

Sunday 16th December 2007

3rd Sunday In Advent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

10.30am Parish Communion	Drinks	Margaret A
	Readings	Andy
	Prayers	Della
	Steward	Margaret A
	Communion Assistants	Caroline & Veronica
	Light Factory	Jo, Kim, Karen
	Music	Graham, Yo, Giles

4pm TODAY - Carols by Candlelight.

Sing traditional carols and listen to contributions from among others St Mary's Minstrels and Purple Cats.

Collect For 3rd 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.

This Week At St Marys

Parent & Toddlers	This Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am in the hall.
Women Exploring Faith	On Thursday from 9.30am 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.

Carol Singing On Landsdowne

To join in with Carol Singing around the Landsdown Estate **next Saturday** morning : meet before 10.30am outside Landsdowne Chapel on Cemetery Road. This year, the ranks will be swelled by 'St Marys Minstrels'.

Reflective Space@ St Oswald's

7.30pm Tonight On an Advent/Christmas Theme led by Wilma Scott.

(And the 3rd Sunday of every month).

St Oswalds invite you to come along to a time of reflective space. These are about 40 minutes to an hour long, with times of quiet, and usually take place at St. Oswald's Church unless stated otherwise. We are aware that many people have extremely busy lives and would like an opportunity, to just stop, be still and have a time of quiet. We hope to give this opportunity, to anybody who would like to come, by providing a time and place, where we can rest, release tension, regain perspective, renew vision, restore passion back into our life and help to engage in what is important.

I have tried to give an idea of what each evening involves. The programme is varied & may have a few minor changes but the essence will be much the same. I do hope you can join us. If you would like to find out more and have any questions please phone me on 0114 250 9736 – Iain Lothian (Curate @ St. Oswald's).

Salaam Bethlehem

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents a new play by Bridget Foreman, directed by Paul Burbridge, designed by Sean Cavanagh. Looking beyond the wall .

Thursday 20th December 7.30pm at St. Oswald's church. Admission: £10 Concessions: £7 groups (10+): £6

Box office 01904 613 000

www.salaambethlehem.com

Salaam Bethlehem is a fascinating, lively and moving encounter with people whose witness in

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

Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

the land of Jesus's birth is something for which the worldwide church should be profoundly grateful. They have a crucial voice within the cacophony of tragedy and recrimination in the Middle East.

This is not a children's Christmas play - but about the life of the Christian Palestinians although it will have links with the Christmas story. It has had excellent reviews so far.

Archbishop John Cuts Up Collar

Archbishop calls for country to "pray, march & protest" against mugabe

The Rt. Hon & Most. Revd. Dr. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, has called upon the people of Britain to unite in their opposition to the Government of Robert Mugabe and to come together to act on Darfur.



Speaking in a dramatic interview on BBC1's Sunday AM programme, Dr. John Sentamu removed his clerical collar and cut it up into pieces live on air saying that President Mugabe had "taken people's identity .and cut it to pieces" prompting the Archbishop to do the same.

During the interview with Andrew Marr, Dr. Sentamu said that his clerical collar, also known as a dog collar, "is what I wear to identify myself, that I'm a clergyman".

"You know what Mr Mugabe has done? He's taken people's identity, and literally, if you don't mind, cut it to pieces, and in the end there's nothing." As he cut his own dog collar into pieces the Archbishop declared "As far as I'm concerned, I'm not going to wear a dog collar, until Mr Mugabe's gone".

The Archbishop also chastised African leaders at the Africa-EU summit for their support of Mr. Mugabe whilst the people of the country continued to suffer.

New Year Prayers

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the President of the Methodist Conference, Martyn Atkins have joined together to produce a video prayer for the start of the New Year and to mark the launch of Hope 08, a national initiative

encouraging prayer and witness. Produced by Fresh Expressions, the four minute film download is designed to be used in churches throughout the country as part of New Year services and celebrations. Download from www.hope08.com and www.freshexpressions.org.uk .

Faith Centre For Students

A new centre designed to bring members of different faiths together has been opened officially at Sheffield Hallam University by its Chancellor Lord Robert Winston.

The Multifaith Centre, based inside the university's Owen building, will provide a place for students and staff to access support as well as providing a quiet space and meeting rooms for religious groups to gather and pray.

Christmas Shoeboxes

Empty shoeboxes are available at the back of church ready to be gift-filled for children in need around the world. There is a list of suggested items with the boxes - please choose a couple of items and put them in the boxes over the next couple of weeks. For more information please speak to Helen or see their website samaritanspurser.co.uk .



Faith Awareness Training

Would you like to know more about the different faiths in our region? **Tuesday 29th January 2008 1-4.30pm.** At Victoria Methodist Church. If interested contact Tim Wright on 2536730 or tim@offer.org.uk or steve has more information.

Washing Up Volunteer

Needed for Lunch Club on **Thursdays 1.30 – 3pm.** Free lunch included plus any travel expenses. Please talk to Yo (258 4382) if you are interested.

Next Sunday – 23rd November

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Rachel M (readings); Dolly (drinks); Eunice? (prayers); Doreen & Joan (steward); Steve, Veronica (music).

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