

21st September 2008

Feast Of St Matthew

St. MARY'S
Newsletter



Sunday Worship

10.30am Parish Communion	Reader	Rachel M
	Communion Assistants	Margaret A & Penny B
	Prayers	Della
	Steward	Margaret A
	Music	Steve, Veronica

Today
Today

Taize Prayer

Discovering inner life through simple sung prayer. **7.30pm** in church



Collect For Today

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.

Today Is Compassion Sunday

Today you have the opportunity to change the world for one child.

For more than 50 years Compassion has been working to transform the lives of children across the world. In addition

to their financial support sponsors can also exchange letters with the children they sponsor and pray for them. More than a million children are currently attending Compassion's church-based projects in 25 of the world's poorest countries, but there are many more children waiting for a sponsor to give them the opportunities that other sponsored children have

already been given.

It costs just 60p a day, less than the price of a cup of tea, to transform the life of a child through sponsorship.

This is your opportunity to release a child from poverty and enable them to fulfil their God-given potential. For more information see Hannah or visit

www.compassionuk.org

Mens Group Curry Night

This Thursday 25th September

At Mangla, Spital Hill. Meet at 7.45pm outside Church For car share. Unwaged Free of Charge. Please see Andy Cribb: 266 3496 familycribb@btinternet.com or Tom Mather: 263 1693 for further details.

MORE NEWS: Next meeting date is confirmed as **Thursday 20th November** - put it in your diary (maybe in pencil in case it changes!).

Adrian Scott (known to some) has kindly agreed to lead our next meet on *Passage to Manhood* or something like that.

Women Exploring Faith: Meet every Thursday from 9.45 am. Please join us for fellowship, prayer and learning together. For more information please speak to Kate or Helen.

Highfield Trinity Holiday Club

Highfield Trinity Church are planning to run a Kids Holiday Club over the half-term break. They are asking Sharrow Churches for help with this so if anyone is able to help for one or more mornings **Monday 27th - Friday 30th October**, please speak to Karen. Both those who enjoy work with children and those who prefer behind the scenes jobs like serving refreshments or preparing activities etc. Invitations for the event will also be available nearer the time.

Extra Light Factory Events

x:site a Scripture Union-run childrens' event for all Y3's - Y6's. **Saturday 4th October 6-8pm** at Philadelphia Centre.

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

Plus weekends away at the **Oakes Centre** 28-30th Nov for 11 - 15yrs and 5-7 Dec for 8-11 years. We hope that we will be able to go together to all these events. More information and booking forms available today from Hannah and check out their websites: www.xsite.uk.net and www.oakes.org.uk.

The Bishop's Letter - October

Determination and spiritual shape

This month, the Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, Richard Blackburn, writes:

We do it rather well. Sitting down, that is. I mean, not just watching the Olympics couch potato fashion, but winning medals. Cycling, canoeing, sailing and rowing have led the way.

"Winning is everything" Damon Hill, another sit down sportsman, once said. That underplays the role of participation. But it is the mantra of today's Olympian. For proof, just look at the tears, so freely shed by the British Silver medallists competing in the women's quad sculls a visible sign of just how far things have changed since the days we thought it was just about participating.

All defeat is painful. That's what sport means. All glory is measured in the tears of the losers. Complete exhaustion accompanies the realisation that you are not, in fact, good enough. Body and spirit are simultaneously and devastatingly shattered.

When asked to explain what Paralympic sport meant to her, Rachel Morris, the newly crowned gold medallist in the hand cycling time trial said: "It's given me back the life I wanted before my world was turned upside down." She had taken up the sport after a rare disease led to the loss of both her legs. Where the British Olympians left off, the Paralympians have taken over, dominating in the velodrome, on the rowing lake and in the equestrian arena. Only China has won more golds.

Our sense of national wellbeing has continued. Sport offers an example of how to live. Making sacrifices for what a person believes in and to persevere are just as important in faith as in sport. St. Paul urges the Corinthians to live with a sense of purpose drawing the comparison with runners and boxers who compete with purpose.

It is the spirit of our age to be cynical and typically British to devalue real achievement. That would be a sad disservice to the planning, commitment and discipline which have resulted in some remarkable outcomes. It is a welcome change in the image of young people, often characterised as binge drinkers and knife wielders

ominously hidden behind their hoodies.

Surely we can only rejoice and be proud of their achievements. It would be a shame not to welcome the London Olympics and Paralympics if what they herald is the continued revival of comradeship and selflessness, patience and perseverance. Those competing will need such qualities: training for 2012 has already started! Are we as determined to get into such spiritual shape?

Halloween Heroes

The Bishop of Middleton, the Rt Revd Mark Davies, is launching the first ever poll to find the UK's 'most heroic job' according to the nation's children. The online survey, at www.HeroVote.org, was launched at a school in Manchester this week.

The poll is part of the Halloween Choice campaign, led by the Church of England's Diocese of Manchester, marking its third anniversary of exploring how to support and resource those parents and children who wish to mark Halloween in a positive, less "gruesome", way.

Today's launch of the search for the UK's most heroic role - run in conjunction with The Children's Society - is part of encouraging a shift towards marking 'All Saints' Day' (1st November) as a celebration of heroes and saints, and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. It marks the next step in the Church's moves to encourage children to enjoy a great Halloween and to spark a wider public debate about the nature of our way of celebrating the date.

News From City Of Sanctuary

International Feast - Thursday 6th November, 4th December and then first Thursday of every month - **7pm** at the Welcome Centre, Nottingham Street, Pitsmoor [Buses 47, 48, 75, 76, 88]. A regular evening of bring and share food, conversation and friendship. Single people, families and children are all welcome. People seeking sanctuary are especially welcome.

Next Sunday

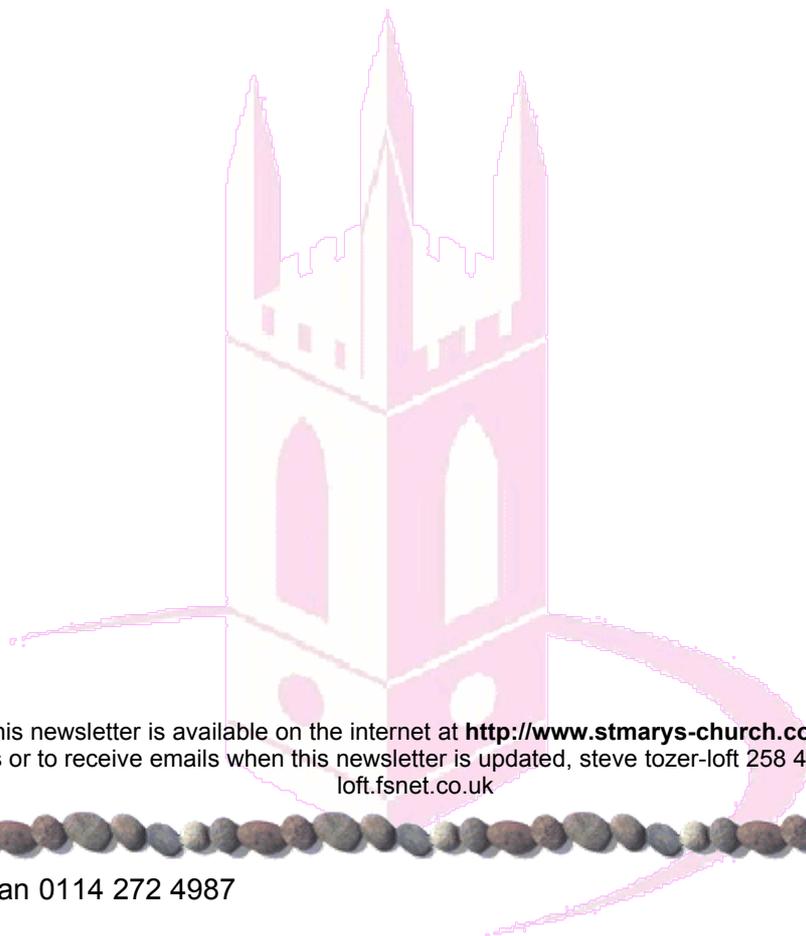
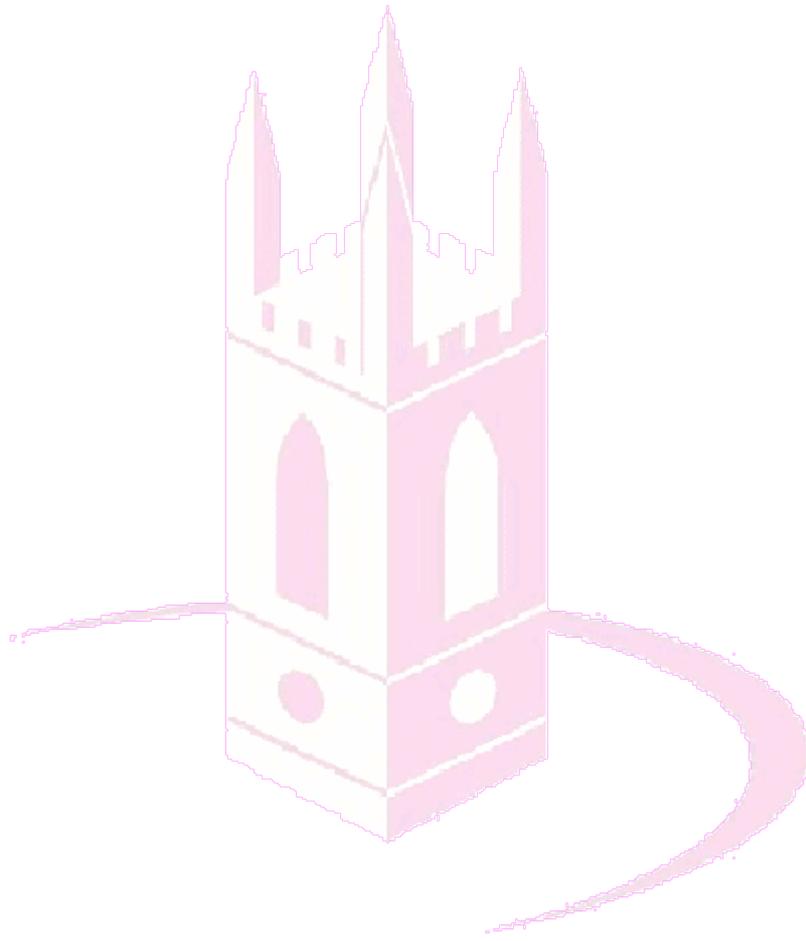
Back to Church Sunday - Shared Lunch - Youth Fellowship

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Veronica (readings); Andy C & Kate K (Communion assistants); Doreen & Joan (steward); Jon, Yo, Ortrude, Jess (music)

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



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