

19th October 2008

Gift Day

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

10.30am Parish Communion	Readings	Keith H
	Drinks	Dolly
	Communion Assistants	Veronica & Elaine
	Prayers	Maureen
	Music	Steve, Veronica, Jess
	Steward	Margaret A

Collect For 22nd Sunday After Trinity

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A Deanery Evening On Prayer

Wednesday 12th November 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses.

An evening on prayer and leading intercessions with Nick Helm for all who lead intercessions at the moment and anyone interested in doing so in the future. Please see Julian if you're interested in going.

Traidcraft Stall Today

Christmas cards gifts and groceries will be on sale after the service again today and Hannah is also happy to take orders. They will also be on

sale during the week at Toddlers on Wednesday and Lunch Club on Thursday.

This Week At St Marys

Parent & Toddlers	This Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am in the hall.
Tuesday Group	This group meets in various homes and is following a 7-week course on Christian maturity. All welcome. This week at Dave and Penny Bickleys. See Andy (266 3496) or Giles for further details.
'Faith and Life'	A central meeting for all every Wednesday at 8pm in St Marys. The aim is to explore 'practical' faith, by sharing stories together, reflecting on the scriptures, discussing questions and praying with each other. Looking for God at work in grass-roots Christian lives. Julian 2724987
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.

Giving - Today Is Our Gift Day

Margaret Ibbetson, Church Treasurer writes:

Our Sunday income to the end of August is £1300 down on last year. Assuming our weekly giving and covenants remain at the current level and allowing for reductions in our parish share and increases in our insurance and the additional expenditure I know we will have to make before the year end I estimate that we will need an additional £1500 on top of the donations we have already received in order to break even this year.

Please pray about your giving and see if you can find a little extra to enable us to bridge the gap and not have to dig into our reserves. Gift day envelopes will be available in Church throughout October.

If anyone would like to know more about the planned giving envelope scheme or how to give by

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Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

gift aid so that we can claim back the tax you have already paid on that money (28p for every £1) please talk to me, or Tom, Andy or Julian. We will be pleased to help or advise.

Diocesan Development Day Report

All the churches in Sheffield Diocese were invited to this day focussing on environmental issues. Della and Steve represented St Marys.

The keynote speech was given by Rev Dave Bookless of 'Arocha'. Arocha is a Christian charity specifically concerned with the environment.

He said that man-made climate change is the tip of the iceberg: deforestation, mass extinction of animal species, the food crisis, and peak oil are all looming, and the root of all these problems is over-consumption, or basically, greed.

Population growth in developing countries is almost a side issue because, for instance, a baby born in the UK consumes 16 times as much as a baby born in Bangladesh.

He described a depressing 'famine of hope' among young people in this country, who you would normally expect to be the hopeful activists.

He talked about how his view of the bible and Christian faith had been completely changed. The narrow view that the gospel is just about me, church, and heaven, is very limiting and basically wrong: it must include science, culture, art, and all the rest of life.

In the bible, 'Adam' means 'dusty, carbon-based life form, from the soil'. He said that the Old Testament is the story of people and land. Land in the bible is a kind of 'spiritual barometer' – you can't have a relationship with God without a relationship with land. In 2 Chronicles 7.14 the phrase used is close to 'the healing of the land'. Not nations as it is often translated, but agriculture.

There is a heresy very commonly believed, particularly in America: that Jesus will come back and destroy everything (and that therefore there's no point doing anything about environmental issues). He pointed out that the word often interpreted as 'new' in the bible, actually is better understood as 'patched up old'. 'A new heaven and a new earth' to early Christians would have meant a *renewed*, or even *recycled* earth, heaven and creation.

The church must be taking the lead on these issues, and this provides an opportunity to work with groups and people outside the church: "When Christians take the earth seriously, people

will take Christians seriously".

Arocha seem to have been very influential in America. Well-respected Christian figures such as Bishop of Liverpool James Jones, and Sir John Houghton – a highly-respected climate change scientist and Nobel Laureate have been sent by Arocha to talk to American Christians. Persuading the Americans to do something (and the churches there are very influential), if enough action is to happen within the next 2-3 years, as the International Panel on Climate Change says it must.

Another important take-home message was that we must help and encourage each other to change our lifestyles, and *not* be critical. Every little helps.

There are plenty of things to be happy about in the middle of all this: particularly, this week give thanks this week for the UK committing to 80% cut in carbon emissions by 2050 in spite of the 'crunch' and greatly influenced by Christian Aid and others.

Further reading: Oliver James book 'Affluenza',

<http://www.climatestewards.net/>

<http://www.livinglightly24-1.org.uk/>

If you would like to know more or perhaps help St Marys to do more about reducing our negative impact on God's world, please talk to Steve.

Another Kind Of Silence

A new play about the environmentalist Rachel Carson. Written and performed by Liz Rothschild.

Monday 3 November 7.30pm at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. Tickets £7 (conc £5) from Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane S11 8YL Tel 0114 267 8289 or on the door

Rock - A New Musical

By Roger Jones. **Friday 21 November 7.30 pm** at Hillsborough Leisure Centre: Roger will be bringing his company of soloists and dancers and conducting a choir of over 100 local singers. Tickets £8-00 and £5-00 from Liz Tipple on 0114-2302969 or email: liz@hallam97.plus.com or Sally Rhodes on 2362322 or email: sirhodes@toucansurf.com.

Next Sunday - 26th October

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Margaret A (drinks); Margaret A & Penny B (Communion assistants); Doreen & Joan (Steward); Jon, Yo, Ortrude (music); Della (readings).

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