

**Dear Friends,**

An area of our world that you can almost guarantee to be in the news some time during the week, is the Middle East. There is unrest in many places and peace seems to be in short supply. Many leaders and agencies are seeking to reconcile the various factions either in countries or between countries with very limited progress. Two countries that did reach some reconciliation were Israel and Germany and that only came about through seeking forgiveness.

Within a country the most outstanding example of forgiveness and reconciliation has been in South Africa led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and to some extent they have been copied by the people of Northern Ireland. It takes bravery and humility to follow that road, which is in sharp contrast to communities who believe they can make progress through revenge. Vendettas only lead to sorrow that has no foreseeable end, pride comes at a very high price often to the innocent. The pathway to a true and lasting peace is impossible without reconciliation and more often than not that calls for humility and forgiveness. Anything less such as cessation of conflict is good but so often only temporary.

We can see the need for reconciliation between communities but we are slow to apply it to our personal relationships, we find pride is a big hurdle to overcome, the thought of saying we are sorry stops us yet we are the losers trapped with no way forward. Forgiving and being forgiven are central to our peace and wellbeing and essential for any loving relationship to last. Jesus put "forgiveness" at the centre of his teaching and the prayer that he taught us. He gave his life on the cross so that we may be reconciled to our Creator, only our pride can prevent us knowing his peace. Why should we let our stubbornness rob us of such a prize?

Yours,

**Bob Stevens**

# THIS AND THAT

*Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You*

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

A very big "THANK YOU" to all the people who came and gave so generously, and to all those who helped with stalls, gifts, refreshments etc. We raised nearly £1,100 with the £1,016 we sent to MacMillan and what they will be able to claim from Gift Aid. Wouldn't it be great if one of our community won one of the prizes. We have received a letter of thanks from MacMillan and they have asked me to pass on their thanks as well.

**Well done everybody.**

Betty Brockman

## Sprotbrough W.I. News

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the members of Sprotbrough W.I. to all of you who joined us for Afternoon Tea in August. I'm sure you will agree it was a happy event. Because of the generosity of all who organised it and all who supported us a donation of £500 was presented to Alison Luscombe for the work of the Aurora Centre. Once again thank you very much for making it such a success.

**Janet Taylor, President**

## Lead-in to Christmas

*This time with a programme of favourite readings and music followed by seasonal delights*

in

St. Mary's Church

**Saturday 3 December at 7.30pm**

Proceeds to the Church Roof Appeal

*Tickets £5 from Barbara Perry and Wendy Taylor*





The  
Children's  
Society

## It's not Box Opening Already?

### Yes it is!

There will be a free Coffee Morning in St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday 5 November between 10am and noon.

Bring your box so that you can find out how much you have collected since the last time it was opened.

If you haven't a box, it would be a good occasion to enrol.

Companionship, Coffee, Chat and Counting.

*What more could you want?*

*Well. One more C.*

Children's Society Christmas Cards will be on view!

## LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENT at the Sprotbrough Country Club.

**Wednesday 16th November  
at 7.30pm**

*Many stalls with goods including jewellery, handbags, cards, toys, giftware, candles, cookware, cakes, books and much more!*

A fundraising event on behalf of and entry by donation to Sprotbrough Park Playgroup and Toddlers.  
(Reg. Charity No. 1026781)

For more information about this event contact: 07884 381194

## Christmas Exhibition and Sale

of

*Paintings and Crafts by Five Artists.*

**Sunday 4th December**

**11am to 4pm**

**Sprotbrough Country Club**

Cadeby Road, Sprotbrough

*a selection of paintings, photography, cards, prints, ceramics, textiles, natural crystals, gemstone and silver jewellery.*

**Richard Watkinson** *Sprotbrough*

**Janice Scott** *Sprotbrough*

**Jean Chantry** *Skelbrook*

**Sharon Cooke** *Swinton*

**Sheila M Bury** *Sprotbrough*

*All Welcome • Car Park • Free Entry*

## Sprotbrough Music Society

Presents

**Benjamin Frith**  
(piano)

in

The Church Hall

on

**Thursday 17th November**

*Everyone Welcome*

## *Bishop Steven writes...*

### **'Deep tradition of teaching'**

We're working backwards through the Ten Commandments. Can you remember Number Nine? It's the very simple one about telling the truth: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour" (Exodus 20.16). It's a small commandment with huge consequences.

There is a longing in our national life for people of integrity - people who are on the inside what they claim to be on the outside. Trust is based on truth. The scandals of recent years have undermined public confidence in politicians, bankers, journalists and others in public life.

Telling the truth can be difficult. A commitment to the ninth commandment is more than not telling deliberate lies. It's a commitment to plain speaking and to turning away from exaggeration, flattery and all kinds of deception. In the words of Jesus, it's making sure your yes means yes and your no means no.

For many years our society has been careless with its long heritage of Christian faith. The deep tradition of teaching the Ten Commandments to children as they grow up has been neglected. Christian values have been mocked in the public square. This means, among other things, that people do not learn as they grow up some of the very simple notions of right and wrong. That includes speaking the truth (and the reasons why we should not lie). God himself, the creator of heaven and earth, commands that we be truthful.

If we grow a generation of people who have not learned to speak the truth and who bear false witness over and over again in their lives, what will happen? We will see the breakdown of family life. Truth is essential for long term relationships and especially for marriage. Confidence in public life will be eroded. We will not be able to trust one another or believe what we read in the papers. Business and the economy will be profoundly affected for the worse.

We live in a society which is neglecting God's commandments. We have unleashed the forces of greed and abandoned the simple notion of truth. The consequences are all too plain.

Our task as a church is to speak the truth, together and as individuals and to bear witness to Jesus Christ who himself claims to be the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Telling lies is wrong and against God's law. And we should say so.

**+Steven Sheffield**

# Worship with understanding

*Michael Carberry reflects on why it was that, as a Roman Catholic, he was happy worshipping regularly in an Anglican Church.*

Like, I suspect, many Anglican chaplaincies in Europe, the church of Saint Hugh of Lincoln in Vence on the French Cote d'Azur draws its congregation from a broad spectrum of denominational origins ranging from Free Church and Evangelical Christians through a core of Broad Church and High Church Anglicans to Roman Catholics like myself. I sometimes wonder what it is that brings so many disparate people together in common worship so I thought it might be of interest to set out why I, as a Roman Catholic, am happy to worship regularly in an Anglican Church.

I am certainly not one of those people who seem to think that one church is as good as another. I was brought up in a working class coal-mining community in 1950s Scotland where religious and sectarian bigotry was such that when the local Orange Lodge marched behind their flutes and drums Catholic children were called in off the streets and the curtains drawn! Indeed other Christian denominations were regarded with rather more opprobrium than the local Communist member of Parliament! But even later, in more ecumenical times, and having experienced Anglicanism at first hand in all its rich variety, I would never have envisaged attending an Anglican Church on a regular basis, so why Saint Hugh's?

My initial thought when my wife and I first attended the church shortly after our arrival in the area was to make an ecumenical gesture and perhaps meet some like-minded English speakers who shared our Christian values. That has certainly been true and we now count many of the congregation among our closest friends.

But it was other things which brought us back on a regular basis.

Obviously the English language is an important element. Like most people I prefer to worship God in my own language and for some people that may be enough but for someone who has lived in France for almost twenty years and is at home in both the French language and the French Catholic Church (which I still attend) there had to be a lot more.

Liturgy is an equally important factor. Any English speaking Roman Catholic can feel very much at home with the liturgy in Saint Hugh's and several do, but it is not simply the familiar words and rituals. It is rather the importance attached to liturgy as an aid to worship which helps us to grow in wonder at the glory of Divine Revelation; the concern for that "Beauty of Holiness" so beloved of the seventeenth century Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud. This is remembering those Saints, ancient and modern, who have been standard bearers of the Christian message throughout the centuries as well as the awareness of the two thousand years of tradition to which the Church is heir.

Music is an important part of liturgy and as someone all too familiar with the music in the average French parish church I am happy to say that, despite its small size, Saint Hugh's maintains that high standard of sacred music which is one of the glories of the Anglican tradition.

Then there is the "fellowship" - not a particularly Catholic word but a concept which takes on particular importance in a small expatriate community. By that I do not simply mean the Sunday morning coffee or the regular church lunches or other church related activities, important though these are, but rather the

### *Worship with understanding cont...*

mutual caring and support which is surely the hall-mark of any genuine Christian community and which extends into the wider community through Saint Hugh's involvement with local charities and the charitable activities of local religious congregations.

But over and above all these are two things about Saint Hugh's which make it very special for me.

Firstly is the centrality of the Eucharist in the regular worship, the frequency with which it is celebrated and the reverence accorded to it. That might seem odd coming from someone who is sufficiently aware of the issues between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches regarding the Eucharist as to feel unable to participate fully by receiving communion. But paradoxically, it is the very importance which the Eucharist is accorded which provokes that reticence - a reticence I certainly would not feel in a church where the Eucharist was regarded as a purely symbolic or commemorative gesture.

And the second thing? A very distinguished Roman Catholic priest once told me. "The first and most important task of any priest is to preach the Gospel." Sitting in Saint Hugh's Sunday after Sunday and hearing the Gospel of the day expounded in my own language in a way which is at once informative, profound, thought provoking and challenging has been a rare privilege. For me, it would be worth attending Saint Hugh's for that alone.

I am not and do not envisage ever being an Anglican. But my experience in Saint Hugh's has led me to hope that one day we may fulfil the prayer of our Lord in Saint John's Gospel that we "all may be one". In the meantime, and as long as Saint Hugh's maintains its very special character, I am very happy to be a member of the congregation.

### Chrissie's Last Farewell

Thanks to the generosity of The Big Lottery Fund, Heroes Return 2, Mrs Christiana Kirton of Stonecross Drive will return to Malta to lay a poppy cross in memory of her husband, John Philip Kirton.

John was killed when his Submarine, HMS Pandora was bombed and sunk in Malta harbour on April 1st 1942 whilst running the blockade with vital supplies for the Island.

Chrissie is 91 years old now and will be accompanied by her daughter Christina, grandson Philip and nephew George for this, her final visit to Malta.

Some years ago, Chrissie actually met the only two survivors of the Pandora and a very close friendship was formed, but, alas, both Jack and Mac have both sadly passed away. However, a posy of poppies will also be laid by Christina on behalf of herself, Margaret, Doughty and Audrey Cross who were christened 'Pandora's Daughters' by the late submariners historian Gus Britton. Their fathers were also lost on the Pandora.

Chrissie will leave a poppy cross in honour of the 27 crew who were killed that day and also the rest of the crew, who were ashore resting, and were put on the Olympus two weeks later. The Olympus hit a mine 7 miles

out of Malta and they were all lost at sea.

With 2 small babies, Ronnie and Christina, life was very hard, but Chrissie now has 6 grandchildren, their spouses, 11 great-grandchildren and a very new addition to the family a great-great granddaughter Alexia.

Fiver generations. What a legacy John left behind.

**Christina Claypole**

**P.S. This successful visit took place in September.**

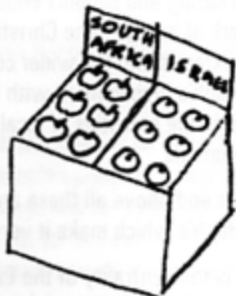
Copy for the magazine's December edition should be handed to the Editor, Betty Brockman, Copley House, Park Drive, Tel: 852046, NO LATER THAN Monday 7th November 2011 please.

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

# Mr. Sprot's Page

Hello Children,

Next time you go to the supermarket, look at all the fruit and vegetables and the labels to see where they were grown. You will be surprised to read how many different countries are mentioned. We are lucky in this country that we all have enough to eat. We celebrate the fact that we are never hungry by having a Harvest Festival, to thank God for our food.



Here is a puzzle for you to do. On the left is a list of countries where we get some of our food. On the right is the food from that country, but the letters have become mixed up. See if you can sort them out to discover which food comes from which country. The first one is already done for you.

ZIMBABWE

SNEAB BEANS

HOLLAND

BERMUUCC

PORTUGAL

SKEEL

THAILAND

ROCN

SPAIN

CRAIGL

ITALY

NONOIS

KENYA

EAPS

ISRAEL

SROAEGN

SOUTH AFRICA

PPLEAS

When you have done, check your answers at the bottom of the page, then try and find all the countries on the map.

**See you next month,**

**Love, Mr Sprot.**

Answers: CUCUMBER, LEEKS, CORN, GARLIC, ONIONS, PEAS, ORANGES, APPLES.



## POSADA - INN

November 27th is Advent Sunday, and on that day, the figures of Mary and Joseph will start their journey. They will travel from house to

house visiting twenty-eight homes and staying the night with each family. On Christmas Day they will be welcomed back into St. Mary's Church.

The Posada tradition was started in Mexico many years ago, and is still kept in some areas there: a boy and a girl were chosen to dress up as Mary and Joseph and travelled from house to house telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus, and asking them if they would give him room. So, in keeping Posada, the figures of Mary and Joseph become a focus for making room for Jesus in our hearts, our homes and communities. If you will receive them into *your* home please sign the rota in church.



## Hymns for people over 50

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehova, I've  
Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them  
One By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My  
Knees Hurt

## A Sprotbrough History Trail

### OLD COTTAGES

Opposite the village green (two lime trees and a seat, where once stood Sprotbrough's ancient cross) is a short terrace of cottages. The original form of construction indicates that they were probably built in the 17th century - the oldest surviving cottages in the village.

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## CHATROOM 4 THURSDAY

*Chat Room 4 Thursday invites anyone in the community to attend at the Methodist Church Hall, Park Drive, on the fourth Thursday afternoon each month between 2.00 and 4.00pm for a social afternoon, including a talk, tea and cakes. The next one is:*

### Thursday 24th November

*Public Transport in S. Yorks to 1986 and current transport system.*

*Cllr. Mick Jameson - Chair Integrated Transport System*

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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 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 there time.

In November there will be meetings on 6th and 20th November.

### The Sunday t-Time Team

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# PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

2 October 2011 Eve Elizabeth Shepherd  
Luke David Concannon

## WEDDINGS - Our Congratulations to:-

1 October 2011 Philip John Simpson and Katherine Elizabeth Gray

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

16 September 2011 Amy Louise Kirkby (15)  
27 September 2011 Maisie Margaret Wehrle (58)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - November 2011

## ALL SHOE BOXES SHOULD NOW BE IN

- 1 Tuesday 1.30pm Sewing Group at Copley House.  
2 Wednesday 8.00pm Sprotbrough Wives "Famous People in Yorkshire" Mel Dyke.  
5 Saturday 10-12noon Children's Society box opening.  
8 Tuesday 7.30pm W.I. "Noel Nostalgia" Jenny Stacey.  
9 Thursday 12.30pm Community Lunch at Methodist Church.  
13 Sunday 10.00am Remembrance Day Service at St. Mary's, followed by 11.00 at the Cenotaph.  
16 Wednesday 7.30pm Late Night Shopping at Sprotbrough Country Club.  
17 Thursday 2.00pm Reading Group.  
7.30pm Music Society.  
21 Monday 7.30pm M.U. "Nutrition for Celiacs" Danielle Lumby.  
22 Tuesday 1.30pm Sewing Group at Copley House.  
24 Thursday 2 - 4pm Chatroom 4 Thursday "Public Transport in South Yorkshire".  
26 Saturday 10-3pm Christmas Fayre.

## December 2011

3 Saturday 7.30pm Lead in to Christmas.

### Methodist Church Sunday worship during November

	Sprotbrough Methodist Church, Park Drive		Sprotbrough Road M.C. Goldsmith Community Centre	
6 Nov	10.00am 6.00pm	Mrs Chris Ogley Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam	10.30am	Rev Bob Stevens
13 Nov	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam Miss Joy Ventom	10.30am 6.00pm	Mrs Chris Ogley Songs of Praise
20 Nov	10.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam Worship Leaders	10.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion Rev John Hartley Funday
27 Nov	10.00am 6.00pm	Family Service Mr David Banks United Service at St. Mary's	10.30am 6.00pm	Mrs Susan Kirvan Prayer and Praise