

Sunday 13th January 2008

2nd Sunday Of Epiphany

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) in the Chapel		
10.30am Family Service	Drinks	Cribbs
	Steward	Margaret A
	Music	Minstrels

Collect For 2nd Sunday Of Epiphany

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches
of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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

Parent & Toddlers	This Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am in the hall.
Life & Faith	Wednesday at 8.00pm 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. See Julian for more information.
Women Exploring Faith	On Thursday from 9.30am in the Parish Room. An opportunity to share fellowship and pray. Please ask Helen or Karen if you are interested in knowing more.

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.

St Mary's Church Mens Group

Thursday 31st January 8pm-9.30pm at St Mary's (First Floor Meeting Room)

The aim of the group is to give us something to be challenged by, for fellowship (and some laughs) in a low key and relaxed atmosphere..

The next meeting will be led by Tim Chester from Crowded House (Sheffield House Church , not the Rock Group).

Please see Andy Cribb: 266 3496
familycribb@btinternet.com

or Tom Mather: 263 1693 for further details.

Bishop's Letter

From the Bishop of Doncaster:

Vulnerable Church: Vulnerable World

At the turn of the year two very painful images of the Church were given in the media. One was of the scuffles that broke out in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem just before Christmas, as Orthodox and Armenian Christians clashed over territorial cleaning rights in this disputed church. The other was the harrowing picture of the burnt out church in Eldoret Kenya in which more than 30 women and children were burned to death. Bethlehem was the place of refuge for Mary and Joseph at the time of Christ's birth. The church in Eldoret was the place of refuge for innocent frightened people who came for safety, only to meet their deaths.

There is something horribly wrong about these images, but at the same time something startlingly authentic. We are made aware of the fragility of human life and the raw vulnerability of the church. We are reminded about the transitional nature of the church as it lives, in some parts of the world, in the crucible of violent and opposing religious and political powers. There is something of the scandal of the Cross in both of those images, revealing in stark

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Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

reality the vulnerability of the church mirrored in the vulnerability of all human institutions and political processes.

The narrative becomes clearer. Only a vulnerable church can speak to a vulnerable world. To fail to understand that is to miss the point about the church.

We do well to remember this as the Anglican Communion prepares for the Lambeth Conference this summer. We can only speak with integrity to one another when we speak from the place of pain in the light of bigger, and frankly more important, issues and injustices. To become preoccupied with the internal management of the church in the global context of Kenya and Uganda, Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq, is to trivialise Christianity to the level of fighting over the territorial cleaning rights in the Church of the Nativity.

Deeply rooted in our Christian tradition is the paradox that the place of vulnerability is also the place of strength. God became man in the most vulnerable of human ways in order to reveal grace and truth. Perhaps it remains the case that the only way we can come to the truth is to make ourselves vulnerable to each other and to the world in which we live.

A challenge for all of us in 2008 is to seek to be the birthplace of the Christ through whose vulnerability came grace and truth.

+Cyril



Fine! You geniuses do whatever you want. I'm sticking with the star.

Donate Old Tools To Africa

THE SHEFFIELD branch of national charity Tools for Self-Reliance is appealing for old hand tools which can be sent to artisans in Africa.

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The charity, which numbers Archbishop Desmond Tutu among its patrons, is 25 years old this year.

It has collected and refurbished nearly 10,000 hand tools so far from Sheffield and is still on the look out for more.

Anyone who can help can visit the charity at their workshop every Tuesday from 8.15pm to 9.30pm at the St. Wilfred's Centre, Queens Road, or contact John Lapish on 0114 255 6057 to arrange collection.

Jenny's Art Sessions

Jenny Mather (local artist and grandmother to three of our congregation) is hosting a series of studio sessions and workshops at her home in Bamford.

Studio sessions are on

January 9/10, February 13/14, March 13/14, April 16/17, May 21/22

Workshops are

January 11/12, March 14/15, April 18/19

more details on the website www.jennymather.co.uk or phone 01433 651795

CofE's Post-Christmas Debt Check

The Church of England has compiled a Post Christmas Debt Check for consumers worried about how much their wallets have been hit by Christmas and New Year spending.

It has also published a range of prayers for people living with debt.

Coming at a time when 18 per cent of adults in the UK have £10,000 or more of unsecured debt, the release of the 10-point checklist coincides with the launch of a new section of the Church of England website, called Matter of Life and Debt, dedicated to helping people escape from debt problems - and containing advice, real-life case studies and useful resources.

The resource can be accessed online as a pdf file on the Matter of Life and Debt pages, at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/debt>

Next Sunday – 20th January

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Steve or Yo (readings); Christine P (drinks); Kate (prayers); Doreen & Joan (steward).