

Sunday 10th February 2008

1st Sunday Of Lent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

9.30am Communion (BCP) in the Chapel		
10.30am Family Service for Lent and Baptism	Drinks	Margaret I
	Music	Steve, Veronica
	Steward	Kate K

Sanctuary blog. Please contact them if you are interested in this, or visit their drop-in blogging and Web skills session at Access Space, 1 Sidney St, S1 4RG, on Wednesdays between 11am-5pm.

Message From Jess & John

Jess writes:

We are now on Ko Phi Phi. Hard to believe this place was devastated by the tsunami just 4 years ago - it's now abit like being in Magalouf. Unfortunately this seems to be happening on most of the isalnds we have visited and there's a constant debate about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh the costs to the local environment and culture. There is precious little education or awareness among the locals on environmental issues and alas not a lot of options for them if they did want to be eco-friendly. Still, we have been enjoying the underwater world - the diving here is phenomenal and we feel very privileged to experience it. After this we are heading north back to Bangkok and then Chiang Mai in the north, before heading into Laos where we are planning to visit a gibbon sanctuary where you stay in treetop huts linked by zip lines! Sounds fantastic!

So the trip continues to be a great experience as well as an opportunity to appreciate the complexities of some of the environmental problems we have. Hope things are going OK at home and its not too cold! if it makes you feel any better it's too bloomin hot here!



Jess and John (far left) with 640 bricks they made, somewhere in Thailand

Collect For 1st Sunday Of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

PCC	Church Council meets at the Vicarage on Monday at 7.45pm.
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. Please ask Helen or Karen if you are interested in knowing more.
Faith and Life	8pm For anyone wanting to explore and deepen their faith. This week: Dealing with Damage

City Of Sanctuary News

There is a new website and they are looking for asylum-seekers and refugees, or those who befriend and support them who would like to publish their views and experiences on a City of

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



Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

Understanding Autism And Asperger's Syndrome

Today, the Second Sunday in February, is 'Autism Sunday' – the International Day of Prayer for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. Helen B-C has kindly written the following as an introduction to the disorders, and the group she has been instrumental in setting up, based at St Marys, to help families who are affected:

What Is Autism and Asperger's Syndrome?

A developmental disorder caused by abnormalities in the way the brain develops and works. The key characteristics are:

- Difficulty with social skills making it difficult to form and maintain relationships
- Difficulty with communication – this may range from being unable to talk to very subtle differences in their communication styles, for example being over-precise and over-literal, sounding very formal and talking about a subject of interest to them regardless of the listener.
- Rigidity of thought – this may include difficulties in engaging in play with other children, obsessive interests, resistance to change and repetitive behaviours.
- Sensory differences – people with autism frequently experience heightened or reduced sensitivity to sensory experiences such as noise, smell and taste.

In addition to these characteristics people with autism may have difficulties with motor skills, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, mental health problems and learning difficulties (autism).

Asperger's Syndrome is part of the autistic spectrum and is often referred to as 'high functioning'. People with Asperger's Syndrome are in the normal to high genius IQ range and speech development is normal or only slightly delayed.

How many people in Sheffield have an autistic spectrum disorder?

It is estimated that at least 5,000 people in



Sheffield have autism and Asperger's Syndrome. This includes approximately 1,335 children.

What is ACCT?

ACCT stands for Asperger's Children and Carers Together. It was founded by three parents of children with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) to support families with a child with AS in Sheffield and the surrounding areas. There are now seven parents on the Management Committee who run the organisation on a voluntary basis, and there are over 100 families who have become members. ACCT is based here at St Mary's Bramall Lane, and currently runs the following activities:

- Weekly drop-in, Tuesday 10am – 12 noon (term time only)
- Monthly parents meeting – 1st Thursday of month 7.30 – 9.30 (with guest speaker)
- Monthly children's club (Acctivate) – 3rd Saturday of the month 10am – 12 noon
- Monthly siblings support group – concurrent with Acctivate

ACCT also works to raise awareness of Asperger's Syndrome by providing information for the public and giving talks on request. It supports local and national campaigns related to Asperger's Syndrome and has recently agreed to target four key issues which affect the lives of all children with AS in Sheffield.

Further information about the work of ACCT and how you can support it is available from the ACCT office 223 0237 (answerphone) or email: acctsheffield@hotmail.co.uk .

City Of Sanctuary

Are looking for asylum-seekers and refugees, or those who befriend and support them who would like to publish their views and experiences on a City of Sanctuary blog. Please contact them if you are interested in this, or visit their drop-in blogging and Web skills session at Access Space, 1 Sidney St, S1 4RG, on Wednesdays between 11am-5pm.

Next Sunday – 17th February

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Della (drinks); Rachel M (readings); Steve (prayers); Margaret A (steward); Jon, Giles (music); Veronica & Elaine (communion assistants); Jo, Tom (light factory)

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