



# St Mary the Virgin

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**No 1678 ~ January 2012**

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## St Mary the Virgin in the Parish of Lower Wharfe

**Vicar: The Revd. Peter E. Bristow 01937 842454**  
**The Vicarage, 86 High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6EA**

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

**St Mary's Church, High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6DR**

Administrator ..... Mrs. Glenda Webb ..... 01937 844402  
e-mail: stmarysbostonspa@hotmail.com

**The Office is open for visitors and telephone callers:**  
**Monday to Friday: 11.00am to 1.00pm**

Curates ..... Revd Andy Grant ..... 01937 541272  
..... Revd Trish Anslow ..... 01937 844789  
Diocesan Readers ..... Mr. Don Clarke ..... 01937 842026  
..... Mrs. Cathy Dibben ..... 01937 584004

Churchwardens ..... Mr. David Coates ..... 01937 843662  
..... Mr. Charles Marsh ..... 01937 845360  
Children and Youth Worker ..... Mr. Alex Clayton ..... 07584 435276  
Vergers ..... Mrs. Sheila Harper ..... 01937 843393  
..... Mr. Peter Wood ..... 01937 842708  
PCC Secretary ..... Mrs. Liz Etherington ..... 01132 866487  
Treasurer (Interim) ..... Mr. Peter Wood ..... 01937 842708  
Stewardship Secretary ..... Mr. Peter Wood ..... 01937 842708  
Organist and Choirmaster ..... Mr. Steve Aston ..... 01904 625714  
Electoral Roll Officer ..... Mr. Roland Gooch ..... 01937 584392  
All Age Worship ..... Mrs. Penny Stables ..... 01937 841240  
Baptism Team ..... Mrs. Joy Bowers ..... 01937 844181  
Eucharistic Ministry Team .. Mr. Peter Wood ..... 01937 842708  
Bereavement Befriending .... Mrs. Cathy Dibben ..... 01937 584004  
Sacristan ..... Mrs. Sheila Harper ..... 01937 843393  
Sunday School ..... Mrs. Sue Baker ..... 01937 541208  
Mothers' Union ..... Mrs. Janet McBride ..... 01937 843562  
Child Protection Rep. .... Mrs. Jeni Alexander ..... 01937 842121  
St. Mary's School:  
- Headteacher ..... Mrs. Jan Alexander ..... 01937 844395  
- Chair of Governors ..... Mrs. Kate Kennedy ..... 01937 843718

**St Mary's Website:**

<http://www.stmarysbostonspa.org.uk>

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Cover: Mothers' Union set us all a fine example of family values and behaviours all across the world, especially at Christmas time.

## 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 given on our website.

Our usual pattern of Services is:

**Weekdays:**

**Morning Prayer at 9.15am (except the first Thursday of the month when there is a Service of Holy Communion at 8.00am)**

**Sundays:**

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

**Parish Communion 9.30am (Modern, Order One)**

**[On the first Sunday of the month (9.30am) there is an All Age Worship Service. Holy Communion is only celebrated at this Service on major festivals.]**

**Night Prayer 6:00pm (Occasionally other services as announced)**

**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 or with Mr Peter Wood, the Eucharistic Ministry Team Co-ordinator (Tel: 01937 842708). 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.

**Sunday School** participates in the 9.30am Service and meets in St Mary's Room during the Service. Children are warmly encouraged to participate in our All Age Worship Services.

### St Mary's Magazine Team

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Printer .....	Write Design & Print Ltd, Wetherby .....01937 588198		

The deadline for articles to be included in the magazine is the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Articles may be written or typed and may be handed in to the Office, or sent by email to the Editor. Magazines are usually in Church for collection on the last Friday of the month.

To set up an **Annual Subscription** please enquire through Mrs Wivell.

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



## *A New Year - a Time for Reflection*

The beginning of a new year is a time for reflection, for expectation and resolutions. It is a time when leaders and politicians, popes and archbishops deliver messages to their people and though the media we are promised a future of opportunities. Somehow this year seems different; there is uncertainty rather than hope, questions rather than answers and austerity in place of prosperity. We live in very testing times and darkness appears to cover the earth and we long for some light. These past three years have been dominated by economics and 2012 will be no different. We had the credit crunch, the abject failure of the banks and financial institutions, the collapse of countries' credit ratings and the absence of confidence. Today we experience the aftermath of this debacle and even if we are told that we are all in this together the outcome for the poorest, the most vulnerable, the young and the old is much bleaker.

The prophet Isaiah insisted "Comfort my people, speak gently to them." There is an absence of such an approach in the counsels of our governments.

In the Book of Common Prayer there is this plea; "That we be godly and quietly governed." To put it in contemporary language for our secular time that we be humbly, wisely and quietly governed. Perhaps this seems like wishful thinking in a time of instant communication, when politicians and ministers are expected to respond at once. This is not a time for spurious answers, alternative programmes and false hope. It is a time for thoughtful reflection, for honest questions and above all for humility, quiet endeavour and wisdom. Today we need the prophetic word of comfort, of healing and of hope not only for our families and ourselves but for those who face unemployment, homelessness, degrading penury and constant stress, our brothers and sisters. We are all in this together and this means looking for our neighbour, being open to the other and humbly sharing our humanity.

The beginning of the year is also the time when we have celebrated Christmas, when our thoughts have turned fleetingly to the events of Bethlehem and the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. But then the world is too much with us and we are back to the forlorn future. But pause a moment and listen to One born to set His people free. Jesus begins his ministry in his home town of Nazareth in the synagogue, the communal gathering place where he sets out his purpose.

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me  
because he has anointed me  
to tell the poor the good news.  
He has sent me to announce release to the captives  
and sight to the blind,  
to set the wounded victims free,  
to announce the year of the Lord’s special favour.”

This is the message our time needs. It is the message of forgiveness and healing that so many long for. And Jesus does not only speak it He goes on to live it in his life and ministry. In three brief years he goes about doing good, healing, forgiving, confronting the demons of injustice and wrong-doing, eating and drinking with the most unlikely, insisting we are all in this together and bringing hope to the world. He looked for the lost, turned no one away and emptied himself for others. He told the great stories of the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Rich Man and poor Lazarus, stories that live on because they speak to our world and give hope to our neighbours and our children. Jesus does not want us only to listen to his manifesto. Ian Fraser tells of some students he saw coming towards him. On their tee-shirt fronts were written the words “don’t go to church”. As they passed him he saw written on the back of the shirts, “Be the church”. Jesus requires the same, live for your neighbour, tell the poor the good news and set my people free.

May this be a good year for you and your loved ones and may it bring special favour to all God’s children.

*Stanley Menzies*

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### *Anne's Hand Crafted Cards*

I have just been able to give another £100 towards the church funds.

I would like to thank everyone who supports me in order for me to be able to do this.

It makes the many hours spent working on them all worthwhile.

*Anne Gooch*

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## *Wishing you all a Happy Christmas*

I would like to thank everyone for their great kindness to me during the year and to wish all my wonderful friends at St Mary's and in the Village a very Happy Christmas with best wishes for 2012.



*Annie Brown*

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## *Farmers' Market in Boston Spa*

The Farmers' Market takes place on the second Friday in each month and is held in the Millennium Gardens between 09.00 and 12.00. The next dates will be: January 13<sup>th</sup>; February 10<sup>th</sup>; March 9<sup>th</sup>.

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## *A Letter from America*



Well it is now three months since we left the civilised shores of England for the untamed wilderness that is America! Actually it is not that bad, although since we arrived we have experienced an earthquake, a hurricane, tornadoes, snow storms and a tropical storm. In between these the weather is very pleasant and until the last week has still been in the high 60's and 70's (Fahrenheit that is, America is not metric, so to work out the real temperature subtract 32 and calculate 5/9's).

Unfortunately most of these weather experiences have led to power cuts, usually only for a few hours, but the house we live in is served by a spring, the water is pumped from the spring into a tank in the basement and then pumped around the house (haven't they heard of gravity?) so in the event of a power cut we have no water! We are getting very experienced in filling the bath when adverse weather warnings are issued!

We recently went to visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty; well it seemed fitting as new arrivals! Ellis Island is in the New York Bay, at the mouth of the Hudson River close to Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Jersey

Shore. Between 1892 and 1924 over 12 million people, mostly European, passed through Ellis Island in their journey toward becoming American citizens, around 100 million of their descendants live in America today.

Although the Statue of Liberty would be the first thing most immigrants would see on their arrival in the New World, and there are many accounts of their first impressions of their new homeland and emotions on having made it this far, it was Ellis Island we found particularly fascinating. Perhaps that is because almost a hundred years since it ceased being an immigration station the procedures for entering America are remarkably similar!

Many immigrants came to America in search of work...mmm sounds almost familiar. Most immigrants would arrive with a number of bags, baskets and boxes carrying their most precious possessions, well most of ours followed us on a ship, but our most treasured belongings travelled with us in our suitcases, all twelve of them! On arrival the immigrants would be 'inspected', first would be a medical examination. Whilst ours was a little less unpleasant than some of the techniques used a hundred years ago, we had to prove we were healthy before being able to apply for a visa, including tests for diseases such as tuberculosis. Following this would be a legal examination, the immigrants would sit in a large noisy hall on benches and wait for their names to be called, when it was their turn they would go to an inspector, who would ask questions such as name, date and place of birth, destination, occupation, whether they had ever been in jail, and how much money they had. We had to provide documentary evidence for our answers and there was a sheet of glass between us and the inspector otherwise this is a remarkably accurate description of the Visa application process at American Embassy in London!

There are other similarities as well, to our surprise immigrants were treated very well, translators were provided, immigration societies were set up to help people settle, the immigrants were fed and provided with a place to sleep and anyone who was unwell was cared for at a hospital until they were well enough to continue their application for citizenship.

We have been surprised by the warmth of the American people, with very few exceptions we have been met with friendliness, offers of help and hospitality, including invitations to family Thanksgiving dinners. Most people we meet, both socially and in a work environment go out of their way to help us and to make us feel welcome. We miss home, most especially our family and friends, I suspect this will not change no matter how long we stay, however the help and support we have, (and still) receive means that we feel less lost than we might have done. Which does leave me with a thought, would a newcomer in our midst receive the same welcome?

With love from

**Victoria, Andrew, Anastasia and Rosalynd**

Editor's Note: Recently Liz and Pete Etherington visited Victoria and family to sample the sights and sounds of their new surroundings both at home and 'on the tourist trail'. We hope to include next month a few words from Pete about their trip to the USA but to whet your appetite and to show just some of what they saw Pete has supplied some photos for us. We feel that the locations will need no description from us but we are quite sure that Pete would be delighted to talk about them.



## *Parish Council News*

*( From our Correspondent )*

- We have just installed five rough benches near the weir, on a viewpoint on the upper path and at Jackdaw Crag.
- We intend to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan so that we can state our priorities for developing the community. This will involve many more people than the parish council and is intended to put some sensible constraints on building development - although we cannot alter plans already made by Leeds.
- Chief Inspector Griffiths has retired after 7 years (he is a member of Collingham PCC).
- There is a possibility of a hydropower scheme at the weir; the next step is to see a visual representation of the suggested building and equipment to see how it impacts on the area.
- Tim Baker has taken the place of Steve Morrirt on the Village Hall Management Committee. Steve has joined the Wetherby and District Crime Prevention Panel.
- The police recommend that we put on our mobile phone contacts ICE (means In Case of Emergency) and the number that should be contacted; the police are accustomed to looking for it on mobile phones.
- The Olympic Flame will be coming through Boston Spa on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June; we don't yet know the time.
- There will be a BYO picnic on the Riverside Meadow on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June; there will be a jazz band and fireworks.
- The Village Hall hopes to add two more ladies' toilets.
- The police are building their case against the lead thieves.
- The public toilets have been refurbished.

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### *Smile, please!*

Notice to Washers-up (seen somewhere, but we are not told where):

Would volunteers please rinse teapots and then stand upside down in the sink. On no account must hot bottoms be placed on the work-top.

... and this sounds like a Christmas Cracker joke:

What do you call a train loaded with toffee?  
A chew chew train.



## *Why the white cover for the December Magazine?*

As you, our readers, will be aware we have used coloured card for the covers of the Magazine for many years. The cover illustration for the December 2011 Magazine is actually a beautifully coloured item and we had considered printing the front cover of the Magazine in colour on white card to bring out these colours and make a really bright edition.

Sadly, however, such luxuries come at a price and we felt that in these more austere times we should not indulge ourselves by spending St Mary's funds in this way but instead ask you to view the colour image via the Church website. We decided to retain the white colour for the card, however – hence the white cover for December.

By the time you read this short item the Magazine will have been loaded to the website so do have a glance at the Resources page and see it for yourself.

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## *Advertisers*

This month we feature the last of the sets of advertising pages in the current series. Some advertisers have decided not to renew for next year. Next month will see some newcomers to our pages and some changes to existing advertisements. We do urge you to consider approaching our advertisers if you have need of the services that they offer because they are committed to working in the Village and through their advertising spend with us they are supporting our Magazine.

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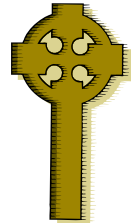
## *100 Club Draw*

The 100 Club Special Christmas Draw for December 2011 took place after the All Age Worship Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December:

|                       |      |    |                      |
|-----------------------|------|----|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize | £100 | 73 | Charles Marsh        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize | £10  | 48 | Andrea McQuillan     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize | £5   | 67 | Robert & Anne Wivell |

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## *Celtic Prayer at St Mary's School*



Celtic Prayer is on **Fridays, 9 - 9.10am** in the school hall at St Mary's CofE Primary School, Clifford Road, Boston Spa during term time. A great way to start the day! Everyone is welcome. It's not only for those connected with the School.

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## *Fossils ...*

It was recently reported that scientists are in the process of excavating a desert fossil bed in Chile containing dozens of whole skeletons of ancient whales dating back seven million years.

One of the researchers said 15 whales were found in 15 days, far exceeding expectations.

*With Global Warming so much in the news are we on the way to the Wharfe rising to such levels that whales might swim up and down our High Street?*

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## *Some Newsy snippets:*

**The drought that has affected parts of England since June could last into next summer if there is insufficient winter rain, the Environment Agency has said.** A lack of rainfall over the past few months means that groundwater levels are still falling in many areas. The Environment Agency says that even if there is average rainfall over the winter and spring, parts of central, eastern and south-eastern England are unlikely to see a full recovery from drought conditions in 2012.

**The Archbishop of Canterbury paid tribute to the King James Bible at a service to mark its 400th anniversary.** Dr Rowan Williams said the text was "extraordinary" and of "abiding importance". The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales also attended the service at Westminster Abbey. York Minster played its part by providing a display of related items and an original, 400-year old Bible (very large!) for people to read and touch.

**Snow?** Not a problem, perhaps, compared to last year as it is reported that 51% of councils in England and Wales have more salt for the start of this winter than they had for the start of winter 2010/11, with 48% aiming to have

the same amount. On average, each council has 4,900 tonnes of salt in stock - about 1,500 tonnes more than this time last year.

But ... the absence of snow is a problem for some: **The traditional start of Switzerland's ski season has been marred by a shortage of snow across the Alps.** The autumn has been the driest on record in the country.

Correspondents say the continuing drought is bad news for the country's tourism industry which is already suffering from the strong Swiss franc. Big resorts such as Davos or St Moritz have been able to open a few runs with the help of snow cannons. Others have delayed the start of the season.

**Diamond Jubilee Beacons Project.** It is planned to light 2,012 Beacons throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, the Commonwealth and UK Overseas Territories on Monday 4 June. Her Majesty The Queen will be lighting the National Beacon and a special book containing all the Diamond Jubilee Beacon locations will be given to The Queen after the event (in a similar way to the book produced for The Queen's Golden Jubilee Beacons in 2001, which now resides in The Royal Library at Windsor Castle). The organisers of Diamond Jubilee Beacons hope that all faith communities in the UK will wish to take part in the project. The '*Guide to taking part*' which contains information about the different types of beacons and how to become involved can be downloaded from [www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk](http://www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk).

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## **A Grand Day Out - Saturday 30 June 2012**



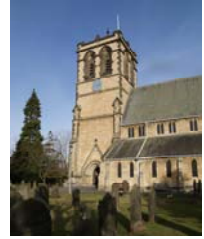
Martin House is delighted to welcome the celebrated Northern Belle by Orient Express to Yorkshire for a *very special fundraising excursion* to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hospice.

Departing from either York or Leeds this luxury train journey will take you to the historic city of Bath. On the outward journey you will be served a delicious three course brunch with a glass of sparkling Bellini. During the afternoon you can either sightsee at your leisure in Bath or visit the Roman Baths (admission is included in the package).

Back on the train for the return journey, you can relax with a glass of champagne and canapés before enjoying a sumptuous four course dinner, including a bottle of house wine per couple.

The price per person is £325 and a deposit of £75 per head will secure your reservation. For more information please call Caroline on 01937 844569

## St Mary's Church Services & Duties



**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** [ *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas* ]  
 Sidesmen 8.00am J. Oxley  
**10.00am Group Service All Saints', Thorp Arch**

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** [ *The Epiphany* ]  
 Sidesmen 8.00am **At Thorp Arch**  
 9.30am S. King, R. Dibben, A. Picken  
 Readers O/T Mrs. Picken; N/T Jessica Heaton  
 Intercessions Mike Bowers  
 Coffee Mrs. Barker & Mrs. Wells  
**4.00pm Christingle Service ~ Joint at All Saints', Bramham**

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** [ *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany* ]  
 Sidesmen 8:00am A. Rayner  
*Holy Communion by Extension:*  
 9:30am Alex Barnham, Billy Baker, Polly Orton  
 Readers O/T S. King; N/T Natalie Heaton  
 Coffee Mr. & Mrs. D. Coates

**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>** [ *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany* ]  
 Sidesmen 8:00am **At Bramham**  
 9.30am Thomas Clark, Kate Kennedy, D. Middleton  
 Readers O/T Glenda Webb; N/T D. Middleton  
 Intercessions Tim Baker  
 Coffee Mrs Allan, Mrs Tallboys

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** [ *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany* ]  
 Sidesmen 8.00am P. Wells  
 9.30am C. Marsh, Paul & Philippa Martin  
 Readers O/T Mrs. S. Baker; N/T P. Wood  
 Coffee Mr & Mrs Rutter

**Feb 5<sup>th</sup>** [ *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent* ]  
 Sidesmen 8.00am J. Ella  
 9.30am Mike Bowers, Mrs Drake  
 Readers None - A.A.W.  
 Coffee Anderson Family



## Justice & Peace Group – “Supper evening with Speakers”

### Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network

A goodly number across a wide age range came to St Mary's Room on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November to hear Gerard Godon from Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN), Kabwe (from the Congo) and Chris Blunt tell us about “The Journey of Asylum Seekers” from troubled countries to Leeds, where LASSN seeks to provide much needed support. Gerard gave us factual information and dealt with common misconceptions:

~ ***The number of people seeking protection in the UK is at its lowest level since 1989:*** Asylum applications have fallen from a peak of over 84,000 in 2002 to just under 17,800 in 2010. In 2010, the UK ranked 14 out of the EU27 in terms of asylum applicants per head of population. The numbers seeking to escape conflict and persecution in the UK is small compared to those who are assisted in neighbouring developing countries. For example, in April 2011, Liberia was hosting some 135,000 Ivorians who had fled the spiralling violence in Cote d'Ivoire.

~ ***Perceptions of asylum seekers in the UK are extremely inaccurate***

A poll in March 2011 found that 72% of respondents thought there were more than 100,000 asylum applications in the UK in 2009. The actual figure was 24,485.

~ ***More than one in four decisions to refuse an asylum seeker protection in the UK is overturned on appeal***

The vast majority of those seeking protection in the UK do have a genuine fear for their safety. In 2010, 25% of those seeking asylum were given protection in the UK. A further 27% of those who appealed against a refusal in 2010 were granted status in the UK. For some nationalities the overturn rates on appeal were much higher (e.g. Somalia: 50%, Eritrea: 36%, Zimbabwe: 36%, Sri Lanka: 35% and Iran: 31%). Success at appeal is largely dependent on obtaining good quality legal representation, which is in increasingly short supply. Some wait months for a decision on their cases. At the end of 2010, there were still 3,415 cases which had been waiting over 6 months for an initial decision.

~ ***Asylum support is not generous and leaves many people unable to meet essential living needs***

Most asylum seekers receive an allowance well below 70% of Income Support. For example, destitute lone parent asylum seekers receive £43.94 a week (65% of Income Support) and single adults will get £36.62 (which is just 54% of Income Support if they are 25 or over). Consequently most asylum

seekers have to live on just over £5 a day (accommodation and fuel bills are paid for separately for those who have nowhere to live). It is extremely hard to meet essential living needs of food, clothes and toiletries and pursue an asylum application on this amount. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work to support themselves unless they have been waiting for more than one year for a decision to be made on their initial application. Refused asylum seekers at the end of the process often have no support at all.

~ ***Refugees have made, and continue to make, a significant contribution to the UK***

Refugees have successfully settled in the UK for centuries, including the Huguenots from France, Jews fleeing Nazi Germany, Asians escaping Idi Amin's Uganda or more recently the Bosnians and Kosovans who fled the Balkans.

Most refugees play productive roles in society outside of the public gaze, but some have made high profile contributions to the UK in various fields. Some examples are:

Sir Ludwig Guttmann (neurologist and founder of the Paralympics and Stoke Mandeville Hospital) Rudolf Nureyev (dancer), Yasmin Alibhai Brown (journalist and author), Omid Djalili (comedian and actor).

After an excellent Fair Trade (Veggie) supper, we heard a moving personal account from Kabwe, about his 'Journey' through the asylum process, leaving his wife and children behind in the Congo. He has recently received permission to stay, after 5 years of uncertainty. Then Chris Blunt showed us some of her impressive pictures from Afghanistan, which illustrated graphically the conditions from which people are forced to flee. Chris is also a volunteer with LASSN, teaching English to Afghani women with the advantage of speaking their own language, Dari.

The LASSN website (<http://lassn.pir2.info/> or just type **LASSN** into Google) gives more details of their work in raising awareness on the issues, their befriending scheme, their 'English at Home', "Short Stop" (crash accommodation), Hardship fund and the other vital work. They are a small, local Charity, well worthy of your consideration for support.

Many thanks to the group for laying it all before us and to those who came to tell us.

*John Townsend*



## *St Mary's goes international again*

We know that we have readers of the Magazine and people viewing the website as far afield as Australia and the USA; now we have a contact in Madrid, courtesy of Robert Wivell.

The Anglican Church in Madrid has an informative website at: <http://www.e2gconsultores.com/clientes/stgeorgesmadrid/index.php/en/> and they publish Newsletters during the year.

On a recent visit to that church Robert was speaking to the Editor of their Newsletter (like our Magazine) and mentioned ours and our website, inviting her to contact us if desired.

She has indeed been in touch and has found on our website Paul Heaton's excellent photo of the East Window and the part of it which depicts the Nativity. She has requested permission to use the photo in their Christmas Newsletter.

By an exchange of emails (Madrid / our Editor / Paul Heaton) within the space of about 30 minutes we were able to respond with the photo for her to use, thanks to Paul's prompt reply and kindly giving permission for the photo to be used.

So when you read a copy of the Christmas Newsletter of St George's, Madrid ... the cover illustration might look just a little familiar.

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Hello everyone.

I'm back in the UK and once again a massive thank you to all who supported me during my fundraising to make my trip possible.

I had a fantastic time with our friends over in Cape Town and met many inspirational people, took part in training and worked alongside the Fikelela project and joined communities to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays. The group I travelled with was youth workers and youth volunteers from all around the York Diocese. The activities we took part in had a strong emphasis on youth in Cape Town, for example, the problems of gang violence and underage pregnancy, but we also *(continued ... page 18)*



**This is the page for the adverts:**

**Accommodation**

**Y Homes**

**Aberford**

**Byfield**

**This is the page for the adverts:**

**Andrew Morgan**

**Ian Blakey**

**Andrew Bell**

**etc.**

**Wetherby Electrical advert.**

**Chris Wharmby advert.**

**Fasterflow advert.**

**Ware & Kay advert**

looked at environmental issues in Cape Town and the massive divide between the rich and poor.

I have never felt so privileged and realised how much I take for granted until I met a young girl called Orgay, who was probably 4 years old and was very curious about our group. We visited a restaurant in the township Khayelitsha, which is currently the home of 2 million people. The makeshift huts, made out of tin and wood, were a shocking and thought provoking sight, but the spirit of the people we met was unbelievable. In such hardship and poverty, they would welcome us into their homes and happily tell us their stories. Orgay didn't speak a word of



English and I only a few words of Xhosa, but I noticed that she wore no shoes and she walked barefoot amongst broken glass, sharp stones and dirty water. Back home, and even back at our cottage in Fish Hoek Bay, I would be returning to a selection and choice of shoes, but yet she had none.

I hope I was able to touch the lives of the people we met, as they certainly touched mine. I hope I gave something to the communities so they do not forget us. But most of all I hope that this will not be the end. I hope and pray that I can share my experiences with everyone and bring them into the church, so that it is not just me that has grown from this experience, but that we all grow together.



***God Bless Africa.  
Guard her children.  
Guide her leader.  
And give her peace, for Jesus Christ's sake.  
Amen.***

If anyone wishes to talk to me about my experiences or ask me any questions please feel free to come and speak with me. I will be happy to tell you all about it.

Natalie Heaton

## *Wydale Parish Weekend - October 1980*

In this Edition we reproduce, courtesy of John Townend, a photo taken at Wydale and showing all of the party who attended. There are 34 people in this photo – how many do you recognise?

Next month we shall provide a list of the names.



## *“The Journey to Christmas”*

The All Age Worship Service at St Mary's welcomed over 100 children and adults to be part of the 'Journey to Christmas' for the second Sunday of Advent.



With the second candle to be lit on the Advent wreath suspended horizontally in the North Aisle, it was joined by a candle prepared by Natalie Heaton, recently returned from her trip to South Africa, to remember those with HIV/AIDS keeping in mind World Aids Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Penny Stables, leading the service, told us that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. During the winter months as the roads and byways became impassable, and the wagons were laid up for the winter, their wooden wheels were hung horizontally from the rafters to keep their shape. These wheels, waiting to be used again in the spring, were draped with evergreens and candles used to indicate the waiting of Christians for the Christ-Child. Each of the four Sundays in Advent reminds us of those who also waited and prepared for the coming of Christ.

The presentation was illustrated by a drama beginning with the fictional Kennedy Family - played by themselves - harried by their preparations for Christmas, juggling work and family, present buying and wrapping, packing clothes, toys and presents to stay with grandparents for Christmas. As they set off with enormous bags full of presents and a huge suitcase they rushed to their destination followed by 20 of our children to the customary sound of Slade and 'Merry Christmas Everybody'. Everyone was exhausted, including the congregation!

This was simply contrasted with a look at the first Christmas over 2000 years ago, and a very different journey – this time accompanied by the evocative 'Gabriel's Oboe' by Ennio Morricone.

George Orton and Natalie Heaton set the scene in traditional nativity costume. This part of the drama explored Joseph and Mary's 62 mile journey to Bethlehem, where Joseph was from, in order to be counted in the census decreed by Emperor Augustus. They packed the few things they needed, simple food, a shawl and swaddling bands for the baby, then set off, Joseph on foot and Mary riding on a donkey. They travelled for 3 long days before they reached Bethlehem. Mary, almost ready to have her special baby, must have been very uncomfortable and very tired. Joseph too must have been very tired and worried about where Mary would have her baby. Yet the

journey would have been peaceful, with plenty of time to think and prepare for what was to come – the birth of Jesus.

Between the hustle and bustle of the modern Christmas and the peace of the First Christmas, the congregation made their choice with most voting to join Mary and Joseph on their amazing journey.

Mary and Joseph's preparation and journey was in many ways far more simple but probably far more dangerous. Yet this journey was at a different pace to modern day living, allowing time for thought and contemplation and to be prepared for the birth of Christ.

Should that be a lesson for what we should all be doing? Are we so caught up in trying to live up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations of a perfect Christmas, that we forget what it is really about, until we complete our preparations and we finally get to church on Christmas Day or the crib service on Christmas Eve? Is it only then that we stop and think why we are celebrating?

Advent should be a time of preparation, preparation for the coming of Christ.

We heard in Isaiah ch40 how John prepared the way, shouting out "Clear a path in the desert! Make a straight road for the Lord our God". Let us make sure that in our preparation, our waiting, for Christmas, that the noise, the busyness and the distractions are cleared away for a short time each day, maybe for 15-30 minutes. Then, when Christmas does arrive, we are not only ready for Christmas but ready for the coming of Christ.

As it says in Mark 1: "Make a straight path for Him". This is the journey to Christmas that I want – what about you?

The whole Church made their own circles – reminiscent of the Advent wreath – as we held hands for an alternative Peace with Cathy Dibben leading the beautifully sung Taizé Chant, 'The peace I give you'.

I leave you with our closing prayer for you to draw on in your preparation and your Journey to Christmas 2011 ...

Dear Father God,

Please help us all to spend some time with you on this our journey of preparation for the coming of your son Jesus Christ.

Be with us this Advent and guide us to use our time wisely.

Fill our minds and hearts with your Holy Spirit and bring us your peace in this busy season. Amen

**Rachel Bentley, All Age Worship Team**

**Light up a Life Service at St Mary's  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2011**



Caroline Hudson, Events Manager, has asked us to include this message:  
We are very grateful to all our supporters who braved the weather to fill the church once again. Our appeal currently stands at over £14,000 which is fantastic especially as we still have a few weeks to go until it ends. Thank you to everyone at St Mary's Church for their support with this very special event.



***St Mary's Room***

For just £10 per hour St Mary's Room can be hired for meetings, etc. Please contact our Administrator for further details. Please note: When St Mary's Room is in use for a Meeting during Office Hours please use the external door to the Office. Do not interrupt the Meeting.



***A Special Birthday Approaches!!***

In 2012 St Mary's will be celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the first place of worship to be built on our current location. It was not a very large building but it was probably filled for every service every Sunday with folk from every household in the (then) small village of Boston Spa. The schedule of events is being finalised. Watch this space!

## *News and a Prayer from Taizé*



In Taizé, in the winter calm, activities continue. Most days, towards midday, the sun breaks through the clouds. Just a short time after the last big weeks, the tents and the marquees have been taken down, and the big kitchen and the snack bar at Oyak have been closed for several months. At the same time, the decoration for the prayer halls in Berlin is progressing right here in Taizé. Also in preparation, for the beginning of Advent, is a life size crib that is being set up in front of the Church of Reconciliation. The crib will be lit up at night and it will gradually be added to throughout the period leading up to Christmas. Every Sunday, the crib will feature some live animals.

Among the visitors over recent weeks there have been sisters from the Protestant communities of Grandchamp and Pomeyrol, some diplomats representing various countries of the Council of Europe. Also present was Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, from Guwahati, in the North of India.

### *a Prayer*

God of peace, at times when we make our way forward as if in a fog, without seeing the path very well, we can recall Christ's words: "I will send you the Holy Spirit: he will always be with you; he will be within you."

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### *Rascals Playgroup*

Please join us on a Friday morning (during term time) for a coffee and catch up while your little ones play and sing a few songs. The session starts at 9.30am and finishes at 11.00 and is a wonderful way to start the weekend. Contact Guy Lythe on 01937 849612 or 07725 099232

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### *Dates for your Diary*

#### **Other Services and events at St Mary's and elsewhere:**



☛ We welcome news of forthcoming local events but please let us have details in good time to allow for preparation of a suitable insert for the Magazine.

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Wave of Prayer <b>N.B.</b> please bring your favourite prayer or poem
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm-3.00pm	St Mary's Ark
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am 10.00am	Prayer Group Communion Service ~ followed by coffee
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm -3.00pm	St Mary's Ark

### **Annual Subscriptions**

Please note that subscriptions for 2012 are £18.00 and are due by the 4<sup>th</sup> January. Please hand cash or cheque payable to St. Mary's Mothers' Union to our treasurer Christine Sweeney, 2A St Mary's Street, Boston Spa LS23 6BP or bring your Subscription to the Wave of Prayer on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

*Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful New Year  
with every blessing.*

*Janet McBride, Branch Leader*

**Editor's Note:** It has been our pleasure and delight to use as our Cover design this month a telling graphic which is so apt for the season of Christmas; but more than that, it should apply all through the year. Perhaps we should say "Mothers' Union is for life, not just for Christmas" (to paraphrase an oft-seen car sticker.



So, following that thought, it is appropriate to quote what Mothers' Union says about itself:

**Vision:** Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

**Mission:** To demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

**Objectives:**

- To promote and support **married** life
- To encourage **parents** in their role to develop the faith of their children
- To maintain a worldwide **fellowship** of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- To promote conditions in society favourable to **stable family life** and the **protection** of children
- To help those whose family life has met with **adversity**

**Values:** Mothers' Union is firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos. Its governance, leadership, and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members around the world as they respond to God's call to faith and action.

**Beliefs:**

- We believe in the value of each individual and their unique qualities
- We believe in the value of relationships. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."
- We believe in the value of the family in its many forms as a source of love and support for individuals and the basis for a caring community



***A reminder of some of the forthcoming attractions at Jazz in the Spa:***

**7<sup>th</sup> – Savannah Jazz Band** – the traditional start to the New Year as we invite Yorkshire’s premier jazz band to welcome us into 2012. Just be there early for an **8.00.pm** start.



**14<sup>th</sup> - Kid Boyd Jazz Band**

**21<sup>st</sup> – Hot Fingers featuring ‘Spats’ Langham** – a first appearance for this new trio led by Spats and described as “vintage acoustic string music”.

**28<sup>th</sup> – Alan Barnes + John Hallam + Tom Kincaid Trio –**

**Please Note: 2012 sessions now begin at 8.00 pm**



## FROM THE REGISTERS ~ November 2011

### BAPTISMS:

12 <sup>th</sup> November	Evie Holloway-Williams
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Charlotte Grace Elizabeth Clark
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Ethan Clark Kaye Todd
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Heidi Rose Sykes



### MARRIAGES:

None



### FUNERALS:

2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Baby Luey Jacob Sharp
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Elsie May Towse
16 <sup>th</sup> November	John Malcolm Proctor Naylor



### MEMORIAL SERVICES

2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Bill Pedder
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(Please Note: details of Memorial Services will in future be included where we are asked to do so)

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## *Wetherby in Support of the Elderly*

### Some News and Updates:

**The Age UK Leeds Information and Advice drop-in service** is available at the WISE office Tuesdays 10.00 – 1.30 and Thursdays 12.00 to 3.30. Ask about Help at Home, Benefits, Form Filling etc. Outside these times please **ring Nicola 01937 588994** or email [nicola.cazaux@ageukleeds.org.uk](mailto:nicola.cazaux@ageukleeds.org.uk)



**Home from Hospital.** A new contract with the Red Cross has been agreed for 2012. The service has been increased and we will support 140 people on discharge from hospital. This service in partnership with the Red Cross and funded by WiSE supports older people who are unable to manage at home alone after a spell in hospital or day hospital treatment. This service will also contribute to minimizing the risk of re-admission. Support visits will be made once or twice a week, depending on need for a maximum of 6 weeks, to help

regain confidence and independence. The service will be working from the offices of WiSE and Harrogate and Leeds Hospitals. Referrals are taken from both community and hospital health care settings.

**The Café In Boston Spa** Our Café in Boston Spa in the Jubilee Room at the Village Hall opened in April. Are you caring for someone with Dementia? Would you like some support? Our Café in Boston Spa is on the **Second Tuesday** of every month between 2pm and 4pm

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### A Spiritual Journey.

The cross is a heavy load, another year to face.  
My shoulders sore, my back is bent. Trust in the Lord.  
Yet filled with His Holy Spirit I will travel on some more.  
I engage with others; in His footprints I will tread.  
The journey at times tedious, and long; but I will be strong.  
I need courage, patience and prayer, and His Love in which I can share.

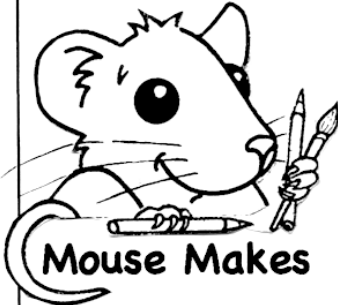
The track is uneven, stony; I stumble and fall;  
There are blind bends, blind summits; on whom shall I call?  
Open my eyes Lord, to Your desires; give me the seeds I should sow, as along  
this journey I go.  
Then blessings pour down, seeping into my Soul, far more than I deserve or  
ever can show.  
In tears of gratitude, a heart bursting with joy, with happiness and love, so  
ready to employ.

What is revealed on this Emmaus Road of Revelation?  
Not just the loneliness, pain and sorrow He endured.  
But a life of awe; of teaching to all who believe.  
A Creation of Wonder too marvellous to conceive.  
To deepen my knowledge my Faith this journey I make,  
Swelling my Spirit, so others may partake  
this journey of Salvation, 2012, of Hope in the Lord,  
An incarnation of God, a blessing to be adored.

*Liz Ness*

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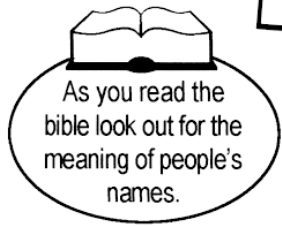
The NAMING of JESUS



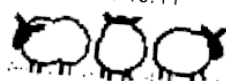


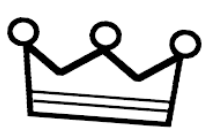


Eight days after their baby was born, **Mary** and **Joseph** named him with the name the angel **Gabriel** had given them long before he had been born. It was a very special name for a very special baby... the name **JESUS** which means **GOD IS SAVIOUR**.

*"You are to give him the name JESUS because he will save his people from their sins".*

READ: Luke 2:21-38



<p><b>Jesus is:</b> The Christ Matthew 16:16</p>  <p><b>The LIGHT</b> John 8:12</p>  <p><b>Bread of Life</b> John 6:35</p> <p><b>The Good Shepherd</b> John 10:11</p>  <p><b>Lamb of God</b> John 1:29</p> <p><b>JESUS</b></p> <p><i>'God is Saviour'</i> Matthew 1:21</p> <p>○</p>	<p><b>Jesus is:</b> Saviour John 3:16-17</p>  <p><b>Son of God</b> Matthew 3:16-17</p>  <p><b>The Word</b> John 1:1-5</p> <p><b>THE WAY</b> John 14:6</p> <p><b>LORD</b> John 20:28</p>  <p><b>KING</b> Revelation 17:14</p> <p>○</p>
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**To make your bookmark:**  
Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.



Jan12