

11<sup>th</sup> December 2011

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of Advent

St. MARY'S

Newsletter



**Welcome to St Mary's Bramall Lane this morning.**

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.

that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**This Week At St Marys**

**Today's Worship**

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

<b>10.30am All Age Christingle Service</b>	Drinks	Peter
	Stewards	Kate & Odette
	Music	Steve, Yo, Bryony, Sam

Toddler Group Party	<b>Wednesday 14th December 9.30 – 12 noon</b> Our usual Christmas celebration with bouncy castle, craft and play.
Landsdown Carol Singing	Join the Christmas Minstrels and members of local churches next <b>Saturday 17th December</b> as we sing carols round the Landsdowne estate. Start at <b>10.30am</b> at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, and join them afterwards for mince pies and hot drinks.
Carols round the Crib	<b>Saturday 17th December 10.30 am.</b> A celebration of the Christmas story for children under 8yrs. Come dressed as your favourite nativity character, enjoy simple carols and retelling the story.
Conversation Club	<b>Friday 10am - 2pm</b> English Conversation Club including simple lunch. Call in any time for help with confidence in English conversation, homework or basic English. If you are able to offer to help provide this in a voluntary capacity please speak to Maureen or Miriam, and encourage those you know who might benefit from attending to join us.

The 10.30 service today is the first of our Christmas celebrations in which we make Christingles and celebrate the light of Christ entering this dark world.

We welcome to all those from Porter Croft Church of England Primary School and to the friends and family of Mr Jim Dugmore for his commissioning as Head Teacher at Porter Croft.

Welcome also to some of the Rainbows and Brownies Pack which meet here at St Mary's on a Thursday evening.

**Collect For 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of Advent**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,

**Christmas Activities Afternoon**

**Tuesday 20th December 1.30 -3.30**  
Christmas Activities Afternoon. Crafts and games for all the family.

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@to-lo.co.uk](mailto:steve@to-lo.co.uk) or follow @stmarysnews on twitter



Vicar: Canon Julian Sullivan  
0114 272 4987

Curate: Rev. Karen Cribb 0114 223 0237  
[revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk](mailto:revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk)

## Community Carol Singing

---

**Wednesday 21st December 7pm** Community Carol Singing. Meet at St Mary's before going out to sing carols, accompanied by the Christmas Minstrels, around the parish before returning for refreshments.

## Today More Oaks Folks

---

This weekend Jack, Ollie; Reuben; Thomas; Ed; William and Jonas are enjoying their discipleship weekend at The Oakes - please pray that they would be encouraged in their faith and have a good and safe time.

The funeral of Julie Myers will be held at Grenoside Crematorium on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30.**

## Lunch Club Pantomime

---

7 tickets still left for the St Marys Lunch Club trip to the pantomime. Sleeping Beauty at the Lyceum **Friday 6th January 2pm.** £12. includes icecream. Phone Virginia 0791 768 2930

## Bishops Letter – An Early Christmas Present

---

"Almost everyone who reads this will be writing Christmas Cards in December. Spare a thought for the Bishop! In my official and personal capacity I send around 600 cards every year. It's a task I normally enjoy, providing there is a fire burning and some music playing in the room, the first mince pie(s) of the season and a glass of something or other.

Sending and receiving cards is part of the way we prepare. We send love and greetings to family, friends and colleagues as a way of reminding each other that we are connected. All of us belong to a wider community which spreads in many different directions. Some of our ties are strong and some are weak but at this time of year they are all important.

The cards also remind us that as Christians we are part of the long story of God's people. The cards we send as Christians are part of our witness to that story. We are reminding each other of the beginning of our story: the great narrative of Christ's birth. For that reason, like many Christians, I try to make sure

that the pictures on the cards I send tell part of the Christmas story. This is the story which gives meaning to our lives and which speaks of God's love and light in the midst of darkness.

This year I've put a verse into the Christmas card. I love to write new things and this is an attempt at a new Christmas carol, based on the much loved passage at the beginning of John's gospel, "In the beginning was the word". Those who normally have a card from me, look away now! But if you don't then here is an early Christmas present.

May God be with you as you prepare for the Christmas season and celebrate Christ's birth"

+Steven Sheffield

Word who was before time  
Word through whom worlds came.  
Word with God and of God  
Eternally the same.  
Wisdom and power, creation's mighty flow  
Taking flesh among us, dwelling here below.

Life is in the Word's light  
Fruitful life for all.  
Light is in the Word's life  
Cradled in the stall.  
Shining in darkness, banishing all fear  
Taking flesh among us, God's own Son draws near.

Word of God incarnate  
Dwelling on the earth.  
We behold his beauty,  
Wonder at his birth.  
Grace, truth and glory, shaping Jesus life  
Taking flesh among us, come to end our strife.

Steven Croft, 2011 (from John 1.1-11)  
Tune: Noel Nouvalet (Now the green blade riseth)

## Next Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Advent

---

People with jobs to do next Sunday at the 10.30 Communion service: Michael E (Readings); Louise / Jem (Prayers) Chester & Joan (drinks); Giles & Karen (Communion Assistants); Margaret A & Raman (Stewards); Yo, Veronica, Jeremy, Steve (music); Tom, Andy, Miriam, Rachel (children's work).

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@to-lo.co.uk](mailto:steve@to-lo.co.uk) or follow @stmarysnews on twitter



Vicar: Canon Julian Sullivan  
0114 272 4987

Curate: Rev. Karen Cribb 0114 223 0237  
[revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk](mailto:revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk)