

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of Lent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



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## Sunday Worship

9.30 Holy Communion (BCP)		
<b>10.30 Family Service</b>	Drinks	Margaret A
	Reader	Rachel M
	Junior Steward	Hannah
	Steward	Kate
	Music	Jon, Yo, Jess

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.

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## Collect For 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of Lent

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

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## This Week At St Marys

<b>Parent &amp; Toddlers</b>	This <b>Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am</b> in the hall.
<b>Women Exploring Faith</b>	<b>Thursday 9.30am</b> in the Parish Room. We will be exploring some spiritual disciplines, encouraging one another and enjoying friendship, coffee and biscuits

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## Youth Fellowship

**Tonight** here at St Marys at 6pm, the Youth Fellowship plus friends are playing a fairtrade simulation game together, thanks to visiting gamesmaster Tony T.

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## Parish Day

Parish Day is **Saturday 17th March** at Ranmoor Parish Centre 9.30am - 4pm. Transport can be arranged from St. Mary's. Please speak to Karen or Julian for more information - pick up a leaflet with all the details and sign up on the list at the back of Church. It promises to be a great day of fellowship and learning together, led by sister Meg from Whirlow chapel and thinking around the theme of 'sanctuary'.

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## Kids Easter Activity Afternoon

Planned for the afternoon of **Palm Sunday 1st April** - an opportunity to have fun and tell the Easter story aimed at the 6 - 10yr age group. Adult helpers required to supervise games, help with crafts, make drinks, chat & befriend. Please speak to Karen if you are able to help - invitations for children will be available from next weekend.



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## Lent Course – Climate Change

The homegroups are continuing trying to answer the question 'What can we do about climate change?'. Groups are meeting in Ecclesall, and in church on **Wednesday** evenings at **8pm**. All welcome, especially those not used to coming to a 'home group' and the material, although from a Christian perspective, will be of interest to anyone who is concerned about these issues. Speak to Steve, Graham, or Julian for more details.

**14<sup>th</sup> March – Global justice**

**21<sup>st</sup> March – Quality of life**

**28<sup>th</sup> March - What do we do now?**

**PTO**

This newsletter is available on the internet at <http://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/>  
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Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

## Sheffield Faiths Forum

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Come and help the City celebrate the launch of this new initiative this **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm-8pm** at the Town Hall, Sheffield. You have to book (275 0462) or [www.offer.org.uk/events](http://www.offer.org.uk/events)

Also on an interfaith theme, The Bishop will chair the multi-faith event Inter-Communal Dialogue 2007, on **Tuesday 13th March (6.30pm)** at the Octagon Centre, Sheffield University. The gathering, run by The Islamic Society of Britain, is the first in a series aiming to promote constructive dialogue in the community. Admission to this event is free. There is limited availability so booking in advance is recommended. To reserve a place call: 07930 313 773 or email [enquiries@isb-sheff.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@isb-sheff.org.uk).

## Prayers For Teachers

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**15<sup>th</sup> March 8-9.15pm**, Endcliffe Methodist Church. Prayer Fellowship for School Teachers and Support Staff to go to.

## Mystery Worshipper

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Here are very edited highlights of the what a 'mystery worshipper' thought about the remembrance service at St Marys last November:

**The church:** *As the vicar put it to me later, "We are trying to be a community church for the people who live around here." Among their many ministries are an alpha class, home groups, youth and women's groups, marriage counseling, a parents' group and a toy library. Clearly this is a church that does things rather than just talk about doing them...*

**Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what?**

*It was a formal kind of service, and suitably solemn for Remembrance Day, with nothing really out of the ordinary. Middle-of-the-road, sort of evangelical Anglican, not the most interesting thing in the world. I would like to be present to see them worshipping in a different, more distinctive style, and I'd like to see their community centre at work during the week. I fancy that that is one of the most important aspects of their worship.*

**Which part of the service was like being in heaven?**

*To judge by appearances, people from many different backgrounds were present and involved as active members of the church. It was a much less self-possessed, middle-class seeming place than many Anglican churches of my acquaintance, and people seemed as a result to take the idea of*

*living as a community much more seriously. I was impressed by the way people looked for ways to help each other, and ashamed at how long it took me to notice (for example) that my neighbour didn't have a hymnbook.*

**How would you feel about making this church your regular (where 10 = ecstatic, 0 = terminal)?**

*7 - Now, this is not my kind of liturgy, and I suspect that this church is somewhat more evangelically inclined than I feel comfortable with. But I would so like to be part of a community as caring and busy and welcoming as this.*

**Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?**

*Throughout most of the service I felt indifferent, but the warmth of the welcome I received afterwards was wonderful. That didn't just make me feel glad to be a Christian - it made me want to be a better one.*

**What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time?**

*The variety of people and their kind, happy friendliness.*

The Mystery Worshipper project, which produced this report, is run by [shipoffools.com](http://shipoffools.com), the online magazine of Christian unrest. The project has volunteer reporters who visit churches of all denominations worldwide, leaving only a calling card in the collection plate. For further reports, visit the Mystery Worshipper at: <http://shipoffools.com/Mystery>

## Cool The Planet...

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With a May Day Walk together. Starts **10am Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>** 5 miles around Redmires and Rivelin Reservoirs (10 and 15 mile options available).

This is a sponsored walk for Christian Aid who's 2007 campaign is 'Cut the Carbon' so sponsor money will support their lobby of international governments as well as the worlds poorest.

If ten of us can raise £50 of sponsorship each, thats £500 to support this excellent cause that we all care about plus a lovely summer's walk together as a church. See Yo for one of the ten sponsor forms she has available today.

## Next Sunday – Mothering Sunday

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### 10.30 Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Keith (readings); Dorothy (drinks); Elaine & Carol (communion assistants); Elaine (prayers); Kara (junior stewards); Margaret A (steward); Jon, Claire, Veronica (music).

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