

21<sup>st</sup> November 2010

Christ The King

St. MARY'S  
Newsletter



**Welcome to St Mary's Bramall Lane this morning.**

There are supervised activities for children of all ages during the service, please follow us out after opening worship. Parents are welcome either to leave their children or stay with them.

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.

**Today's Worship**

<b>10.30am Parish Communion</b>	Communion Assistants	Andy & Kate
	Reader	Della
	Prayer	Elaine C
	Drinks	Youth Fellowship
	Music	Jon, Veronica, Keith
	Steward	Margaret A

**Collect For Christ The King**

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

This newsletter is available on the internet at <http://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/church/>  
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-loft.fsnet.co.uk)

**The Week Ahead**

**Weekly Monday–Wednesday: 8.30am**  
Morning Prayer in the Chapel

**Monday 7.30pm PCC at the Vicarage**

**Weekly Thursday 8.30am** Holy Communion

**Wednesday 10am-12noon:** Toddler group

**Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting:** in St Mary's Cafe **8.00pm:** Come and pray for our community, our nation and our world. There will be opportunity to share concerns to pray for each other and our church / centre. Biblical reflection will be woven into the evening.

**Home Group** will meet this **Wednesday 8pm** - venue to be confirmed. Please speak to Tom or Jo for more details.

**Living Nativity – TODAY**

This is our contribution to festivities on the Moor when the Christmas lights are switched on.

If you would like to take part, see Karen who has the list. For more info contact Pete Eginton on 2652729

This is a chance to find your inner shepherd / Inn Keeper / King / Mary or Joseph. Sessions are from **1 - 3** and **3 - 5 pm** All costumes are provided.

**Praying For Our Parish**

The streets for our prayers in November are : **John Street; Charlotte Rd; Edmund Rd; Baron Street.** Please support Karen by praying for her visiting around the parish.

**Praying For Schools**

Last Tuesday was National Pray for Schools Day

Vicar: Canon Julian Sullivan  
0114 272 4987

Curate: Rev. Karen Cribb 0114 223 0237  
[revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk](mailto:revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk)

- please pray for our church school - Porter Croft. They have a Governors meeting this Tuesday, Julian and Karen are taking their assembly on Wednesday (a regular fortnightly occurrence) and will soon be planning their Christmas carol service here followed by the school choir singing at Lunch Club. Karen is also helping with the choir this term. Remember too the other infant and junior schools in our parish - Lowfield and Sharrow. We will be making contact with them again in the coming week. And why not send a card/small gift to the school your child attends and let them know you are praying for them?

## St Marys On Radio 4

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BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship from St Mary's Bramall Lane on **Sunday 5 December at 8.10am**

Please note timing:

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December Rehearsal

Worship Group and Choir from 2.00pm - 4.00 / 5.00pm St Mary's.

Sunday 5th Dec

0700 Choir & musicians

0730 Congregation please be in church ready for a short rehearsal

0810 Service begins

0850 Service Ends

0900 Breakfast is served

## Advent Tea

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You are invited to our annual Advent Tea at the Vicarage next **Sunday 28 November at 4.00pm.**

A chance to celebrate together the start of Advent and our spiritual and social preparation for Christmas. If you'd like to bring something please let Veronica know.

## Can You Hear The Angels Sing?

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From Julia Alder, Faith & Justice Dept, Sheffield Diocese.

"Are you ever concerned that the extraordinary thing we celebrate at Christmas has become a little buried? The rumour of Emmanuel, of Light in the darkness, the invitation to those that guard our communities to 'fear not' for God has come

amongst us – all of this is hard to touch or even remember because Christmas has become simply hard work.

Worse – for many – celebrating this most precious of events is the cause of debt, family strife or exacerbated loneliness. If I believed in the Devil (and I don't know that I don't) I would say this is a clever strategy to dissolve and tarnish and I feel anxious that we are complicit. If the huge urge to consume and acquire as much as we can for those dearest to us in the days approaching Christmas is part of the soul's yearning for God – Christians are well placed to offer a redirecting of that yearning. Do we?

The Campaign Against The Secularisation of Christmas [www.casc-aid.org.uk](http://www.casc-aid.org.uk) offers us a way to pause. 'How we can turn this situation around?' It asks 'whose birthday are we celebrating?' and reminds us of how John the Baptist suggested we 'prepare the way'. It asks that we give 50% of what we spend at Christmas to charity – 50/50 giving. A big ask! But even pausing to consider how much we spend in order to calculate that 50% would be a step for many of us. The most conservative estimate of our national high street Christmas spending last year was around £15bn. Just one-tenth of this amount (£1.5bn) is the sum currently estimated by the UN as being necessary for ongoing emergency flood relief in Pakistan alone. As a birthday present.... 'What ever you do for the least of these .... '

But can we do it? Can we even try? Is just thinking about it yet another pressure at Christmas?

What I think at the moment is that for every cubic centimetre we give away we create a little more space inside us for God. I'm thinking that for those of us who try together (and many of you are ahead by years on this) we will find an increased peace within that space that will help us manage the busyness. Also I'm thinking if we approach that space very quietly and as a little child would, we just might hear....."

## Next Sunday – 28<sup>th</sup> November

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### 10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do: Elaine C (readings); Maureen (prayers); Veronica (drinks); Doreen & Joan (steward); Giles & Karen (communion assistants); John, Jess (music)

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