

21st December 2008

Fourth Sunday In Advent

**St. MARY'S
Newsletter**



Sunday Worship

10.30am Parish Communion	Reader	Veronica
	Drinks	Christine
	Music	Jon, Veronica, Ortrude, Jess
	Prayers	Maureen
	Communion Assistants	Della & Caroline

4pm Carols by Candlelight

Followed by Youth Fellowship Social at Pizza Hut

8-9pm Beer and Carols in the Sportsman

Denby St (over Bramall Lane). All very welcome.

Collect For Today

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

New Bishop

We have tickets for the consecration of Stephen Croft as the new bishop of Sheffield in York Minster on **Sunday 25th January 2009**.

As many as would like to go can have a ticket but we need names for security. A list will be out at the back of church for you to sign if you wish to come.

It is a significant event for the diocese of Sheffield, our mission in South Yorkshire and the

ministry of St Mary's. Let's make this journey together and celebrate Stephen's arrival. Sign up for the party.

Please talk to Julian for more information.

On Christmas Night

Tomorrow - Monday 22 December at St Oswald's, Millhouse: 6.30pm

Bethlehem is feeling the strain...the inns are full to bursting, the census is stretching local bureaucrats to their limit, and the 7th legion of the Roman Army appears to be under the command of a sheep. But still the visitors keep arriving: a young couple in desperate need of a place to stay, an angel, a star...The only people prepared to help are Wayne and Mabel - two daft shepherds with single figure IQs, a flask of granny's special brew and a talent for getting into trouble.

The play is suitable for ages 5 and up. Tickets £5 and £3 concessions available from box office number: 0114 255 7686.

Window News

Our new window will be dedicated by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu on **21st March 2009**. So if you are short of decorations for your Christmas tree, here's an idea: Archbishop Baubles.



Thanks to shipoffools.com and their 'twelve days of kitschmas'.

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



Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

True Meaning

<http://www.truemeaning.co.uk/>

30 second videos made by church groups, expressing the true meaning of Christmas in a competition sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance earlier this year.

In The Face Of Christmas

**let us ask God for a good Christmas:
that no powerful nation
should tax the poor
or uproot them;**

**that no unmarried mother
should be put away in disgrace;**

**that no door will be shut
on those that need to find it open;**

**that shepherds and sheep and all of nature
need not be afraid;**

**that walls, barbed wire and angry soldiers
may not be found in Bethlehem;**

**that wise men and wise women
may reside in a places called
'uncomfortable'
and might appear in places of need, in dark
streets,
in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in your town;**

**that children may be preserved
from those who would abuse them;**

**that this Christmas,
you may become a manger
and your home a stable
and the rumour become a reality
that Christ has come among us.**

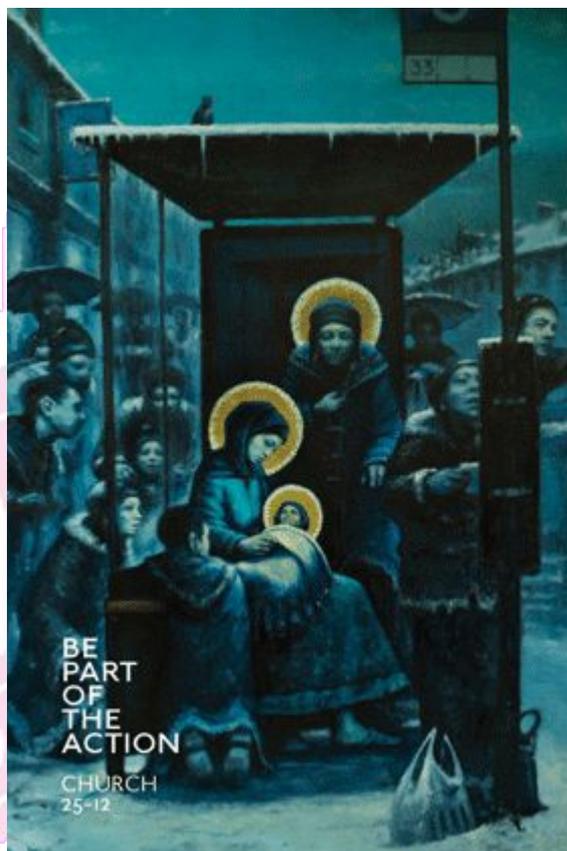
From Pip Wilson's blog

<http://pipwilsonbhp.blogspot.com/>

Christmas Bus Stops

You probably haven't seen these – for some reason there aren't any in Sheffield. But the Churches Advertising Network have put these posters on 1,000 bus shelters across the UK.

The painting is by Royal Academy Gold medal winner, Andrew Gadd. The oil painting is on canvas and depicts the holy family, with halos, in a dark bus shelter. The shepherds and wise men



are replaced with fellow passengers waiting for a bus. Some are watching the nativity intently; others appear oblivious and are checking the bus timetable and flagging down a bus.

Andrew Gadd, the artist, says: "At first I didn't like the idea of painting a nativity scene in an urban setting. However, once it was explained that it was to be designed for bus stops, it gave me an idea... this idea. The bus stop when simplified is like a stable. It is after all a shelter; a place people go to but never want to be. So where better to stage a nativity? How unlikely! The image reflects the environment it will be shown in, and therefore includes the viewer. Which is what it is all about."

Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do Maureen (readings); Steve, Yo, Veronica (music)

Next Sunday – 28th December

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Della (readings); Margaret I (drinks); Veronica & Elaine (Communion assistants); Della (prayers); Doreen & Joan (steward); Steve, Ortrude, Veronica (music)

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