



Sunday Worship

10.30am Parish Communion	Readings	Caroline
	Communion Assistant	Giles
	Intercessor	Kate
	Stewards	Doreen & Joan
	Music	Steve, Jon, Yo, Veronica

Collect For Easter Day

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
one God, now and for ever.

APCM

The Annual Church Meeting will be held very soon - on **April 13th**. Please can everyone responsible for a group within the life of St Marys please submit a report to julian, preferably by email (jandsullivan@blueyonder.co.uk) as soon as possible?

Also, we need a new Churchwarden. If you think you might be interested please talk to Julian.

Fellowship Lunches

After Easter we are hoping to start regular (probably monthly) fellowship lunches after church on a Sunday. We hope this will enable us - as a growing congregation - to get to know one another better and build up our common life together. One practicality is that we need a small group of people who are willing to do some "kitchen training" of about one hour on how appliances work, where equipment is kept etc. to enable us

to use the Centre kitchen on these occasions. By doing this you will not be committing yourself to being there each month - we are looking to recruit a good number of people. If you are willing and interested please sign up on the list by the door or speak to Steve, Julian or Karen for more information. Dates and times of this brief induction session will be confirmed once we know who is available.

May Day Trek

The annual Sheffield May Day Trek will be on **May 5th** this year, and will be held under the HOPE 08 banner. Hoping that 2008 will see more walkers, more churches, and more money raised for projects working alongside some of the worlds poorest. Ring 233 6885 or more details at www.sheffieldmaydaytrek.org.uk

Christian Aid Week

11-18th May. *Raising awareness and money to relieve poverty.*

In previous years we have done local street collections and St Marys Church and Centre groups have taken up a 'Raise £50' Challenge. What shall we do this year? Can you help? Talk to Yo or Andy.

Diary Dates

- Saturday 12th April** PCC Quiet Morning
- Sunday 27th April** 6.30pm Farewell to Bishop Jack with prayer and a party at St Marys
- Friday 9th May** St Mary's Music Evening
Individuals £5 / £2.50 concessions
Families £10 / £5 concessions
In aid of our Stained Glass Window Fund.
- Sunday 11th May** There will be an Open Air Pentecost Celebration, jointly with other Sharrow Churches at St Marys at **3pm**
- Saturday July 5th** Parish Day at Ranmoor Parish Centre

PTO

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

EASTER FLOWERS –Special Giving

St Mary's, by custom, decorates the church with flowers for the 3 main festivals of the year. Flowers are expensive, unfortunately. The Flower Team hopes the flower displays adds something SPECIAL to your worship this Easter and hope you will feel moved to put an extra £1 or £2 in the Easter Flowers Collection plate near the font.



EASTER SPECIAL – Do you know what kind of cake this is? If you do let Kate know after the service, she'll be near the coffee trolley. If you don't but would like to find out come and sample a piece with your drink.

Bishop Jack's Letter

Dear friends

Hungarian Spirituality

Have you ever heard of it? I certainly hadn't until last week, when one of our priests, Henry Morgan, came to see me and told me of a meeting of European spiritual directors, at which he found himself talking to a Hungarian nun. During the course of the conversation, he discovered that Hungary is one of the few countries in Europe where when anyone writes their name, they always write their surname first followed by their Christian name. In other words, in Hungary I would be Nicholls Jack, not Jack Nicholls. Wisely, Henry asked the nun if this made any difference to the way in which they do spiritual direction. It does. When we do spiritual direction in this country and indeed in most of the rest of Europe, we always concentrate on the individual and his or her journey into God. In fact we might discourage a person from talking about others whilst we simply concentrate on the individual. "This time is just for you", we might well say.

In Hungary on the other hand the conversation would always begin with the society, family and friends of the person concerned. Who you are is defined in the first place by what you belong to, by your relationships. Human beings are social creatures, defined by their relationships and their

belongings. Only when these aspects of life have been explored can the individual be considered if there is time. What an interesting contrast! The many benefits that have come to our society throughout the history of Western Europe, and especially through the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Enlightenment are hugely significant, but on the negative side, the result has been that we have become almost entirely individualistic. Me, mine, my hotline to God, matters more than my belonging. The Church becomes not the body of Christ, but an association of individuals. The family becomes not the primary unit of life, but again an association of individuals who happen to be blood relatives, and so on.

All this is significant for our understanding of the faith which we profess, the Christian faith. The Christian faith is an eastern religion, not a Western European invention. The corporate comes first. We are defined by our relationships to one another and to God through Christ. The icons of the resurrection in the Eastern Church do not show Jesus alone. He is nearly always shown as the one who Harrows Hell. He is the one who is dragging souls to salvation. Because Christ is risen, they are risen. In the west depictions of the resurrection show Jesus alone appearing to the disciples. I sometimes wonder if we have really grasped the significance of what St Paul meant when he used the phrase "in Christ", one of his most significant phrases. That is why unity matters so much and why disunity is a scandal which strikes at the very heart of the Christian faith. This is why we live in such dangerous times within the Anglican Church.

Yet, Christ is risen, and therefore we are risen, and therefore the first hallmark of the Christian life is joy, joy at what He has done for us. Happy Easter.

Sharrow Lantern Festival

Work has begun for the wonderful Sharrow Lantern Festival which will be on **Saturday 5th April**. Lantern-making workshops are **every Saturday 12-4** and **every Sunday 2.30-6.15** at Highfield Trinity Church Hall, its just off London Road.

Email sharrowlanternfestival@hotmail.co.uk or call Lu on 0785 4983197 for more info. Website is www.creativeaction.net

Next Sunday – 30th March

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Yo or Steve (readings); Christine P. (drinks); Della & Caroline (Communion Assistants); Yo or Steve (prayers); Veronica (steward); Jo, Tom, Penny (Light Factory); Madge (music).

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Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987