



Sunday Worship

<b>9.30 Holy Communion (BCP) in the Chapel</b>		
<b>10.30 Family Service</b>	Drinks	Dorothy
	Prayers	Yo
	Steward	Kate K
	Music	Jon, Yo, Kim

This Week At St Marys

<b>Parent &amp; Toddlers</b>	This <b>Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am</b> in the hall.
<b>Life &amp; Faith</b>	<b>Wednesday at 8.00pm</b> for anyone interested in making connections between faith and everyday life. If you want to explore discipleship and deepen your experience then this is for you, whether at the start or well on in your journey of faith. This week's session is on <i>Sharing Word of the Lord</i> . See Julian for more information.
<b>Women Exploring Faith</b>	On <b>Thursday</b> from <b>9.30am</b> in the Parish Room. An opportunity to share fellowship and pray. Looking at 'parables', over the coming weeks. Please ask Helen or Karen if you are interested in knowing more.
<b>Men's Group</b>	A new initiative at St Mary's: Time and space for the menfolk of St Mary's to fellowship, share, learn and pray together.  The first meeting will be <b>this Thursday</b> at St Ms <b>8pm-9.30pm</b> when Rev Phil Batchford will be the guest speaker. The evening will include an ice breaker and time to talk! And be followed by refreshments at a local hostelry. All men welcome – see Andy or Tom for details.

Collect For 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Trinity

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.

50 Years Of Church And Centre

Please enjoy a look at the time line and photographic display of the last 50 years of St Mary's since its rebirth after the building was struck by a WWII bomb.

Women Together At St Marys

Women are warmly invited to attend the St Mary's Asian Project Eid Party, here in the building on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 10-12am**. Please let Della know if you'd like to come, and if you will need to use the crèche. Aroose has asked us to dress up!

<b>Ecclesall Homegroup</b>	Next meeting <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> – at the Mathers.
<b>PCC Meeting</b>	Will now be <b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. 7.45pm</b> at the Vicarage

October - A Month Of Thanksgiving And Celebration

Last week we celebrated both harvest and 50 years of the centre. We welcomed back many people who have had connections with St Mary's Church and Centre over the past 50 years and more. It showed us how much God blesses us in our individual lives, as a church family and how many people share with us in our enjoyment and use of the church building. We are a pioneering church, breaking new ground as we explore new forms of ministry and mission in a challenging, fast changing urban setting. Our unique situation means that we have special opportunities and face challenges that are not experienced in other churches.

An issue which is not unique however but faces all of us in this diocese is that of paying our way: something which we have managed to do over the last ten or twelve years. Indeed between 1996 and 2003 we even managed to build up a small reserve of £13500 but over the last few years our annual income has not been enough to cover our expenditure. We have seen increases in the parish share which have been difficult to meet and we have had to dip into our reserves. These have now fallen to £7000. (They would have been even less but for your generous donations at the Gift Day last year). As the figures stand at the moment we are looking at having to use up all the rest of our reserves in order to break even

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To submit news or to receive emails when this newsletter is updated, [steve tozer-loft 258 4382](mailto:steve.tozer-loft@2584382.fsnet.co.uk)  
[steve@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:steve@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk)



this year.

As we give thanks to God at this time for all that he has given us we are using this month to give us all an opportunity to 'top up' our regular giving if we are able to do so or to make a contribution if we are unable to contribute on a regular basis.

Here is a way of responding to the love and generosity of God as each of us can afford and according to our own heart. Let our giving go hand in hand with our worship and service at St Mary's to the glory of God and the spreading of His kingdom and His word.

If you would like any help or advice Margaret and Julian are available and I am sure that Andy and Tom will be able to help too. We will make Gift Day envelopes available at the back of the Church during the rest of October so that you can offer these gifts to God during the service as part of our thanksgiving. In the meantime please join us in our prayers for the future of our mission at St Mary's.

## Traidcraft Thanks

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Thanks to everyone who supported the traidcraft stall on Harvest Sunday - Hannah and Briony took just over £90. The stall will be back again on **Sunday 4th November** and will include Christmas Cards gift wrap etc. Hannah has a few catalogues if you want to choose things in advance/special order.

## ASSIST Off The Shelf

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Last Thursday, St Marys hosted an 'Off The Shelf' (Sheffield's festival of writing and reading) event organised by ASSIST. Refugee writers read and performed poems and a story with passion and openness. Please consider giving time or money to ASSIST who support destitute asylum seekers.

[www.assistsheffield.org.uk](http://www.assistsheffield.org.uk) or tel 2754960 or c/o Central URC, Sheffield, S1 2JB

## Bishop David Writes:

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"But..."

That ever-so-little word! You wait for it; you know it is coming; someone is saying nice things about you, or something you are involved in, and all the time you are waiting for it...and then it comes, "But..." It is only a tiny word, and yet, once said, the whole scenario changes, the atmosphere, the ambience...call it what you like. With one tiny word everything changes. And usually the end result is somewhat negative; it produces a "downer" in the listener.

Yet it features in the most famous verse in the Bible - but(!) in a positive way. Because God (God as we see Him and know Him in Jesus) longs always to be positive. That verse reads: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish BUT have everlasting life." This is because the world God created was in every way "good" - as described in that wonderful account of Creation in Genesis. We read, "God saw

everything that He had made, and behold it was very good" But - (there I go again!) - we live in a disordered world. to put it rather mildly! In the midst of such beauty and wonder, things are - at the same time - not as they should be!

And in the continuation of that account - people (represented by Adam and Eve) were not satisfied, and they wanted more. These human beings presumed to know better than God Himself. So they ate the apple (as we say) - for that read: pride and presumption. And so things went wrong - and still go wrong. BUT - thank God! God did not give up on us. And He is concerned for us - for you, for me and for the whole world - thank God. And that is because He IS love.

The Bible puts it like this - even if it does sound somewhat strange to our ears, but, watch it - it is also very powerful: "By our actions, we were by nature objects of wrath, but God, out of His great love for us, made us alive in Christ."

So what is so often a negative word in our usage has been made positive by God's grace! Next time you or I want to speak this tiny but so significant word, let us recall that in God's way, it is so often very positive and up-beat!

So much hangs on that word "but". Can we try to use it in a positive way and so reflect something of God's positive attitude towards us and the whole world He loves so much that He came to save it. +David

## Fischy Music

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There is a Fischy Music event in Sheffield on **Saturday 10th November** at Christ Church Pitts Moor. There is a concert at 3.15pm suitable for children of all ages - preceded by a childrens workshop for 7 - 12 yrs who want to learn some songs and help present them in the concert. We will make this a Light Factory event and perhaps include tea together afterwards. If you would like to go please let Karen know and we can block book tickets. Fischy music includes "Build up" "You are a star" and many others - it is great fun.

## Climate Change

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Public meeting on Climate Change: an illustrated talk by David Hughes of *A Rocha* and the Sheffield Diocesan Environment Group, followed by discussion. The facts about global warming, present and future consequences and what we can about it now. **Tuesday 6 November at 7.30pm** in St Oswald's Church, Millhouses (corner of Abbeydale Road and Bannerdale Road). All welcome. Further details from Margaret Stone on 0114-2746362 or email [margaretstone@fish.co.uk](mailto:margaretstone@fish.co.uk).

## Next Sunday - 21<sup>st</sup> October

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### 10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Yo (readings); Elaine & David (drinks); Giles & Karen (communion assistants); Steve (prayers); Kara (junior steward); Margaret A. (steward); Jo, Kim, Penny (light factory); Graham, Veronica, Giles (music).

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Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987