

***Dear Friends,***

Most magazines have an Editorial letter at the beginning so I'm taking the opportunity this month to write more of an editorial than a clergy letter. An Editorial Board plan Church and Community a month in advance and we like to keep it relevant and up to date with details of what is coming in the community and sometimes a review of what has happened. To do this we need your help and support.

Sprotbrough is a thriving active area with three schools, three churches, three pubs - four with Cadeby, many clubs and societies but information about what is happening often never reaches us and so never gets advertised or reported on which is a pity. How did the cricket club do last season? What has been happening in the uniformed organisation? How well have our schools been doing? Have any individuals done well in any particular area? What about different quiz teams? We would love to hear from you and so would many of our readers. Each month we say when information for the next month should be in and you can always post it through my door - Copley House, 99 Park Drive, so that it can be more of a community as well as a church magazine.

Several people have asked me what is happening about the Church roof. We still have a long way to go. English Heritage have offered us some money, but we have to match it and will be launching another appeal in the near future. As I write this we still have no news of a new rector so are likely to be without at least until Easter.

As most of you will know this is the 400th Anniversary of the King James version of the Bible - a wonderful book of prose and poetry as well as being the word of God to us. During the coming months we hope to share some of the wonders of this book and the effect it has had on peoples lives. For this month please read the commentary on psalm 23 on page 19.

*Betty Brockman - Editor*

# THIS AND THAT

## AN ACCIDENT.....?

During the weeks before Christmas a vehicle drove into St. Mary's Church Hall car park and damaged the right hand post to such an extent that it needs to be repaired.

No one has come forward admitting responsibility. If you, or you know someone who has had this accident please would you contact the Church warden or the Church Hall custodian. Their own car must have been damaged because of the broken glass that was there - probably the front of the car on the drivers side.

PLEASE OWN UP.



The  
Children's  
Society

## Beetle!!

Have you ever been to a Children's Society Beetle Drive?

You will know the excitement in a mixed age company of shaking the dice, of drawling elegant, colourful or clumsy beetles, of moving up to meet new people on the next table and of consuming a tasty supper.

You won't need to be encouraged to get your ticket for the 2011 Drive!

If you've never been to a Children's Society Beetle Drive, now is the opportunity to plunge in. Lift the phone and dial 850782 for Janet Taylor or 852366 for Betty Holden and you can get tickets.

**It's on Friday 18 February 2011 at 7pm**

**It's in St. Mary's Church Hall**

**It only costs £4 for adults and £2 for children**

***And you will be helping a child somewhere in the country  
who is in desperate need.***

## DORE MALE VOICE CHOIR

*Conductor - Elizabeth Hampshire*

St. Mary's Church

**Saturday 19th March**

7.30pm

Tickets £7.00 to include refreshments

*Proceeds towards the Church Roof*

## Sprotbrough Music Society

Presents

**THE AURORA ENSEMBLE**

on

**Thursday 24th February**

in

The Church Hall

**Commencing at 7.30pm**

*Everyone Welcome*

# BRINGING HOPE

## Compassionate grief support

A ten week course for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one

Course starts: Monday 28 February 2011

### Aims:

- To help you explore your feelings in a safe place
- To help you understand something of the grieving process
- To offer hope and compassion on your journey through grief

For further information and to register a place please contact: **Jenny on 01302 853187**

## LUNCHEON WITH FRIENDS

at the Stables

**Friday 4 March**

£20.00

*in aid of Church Roof*

Tickets from  
Wendy Taylor,  
Betty Brockman &  
Barbara Perry



**Mothers UNION**  
Christian care for families

St Mary's Mothers' Union Sprotbrough

# COFFEE MORNING

*Saturday 12th February*

*Church Hall*

*10 - 12 noon*

**Everyone welcome!**

**Raffle, Cakes, Books, Tombola**

**Entrance £1**

**includes Coffee & Cake**

*Proceeds to "Away from It All"  
holidays*

## Barnburgh Male Voice Choir

Appearing

at

**Sprotbrough Methodist Church**



**Park Drive**

**Sprotbrough Doncaster**

**Saturday 26th March 2011**

**7:30 pm**

**Tickets £5**

**Includes Light refreshments**

## **APOLOGY - PARENTS & TOTS GROUP - Goldsmith Community centre**

In the December issue of the magazine we published an article regarding the parents and Tots Group at the Goldsmith Community Centre and its pending closure. At the time we believed the information to be accurate but it has since come to light that it was not. Please find below the revised and accurate details for your information. We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any distress the previous article caused any groups or individuals.

Active Under 5's has run a successful volunteer committee run, playgroup at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough for over 25 years. It was with much regret that a decision was made to close on the 9th November 2010 after being advised that due to staff costs and other demands enforced legally on the group that it was no longer sustainable.

Upon closure a group of local parent's took the decision to run a parent and toddler group from the centre but without the overheads of staffing that should ensure and enable the new group's longevity.

Active Under 5's worked closely with the Parish Council during this time and were happy to leave a substantial amount of stock and toys for the new group to utilise. In addition all proceeds remaining upon final account closure will be donated back to the community.

We wish to highlight that the Group donated stock and toys to aid future childcare provisions run from the Goldsmith Centre and did not sell any stock to cover debt.

All involved with Active Under 5's wish the new group well and urge the local community to support the venture. The group is running each Tuesday from the Goldsmith Community Centre on Sprotbrough Road from 9.15am to 10.45am. For further information please contact Sprotbrough Children's Centre on 01302 786457.

### **DEVIL'S ADVOCATE**

An engineer died and was sent to hell by mistake. Life in hell was very uncomfortable, so the engineer decided to install air conditioning, escalators, flush lavatories and a whole host of other modern conveniences.

One day God rang Satan to ask how things were going in hell. "Really great!" answered Satan. "Our engineer has made all kinds of improvements to the facilities down here." "What are you doing with an engineer!" thundered God. "He must be sent up to heaven immediately or I'll sue!" "Oh really?" replied Satan, "and just where do you intend to find a lawyer?"



### **Baby Jesus goes missing**

After the Christmas morning service, the baby Jesus was missing from the crib. The vicar was searching for him when a little girl arrived with a doll's pram and started lifting the baby Jesus and putting him back into the crib saying: "I told you that if I got a pram for Christmas you would be the first to ride it."

## The Bishop's Letter

This month Bishop Steven writes...

### An Open Invitation this Lent

One of the most difficult tasks in life is to understand how much God loves you. Many people go through much of their lives not really appreciating just how long and broad and high and deep is God's love. The Bible talks about God's love never failing, about his mercy being new every morning.

We are issuing an invitation to anyone who wants to come to "Explore God's Mercy" this Lent. I will be leading five sessions in Sheffield Cathedral on the Wednesday evenings in Lent. Bishop Cyril will be leading similar sessions on the same evenings in Doncaster Minster and Archdeacon Martyn Snow will be doing the same in Rotherham Minster.

We very much hope the sessions will be helpful to anyone exploring Christian faith for the first time, those preparing for baptism and confirmation and those who want to be refreshed and renewed in the basic truths of the Christian gospel.

You may want to come on your own, or bring a friend or come as a group from the parish (though of course many churches do their own Lent groups and its important to support these as well). What kind of territory will we explore? The five sessions will be based around five of the wonderful pictures of God's love found in the Bible. They are all found in Psalm 107. We will be looking at how God's love helps us find the way when we are lost; how God's love sets us free; how God's love makes us whole again; leads us to the place of calm and order and leads us into fruitful lives.

There will be Evening Prayer at each venue at 5.45 and a meal together at 6.30 before the main session at 7.30. Both Evening Prayer and the meal are optional. The cost for the meal will be £5 and you need to book for this (see details below). We will be finished by 9.00pm at the latest. The evenings will aim to be enjoyable, interesting and thought provoking. You can try just one or, even better, come for the series. No-one will be put on the spot or made to feel awkward. Invitations are available from Church House and from the Cathedral and the Minsters.

If you can't come at that time there will be some short video clips on the Diocesan website to give a flavour of the series.

However you are planning to spend time in Lent, I hope and pray you come to understand more and more deeply how much God loves you.

+Steven Sheffield

#### Booking info:

#### Exploring God's Mercy

5 evenings to explore the Christian faith Lent 2011:

**Wednesdays 16th, 23rd & 30th March: 6th & 13th April at 7.30pm**

Sheffield Cathedral Bishop Steven • Doncaster Minster Bishop Cyril

Rotherham Minster Archdeacon Martyn

At each venue there is Evensong at 5.45pm and a simple meal at 6.30pm (both optional)

**To book for the meal** (£5 per person) please email [lent2011@sheffield-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:lent2011@sheffield-cathedral.org.uk) giving numbers and venue. *There is no charge for the main sessions.*



# WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



## Praying for Chile



Friday  
4<sup>th</sup> March  
2011

Women's World Day of  
Prayer

[www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org)



How many loaves have you?

St. Mary's Church Hall, Sprotbrough at 7.30pm  
**Speaker: Rev Sandie I Exley-Watts M.A.B.A.**

All are welcome - men, women and young people

### PRAYER OF THE MONTH

#### *A PRAYER FOR GROWING OLD*

*Eternal God, I thank you that I am growing old. It is a privilege that many have been denied. Awareness of this mercy gives fresh wonder to every day...I thank you for the joys I can now grasp because age has prised my fingers loose from trivial things - for simpler life; for unhurried moments to nourish faith on thoughts of your past mercies; for sacred instants when all things that once seemed disjointed fall into place and the sad things of earth are swallowed up in holy joy.*

*Heavenly father, grant us awareness of the beauties of life's autumn, a time of fulfilment and harvest. May age be seen as part of your design for the world and for us, so that the years may rest less like a burden and more like a benediction. Spare us from the self-pity that shrivels the soul. Though our wrinkles multiply and bodies tire, may there be no withering of our spirit...Though our money may be limited, let us be spendthrifts with love...And grant us daily some moments living on tiptoes, lured by the eternal city just beyond the hills of time.*

*Author unknown*

## **In a word - CHARITY - LOVE** by the Rev Peter Barratt

Surely the most wonderful thing one person can say to another is: "I love you!" But surely the most easily misunderstood word in our language is the word 'love'. "Ooh! I'd love and ice cream!" "I love my teddy bear." "I love stamp collecting." "I know a man who makes love every Friday night." "God is love..."

Perhaps it is that the word is not so much misunderstood as used to mean at least three different things, as illustrated by these quotations. English, generally speaking, is a language that is rich in different words to indicate slightly different thoughts or ideas. Sometimes you hear an immigrant who has an excellent accent express some idea in a way that is hard to say is wrong, and yet you know he has said it in a way that no-one brought up here, of parents born and bred here, would ever do.

What a pity that we cannot on the face of it distinguish between God's love for us, our preference for ice creams, and 'making love'. The ancient Greek, spoken in Bible times, and used for the most ancient copies of the New Testament that we possess, had three words for these three quite different things. There was 'eros', from which we get word like 'erotic'. They may have used it to describe a wider love than solely sexual feelings, but there is no doubt where the emphasis lay.

There was 'philia', meaning friendship, which appears in English as part of words expressing our liking for friends, for wisdom or stamp-collecting, or indeed ice cream or teddy bears. 'Philadelphia' is the 'city of brotherly love' - or it is supposed to be!

The early Christians discovered the depths of the love of God and felt that neither of these words would do, and so 'promoted' a little used Greek word 'agape', and used it for the unselfish, undemanding, totally self-giving love of God for us, and for our poor attempts to reproduce it.

In the days of the 'King James' translation, the English authors tried to do the same, and from the Greek word for kindness and thankfulness, 'charis' gave us the word 'charity', and we all know what a mess we have made since of that attempt.



Copy for the magazine's March edition should be handed to the Editor, Betty Brockman, Copley House, Park Drive, Tel: 852046, NO LATER THAN Monday 7th February 2011 please.

Enquiries about advertising should be made to Vivien Jenkinson, Tel: 859453.

# MR SPROT'S PAGE



## "LOVE" .....A FEELING .....OR AN ACTION?

If love is just a feeling, what happens when we get angry with someone? Do we no longer love them?

What if our parents want us to do something we just don't want to do; we could be really angry with them. Because we don't have loving feelings right at that moment, does that mean we no longer love them?

How does God love us?

Use the code chart below to fill in the message from John's account of Jesus life (eg 24 =K)

(You can find this in your Bible in John chapter 3 verse 16)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
3	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
4	V	W	X	Y	Z		

FOR    \_ \_    SO    \_ \_    THE    \_ \_    THAT HE    \_ \_

         17 31 14       25 31 41 15 14       42 31 34 25 14       17 11 41 15

         \_ \_    \_ \_    AND    \_ \_    \_ \_

         21 22 35    31 27 15       31 27 25 44       35 31 27



Maybe, if we choose to treat others kindly, no matter what, or we do as we are asked, our act of obedience or kindness demonstrates our love.



# What the 23rd Psalm is really about

The Lord is my Shepherd. *That's Relationship.*

I shall not want. *That's Supply.*

He make me lie down in green pastures.  
*That's Rest.*

He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
*That's Refreshment.*

He restoreth my soul. *That's Healing.*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.  
*That's Guidance.*

For His name sake. *That's Purpose.*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. *That's Testing.*

I will fear no evil. *That's Protection.*

For Thou are with me. *That's faithfulness.*

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.  
*That's Discipline.*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. *That's Hope.*

Thou annointest my head with oil.  
*That's Consecration.*

My cup runneth over.  
*That's Abundance.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. *That's Blessing.*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord.  
*That's Security.*

Forever  
*That's Eternity!*

## CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Candlemas Day - February 2nd is the Christian festival of candles commemorating the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is so called because of the practice of blessing candles and carrying them in procession.

Most religions include lighted candles as part of their worship. In Jewish homes a lighted candle burns on the Sabbath and on the anniversary of the death of a family member. The Hindu festival of Diwali is essentially a festival of light, celebrating the triumph of light and good over darkness and evil.

Buddhists use candles at their main festivals celebrating the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death.

In Japan it is believed that the spirits of dead ancestors pay a visit to the family home during their summer festival. Candles are lit and entertainment provided for the benefit of the unseen visitors.

With the coming of Christ the Light of the World it was natural that lighted candles should be one symbol of the Christian faith. Whether or not we feel that candles are helpful in public or private worship we must surely agree with an old Chinese proverb

"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"

Alice Odell

## Soul Space

An informal contemporary setting featuring music from the house band  
**"By the Way"**

Modern media, discussion, music and refreshments as well as time to relax together, led by Youth for Youth.

**20th February 2011**

**6 - 8pm**

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## Sunday t-Time

Sunday t-Time is a time when families, especially those with young children, can meet together for worship in an informal way. At each of the monthly meetings there is a story linked to a parable or theme from the bible followed by a time of activities. These take place in St Mary's Church or Church Hall allowing everyone to choose how they spend their time.

In February we will be meeting on the 1st Sunday and the 3rd Sunday, the 6th and 20th.

**The Sunday t-Time Team**

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# PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

## BAPTISM - We welcome into the fellowship of Christ:

13 February 2011 Eve Marshall  
Anna Williamson  
Roisan McCann

## FUNERALS - Our prayers and thoughts are with the family and friends of:

24 September 2010 Elizabeth Conder (A)  
10 January 2011 Jack Clayton  
14 January 2011 Brother Paul Anthony

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - February 2011

- 1 Tuesday 1.30pm Sewing Group at Copley House.  
2 Wednesday 8.00pm Sprotbrough Wives - 'Disappearing Streets of Doncaster'  
Colin Bycroft.  
6 Sunday 4.00pm Sunday t-time.  
7 Monday 2.00pm Communion, Clifton Court.  
8 Tuesday 6.15pm Magazine Meeting - Copley House.  
7.30pm W.I. 'Starters and Desserts' Janine Lishman-Peat.  
10 Thursday 12.30pm Community Lunch - Methodist Church Hall.  
14 Monday St. Valentines Day.  
18 Friday 7.00pm Children's Society Beetle Drive.  
20 Sunday 4.00pm Sunday t-time.  
6.00pm Soul Space.  
21 Monday 7.30pm Mothers Union.  
24 Thursday 2.00pm Chat Room "Laura's Story - from Mexborough to Russia" with  
Laura Thickett.  
7.30pm Music Society 'The Aurora Ensemble'.

### Methodist Church Sunday worship during February

	Sprotbrough Methodist Church, Park Drive		Sprotbrough Road M.C. Goldsmith Community Centre	
6 Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	Rev Mavis Bruce-Hodgson Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam	10.30am 6.00pm	Mr Keith Mears Rev John Hartley
13 Feb	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam Mr Nick Thompson	10.30am 6.00pm	Miss Joy Ventom Alpha
20 Feb	10.00am  6.00pm	Family Service Mr David Banks  Mrs Anne Dyer	10.30am  5.00pm	Holy Communion Rev Bob Stevens Funday
27 Feb	10.00am  6.00pm	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam  Rev Sandie Exley-Watts	10.30am  6.00pm	Ms Susan Asbury Alpha