

9th August 2009

Ninth Sunday After Trinity

St. MARY'S  
Newsletter



Welcome to St Mary's Bramall Lane this morning.

Refreshments including tea and coffee will be available at the end of the service.

An induction loop is available for those who are hard of hearing. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.

Toilets, including disabled and nappy changing facilities are situated at the west end of the church. Follow signs past reception and the main hall.

### This Morning's Worship

<b>10.30am Parish Communion</b>	Drinks	Margaret I
	Readings	Veronica
	Music	Jon, Yo, Margaret
	Prayers	Maureen
	Steward	Kate K

### Collect For 9th Sunday After Trinity

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.

### John & Jess's Wedding

Jess Stride and John are getting married here at St. Mary's on Saturday 22nd August at 2pm. They would love to welcome anyone from the congregation to join us for the service.

### Bishop Steven's Letter

#### Who do you think you are?

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  
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I'm slowly getting into the BBC television series in which famous people explore their family tree. In most family history there is a sense of drama and a story worth telling. Someone pointed out to me recently that nearly always the trail leads out of this country to a different land. One of my grandfathers always claimed he was had Romany blood in his veins. If I ever trace my family back, Arthur would be the place to begin.

**Racial Justice Sunday is on 13th September.** Our Diocesan Synod agreed in July to ask all parishes to mark Racial Justice Sunday in some way through readings and prayers in our worship. Every parish is also asked to send representatives to the special service in Rotherham Minster that day.

Why should we bother to engage with something like Racial Justice Sunday? Isn't this another example of the church trying to be political correct? Not at all.

Jesus said that to love our neighbour as ourselves is one of the two greatest commandments. He illustrates that commandment in Luke's gospel with the story of the good Samaritan. It's a story which turns on the overcoming of racial prejudice. Our neighbour is often the person of a different race.

As a church we can't ignore the fact that tension between people of different racial backgrounds is growing in our communities at the present time. That is a very bad thing for everyone. We have to do all we can to overcome it. That involves personal actions and decisions. It means bearing witness together to the love of God for all people and that everyone should be treated equally and fairly.

But there is another reason why Christians should take a lead in working for racial justice and harmony. The Bible gives us God's vision for human society. According to Ephesians 2, it's a vision of different races and peoples being forged together into one new humanity. The nations of the earth are brought together in one body through the cross of Christ (Ephesians 2.15). The church is a worldwide communion. People of every race and background are our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

The message of the Christian gospel is good news for all our world because offers all people a

Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

vision of a better way: peace in place of strife, harmony instead of hatred, working together creatively in place of one group trying to dominate another.

So there can be no place in the Christian church for prejudice on the grounds of race. And the church, the people who follow Jesus Christ, should aim to give a lead to the rest of our society in this area as in so many others.

Who do you think we are? We are the church, the rainbow people of God and we take racial justice seriously.

Bishop Steven

## Copenhagen

Preparations race ahead for the vital climate change talks in Copenhagen this December. Poorer countries will not agree a deal unless richer countries – which caused most carbon emissions – increase aid and pay to protect forest and environmental reserves. Also UN Chief, Ban Ki-Moon, has called on China to show world leadership in limiting climate change.

This is a key time for Christians to unite in prayer for God's world. **Sunday October 4** has been agreed as a Day of Prayer for climate change. This is St Francis Day, the last Sunday of Creation Time (September 1 – October 4) and harvest festival in many churches.



- Pray for leaders, political and religious, in China and India to show real understanding and leadership re climate change
- Pray that all around the world, government leaders will put working together for the common good above their own short-term interest
- Give praise that Sweden, EU President for six months, leads the world in responding to peak oil and climate change. Pray other Europeans will follow
- Pray many Christians will hold an ecumenical day of prayer in their own towns, and become more aware of how important their prayers are in the run-up

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to the talks in Copenhagen.

More details from arocha's website

<http://www.operationnoah.org/resources/groups/day-prayer>

## More Wedding News

Katie (nee Shaw) and Rob were happily married at St Marys a couple of weeks ago



you might recognise some of the musicians for the ceremony:



## Next Sunday – 16<sup>th</sup> August

### 10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Keith (readings); Della (drinks); Margaret A (steward); Steve, Veronica, Jess (music).

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