

27th February 2011
Sunday 2nd Before Lent

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

10.30am Parish Communion	Music	Jon, Kev, Jeremy, Veronica
	Readings	Rachel M
	Prayers	Louise
	Stewards	Doreen & Joan
	Drinks	Dolly
	Light Factory	Jo Andy, Josh, Rachel
	Communion Assistants	Margaret & Penny

Collect For Sunday 2nd Before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things, 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

The Week Ahead

Monday 7.30pm PCC at the Vicarage

Tuesday 8pm. Home group

Wednesday 7pm Deanery Synod at Holy Trinity, Millhouses

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

Weekly Thursday 8.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10am-12noon: Toddler group

Wednesday Night: See Confirmation Course below.

Urban Impact Tour

Thursday 3rd March 7.30 - 9pm at St. Thomas Crookes - The Message Trust Urban Impact Tour - an evening of drama worship and teaching with an emphasis on encountering God and to hear afresh his challenge to be a participator in what he is doing in our world - especially in the toughest neighbourhoods. If you are interested in going please speak to Andy.

Next Week - Fellowship Lunch

Sunday 6th March shared fellowship lunch after church - all welcome. Don't bring food - just come.

For Your Prayers

Streets of the Parish we are praying for this month: Alderson Road, Thorpe Close, Woodhead Road, Randall Street, Harwood Close, Bennet St.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Vicar: Canon Julian Sullivan
0114 272 4987

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



Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 28th Feb - 14th March. There will be a fair trade stall in church on both **Sunday 5th** and **13th March**.

Cyril's Retirement

Cyril has retired as caretaker this weekend after over 25 years of involvement with St. Mary's. Karen has a card for him for everyone to sign and will also collect contributions towards a gift for him.

Confirmation Course

The next part of our Confirmation Course will run on **Wednesday** in Mary's Marvellous Cafe. This will offer sessions based on Psalm 107. We have planned a quiet day at Whirlow Grange on **Saturday 5 March, from 10.00 - 4.00** for those being confirmed, led by Bishop Steven

Part 2 will run from **March 16** on Wednesdays up to Easter and will be held at the Cathedral. We will have a choice of starting at 5.45 pm with evensong, or coming for a meal at 6.30pm, or joining the session led by Bishop Steven at 7.30pm. These will be based around studies in Mark's Gospel and are open to anyone who would like to attend along with those being confirmed. For more info see Julian.

St Marys On YouTube

See some excellent short videos showcasing some of what goes on in the Centre are now available on the youtube website. See them all at

<http://www.youtube.com/user/StMarysSheffield>

God Sees The Inner Reality

Bishop Cyril writes:

In a recent talk Cardinal Walter Kasper quoted a German proverb, "Who I am greets sadly who I should be." I can relate to that. Lent is traditionally a time of reflection and self-examination where we can more effectively fashion our lives on the teaching and example of Jesus. Hopefully, this provides the incentive to bring closer together the reality of who we are with the longing to become more Christ-like. Many of us throughout Lent will look for times of quiet when we seek to face our inner demons and dispel their hold on us. Jesus himself was made to face his fears during the forty days in the wilderness.

After Shakespeare, John Donne, in my view, is one of the greatest English poets. During a serious illness in 1623 he wrote the famous 'Hymn to God the Father.'

*'Wilt thou forgive the sin where I begun,
which was my sin, though it were done
before?*

*Wilt thou forgive the sin, through which I
run, and do run still, though still I do
deplore?*

*When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
for I have more.*

*Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
others to sin, and made my sin their door?*

*Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
a year or two, but wallow'd in a score?*

*When thou hast done thou hast not done, for
I have more.*

*I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;*

*But swear by thyself, that at my death thy
Son shall shine as he shines now, and
heretofore;*

*And having done that, thou hast done; I fear
no more.*

Facing our fears may require great courage. The harm we have done, and are capable of doing; the messes and complexities of life lived behind the masks we wear. What if we were able to face our fears and discover, as Donne did, that God sees the inner reality of deceits and arrogances, habits and inheritances, the entire tangled bundle that makes us who we are – and loves us with an utterly generous, utterly forgiving grace - would we believe it?

Don't be afraid to acknowledge the discrepancy between who you are and who you could be. For a time this Lent find space to face fear and discover again the boundless love of God offering forgiveness and healing. It is no accident that the commonest greeting of God and of Angels is, "Do not be afraid."

+Cyril Doncaster

Next Sunday – 6th March

10.30am Parish Communion People with jobs to do: Simeon K (readings); Louise (prayers); John & Margaret I (stewards); Lucy (drinks); Andy C & Kate K (Communion Assistants); Steve, Yo and Jess (music); Penny, Kim, Francine, Odette (Light Factory)

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