

Sunday 20th July 2008

Ninth Sunday After Trinity

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

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| 10.30am Parish Communion | Reader | Kate K |
| | Drinks | Christine |
| | Communion Assistants | Della & Caroline |
| | Prayers | Maureen |
| | Steward | Margaret A |
| | Music | Steve, Veronica, Jess |

Collect For Today

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

Parent & Toddlers This **Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am** in the hall.

Asylum Seeker Rerieved

Those of you who signed the petition last Sunday to ask that Mokhtar Hussain *not* be deported back to his home country of Afghanistan will be pleased to know that he *was* given a last minute reprieve.

Since he's been in Sheffield, 21-year-old Mokhtar has become a Christian, and is part of St Thomas's Church, Philadelphia, members of which have supported his claim that he would be at risk of attack by extremists if he returned to Afghanistan. Less than an hour before his plane was due to leave Heathrow, an injunction was granted by the High Court. His supporters at St Thomas's are now praying that the decision to deport can be reversed.

Human Rights For Migrants

Public Meeting with Nick Clegg MP. **Thursday, July 31 6 - 8pm** Town Hall Reception Room, Pinstone Street, Sheffield.

This is an opportunity to hear from refugee and migrant worker communities in the UK, and to discuss the issues directly with Nick Clegg, Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

We need you there to show the politicians you care, numbers count! Organised by City of Sanctuary, SYMAAG and ASSIST. Tel: 2754960 for more info.

WALKTALK™ At St Marys

taking the first step

WALKTALK is a bold and challenging nationwide initiative which aims to bring together people who may otherwise never meet, never talk and, almost certainly, never walk side-by-side.

Spanning the two hundred or so miles from Leeds to London during July and August 2008, WALKTALK is an opportunity for us all to focus on humanity and all that we have in common and to discuss openly, and with mutual respect, the areas where we may not agree.

It has been initiated by Gill Hicks, a survivor of the 2005 London bombings who lost her legs that day, and her husband Joe Kerr, and developed with Zulfi Hussain MBE of Global Promise, and the team at Together for Peace.

Come along to walk and talk with the group and local people as the event passes through Sheffield on **Saturday 25th July**. The Sheffield section of the walk starts at the Peace Gardens and goes via St Mary's, into Sheffield United Ground, ending with a picnic in Mount Pleasant Park at about 12.30pm.

This organised walk is a free event but you do need to register. Advance registration is preferred and can be done online at www.walktalk.org.uk

or phone 0113 815 5120. On the day you can

register from 10.00am at the Peace Gardens or from **11.00am at St Mary's**, to join the walk as it passes the church.

Next Sunday – 27th July

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-loft2584382@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk)

Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Rachel M (readings); Margaret I (drinks); Veronica & Elaine C (communion assistants); Kate (prayers); Doreen & Joan (steward); Jon, Ortrude (music)

Bishop Cyril's Writes:

"As a naturally laid back denomination the Church of England gets its thrills by frightening itself to death." So said Gerald Priestland. These words have been echoing in my mind as I have followed the debates at the GAFCON Conference in Jerusalem, the Synod discussions on the consecration of women bishops in York and the preparation narratives for the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. At one level I admit that I am frightened to death. Can the Church that has not only survived, but has been energised by diversity continue to negotiate a way forward that maintains its essential unity?

My approach to this is to go back to basics and ask the question, why are we here? What is it all about?

As far as I understand it, the defining factor for church membership is the confession that JESUS IS LORD. This confession remains the most powerful impulse for Christian unity. There is a deep mystical bond, hidden and unbreakable, holding us together – conservative and liberal, traditionalist and progressive. I am bound by the Holy Spirit to hold this truth and to do everything in my power to maintain it.

I do this partly by acknowledging this powerful biblical reality, and partly by recognising the global and the local contexts in which our debates occur.

Our Holy Scriptures remind us that, "God so loved the WORLD that he gave his only son..."

This world that God loves is currently beset with political dysfunction, environmental imbalance, growing international mistrust, natural and man-made disasters, food and fuel shortages; all of which have immediate and serious implications as to whether millions of people live or die. Nearer home, the cost of housing, the economy and the fear of recession are occupying the minds of many of our citizens. In addition the frightening increase in knife crime is challenging police, social agencies, parliament and families alike.

In his presidential address at the York Synod Bishop Sentamu urged the Church to face outward. "Our call is to reach out to our neighbours with God's message of love in Christ." This remains for me the primary objective of the Church and must not be obscured by interminable debate on essentially internal issues.

Archbishop Rowan in his Synod address pleads with us "not to lay upon ourselves the yoke of desperate seriousness about ourselves."

In describing the local context I thought I would tell you of some of the things I have been involved in as a bishop over the last two weeks.

- The induction of a visionary incumbent into a mission-enthused parish in the diocese.
- The ordination of 8 new deacons to serve in a variety of parishes. This included our first Pioneer Minister who is leading a vibrant Youth Church. It is worth mentioning that we are having a growing number of high quality younger people who are having their vocations tested for ordination.
- I ordained 3 priests (Bishop David 2) in their parish churches in enthusiastic celebrations that happily included many people who do not normally go to church.
- I confirmed 18 people in a joyful parish confirmation, and 11 in a school confirmation.
- The Archdeacon of Doncaster and I conducted school leavers' services in the Cathedral and Doncaster Minster for large numbers of school leavers and their parents
- A few days ago I received information from Joanne Archer to say that TFR has been awarded a further £312,000 for regeneration projects, continuing the outstanding work of her department for the regeneration of the region. Please don't underestimate the mission impact of this vital work.
- To date 42 parishes have signed up for Back-to-Church Sunday on the 28th September, simply making an effort to invite people to come back to church. More information from Ian Smith, John Thomson and Steve Fox. Incidentally, a number of clergy bikers will be touring parishes encouraging this event. Watch out for the bikers from heaven.
- 8 new Church Army evangelists were commissioned in the Cathedral

I would have to work very hard to feel depressed about the Church with so many good things happening.

Filling our cup further, at this Synod we are welcoming distinguished visitors to our Diocese. Bishops from Kenya, the USA, Tanzania, Brazil, and Argentina. Our guests help us to see things in a world context and give us so many incentives to be grateful.

The Archbishop of Canterbury reminded Synod in his address of the one inescapable fact – we are "Prisoners of Hope". We can do nothing other than hope. For this reason I want to end this address by using an easily recognisable eucharistic liturgical text "LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS."

+Cyril

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