

22nd February 2009

Last Sunday Before Lent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



Sunday Worship

10.30am Parish Communion	Readings	Veronica
	Drinks	Della
	Communion Assistants	Della & Caroline
	Prayers	Elaine C
	Steward	Doreen & Joan
	Music	Jon, Veronica, Jess

Collect For 22nd February

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to
glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

PCC

The Church Council will now meet **tomorrow**
7.30 for 7.45pm at the Vicarage

A Green New Deal

A one-day conference *here at St Marys* on
Saturday 28th February organised by Sheffield
Campaign Against Climate Change.

What are green jobs? How can we create new
green jobs? How can we help grow existing green
community enterprises and businesses? How can
we involve trade unions? How we grow more local
food and create effective transport and marketing
systems? How we can re-invest in our local green
economy? How can we improve our housing
stock? How can we use the new Sustainable
Communities Act? How can we use the new Local
Transport Act to provide a regulated system that

serves us? What policies should we demand of our
local councils and regeneration agencies? How can
we involve faith based communities?

The conference aims to promote an understanding
of the global financial, climate and energy crisis we
face and develop recommendations for Sheffield to
respond at national, local and community levels.

Registration is now open. £15 or £12 for
concessions. Steve is going if anyone wants more
information (contact details in footer below)

Visit www.sheffieldgreennewdeal.org.uk

Redemption Song

Performed by Riding Lights Theatre Company

Wednesday 11 March at St Luke's, Lodge Moor,
Sheffield. Tickets at £5 (no concessions) from
Colin Peskett 0114 230 7740

A moving combination of powerful theatre,
meditation, prayer and corporate worship. Shot
through with moments of great joy and great
conflict, robustly and compellingly performed,
Redemption Song asks each of us to review our
understanding of our own faith in the searing bright
light of the crucifixion of Christ.

Dave Bilborough At St Marys

Saturday 7th March. Tickets are on sale today (if
there are any left) or phone Yo 258 4382 for a
great evening of live music.

Yo now needs 8 volunteers to help on the night.

Climate Change Seminars

Some key issues being addressed at St Mark's
Church, Broomhill, Sheffield (next to Royal
Hallamshire Hospital) 6.00 to 7.30 pm followed by
opportunity for tea/coffee and informal discussion.

Sunday 1 March

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EU: MISSED
OPPORTUNITY OR KEY PLAYER?

Speakers:

Linda McAvan, MEP for Yorkshire and Humberside.

This newsletter is available on the internet at <http://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/>
To submit news or to receive emails when this newsletter is updated, steve@tozer-loft.fsnet.co.uk



Vicar: Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987

Jenny Brown, Christian Aid's Senior EU Relations Adviser,.

Sunday 8 March - Film screening

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY: HOW CUBA SURVIVED PEAK OIL

Sunday 15 March

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE - TRIUMPH OR DISASTER, LOCAL OR UNIVERSAL SOLUTION?

Advocates of either a chemical or an organic way of feeding the world appear to be diametrically opposed. The two eminent speakers will help us to see if there is a more creative way forward.

Steve has more information (contact details in footer).

The Bishop's Letter

This month Bishop Cyril writes:

A shipwrecked man spent five years on a desert island. One day he was overjoyed to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A dingy approached, and a ship's officer handed the sailor a batch of daily newspapers from the UK. "The captain suggests," said the officer, "that you read what is going on in the world before you decide whether you wish to be rescued."

The grim humour in that story might well find an echo in the minds of many people in South Yorkshire who are yet again facing unemployment and subsequent hardship as a result of job losses at Corus, Burberry, Woolworth's and elsewhere. There are obviously very many smaller enterprises which are similarly suffering the results of the credit famine. In the years I have been Bishop of Doncaster I have witnessed the virtual demise of the coal industry, and massive reductions in steel.

Despite the imaginative and valiant attempts of our communities to re-invent themselves and create new jobs it seems that areas like ours always take the hardest hits. The recession, officially confirmed now by Downing Street, must focus the minds of politicians and community leaders alike on remaking the economy in favour of the most vulnerable.

We have presided over a world financial system, based on international and personal self-interest, which has destroyed itself. We have to learn from this and not seek to re-create a structure that made the present crisis inevitable. New national and personal values must be encouraged that enable nations and communities to feed more resources into places of greatest need.

Such an approach resonates more accurately with Gospel priorities which compel us to bring good

news to the poor and establish justice for the oppressed.

Translating this into practical terms in our community would mean extra government help for people facing repossession of their homes following redundancy; it would mean the offer of training so that those who lose their jobs could transfer their skills to other industries; and it would mean treating our total working population with fairness and respect.

One of our parish priests, a former Corus employee, wrote to me. "I have seen and felt the stresses, frustrations and sadness that so many cuts and reorganisations have produced over the years. I also know of the commitment, resilience and hard work that Corus employees have given to try to make the industry work. It is an additional sadness that it is good people and a skilful workforce that are affected by these cuts. I understand their disappointment and anger."

Two further things need attention. First, a levelling out of the disparity in employment laws between the UK and other nations hosting parts of the same industry as us. Second, without being protectionist, we need to question political philosophies that allow major decisions about our industries to be made in other parts of the world. For instance, I imagine the local management of Corus are as frustrated as anyone at the way Rotherham is made to bear the brunt of job cuts.

I trust that the whole Church will act with grace and generosity towards those who are struggling with this new situation. Canon David Bliss Vicar of Rotherham Minster has planned a time of prayer and reflection at the Minster on Monday the 23rd of February at 12.30pm. If you are in the area please do drop in. I hope many of us will nag our MP's to get the government to act on behalf of those who are losing their jobs. Above all, I trust that we will acknowledge that it is a fundamental part of our vocation as Christians to commit ourselves to creating a fair society in which everyone is treated with respect and compassion.

+Cyril

Next Sunday - 1st March

1st Sunday in Lent

10.30am Parish Communion

People with jobs to do next Sunday: Maureen F (readings); Veronica (drinks); Penny & Elaine C (communion assistants); Michael K (prayers); John & Margaret I (stewards); Steve, Veronica, Jess (music)

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