

5th December 2010

2nd Sunday Of Advent

St. MARY'S Newsletter



Welcome to St Mary's Bramall Lane this morning.

There are supervised activities for children of all ages during the 10.30 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.

your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

10.30am Parish Communion	Communion Assistants	Della & Caroline
	Reader	Michael E
	Prayer	Kate K
	Drinks	Elaine & David
	Music	Jess, Jon, Yo, Veronica, Kevin, Giles, Julian, Steve
	Steward	John & Margaret

Today's Worship

Our early morning service (**8.10am**) will be broadcast live as Radio 4's Morning Service. The congregation need to be seated by 7.30am for a short rehearsal.



We welcome our preacher Rt. Revd. Dr. Steve Croft, Bishop of Sheffield and Canon Dr. Alan Billings as well as Producer Simon Vivian and the BBC Team to St Mary's this morning.

This will be the second of a series of services for Advent which visits 4 cities across the nations of the UK exploring the meaning of the incarnation in daily city life, and will also celebrate the work of the Church Urban Fund. <http://www.cuf.org.uk/>

Collect For 2nd Sunday Of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,

Advent Song

May the light of God shine brighter in our lives,
May the light of God shine brighter in our lives,
Light us up and make us loving,
a people who are loving,
May the light of God shine brighter in our lives.

The Week Ahead

Weekly Monday-Wednesday: 8.30am
Morning Prayer in the Chapel

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.

Children's Christmas Activities

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.fsnet.co.uk

Vicar: Canon Julian Sullivan
0114 272 4987

Curate: Rev. Karen Cribb 0114 223 0237
revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk

Games and Craft Afternoon

Calling anyone who would like to come and help with the games and craft afternoon for children aged 5 - 11yrs on **Saturday 11th December**. We will be setting up from 1pm for a session of activities from 2-4pm and clearing up afterwards. No previous involvement necessary - help required will include: making refreshments; greeting and registration; helping with simple christmas crafts; etc. It will be lots of fun and we are inviting children from Porter Croft school; St Mary's Rainbows and Brownies and children associated with ASSIST. Please speak to Karen if you could be involved in any way for an hour or two.

Carols Round the Crib

Saturday 18th December at 10am we are holding a "Carols Round the Crib" for children under 7 years and their families - so it would be great to have a few volunteers to welcome people and help be involved in that service.

Please take the Christmas leaflets and use them to invite children and their families to these events.

Straight after the Games and Craft afternoon will be the...

ASSIST Carol Service

Saturday 11th December 4 pm. There will be a nativity play, and music from the Purple Cats, the University Gospel choir and Odette and friends. It would be great if some people from St Mary's could support this, especially if children are going to the craft beforehand. (ASSIST is a wonderful local charity which helps destitute asylum seekers).

Nativity Art At Highfield Trinity

Our friends at Highfield Trinity Church are mounting an exhibition:

The story of the Nativity told in art

at Highfield Trinity Church, London Road, Sharrow

A free exhibition by local Christian artists

Friday 17th and Saturday 18th December

10 am to 7 pm

Bishop Cyril's Christmas Message

Extraordinary Grace

Archbishop Rowan Williams wrote this. "Human

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beings left to themselves, have imagined God in all sorts of shapes; - although there were one or two instances, in Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt, of gods being pictured as boys - it took Christianity to introduce the world to the idea of God in the form of a baby: in the form of complete dependence and fragility, without power or control. If you stop to think about it, it is still shocking. And it is also deeply challenging."

The birth of Jesus changed the world. Not only in the obvious way whereby the invisible God was made visible, but also because it redefined human greatness. Vulnerability, rather than political, economic or military power became the hallmark of human stature and significance.

It is remarkable, challenging and deeply disturbing to recognise that the fullest revelation of God is as a baby. "They all were looking for a king. To slay their foes and lift them high. Thou cam`st a little baby thing, that made a woman cry." This raw vulnerability, captured in the words of a poet, reveal the essence of the Christmas event.

The Word became flesh. The Word that cannot speak, has spoken with extraordinary grace and love over the last two thousand years. In a world where financial and economic systems are universally vulnerable, where international relationships are critically vulnerable, where ecological structures are cataclysmically vulnerable, where outrageous desecrations of human life are making millions vulnerable, the message of God who made himself vulnerable comes across with fresh relevance and poignancy.

This Christmas I hope we will be moved to outrage at all ruthless disregard for human life. That the Word that cannot speak will visit the unspeakable with comfort and compassion. That we will be moved afresh to wonder at the birth of Christ, our glorious vulnerable Saviour.

Next Sunday – 12th December

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – upstairs in the Chapel

10.30am Christingle Family Service

People with jobs to do: Michael (readings); Kate K (prayers); Margaret I (drinks); Kate K (steward); Della & Caroline (communion assistants); Steve, Bryony, Yo, Keith (music).

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