tell you that our wonderful Knit and Natter Ladies were nominated for an award at the recent WF3 Kindness Awards Event held at 'The Village' Hotel on Sunday 7th April. Rev Sharon and honorary past member Elaine joined us for the evening. We were so excited to receive a Special Recognition Award for the Post Box Toppers we provide for the post box on Batley Road (near the Hare and Hounds).

We would like to thank the PCC for giving us a donation of 50% towards the cost of reserving a table for the event. We did have an official photograph taken but we haven't received this yet, but please see some of our lovely ladies with their award in the photo below.

The commendation for the award recognised the hard work and amazing skills of these lovely (although it has to be said, fairly camera shy) ladies and thanked us for the joy these toppers bring to everyone.

Whilst we do not do the toppers for accolades, it was still really lovely to receive this recognition. We are currently working on two new toppers which will be out in June and July so keep your eyes peeled.

With love and
woollies.
The Knit and Natter
Ladies.



1st Woodkirk Brownies Report 22-24

It has been another busy year at Woodkirk Brownies. Our adventures in the summer term included making edible constellations, making flying gliders, and blasting off to space! We finished the term with a summer craft night with Rainbows and said goodbye to 4 Brownies who are moving on to Guides in Leeds.

We returned in September and worked on the Brownie Programme and the West Yorkshire South Challenge Badge which celebrated 50 years of Girlguiding in West Yorkshire, the county for our units.



In November we met at St Mary's with Reverend Sharon to have an evening of reflection for Remembrance, the brownies made crafts and were presented with a special badge from Girlguiding.

We ended the term with a very busy but brilliant Christmas craft night in the vicarage!

2024 started with a visit to the Pantomime to see Dick Whittington which the Brownies really enjoyed. We've welcomed Kayla who is volunteering as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Kayla led the Brownies as we celebrated Chinese New Year by making lanterns.

Spring 2 started on Thinking Day, a special day in Girlguiding. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is a chance for our Brownies to connect with 10 million Girl Guides and Scouts across the globe. The theme for 2024 is Our World, Our Peaceful Future.

We made crafts for Mother's Day for the special women in our lives and ended the term with a busy Easter Craft night with a fantastic raffle that helped fund the evening.

We have just paid our annual census fee to Girlguiding. This year the cost of census was £42.15 per member. This year the Brownie census was over £900 and the Rainbows over £600. As a result of this, we have had to increase our subs from the Summer term.

We are looking forward to the summer term working through the Brownie programme, we are hoping to check on how our bug hotels are looking in the church year and parish centre garden and will be working on a new badge called Mayday Mayday from Girlguiding and The RNLI.

Hannah Tombling

Environment Group Report 2024

Your dedicated Environment Team have had a brilliant year as we had been working very hard towards achieving a Bronze Award awarded by a group called “Eco Church”. What was amazing was that we managed to achieve a Silver Award which was presented by Rev Sharon at a special church service in February 2024.

To achieve this award we had to satisfy progress in five areas; Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle.

Environmental teaching is a central part of our worship with regular Caring for God’s World services and other ‘green themed’ service throughout the year especially during Creationtide and Harvest.

For our buildings, team members Brian and Dave designed and built an excellent water catchment system to provide water to the far end of the Churchyard which has been a great success and we have successfully reduced our carbon footprint and offset for those areas we can’t reduce.

In our land we continue to engage in environmental surveys, undertaking the Big Birdwatch and in addition last year we undertook the Great Yorkshire Creature Count organised by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

In our community engagement we worked with Woodkirk Rainbows and Brownies to install two ‘Bug Hotels’ in the churchyard to encourage bees and many other insects, and the amazing pupils of years 5 and 6 at Hill Top School designed



some amazing 'energy saving' posters which have been put up in the Parish Centre.

We continue to publish articles in the Parish Magazine, they vary from the informative about what we have been doing, to those providing further information and encouragement in how we can all help the environment by reducing our waste, reusing items and recycling.

Dawn Tattersfield

Parish Environment Officer April 2024



The Environment Team with the Silver Award.

Brian, Dawn, Ann, Sharon and Dave

ALBERTS MAY QUIZ

1. Who was Sherlock Holmes assistant?
2. Which literary brat who liked honey was created by A.A. Milne?
3. What was the name of Basil Fawlty's wife?
4. Which fictional pilot was written for children by W.E. Johns?
5. Dressed in Lincoln Green who robbed the rich to give to the poor?
6. Who's scruffy mischievous schoolboy William Brown celebrated his centenary in 2022?
7. How many British Sovereigns were there in the 20th Century?
8. Who lived longest Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II or the Queen Mother?
9. Which two houses were at war in the War of the Roses?
10. Which British Military Force was created in 1918?
11. Who lived at number One London?
12. How many of Henry VII wives were called Catherine?
13. In what year did Britain join the (EEC) now European Union?
14. Who established London's Metropolitan Police in 1829 (hence the nickname Bobbies)?
15. What is 2022 in Roman numerals?
16. Who reigned from 1760-1820?
17. What ship last seen in 1915 was found under Antarctic Ice last year?
18. Are there more or less than 100 keys on a piano?
19. In which month is the Edinburgh Festival?
20. Banksy is associated with which City?
21. Which painter had the Christian names Joseph Mallord William?
22. In what year did the Beatles split up?

Answers on Page 42 (no peeping)

Waste not want not!

Hello there

How did you get on with your leftovers last month?

Did any of you try Bubble and Squeak or French Toast?

No-one has managed to share any favourite leftover recipes with me so I've had a surf on the internet and have shared two new recipes with you this month.

No more wasting those random cheese remains at the back of the fridge. This pasta bake puts them to great use.



Ingredients

450g (1lb) leftover or cooked pasta shapes

30ml Olive Oil

1 onion chopped finely

2 cloves garlic (crushed)

500ml single cream

50g (2oz) Parsley (finely chopped)

325g (11½oz) mixed cheese eg torn brie, grated cheddar etc

1 egg lightly beaten

(Serves 4)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C.

2. If using uncooked pasta, boil pasta in a large saucepan of salted water for 11 minutes or until tender. Drain.

3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat.

Add onion, parsley stalks and garlic, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes or until onion has softened. Transfer onion mixture to a bowl, add cream, egg, 250g (8oz) cheeses, salt and pepper to taste, and stir to combine.

4. Combine pasta and cheese mixture in a large baking dish and top with remaining 75g (3½ oz) cheese. Bake for approx 35 to 40 minutes or until golden and bubbling. Stand for 5 minutes, then serve.

Chicken korma

A really rich and creamy chicken korma recipe with tender chicken breast pieces in a mildly spiced curry sauce.

Serves 4

(454 calories / serving)



Ingredients

600g (1lb 6oz) left over chicken (or 4 British chicken breast fillets)

2 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil

40g (1½ oz) butter

2 brown onions, coarsely grated or very finely chopped

4 tsp ginger and garlic paste

2 tsp ground cumin

2 tsp ground coriander

1 tsp ground turmeric

¼ tsp mild chilli powder

2 tbsp mango chutney or 2 tsp caster sugar

300ml hot chicken stock

100ml double cream

1-2 tbsp toasted flaked almonds, to garnish (optional)

basmati rice, cooked to pack instructions, to serve

Method

Cut chicken into small chunks (roughly 2.5cm – 1 inch) and season generously with pepper. Heat 1 tbsp oil in a large nonstick frying pan or wok and fry the chicken until golden over a medium-high heat for 5-6 mins, turning occasionally. Transfer the chicken to a plate using a slotted spoon or spatula and return the pan to the heat. Keep the chicken warm by covering in foil or placing in the oven on a low heat. Add the remaining oil, butter and onions to the pan and cook over a medium heat, stirring often, for 10 mins, or until the onions are soft and lightly browned. Stir in the ginger and garlic paste and ground spices and cook, stirring continuously, for a further 1 min.

Add the mango chutney and stock to the spiced onions and bring to a simmer. Cook for 5 mins or until the liquid has reduced by roughly half, stirring regularly. (For an extra smooth sauce, blitz the mixture with a blender.)

Return the chicken to the pan with the onions, add the cream and simmer gently, stirring occasionally, for 5-6 mins, until the chicken is piping hot and cooked through. Add a splash of water to loosen the sauce if necessary.

Garnish the curry with toasted flaked almonds and scatter with fresh coriander, if you like. Serve with freshly cooked rice.

Tips:

For a lighter flavour, swap half the cream for natural yogurt.

For a vegetarian alternative, fry a mixture of small chestnut and thickly sliced portobello mushrooms instead of the chicken – 400g should be enough to serve four. Chunks of cooked butternut squash can be used too; instead of frying, simply add to the sauce at the same time as the cream.

Once again, if you do have a favourite ‘leftover’ recipe you would be willing to share let me know by email at dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org or see me in church, thank you.

With love and leftovers

Dawn

30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Bradford Cathedral marks the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women at a special service on Saturday, May 4.

The service will take place almost thirty years to the day from when the first women were ordained at Bradford Cathedral. On Sunday, May 8, 1994, when there were two sets of ordinations.

The special service, which takes place at 11am and will focus on women's voices, will be led by the Revd Canon Dr Sue Penfold, who was ordained at Bradford Cathedral at one of these first ordinations, and still regularly leads services at the Cathedral. Also at the



service, the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon, will be preaching and there will be commissioning of several new 'Women's Ministry Advisors' for the Diocese of Leeds.

Bishop Anna said: "The Church of England began to ordain women as priests in 1994 for the first time. On this 30 year anniversary, I give thanks for the courage of those on General Synod who voted to make it happen a couple of years earlier and represented, at the time, a male-led church. And now I celebrate with the women who since then have said yes to God's call to ordained ministry bringing greater variety of gifts into the ministry of the church and its mission.

It has taken time for the culture of the organisation to really begin to change. But today I believe we are truly seeing the fruits of this momentous decision, not just for women but for the whole church.

Many young girls now remark when seeing a male priest 'I never knew men could also be vicars!'

St. Mary's, Woodkirk



Come along and join us for a

“Knit & Natter”

(or just a natter!)

Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Contact: Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239

Church Mouse Tales.



It is all very worrying. Very worrying indeed.

I have searched for my best friend Hubert, the Black Canon in all his usual places—that is to say ‘haunts’ and so far there is no sign of him at all!

Very worrying indeed.

I decided to sit myself on a convenient Choir pew and try to think of anywhere I might have missed....

Vestry? No—tried there. Nave? No tried there. Transept? No tried there. The Tower? No tried there. Main body? Unlikely I would say—but still no. It was all very worrying.

‘Ah Misha!’ a voice said loudly, which made me jump.

‘Hubert!’ I exclaimed. ‘Where have you been? I’ve been looking all over...’

‘Did you miss me?’ he smiled. His face was flushed and he glowed with warmth (or was it sweat?).

‘You have been missing for ages.’ I explained with frustration, annoyance, relief and joy all mixed up together.

‘Well—I went for a walk in the churchyard,’ he beamed radiantly.

‘A walk?’ I asked somewhat confused. ‘You don’t go for walks.’

‘Exactly!’ declared Hubert loudly. ‘I have been missing out on one of God’s great gifts!’

‘Really?’ I asked, trying not to sound cynical.

‘Don’t be cynical’, said Hubert, yet again seeing straight through me, ‘besides, you might like to come along too, now that I have started regularly walking.’

‘Me? Walk?’ I asked, ‘anyway when did this become regular? You’ve only done it once.’

‘Ahem, well yes, this was the first time,’ he conceded, ‘but I enjoyed it so much, I’ve decided to carry on—regularly.’

‘I see.’ I said a little unsure. ‘Well I wouldn’t be able to keep up—so I’ll just keep an eye on things here while you are gone.’

‘Ok then.’ he nodded, ‘I’ll be going same time tomorrow’, and with that he gave a cheery wave and was gone.

Very worrying indeed.

Misha.

How do I join an on-line Service?

If you are not so familiar with the on-line world but you would like to join one of the services, here's some good news! It's easy!

Go to: [facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](https://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk)

Then select 'Videos' from the side bar.

To join a 'Live' service look for the right time on the Diary page. You can also view previous services from the same location.



QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) Doctor Watson, 2) Winnie the Pooh, 3) Sybil, 4) Biggles, 5) Robin Hood, 6) Richard Crompton (Just William), 7) Six, 8) Queen Mother, 9) York and Lancaster, 10) Royal Airforce, 11) The first Duke of Wellington, 12) Three 13) 1973, 14) Robert Peel, 15) MMXX11, 16) George 111, 17) Endurance, 18) Less (88), 19) August, 20) Bristol, (21) J.M.W. Turner, (22) 1970.

A very big thank you to Albert and Sally!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS—

Noah Sillitoe



DEATHS



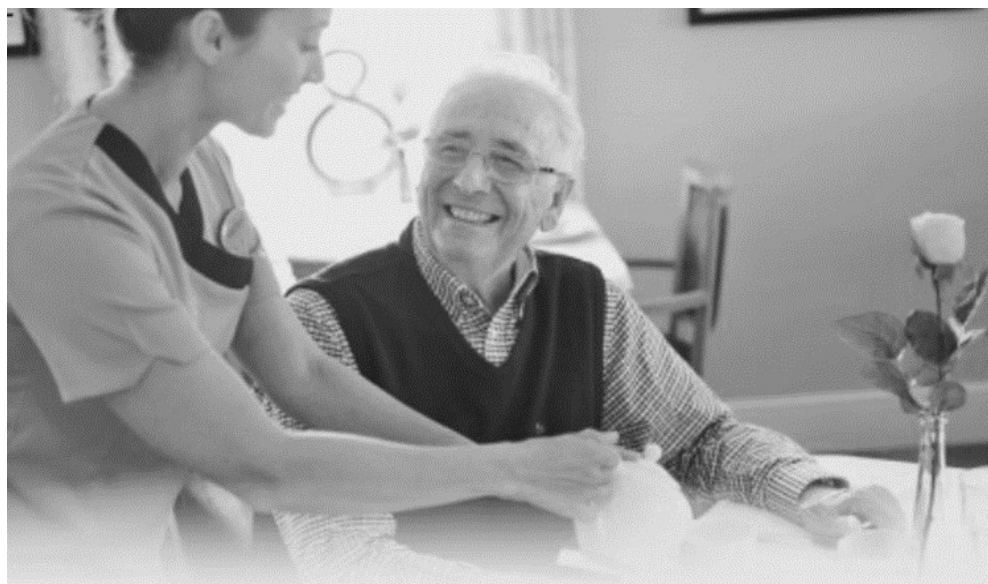
We give thanks for the lives of all those who have died within our Parish:

Janice Wilson

WEDDINGS:

Rebecca Cartwright &
Robert Carrigill





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.

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Soothill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 6EZ

lydgate.lodge@ideakcarehomes.co.uk

01924 355 020

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idealcarehomes.co.uk

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Get in touch to discuss your needs and to book an appointment.

To Contact Shirley Tel : 07805 804 015

Parish Centre Rentals

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

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

Contact: Sally Shaw

01924 475048 for more information.

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Diocese of Leeds

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What's on (please contact the leaders for further information)

ABC Group Adults, Babies and Children
Wednesday 9:30-11:00am (Term time)
Thursday 9.30-11.00am (Term time)
Contact: Charlotte 07972 217528

Line Dancing 1.00-3.30pm Tuesday
Contact Helena 07719946917

Knit and Natter—come and enjoy help with crafts or just chat
Wednesday 1.00-3.00pm.
Dawn Tattersfield 07840739239

Pilates Wednesday 7.00- 8.00pm
Contact Erin Blake

Young at Heart 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:00pm
Sally Shaw 07963610708

Rainbows Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm
Ruth Osenton-Brown 01924 607393

Brownies Thursday 6.30 - 7.45pm
Hannah Tombling 01924 501892

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 and Events in May:

Thursday 9th May:

Ascension Day Service of Holy Communion 7pm

Thurs 16th May: Lydgate Lodge Holy Communion.

Friday 31st May: The Soup Lunch 11:30-1:30pm

Come and enjoy a bowl of soup and a roll in Church.

Tea, Coffee and Cake too !

Events for June:

Family Fun Day Saturday 8th June 10am-2pm

D-Day 80th Anniversary Service Sunday 9th June 10:30am, followed by:

The Big Sing Sunday 9th at 6pm in Church.

Please see Page 42 for details of how to join a streamed service