

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2006

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Advent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



## Sunday Worship

|                                  |                      |                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>10.30 Parish Communion</b>    | Junior Steward       | Kara             |
|                                  | Drinks               | Karen            |
|                                  | Reader               | Karen            |
|                                  | Communion Assistants | Elaine C & Carol |
|                                  | Prayers              | Della            |
|                                  | Steward              | Margaret A       |
|                                  | Music                | Graham, Kara, Yo |
| <b>4pm Carols by Candlelight</b> |                      |                  |

If you would like someone to pray with you after the 10.30 service please feel free to approach anyone with a prayer badge or ask the clergy.

## Collect

The special prayer for the third Sunday in Advent:

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your  
mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your  
way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the  
wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in  
your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Farewell Mike And Linda

Take the opportunity to say goodbye to Mike, the Church Army student who's been on placement with us for a while: Today is their last Sunday with us.

## This Week At St Marys

### Toddler Group

Wednesday morning  
9.30-11.30am in the  
hall.

**Women** will not be **Exploring** anything until January!

## Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards - instead of spending lots of money on cards for one another why not write one card to everyone, pin it on the Christmas board in Church and put the money you would have spent in the box next to it? The Centre are doing the same and the money is going to St. Luke's hospice.

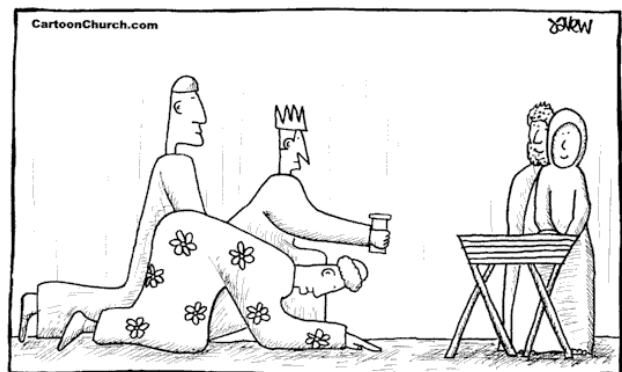
## Diocesan Young Adults Event

To all 18-25 year olds ....

You are invited to a special evening at Whirlow Grange on **Friday 26th January 2007** from 7-10pm.

The evening will include a meal and entertainment from Joe Fisher ~ a very funny Christian comedian! Tickets must be booked and cost £10 per head Dress code ~ Gorgeous!

For more details, menu or to book tickets please contact [nel.shallow@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:nel.shallow@sheffield.anglican.org)



It really was the worst possible time to lose a contact lens.

[www.cartoonchurch.com](http://www.cartoonchurch.com)

PTO

This newsletter is available on the internet at <http://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/>

To submit news or to receive emails when this newsletter is updated, [steve.tozer-loft 258 4382 steve@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:steve.tozer-loft@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk)



Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

## Mini-News

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The Leprosy Mission, an international Christian organisation, will benefit from some of the proceeds of the **Concert for Diana**, organised by Princes William and Harry to celebrate their mother's life.

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The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams has said that the Government White Paper on the future of **Trident** requires the widest possible consultation and should start and not close down public debate on the issue.

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Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, has launched the Church of England's first official **online Advent Calendar**. The website marks the first time the Church of England has launched a national initiative using the web to explore the meaning of Christmas and to highlight the deep significance of the festival for millions of people across the country. The calendar draws together a range of real-life stories about what Christmas means to people today – from a paramedic in Carlisle, to a donkey sanctuary owner in Oxfordshire, to an estate agent in Tunbridge Wells – in a way that is accessible to people of all ages. Its at [www.adventstories.org](http://www.adventstories.org) (and its really really good – Ed.)

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**Worship for children under five** is important, says a new publication by Church Army's Sheffield Centre. The 17-page Encounters on the Edge resource (31 Small Beginnings), explores what it is to nurture spirituality in young children. The publication examines how the fresh expressions agenda offers churches a great opportunity to re-connect with this often-overlooked age group.

## How Still We See Thee Lie

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Four UK Christian leaders have called for prayers throughout Advent for Christians in the **Holy Land** as they prepare for a pilgrimage to the birth place of Jesus Christ. The heads of the



Roman Catholic, Anglican, Free Church, and Armenian churches in Britain will travel to Jerusalem to meet local Church Leaders.

The focus of the pilgrimage will be prayer, shared worship, pastoral visits and meetings with local Christians in both Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

The visit has been welcomed by 'Open Bethlehem', which campaigns to keep the city

open to the world at a time when the Israeli wall and land annexations are causing hardship for its inhabitants.

### Facts about Bethlehem:

The Wall in and around Bethlehem has reduced the district to its urban core. It severs the built-up areas from thousands of acres of agricultural land and water resources. There are 27 Israeli settlements in the Bethlehem district built on land confiscated from Bethlehem's private owners. It is predicted that once the wall is complete Bethlehem will lose 70% of its territory altogether.

A system of cement walls, electric fences, settlers only roads and checkpoints creates a prison-like environment for the people of Bethlehem. The World Bank cites the closure regime as the direct cause of the humanitarian crisis.

70% of the population in Bethlehem lives below the poverty line. Unemployment is higher than 60%. Tourism, which accounts for 65% of the Bethlehem economy is now almost entirely controlled by Israeli companies, meaning that the few tourists that come to Bethlehem don't stay for more than a few hours. The Hotel Association in Bethlehem has reported that only 2.5% of rooms were booked in 2005 in comparison to 22.1% in 2000.

The Christian population in Bethlehem accounts for 41.3% of the population in Bethlehem town proper and 26% in the whole district. Following Israeli invasions in 2001-2002, Bethlehem lost 10% of its Christian population as 3,000 Christians left the city.

## Nativity – The Movie

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A Christmas film that's actually about the birth of Christ. This new film about the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem is being shown this week at three Sheffield cinemas.



It's rated PG. The film is being shown at the Sheffield Odeon at 12.10pm 17-21<sup>st</sup> December, Cineworld (Valley Centertainment) three times daily, and Sheffield Vue (Meadowhall) at 9.50 in the morning.

## Next Sunday – Christmas Eve

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### 10.30 Parish communion

**People with jobs to do next Sunday:** Keith (readings); Margaret I (drinks); Andy & Kate (communion assistants); Eunice (prayers); Doreen and Joan (stewards); Lydia & Molly (junior stewards); anyone who's available (music).

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To submit news or to receive emails when this newsletter is updated, [steve tozer-loft 258 4382 steve@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:steve.tozer-loft@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk)

