

10<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Sunday Next Before Lent

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.

### This Morning's Worship

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) in the Chapel		
10.30am All Age Worship	Stewards	Kate & Odette
	Leader	Revd Karen Cribb
	Readings	Luke 9:28-36 p.1040
	Drinks	Chester & Joan
	Music	Bryony, Tom, Reuben, Yo, Nathaniel

### Collect For The Sunday Next Before Lent

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### This Week At St Marys

<b>Tuesday - Thursday</b>	St Mary's Cafe open <b>11.30 - 1.30.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9.30 - 11.30 Toddler Group</b>

This newsletter is available online 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

### Wednesday

**7.30pm Ash Wednesday - A Service of Ashing and Holy Communion in Church, for Ash Wednesday and marking the beginning of Lent.**

### Friday

**10.30 - 12 English Conversation Group** in the Cafe. Please speak to Maureen or Miriam for more information.

### Youth Alive Event

**Wednesday, 13th February 6.30pm** at Victoria Hall, Norfolk Street, Sheffield City Centre

Claire is happy to take any Youth to this Alive event in February and plans to meet the youth group in town outside the Victoria Hall at 6.45pm. If anyone is interested just give Claire a text or e-mail: [c.a.wood@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.wood@sheffield.ac.uk) for more information.

### Advance Notices

Reflective evening Service **6.30pm** on Sunday **24th February**

### Street Pastors In Sheffield

Street Pastors are taking the love of God onto Sheffield City Centre streets. If you are interested in joining a team to go into the City Centre on a Friday/Saturday night 10.30pm-4am. If you are over 18, and are in membership of a local church. If you want to be Jesus to the people who are in the city centre - listening, caring and helping then read on. We have 2 teams - a city centre team and a team in Burngreave. Commit yourself to 12 days training and 12 nights on the streets in the year. Consider training to be a Street Pastor. The next training starts on Saturday 9 March 2013 at Elim Christian Centre, Rotherham S65 1BL. Contact Tricia Watts on 07931562442. E: [sheffield@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:sheffield@streetpastors.org.uk) For more info

Vicar: Canon Julian Sullivan 0114 272 4987  
[jandvsullivan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jandvsullivan@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

look on the website [www.streetpastors.co.uk](http://www.streetpastors.co.uk)

## Centre News

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We heard this week that the Centre has been awarded a major grant over the next three years for our work with the BME communities in research and practice addressing issues of social disadvantage. This is a great endorsement and affirmation of the work that the Centre staff are already engaged in and puts us on a more secure footing for the future.

## Messy Church – Can You Help?

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**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** Messy Church - "an opportunity to invite people of all ages to enjoy crafts and activities concluding with a short informal time of worship and sharing a simple meal together." Volunteer helpers welcome as are contributions of cake/biscuits for dessert. See Claire, Karen or Miriam for more information.

*This month we are particularly short of several regular volunteer helpers - if anyone is able to give an hour or two please speak to Karen today or contact Claire/Karen during the week.*

## The Bishop's Letter For February

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"Blessed are the poor in Spirit"

I'm shocked by TV adverts promoting payday loans with extortionate rates of interest. Tens of thousands of people are struggling with debt problems in the current economic climate and looking for help. Payday lenders tend to offer short-term, high interest loans, some as large as 4,000 per cent, that have to be paid back within the month.

Some people have found loans for as little as £150 have increased to £10,000. They've had to take out another loan to pay off the original one. In the UK, one in three payday loans is taken out to pay another payday loan. But increasingly they are being taken out for essentials like food, rent, fuel and travel costs. Inevitably they hit the most poor.

The new Archbishop has called the most costly loans "Usury" saying that curbing them is a "moral issue". I welcome the Governments initiative to change the law to restrict interest rates for payday loans and I applaud our

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churches which through "Food Banks" and Credit Unions help the most poor and disadvantaged.

This month Bishop Steven and I will be leading Lent Courses on the Beatitudes and I was drawn to think about "Blessed are the poor in Spirit".

It's not saying that you have to be poor to be holy. The bible understands poverty as an injustice. The Old Testament helps our understanding. To be poor meant literally to be poor materially. But because the poor could only find refuge in God, it came to have spiritual overtones. It's a poverty that's internal, a looking at oneself and realising a state of spiritual bankruptcy.

To receive the Kingdom of God we must acknowledge our own spiritual poverty but I hope that during Lent we will be mindful and supportive of those in material poverty and debt. This can't be right in the 21st Century. There's a need for interdependence with God and each other. We should aspire to be a nation where the most vulnerable and poor are supported by the strongest without dire consequences.

+Peter

## Songs Of Life With John Bell

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**26-28th April** at Whirlow Grange Conference & Spirituality Centre, Sheffield.

John Bell, author, preacher, musician and Wild Goose Resource Worker will be at Whirlow for a weekend of music and teaching. Part of the event will be at the Salvation Army Citadel on Psalter Lane.

There is the option to book for the whole weekend for £180 which includes all sessions, meals and transport to and from the Citadel, or sessions and meals can be booked individually.

For full details please visit the website

<http://www.whirlowgrange.co.uk/songs-of-life-with-john-bell/>

To book please call 0114 2363173

## Next Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> February

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### 10.30am Parish Eucharist

People with jobs to do: Kate K (readings); George R (prayers); Steve (drinks); Margaret A & Raman (stewards); Jon, Veronica, Rachel (music)



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