



St Mary the Virgin

Boston Spa

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

Church Magazine
No 1821 ~ February 2024

Price 60p

St Mary the Virgin in the Parish of Lower Wharfe

Parish Office for St Mary's and the Parish of Lower Wharfe:

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Monday Parish Office 9.30-12.30pm for visitors and telephone enquiries

Tuesday-Thursday: Contact by telephone or email

Friday – Closed

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revnjmorgan@gmail.com

St Mary's Vicarage, 1 St Mary's Vale, Boston Spa. LS23 6FW

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Associate Priest	Rev Glenda Webb.....	07871 241933
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Churchwarden.....	Niki Hampson.....	07850 635499
Vergers	Sheila Harper	01937 843393
.....	Peter Wood	01937 842708
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St. Mary's School:		
- Acting Headteacher	Mrs Benson.....	01937 844395
- Chair of Governors.....	Colin Speers	01937 844395

Services at St Mary's

For full details of our Sunday and Weekday Services and current announcements please refer to the latest Newsletter, available at the back of Church.

This information is also regularly updated on our website.

Our usual pattern of Services is:

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays

Holy Communion 10.00am

Sundays

Holy Communion **8.00am (Book of Common Prayer)**

Holy Communion **10.00am (Modern, Order One)**

Compline **6.00pm**

1st Sunday each month

10.00am Parish Worship

Family friendly service for all ages.

Generally no Holy Communion, except on major festivals.

Baptisms. Baptism Preparation Meetings are evening meetings held in St Mary's Room. Please enquire through the Office for current details.

Home Communion. Arrangements can be made through the Office. The Blessed Sacrament is permanently reserved in St Mary's for the sick and dying. Our Clergy are grateful to receive the names of those who are sick or those needing a special visit. They are also readily available after any service, or by appointment, for counsel and advice.

Marriage or other matters. Please contact the Office in the first instance. The Vicar is available at an Open Session on most Saturdays from 10.45am to 11.30am in the Office which is accessed through St. Mary's Room.

St Mary's Room

For just £12.50 per hour St Mary's Room can be hired for meetings, etc. Please contact our Administrator for further details.

Clergy Letter February

Can you believe it? Here we are in February of the new year! I have been told by my family that it is a sign of old age to see time galloping so fast, a bit like seeing the 12year old police officers around!



Of course, you are all continuing with those new year resolutions, aren't you? We try so hard to instil a new regime of healthy living into our lives every turn of the year, but it is quite hard to continue with enthusiasm as the weeks go by. The excuses about the weather and the dark days creep in and our resolve dwindles. You are reading of one who knows!

I wonder if you made any resolutions on the first of January to upgrade your spiritual well-being? Have you thought about taking up a daily reading of Bible passages, a quiet prayer time each day, an intention to attend church more often. These resolutions are not bound by the weather or require a subscription to a gym, but they are just as important to our inner wellbeing.

So here we are in February, still only a small step into the new year, and possibly we are still able to create a new purpose in our lives. If you want to feel really good about your life in 2024 you could combine your good intentions; a daily walk with prayer time combined, a jog with The Bible in a Year podcast on your headphones, or even a 5 minute slot in church as you bring in your Foodbank contributions.

Nothing needs to be out of your reach. We know God is with us – a message sent to us in the good news of the birth of Jesus at Christmas –and our lives are enriched by so much if we can engage in a two-way relationship with him. How you choose to keep up those good intentions is entirely up to you, but February is only the second month of this new year and still a good time to keep that enthusiasm going.

Life without goals can be a dull and meaningless passage of time, but the sense of wellbeing can be improved with such small steps as a daily conversation with God. To spend a few minutes at the end of a day thanking him for some of the good things that have happened, can give you a quiet mind to be able to drift off to sleep. Did you hear the birds sing? Did you have a phone conversation with someone? Did you receive a smile from a stranger at the shops? Did you laugh out loud at a funny story or the antics of a squirrel in your garden?

It doesn't take much to appreciate that God is in our lives in all sorts of ways every day, it takes just a small step for us to let him know we are aware of this by our response to him. You see, our new year resolution, to spend time with God, need not be arduous, expensive, or weather related, so see how long you can keep this goal of spiritual wellbeing active through this year.

Rev Trish



**Join us on the 4th Sunday of each month at 6.30pm
The Parish Room, St Mary's, Boston Spa**



Flourish is an oasis of calm reflection
in which we explore a rhythm of life which enables us
to flourish and become more like Christ.

This is an act of Christian worship lasting around an hour. It includes Bible readings, guided meditation, music, videos, stories, prayers, and teaching about aspects of life as a follower of Jesus. Tea, coffee, biscuits (and very possibly cake!) will be available from 6pm.

Led by Rev'd Nick Morgan and Jo Davies from Connections Café.

SPRING 2024 PROGRAMME:

FEBRUARY 25TH

SHARING FAITH

MARCH 24TH

PRAYER

APRIL 28TH

GENEROSITY



Christmas Carol Service: A big Thank You to all singers

I would like to express my thanks to everybody who helped make the Carol Service such a memorable occasion. The singing was superb and the whole occasion helped to bring a good start to Christmas. Many thanks to choir members, who turn up regularly to practices and services, and thanks to all who augmented the choir this year.

We had about 40 in the choir this year, the largest choir ever! What an achievement.

The service was accompanied superbly by Peter Sharp and we had some lovely solos from Sarah Goddard and Mark Wharfedale.

The carols included: The Truth From Above by Vaughan Williams, The Shepherds Farewell by Berlioz, Coventry Carol by Shaw, Christmas Lullaby by Rutter, As With Gladness, a new carol by Chilcott and The Sussex Carol by Wilcocks.

We would still like to welcome new members to the choir, especially altos and basses. You do not need to be able to read music. Singing is great fun and is good for one's well-being. Come along on a Thursday at 7pm and give it a go!

With very best wishes

Steve

100 Club Results – December

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our December draw!

1st Hilda Carroll

2nd John Morris

3rd Janet Coleman

Lent 2024 – Act on Poverty



This year, we are using the Christian Aid resource – Act on Poverty as the focus of our Lent study. The course explores six themes:

1. Prophetic

This session looks at what it means for churches to speak prophetically. The Bible shows us that being a prophet is far from easy. Many prophets have felt powerless, despite being called by God to speak out. How, with God's help, can your church develop its prophetic voice when speaking about poverty?

2. Broken

We are increasingly aware of the divisiveness of politics in the UK today. But this is not the only place where there is division. Our churches, our world, our selves are all in need of redemption and repair. This session helps you discuss division and brokenness in our different contexts. The resource opens up space to think together about where repentance is needed, and how we can be part of God's healing and redeeming work.

3. Generous

Many people in the UK are having to tighten their belts due to the cost-of-living crisis. In this session we take a close look at the lived experience of poverty, both near to home and around the world. We explore poverty as a justice issue that demands action. Churches can explore what it might mean to be 'generous' or 'cheerful givers' (2 Corinthians 9.7) when we feel like we have nothing to spare. What gifts do we have that we can share?

4. Located

Beginning with reflections on where Jesus chose to place himself during his ministry, this session equips your church to look afresh at where you are located. This includes your physical environment, community resources, local concerns and priorities. Groups can explore questions about how we discern what God is already doing in our community, about life on the margins, and who has power in your locality.

5. Hopeful

This session helps churches outline their hopes for the future and turn these hopes into a manifesto for action. There are practical ideas about facilitating events and community discussion in the lead up to the General Election. And there's an exploration of how nurturing hope can be part of our calling to love our neighbour. What will your church do to grow hope in 2024?

6. Together

Our final session looks at what we can do together to tackle poverty, local and global. This resource focuses on practical action in community, suggesting a range of ways to come together, perhaps hosting a shared meal or event to which you can invite your Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and MP's. Sharing time, ideas and food as we plan to Act on Poverty together.

The Lent course will take place in St. Edwards Church Parish Room, Clifford at 7.30pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 21st February
Wednesday 6th March
Wednesday 20th March

Wednesday 28th February
Wednesday 13th March
Wednesday 27th March

The Lent series is organised by Christians Together – and everyone is welcome!

The Real Easter Egg

80 million Easter Eggs are given in the UK every year, only one is Fairtrade & includes a copy of the Easter story in the box.

If you would like to order the Real Easter Egg for Easter this year please email annmarieholdsworth@yahoo.co.uk – with your order by Sunday 3rd March.

ORDER THE 2024 REAL EASTER EGG NOW

Original RRP from £4.50

Special Edition RRP £9.99

EASTER IS EARLY SO ACT TODAY

Dark RRP £5.50

THE REAL EASTER EGG

LET'S CELEBRATE!

THE WORLD

MORNINGFUL CHOCOLATE

Fun Pack RRP £5.00

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.

AVAILABLE FROM...

New Design Easter Story
New 24 page Easter story-activity book is included in Original and Dark eggs.

Saint of the Month - February

18th Feb: Fra Angelico, patron of artists

If you enjoy drawing or painting, Fra Angelico is the patron saint for you. This devout Dominican priest of the Early Renaissance (1387-1455) used his superlative talent to the glory of God to such an extent that even six centuries later we are inspired and blessed by his art.



For while you may not be familiar with his name, but you'll know his work: Fra Angelico's *The Annunciation* or *Adoration of the Magi* has adorned many classical Christmas cards. He is reckoned to be one of the greatest Italian painters of the 15th century.

Fra Angelico was born at Vicchio near Florence, and as a young friar worked at illuminating manuscripts such as the *Dominican Diurnal*. Ordained priest at Fiesole in 1418, he continued painting, spending the 1430s decorating the interior of the friary of San Marco, Florence with his masterpieces. Work at the Vatican followed, especially his paintings of Stephen and Laurence in the chapel of the artistic pope Nicholas V.

Fra Angelico's work is sublime, revealing a marvellous command of colour, light and perspective. It radiates spiritual serenity, and a dedication to God that is matched by few others. He has been described by experts as having "a rare and perfect talent", and that "it is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said, and whose pictures were painted with such facility and piety."

From 1449 to 1452 Fra Angelico was prior of Fiesole. Then he moved to Rome, where three years later he died. He was beatified in 1960 and declared patron of artists in 1984. Pope John Paul II described his paintings as 'miracles'.

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Genesis

This is the first of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible. This month we consider the first book, Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is primarily about beginnings. In chapters 1-11, it records the creation of the heavens and the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It is supremely about relationships; the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Fundamentally man has been created in the image of God, so that he can relate to God in a personal way: *'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them'* (1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendents (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.

Test your Bible Knowledge



1. What are the first 3 words in the Old Testament?
2. What is the 2nd book in the Old Testament called?
3. How many Books of Chronicles are there?
4. Who wrote a Gospel (NT) between Matthew and Luke?
5. Complete this name of a book in the OT: DEUTER...
6. There are 2 books in the OT named after women, can you find them?
7. One of the OT books has 3 K's in the title – which one?
8. What is the last book in the NT called?
9. In the NT, John writes more than 1 letter – how many?
10. In the OT, there are 2 books which begin with the letter Z – who are the authors?

St Mary's Church Services & Duties

February 2024



4th February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's
10am All Together at St Mary's
Sidespeople: Judith Dahlgreen, Barbara Neale
Coffee: Groves family

11th February (Sunday before Lent)

8am Holy Communion at Thorp Arch
10am Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sidespeople: Robert Wivell, Louise Bowie
Reader: Anne Wivell
Intercessor: Alison Talboys
Coffee: Mr and Mrs Bowie

18th February (1st Sunday of Lent)

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's
10am Joint Service at the Methodist Church Boston Spa
(Theme: Act on Poverty - our Lent focus for 2024)

25th February (2nd Sunday of Lent)

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's
10am Holy Communion at St Mary's .
Sidespeople: Anne Wivell, Alastair Bowie
Reader: Mike Bowers
Intercessor: Marcus Orton
Coffee: Mrs Walton, Mrs Weaver



February Diary

Wednesday 7th 2.00pm A Talk by Niki Hampson
'Seeing God through Nature'

February 7th – 14th National Marriage Week

Please pray for all couples planning to marry this year and all those recently married from our group of parishes.

Thursday 8th 1.30- 3.00pm St Mary's Ark

Wednesday 21st 10.00am Corporate Communion
Followed by coffee

Thursday 22nd 1.30 – 3.00pm St Mary's Ark

Future Dates

6th March Wednesday 12.30-1.00pm AGM and Lunch held in St Mary's Room

Guests and New Members always welcome

Su Wilkinson, Branch Secretary

The Ark



Come and join us

St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa

warmly invite you to join us for play, stories, songs,
crafts and fun!

1.30pm—3.00pm

Dates for this month's Ark: 8th and 22nd February

From the Archives

There was a lot happening at St Mary's and its school in 1881. Only a month for the summer holiday so that there was enough time to prepare for the exams in November. However, before then, there was the promise of a treat such as a day in Harrogate!

THE INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL

In the religious instruction the children have received throughout the Year will be held on Monday, July 11th, at quarter past nine in the morning, by the Rev. R. J. Crosthwaite. It is most important that our children should be well grounded in the principles of the Christian faith, and this we endeavour to do daily so far as the allotted time permits. The Inspection in some measure shows how far we have been successful, and is a stimulus and encouragement to children and teachers alike. I therefore earnestly ask the parents to help us by taking care that the children are present in good time. I hope that none will be absent when the Inspector arrives. The School will break up for the

SUMMER HOLIDAYS,

on Friday, July 15th, and re-open on Monday, August 15th. The visit of H. M's. Inspector is due in November, and as it is most important for the children to have at least three months of uninterrupted work previous to the examination, it is not advisable to fix the holidays for a later date. It is proposed to hold the

ANNUAL TREAT FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

during the month. Tea will be provided in the afternoon in the School-room. After tea the children will play in the vicarage field till dusk. I hope that this year we shall be favoured with fine weather, and that those friends who have usually helped to provide the funds will kindly assist us again. Most of you are aware that the

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CHOIR

is composed exclusively of children belonging to the Sunday School. They meet for practice on Friday Evenings, and come with great regularity on Sundays, and materially assist in rendering our First Evensong an acceptable service. As some little encouragement and reward for their voluntary help, I promised to give them a treat in the summer, by taking them to Harrogate or some similar place for the day. I do not wish to make a special appeal for this treat. I believe that by the exercise of a little judicious economy, the subscriptions usually given for the Sunday School treat will defray the expenses of both.

Visit York Minster for free?

York Minster Digital Parish Pass 2024

York Minster loves to welcome parishioners from across the Diocese of York to the mother church of the diocese, free of charge with the Digital Parish Pass 2024.

Each year, York Minster provides a digital parish pass to each Church in the Diocese of York; this year they have been sent to each PCC Secretary (or Churchwarden where there is a PCC vacancy).



These passes can be borrowed if you would like to visit the Minster. The passes for 2024 have been sent to PCC Secretaries and replace the Parish Pass 2023 (and also any of the older Diocesan entry passes still in circulation).

Please ask either a Churchwarden or at the Parish Office if you would like to borrow a Parish Pass for your next visit to York Minster.



CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

Boston Spa - Clifford - Thorp Arch - Bramham - Walton

“AN EVENING OF FUN AND LAUGHTER”



**WITH PAUL
KERENSA**

The 'Stand-Up – Kneel-Down' Comedian

BBC Radio 2 'Pause for Thought'

'100 Years of the BBC' - 'Spring Harvest' - 'Flourish'

Writer/Contributor to:

'Not Going Out' - 'Miranda' -

'Spitting Image' -

'The Now Show' -

'Dead Ringers'...



Bramham Village Hall
Saturday 17th February at 7:30pm

TICKETS £15 TO INCLUDE A BUFFET SUPPER

available from the Boston Spa Parish Office

01937 844402 – bramhambenefice@outlook.com – 9.30-12.30 Mon-Thurs

or your local **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER** member church

Raising
funds
in aid of



The Millie Wright
Children's Charity

"Addressing inequalities in charitable support
for children with life threatening conditions"

www.millieschildrenscharity.org
077 1616 2525
hello@millieschildrenscharity.org



Community News

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for your ongoing generous donations towards our local foodbank which is part of the Trussell Trust. Below is the list of donations that the Food Bank needs now:



Please drop your donations off at:

- Bramham Church porch 10am – 4pm, 7 days a week
- St Mary's Boston Spa 9am - 3pm, 7 days a week and Wed 2-4pm.

WiSE Cafe

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3 pm, for Breakfast/Tea/Coffee, & Lunch



The WiSE Owl Cafe in Boston Spa is a friendly local meeting place - come and visit and try our new additions to the menu as well as our hot weekly special.

Jazz in the Spa – February

3rd February 8pm Alan Barnes & John Hallam

Two of the UK's finest saxophonists come together as one of the most exciting musical combinations we are privileged to present. Backed by the sublime piano sounds of the Tom Kincaid trio, all this plus Alan's legendary sense of humour. A superb evening of top class music not to be missed

17th February 8pm Michaela Smith Quintet

International jazz singer Michaela Smith brings her swinging quintet to Jazz in the Spa. Having performed for us previously with her cabaret band, this time Michaela will focus on American Songbook standards and jazz classics.

Featuring the talents of Jamie Gallagher on sax, Stuart Garden on keys, Phil Kampen on bass and Dave Lee on drums. Kick back and enjoy a refined evening of first class entertainment.

Nostalgia at the Village Hall

Ken Waller's singalong - singing songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s in a relaxed and easy style.

Meetings held on first Friday of each month

The Jubilee Room at Boston Spa Village Hall from 1.30-3.30pm
£4 includes refreshments

Dates can be found on the Village Hall Website bookings page.
Proceeds towards Village Hall improvements, for more information call
Brenda 07774 125821

Boston Spa Gardening Society

**Meetings held on last Wednesday of
the month September - May at
Deepdale Community Centre
Doors open 7pm
Raffle and refreshments!**



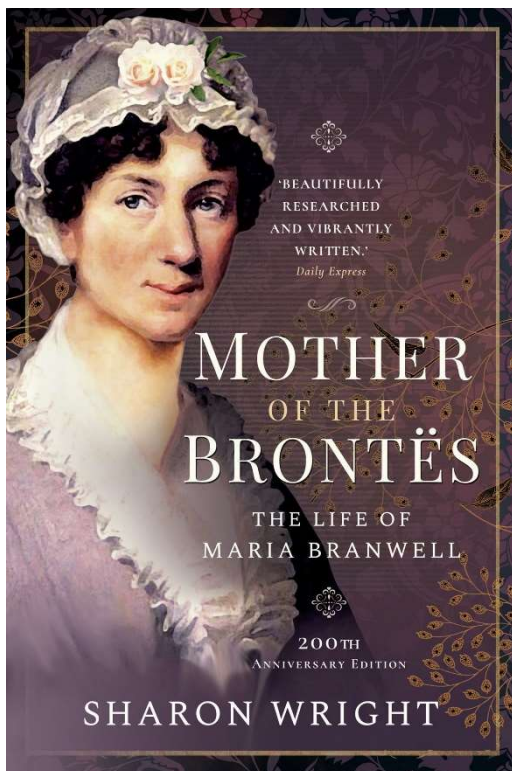
Bible Quiz Answers (from p11)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. In the beginning... | 2. Exodus |
| 3. Two | 4. Mark |
| 5. Deuteronomy | 6 Ruth and Esther |
| 7. Habakkuk | 8. Revelation |
| 9. Three | 10. Zephaniah and Zechariah |

Mother of the Brontës at the Linton Antique Society

We know a lot about the Brontë sisters, their brother and father but almost nothing about their mother, Maria Branwell.

Author Sharon Wright has proved there's a fascinating story to tell in her recent biography of Maria and will reveal the details in a Zoom presentation at **8.00pm on Thursday 8 February 2024.**



Non-members can attend this Zoom meeting for a fee of £10. To book, email info@lintonantiquesociety.org with your details.

You can join the Society's on www.lintonantiquesociety.org.uk or by contacting the Membership Secretary on 0113 345 1815. Membership fees are a bargain £25, individual, and £45, joint, and give access to all the presentations in the season.

A Prayer for February

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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The deadline for articles to be included in the magazine is the 6th of the month prior to publication. Articles should ideally be emailed to the Editor ideally in Word format. They may also be hand-written or typed and handed in to the Parish Office. Magazines are usually in Church for collection on the last Friday of the month.

To set up an **Annual Subscription** please enquire to Anne Wivell.

Special Editions can be provided for anyone requiring copies in larger print.

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