

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Mothering Sunday

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



## Sunday Worship

<b>10.30 Family Service</b>	Prayers	Elaine
	Communion Assistants	Elaine & Carol
	Drinks	Dolly
	Reader	Keith
	Junior Steward	Kara
	Steward	Margaret A
	Music	Jon, Veronica, +

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 For Mothering Sunday

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family  
to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence to  
bind together and to heal;  
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.

## This Week At St Marys

<b>PCC</b>	<b>Tomorrow</b> 7.45pm at the Vicarage
<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

## 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.

## 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.

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

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

## Banners

Lucy will be hosting an evening session at St Marys on 29<sup>th</sup> March to show people around the banners she has produced. More details next week.

## Don't Get Left Behind!

Ten households from St Marys have already signed up for the 'May Day Trek' - a lovely 5 mile sponsored walk around Redmires and Rivelin Reservoirs for Christian Aid on **Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>**. Join us! You have a few sponsor forms left. (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.

## Making Our Mark

*"If there is one thing that the Gospel of Christ says to us, it is that, in acknowledging the past, it is possible to open it to the healing power of Christ"*

Archbishop Rowan Williams

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York on 24<sup>th</sup> March will be leading a historic event to mark the Bicentenary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave

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

Trade.

The Archbishops will lead the Walk of Witness through parts of London to culminate in a large-scale act of worship. The event, organised by the Church's Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC), forms the main part of the Church's wider awareness campaign, Making our Mark.



## Sheffield Faiths Forum

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Last Wednesday saw the launch of this at the Town Hall. Its hoped that the forum will

- increase faith group involvement in Sheffield's regeneration
- co-ordinate activities that strengthen community relations
- increase understanding between faith communities
- increase ability of faith communities to respond to emergencies
- identify and explain role of faith communities in contributing to benefits for wider society.

It was a good do with each forum member (4 Christians, 2 Muslims, 1 for each of the other faith groups) greeted by the Lord Mayor. For more information chat to Julian or Yo, or go to <http://www.offer.org.uk/>

## Deanery Synod Report

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The Deanery is the group of a dozen or so Anglican churches in this part of Sheffield of which St Marys is a part. St Marys has two 'Lay' representatives, Veronica and Steve. The Deanery Synod (committee) met last Tuesday at St John's Church Abbeydale.

Before the meeting, one lady thought I was Graham, but another more accurately remembered me as "the bloke who doesn't like Tesco's". We don't meet very often!

Julian is no longer Area Dean (pastor-boss of the Deanery), so the first business was for Peter Ingram, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Millhouses to be 'licensed' to the job, by the Archdeacon. Someone's mobile went off during the solemn vows.

Next, the Archdeacon addressed us all. I'm sure he was trying to be encouraging - he said that clergy have never been better-trained, and that church buildings have never been better-maintained than they are now. But...if we are to be realistic about the church's state of finances,

we will have to let go, perhaps of things we have associated with church life. Like clergy...and churches!

Apparently the Sheffield Diocesan finances have a huge hole in them because they have only received 92% of the amount the churches are supposed to pay (98% in this deanery, though, we were told).

He reminded us that the Deaneries will be expected to have more of a say about how resources are used at the local level: When a Priest retires (the Vicar of St John's is about to retire) the Deanery will have some responsibility for planning whether staff should be redistributed, or buildings shared.

He said that as a pilgrim people, we should find it easier than we do to 'travel light'.

There were a few questions to the Archbishop. Apparently a deanery review will be produced by the new Area Dean, who said that we must all be open, and concentrate on the real current situation, not history, and to find ways to communicate well.

The Diocesan Synod is the 'next meeting up' where representatives from all of Sheffield Diocese meet. There was a brief report from the Diocesan Synod - there will be an 'environmental policy' for parishes to discuss soon.

There was also a report back from the recent General Synod (the top meeting!) in London. Some of the issues discussed were: replacing trident nuclear missiles (Synod says bad idea); clergy pensions (Synod says good idea, but made it a bit cheaper); choosing where to get married (Synod said its all too complicated); gay and lesbian Christians (Synod re-affirmed that homosexual orientation was in itself no bar to a faithful life and acknowledged the importance of gay and lesbian members of the church in the listening process and as full members of the church). There was lots more besides. If anyone wants a copy of the excellent summary of Rev Matthew Porter (St Chads Woodseats), please ask Steve.

## Course For Musicians And Worship Leaders

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On eleven Sunday afternoons (1 per month) starting in September 2007. Taster days **17<sup>th</sup> April** and **9<sup>th</sup> May** (7-9pm). More details from Yo.

## Next Sunday - Passion Sunday

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### 10.30 Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Elaine C (readings); Elaine & David (drinks); Andy & Kate (communion assistants); Kate (prayers); Lydia & Molly (junior stewards); Doreen & Joan (steward); Graham, Kara, Angi (music).

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