

12th January 2014

Presentation of Christ

St. MARY'S Newsletter



Welcome to St Mary's Bramall Lane

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

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) in the Chapel

10.30am All Age Worship	Drinks	Barbara
	Stewards	Kate & Odette
	Music	Steve, Reuben, Nate, Tom, Bryony, Jess



This morning's 10.30 service will include a Thanksgiving for the birth of Juno Jefferies

Youth Group - TONIGHT

Youth Group meet at **6pm** in the Café for a New Year session. See Claire for details.

Collect For The Presentation Of Christ In The Temple

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy

This newsletter is available online at <http://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/church/>
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steve@to-lo.co.uk or follow @stmarysnews on twitter

to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

This Week At St Marys

Monday evening St Mary's Board of Directors meeting

Tuesday & Wednesday 11.30-1.30pm
Community Café at St M's

Tuesday 8pm Home Group meets at Jon & Sally Ross. Please speak to them or Andy Cribb for more information.

Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 Toddlers As usual.

Wednesday 8pm Life and Faith group in the café. More information form Maureen.

Friday 4pm Messy Church

Friday - Sunday Performing Arts weekend at the Oakes which several of our Young People are attending.

Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity

Next Sunday 19th 6.30pm United Service with Sharrow Churches at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, as part of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. One of our annual opportunities to meet with the other local Churches for worship, teaching and fellowship.

There will be no Reflective Evening Prayer service this month - please do come to the United Service instead.

Reflections On Psalm 95

2014 is the Centenary of the Diocese. Bishop Steven has asked the Diocese to reflect together on Psalm 95 in the first part of the year: Come let us sing for joy to the Lord. The Bishop is writing a short series of daily reflections on the Psalm designed to be used as part of daily prayers in January. To find them go to www.bishopofsheffield.blogspot.co.uk or follow Bishop Steven on twitter for regular posts: @Steven_Croft.

Giles On The Guardian's Website

The full version of the following article appeared this week on The Guardian's website (at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/06/christianity-church-congregations-readers-stories>) within a series about 'why it is still important to be a Christian today'.



St Mary's, Bramall Lane: 'We're at the cutting edge of where the Anglican church needs to be'

[Giles Morrison](#) has been going to [St Mary's, Bramall Lane](#) in Sheffield for 20 years. He is a physicist, director at [St Mary's conference centre](#) and is currently training to be a Lay Reader in the [Church of England](#).

When I asked him what makes St Mary's different from other church congregations, he told me that the community is all about inclusivity. "Our vicar, Canon Julian Sullivan (pictured above), refers to what we do as 'the art of the possible'. Many churches will be very explicit about who they are, what they stand for and what they're doing. We've found that to do that exercises some exclusion. Fundamentally, we want to be a church that's fully inclusive to everybody and anybody who turns up – whether they're Christian or not."

Expressing this ethos has meant the church is involved in many local community projects. "We have many asylum seekers and refugees, mainly Christians from Africa, who come to Sheffield looking for sanctuary. With [Assist](#) (Asylum Seeker Support Initiative – Short Term), we help those who have no food, income or roof over their head. We also support those with learning difficulties and mental health problems. One example is a chap who used to run a restaurant, but gave it up when the business became too stressful. He now comes in on a Wednesday and cooks for the café, which both helps provide a cheap meal for those who can't afford much, and gives him an outlet for his talents.

"Supporting those in need is about taking in people

the world have rejected, who don't fit into the capitalist model of 'you are what you earn'. This enables them to participate in the community, but on their terms."

According to The Telegraph, former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, warned that [Christianity is "a generation away from extinction"](#) in Britain. In response, Giles said Lord Carey's statement does not apply to all Christians. "I think there are some forms of Anglican expression that are very challenged by our changing society and the fact that we have a very post-modern one. At St Mary's, we're at the cutting edge of where the Anglican church needs to be – constantly changing, and very loose in terms of form, structures and scriptures. Being an inner city urban parish means we can't be too precious about things. This is so we can react very quickly to local needs whether it be within the wider parish or congregation."

For Giles, the [vote to bring in proposals for women bishops in the Anglican church in the UK](#), is not as important as many are making it out to be. "I know for many it's a matter of significant traditional and theological concern. Considering what the rest of the world thinks about equality, for me, it's been a non-issue.

"I believe we worship a loving and forgiving God. Jesus broke with tradition by talking to women ([John 4:1-26](#)) and made women an equal part of the kingdom. In the unlikely event that we go to heaven with a beard in the sky that says 'I didn't ask you to ordain women,' well, we'll deal with it when we come to it.

"There are more important things to worry about – war, poverty, abuse and inequality. God would rather see us loving our neighbour and giving to the poor rather than worrying who wears the funny hat."

When I asked him about the place of Christians in today's society, Giles said he believes their contribution is as vital as ever. "We have a society where the bar for what should be done seems to be 'Is it legal?' not 'Is it moral?'. We also have secularists and atheists spending a lot of time and money to get faith based influence out of society. What are they doing for the poor and those who need help?

"We need the church to stand up for those who have no voice of their own and make it absolutely clear that there is no other agenda than to help others. It may not always get it right but it is fundamental to society."

Next Sunday – 19th January

10.30am Holy Communion

People with jobs to do: Ann B. (readings); Michael E (prayers); Veronica (drinks); Margaret A & Raman (stewards); Kevin & Barbara (communion assistants); Jon, Kev, Rachel, Veronica, Yo (music)

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