

Sunday 23rd December 2007

4th Sunday In Advent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| 10.30am Parish Communion | Drinks | Dolly |
| | Readings | Rachel |
| | Steward | Doreen & Joan |
| | Light Factory | Jo, Kim, Karen |
| | Music | Steve, Veronica, Kim |

Collect For 4th Sunday In Advent

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Archbishop's Christmas Message

Rowan Williams' Christmas message to the Anglican Communion:

"One of the strangest yet most moving expressions in the New Testament is a verse in the Letter to the Hebrews (11.16): God 'is not ashamed to be called their God'. The writer is talking about the history of God's people. When they have been faithful to God, faithful in keeping on moving onwards in faith rather than settling down in self-satisfaction, when they are true pilgrims, then God is content to be known as their God."

The rest of the Archbishop's Christmas Message is online – its even a podcast, apparently, at

<http://www.aco.org/acns/podcasts/>

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.

Bishop David Writes:

A great saint of the last century, Austin Farrer, wrote: "When a calendar year comes to an end, we feel cheated. But, in fact, nothing has been ended, nothing rounded off and finished. A calendar year is not a piece of work completed and done: we cannot hold on to, or possess, what it has accomplished. We have learnt many things – yet all our learning seems to lie before us. We have enjoyed many things, but our happiness seems still to have to be earned. We have served God – oh how little! – and we still have to find out what the service of God really is. Yet as time thus bafflingly slips from us, we are in the hands of Him who is eternal and changes not."

For in Jesus we have the one who is changeless and yet submitted to human change – "emptied Himself... and became man" as Paul puts it. The passage of time, of which we are so conscious as each new year comes round, or as each birthday ages us another notch, does disturb us even if we seek to drown our sorrows in enjoyment and celebration – and why not? – yet – what really lasts?

In the beginning God – in the end God – and everything in between – God! Our grasp of eternity is so small, but eternity (in Jesus, eternal God and changeable man) grasps us and fills us and uses us. Incredible – but wonderfully true.

Every New Year, the media talk about the old year (good riddance) and the hopes for good things in the new one. If the New Year that we now embrace is going to end up like all the previous ones as "good riddance" in 52 weeks' time, then that is of small lasting comfort to anybody. But faith in a God who is eternal but who knows the vicissitudes of change, introduces the possibility that every new day is full of divine-in-human possibilities.

John Wesley put it like this:

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as you can.*

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](mailto:steve.tozer-loft@2584382.fsnet.co.uk)
steve@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk

Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

That's pretty searching, isn't it? But with our fragile love of God, and His strong eternal love for us, we can have a go.

Let his brother, Charles have the last word:

*Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee:
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see
Till they inward light impart
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.*

A Truly Happy New Year to you.


+David Hallatt

Assistant Bishop

Hope 08

Events relating to this mission project 'Hope 08' are now being launched. Many local churches are involved. The slogan for Hope 08 is 'Do it more, do it together, and do it in word and action'.

Bringing God's Hope to Sheffield in 2008




24/7
WEEK OF PRAYER
31 Dec - 7 Jan

DEC 31ST 8PM
Celebration Launch: See the New Year in with food, fellowship, praise & prayer. Bring some food and drink to share.

JAN 1ST-7TH
Pray for an hour - sign up at www.sheffieldhope08.co.uk to pray for an hour day or night at Rock Christian Centre.
Worship and prayer 8-10pm each evening - led by different Sheffield Churches.

Rock Christian Centre
75 Carlisle St., Burngreave,
Sheffield S4 7LJ
Tel: 0114 2767630
E-mail:
Admin@RockChristianCentre.org

www.sheffieldhope08.co.uk
Supported by the Sheffield Leaders Network


Panto Volunteers Needed - Aye Aye Me Hearties !

CSV Action at BBC Radio Sheffield is looking for volunteers to help with fundraising at 18 performances of 'Robinson Crusoe & the Pirates' at the Sheffield City Hall between **Dec 27th - Jan 6th**. Ten people per performance are needed to collect donations from the audience at the end of each performance in aid of the South Yorkshire Flood Disaster Fund and the BBC's 'Good Neighbour Appeal' for flood victims.

Free tickets to each performance for every volunteer.

This is South Yorkshire's most popular panto from the Manor Operatic Society which attracts 1500-1600 people per night. Mainly evenings, but some afternoon matinees are required.

Details from Andy Kershaw CSV Action Desk at BBC Radio Sheffield 0114 267 5444 or email actiondesk.sheffield@bbc.co.uk

Porter Croft

Porter Croft School (our local CofE primary) had their annual carol service in St Marys last Thursday before joining in with the Lunch Club Christmas party.

Veronica Is Number One

Did you know that Veronica played her cello on a song which recently made it to the number one spot in the HMV downloads chart. Called 'Smells Like Christmas Time' it was produced collaboratively by a group of students, and has raised a huge amount for five great charities.

Christmas Flowers

Any donations towards the cost of the Christmas flowers in church would be very gratefully received.

Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Communion

People with jobs to do on Christmas morning: Kate K (readings); Giles (prayers)

Next Sunday – 30th December

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: (readings); Dolly (drinks); (prayers); & (steward); S (music).

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