

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Candlemas

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

<b>10.30am Parish Communion</b>	Drinks	Kim
	Readings	Margaret I
	Prayers	Veronica
	Light Factory	Hannah, Kim, Penny
	Communion Assistants	Della & Caroline
	Music	Madge
	Stewards	John & Margaret I

CMS Event – On Your Marks

Christ Church, Pittsmoor on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 10.30am-2.30pm:**

An opportunity to learn about the exciting things happening to your Church Mission Society. Revd. Mark Oxbrow (Asst. Gen. Sec. of CMS) will share the vision of CMS and help us to understand where we all fit in. Bring your questions with you - Mark will be happy to answer them. Before lunch there will also be a presentation by members of the recent CMS Praxis Team following their visit to Freetown, Sierra Leone. A short AGM will follow lunch. Please contact Rev Martyn Snow on 272 7756 for further information, or martyn@christchurchpittsmoor.com.

Collect For Candlemas

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

City Of Sanctuary News

Come and take part in planning their strategy for making 'Sheffield – City a Sanctuary' a reality. Have your say in choosing our city's goals and priorities for welcoming and including asylum-seekers and refugees.

This **Thursday 7th Feb 2008**, 1.30-4pm at Sheffield University, ICOSS building, 219 Portobello.

Please contact them to book your place, as numbers are limited. *Asylum-seekers and refugees are especially welcome, travel expenses can be paid (please contact them to arrange this in advance).*

Sheffield City of Sanctuary is helping the Refugee Council set up similar schemes in other cities, starting with Leeds and Nottingham.

There is a new website and they are looking for asylum-seekers and refugees, or those who befriend and support them who would like to publish their views and experiences on a City of Sanctuary blog. Please contact them if you are interested in this, or visit their drop-in blogging and Web skills session at Access Space, 1 Sidney St, S1 4RG, on Wednesdays between 11am-5pm.

This Week At St Marys

<b>Ash Wednesday Joint Service</b>	Joint service at St Mary's with the Sharrow Churches for the start of Lent <b>7.30pm</b>
<b>Parent &amp; Toddlers</b>	This <b>Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am</b> in the hall.
<b>Women Exploring Faith</b>	On <b>Thursday</b> from <b>9.30am</b> in the Parish Room. An opportunity to share fellowship and pray. Please ask Helen or Karen if you are interested in knowing more.
<b>Prayers</b>	For all at St Marys. <b>Friday</b> from <b>9.30am</b> in the Parish Room

Slowing Climate Change

As Lent begins, its a year since the 'Omega' course ran at St Mary's. This year, the Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones's 'Carbon Fast' could make us think

This newsletter is available on the internet at <http://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/>  
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again as we play our part in lowering household emissions. Individuals' activity (home energy and transport) accounts for about 45% of our national carbon emissions so its really well worth us us attempting to live more 'greenly'. )

The Fast includes simple suggestions like

1. Replacing all light bulbs with low energy ones
2. Turning off phone chargers, PCs and standby lights when not in use.
3. Switching to a green energy supplier eg. Good Energy
4. Recycling
5. Leaving car at home whenever possible (Sheffield buses now running on biofuel)

You can measure your carbon footprint at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/> or ask Steve for other ways to do it.

Incidentally, the Omega Climate Change course which was trialled at St Marys last year has been fully revised and is being use this year by churches and other groups around the world. It will very shortly also include an excellent carbon trading board game designed by Mark D.

<http://www.omegaclimate.org.uk/>

## Income Tax Coming Down.

*Margaret I, our Treasurer, writes:*

### Good news

From April the standard rate of income tax is coming down to 20% from 22% so those people who pay tax will receive more money than now.

### Bad news

This does mean , however, that the money we can claim back after April for the church for any contribution which is gift aided will be less than now.

At present for every £5 donated we receive an additional £1.40 but in future we will only receive an extra £1.25. In order for us to have the same income as now taxpayers will need to pay £5.12 for every £5.00 you give at present.

I would be very grateful if you would pray about your giving to consider whether you could give that additional 12p for every £5.00 you now give in order for us to maintain the present level of giving. Also if you were thinking that you may want to give an extra donation to the church please note that it is more valuable to us before April 1st than afterwards.

It is unfortunate that over the last year amounts totalling about £340 per month are no longer available to us so the additional loss of recovered tax will hit us very hard.

## A Chinese New Year Night Out

A friend of Kim L's who volunteers with The Cavendish Centre ([www.cavcare.org.uk](http://www.cavcare.org.uk)) is helping to organise a Chinese New Year dinner this **Thursday 7th Feb** at the City Hall. Tickets are only £10 [fantastic value – Ed.] and include a meal, Chinese music & a Lion dance. A great chance to help raise funds for a fantastic charity and see the beautifully refurbished City Hall!

Please let Kim know if you fancy joining her.

Ask Steve for Kim's phone number. If you don't know either of them, ask someone else!

## Good Neighbours In Lent

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury are recommending 'Love Life Live Lent' – asking people to try out daily suggestions to help create a safer and more pleasant environment in the real world.

The campaign will share actions to make the world a better place in small and simple ways. These range from leaving a thank-you note for your postie to going a whole day without gossiping.

Most of the actions Love Life Live Lent can be performed individually, while others require a group working together. They include:

- Spending a day trying to exist on just £1.40 – more than half the world's population have only that amount to spend each day
- Cooking or eating cuisine you haven't tried before
- Finding out about volunteering in a prison or supporting prisoners' families
- Discovering the names of your closest neighbours.

Inevitably, there is a website - [www.livelent.net](http://www.livelent.net) – and groups on facebook, myspace, etc., but there is also a proper booklet, available from Christian bookshops for £1 for children, youth, and adults.

## Next Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> February

### 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) in the Chapel

### 10.30am Lent Family Service

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Margaret I (drinks); Steve (prayers); Kate (steward); Steve, Veronica (music)

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