

MARK'S MESSENGER



*The Parish Magazine of
St Mark's Church, Broomhill and Broomhall, Sheffield*

May 2013

Price 60p



Easter girls



Palm Sunday (not Christmas!)



Good Friday



Maundy Thursday seder



Easter Sunday



Gary tells a fisherman's tale



Children's Easter artwork

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ST MARK'S!

May is an exciting time in the life of the Church.

We elected a new PCC at our Annual Church meeting on 25 April (which was, incidentally, also the day when the church remembers our patron saint, St Mark). So, with a new Council in post, we look forward to looking back over the past 50 years (are you feeling dizzy yet?) The main celebrations for our 50th anniversary will be over the weekend of 27-29 September, when we have a full programme of events including a book launch, an exhibition and a celebratory service – but there are several issues of the *Messenger* between now and then to give you a fuller picture of what lies ahead. What is in store for us in the coming few weeks?

Pentecost is celebrated as the birthday of the Church, the time when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in flames, giving them the gift of many tongues, the ability to hear and understand the gospel in many languages and the inspiration to spread the good news far and wide, among all nations on earth. It is a time when we are reminded of our calling to share what we understand of Jesus' life-giving Way with all around us. This isn't a message for the select few but for everyone, and each of us has a part to play in passing the story on.

On 18 May, the day before the Feast of Pentecost, St Mark's is holding a Parish Away Day (at home). Following the success of our Parish Weekend last year, we have decided to organise a series of workshops and activities including Bible study, drama, craft activities, Godly Play, music and much more, for all ages and to include our ecumenical partners from The Beacon at Broomhill and St Andrew's URC in Broomhall. As we get to know each other better through work and rest, we'll be preparing for our service the following day, an ecumenical celebration of Pentecost. Together we hope to discover what it means to be part of "Nurturing Community – Life in the Spirit!"

Celebrating the start of the life of the Church naturally involves looking backwards. Life in the Spirit demands that we acknowledge what has happened in the past, not just the times of joy but also the times of sadness, occasions that cause us to hang our heads in shame as well as those things we remember with pride. As we recall the many ways in which God's people are called from slavery to

freedom in the promised land, so we are called to draw others out of darkness into God's marvellous light, and that is no less true today than it was 50 years ago, 500 years ago or 5,000 years ago.

As the *Messenger* goes to print, several members of St Mark's are rehearsing for a performance that recounts the story of this church from ... well, prehistoric days! LIONSTALE will be performed on the afternoon and evening of 22 June and it isn't too late to squeeze a part if you'd like to be involved. Have a word with Frances Gray or one of the clergy!

But we are also looking ahead. On 16 May, a small group of younger members of St Mark's – Delia Stanway, Tim Lennox, Samuel Hand, Chris Speddings and Tibbie Fisher – will be confirmed at a service at St Columba's, Crosspool. These young people are deeply engaged with the question of what it means to have faith in a society that attaches religious belief to acts of terror or ridicule. To stand up in public and say that faith plays a part in their lives shows courage and self-confidence. They have learned how to think through what they believe without feeling trapped by other people's definitions.

As we celebrate the life and witness of this church, we look forward to welcoming back some of the clergy who have influenced us on our own journeys of faith: Ian Maher, Sue Hobley, Noel Irwin, Jane Bolton, Jane Tillier, Michael Adie, Adrian Alker and John Giles. Even as we look back, may we be drawn towards becoming a fuller part of the future life of this faith-filled community of St Mark's, discovering what it means to be church in contemporary society.

Sue Hammersley

CRC CONFERENCES – AT ST MARK'S

11 May: Professor Gerd Lüdemann, Professor Emeritus of History and Literature of Early Christianity at Georg-August University, will speak on 'Christian Beginnings: Why Jesus didn't die out'.

14 September: James Crossley will speak on the Gospel of Mark as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the rebuilding of St Mark's Church.

16 November: Ann Pettifor, an international economist with a formidable reputation, will speak on 'Economics'.

PAMELA MANN, 7 DECEMBER 1925 - 19 MARCH 2013

AN APPRECIATION

Pamela Mann was a gifted social worker and effective social work teacher. Generations of students benefited from her thoughtful commitment to people in need of help, especially children, and to guiding students to a similar informed and skilled commitment - which was not just a professional add-on: it was what Pam was. What was there in her previous life and career that led to this?

New Zealand: Pam was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1925. As an undergraduate at the University of Canterbury, in New Zealand, she was one of a group of young actors whom the author and dramatist Ngaio Marsh took on a 12-week tour of Australia. Pam became Ngaio Marsh's secretary for 18 months and then sailed with her to England in June 1949, because Pam had a place on the stage management course at the Old Vic Theatre School.

Life in the theatre in London: Pam's time in London training at the Old Vic was, to say the least, lively. She was assistant stage manager at Colchester for a time, but all was not work! On 22 July 1951, her scrapbook records: 'London seemed very hot and sticky - Susie and I felt we must get away so we just walked out making in the direction of Devon.' They reached Land's End and were back in London on 28 July, hitch-hiking all the way, including lifts from a brigadier, several lorries, an air mechanic, a commercial traveller (very kind, gave us tea and a box of chocolates), an army major, an ice cream van, two motor cyclists, a goat breeder, a grocery van, an RC priest and a dress designer, and 10 miles free in a taxi.

Pam was immersed in the theatre until about 1953, when she started working with Chatto and Winduss, the publishers. In May 1957, she travelled the length and breadth of the United States, up into Canada, via Hawaii and Fiji to New Zealand and finally back to England in May 1958. Then something changed the direction of her life - she was employed as a temporary secretary to help run the 1958 Lambeth Conference. Accounts vary as to whether it was four or five bishops who asked her to become their secretary, but the job Pam accepted was with Leslie Hunter, Bishop of Sheffield.

First time in Sheffield: When Pam moved to Sheffield, she worshipped in the parish church of St Silas. She used to deliver the parish magazine,



Catch, in Havelock Square and developed close friendships with families who lived there, especially the children. She used to have them regularly in her house painting and playing and took them out into the country. She also campaigned vigorously against the appalling housing conditions in which some of them lived. A marvellous farewell letter from some of the children finishes: 'Please come back some day and stay with us for ever.'

Social worker and social work teacher: The farewell was because, in 1962, she decided to train as a social

worker, which she did at Sheffield and Bristol Universities. Then, from 1964 to 1968, she worked as a child care officer in Somerset, where she met her friend Juliet Berry, who was then the area officer. In 1968, Pam and Juliet applied successfully for social work teaching jobs at Sheffield University and moved to Sheffield. Pam became involved in St Silas again, and when St Silas closed, she joined the church at St Mark's, where she worshipped until a year or so before her death.

Retirement: Pam's retirement in 1982 to Bradwell, again with Juliet, was a time of great blessing, but it was more than retirement. It was really the start of her third career. If the first was focused on the theatre and the second on social work and social work teaching, the third was focused on her painting and drawing and lasted for nearly 30 years. Pam was an accomplished artist. She worked increasingly in oils and tended to be dismissive of her watercolours, but some of these were quite magical.

Eventually, Pam and Juliet had to move to Moorland House in Hathersage. After Juliet died, it was hard for Pam to manage as her dementia became more marked. She moved to Broomcroft, where the staff's sensitive and imaginative care allowed her to maintain her dignified elegance to the end.

Four qualities run through Pam's varied career: her sheer joie de vivre, her acute observation of nature and people, her profound compassion, and, undergirding all, a deep Christian faith. Pam's was a remarkable, faith-filled, wholehearted, compassionate life, which touched many people for good.

Michael Bayley

‘CITY OF SANCTUARY’ REVISITED

When I wrote, a year ago, concerning the Community Consultation held at St Mark’s, I described what I envisioned as a ‘whole society’ and explored the notion of what it means to create such a society. It seemed to me that we should be seeking to establish a collaborative community whose members are able to benefit from being a part of that community and in which they can flourish.



Others have been concerned for many years about this challenge and have already addressed many of the questions of inclusivity, building a welcoming culture for minority groups and individuals and setting up new approaches to social justice, welfare, security and productive citizenship.

Who are these ‘others’? We have only to hear of the unstinting work done by a group of concerned people in Sheffield as they set about a radical reappraisal of the community in 2005 to be amazed and grateful for their initiatives. Craig Barnett, the Reverend Inderjit Bhogal, Mike Reynolds and a dedicated group of workers and volunteers consulted with each other and the City Council for many months as they considered in detail the question of support and hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees.

Sarah Eldridge (Development Officer) writes to remind us from the Conference Centre at St Mary’s Church, Bramhall Lane, in March 2013:

‘City of Sanctuary, Sheffield, has just celebrated its first five years of official recognition and the movement has now spread to more than 30 towns and cities across the UK. Recent moves have been successful in promoting a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and it also takes asylum seekers and refugees into schools, community and faith groups where they talk about their experiences in order to raise awareness. Sheffield has certainly given a vision to others!’

In City of Sanctuary’s published Manifesto, a detailed statement of objectives and resolutions is set out which challenges us all as we contemplate this ‘whole’ society. It tells of the ideal community in which matters of health, employment, education, shelter and cohesiveness are essential to all members of a thriving society.

The Manifesto can be found at www.cityofsanctuary.org/sheffield and should be read carefully, noting the positive stance taken to recognise the human rights of every person who is to be cared for and cherished in our community. These resolutions are challenging and some may

say unnecessary. Others may rail against such do-gooders.

It is my earnest wish that we will read this Charter, carefully constructed for a specific group of people but which may well apply to all communities striving for what we hope are whole, healthy and thriving societies.

My attendance at the Conference in March has fired me up to concern myself not only with the dispossessed, the fearful and the outsider but also with the needs of all, and to ask the question loudly and clearly:

‘Is everyone invited to the feast of life?’

Hazel Elliott-Kemp

Info: www.cityofsanctuary.org/sheffield

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Following up David Price’s article ‘Making Sheffield Fairer’ in the March *Messenger*, I see there are now a couple of copies of the Sheffield Fairness Commission report available to borrow, via the library book, from the shelf above the pigeon-holes. Having read it myself, I do urge everyone to have a look at it.

It is an impressive report, making recommendations on how issues such as health, jobs and pay, aspiration and opportunities, housing, safety and transport can be approached in order to make Sheffield a fairer city with benefits for everyone. It thus chimes in very much with the finding presented in *The Spirit Level*, which is indeed cited within the report. Action is already apparent in, for example, paying all Council staff a living wage instead of the minimum wage, supporting the Sheffield Credit Union (which helps those in need avoid rapacious pay-day loan companies), and the ‘Big Sheffield Switch’, details of which you will have received with your Council Tax bill, encouraging all Sheffield residents to join a collective energy-switching scheme in order to negotiate lower energy prices.

The report acknowledges that some issues – such as benefit levels – need tackling at a national level, and that there are, of course, currently reduced levels of central funding. However, the report gives hope and makes me proud and pleased to live in a city with such a policy and commitment to greater fairness.

Michael Miller

THE BISHOP'S LETTER, MAY 2013

JOURNEYING TOGETHER



Many of us are familiar with the concept of pilgrimage or making a journey. It's a spiritual tradition found in the history of nearly every major religion. All pilgrimages have at least two elements in common - the journey and the

desire to experience a source of sacred awe, though the reasons why people make these journeys are diverse. Jean and Wallace Clift, in their book *The Archetype of Pilgrimage*, identify the following motivations amongst others – to go and see the place where something has happened, to reclaim lost or abandoned or forgotten parts of oneself, to admire something beautiful, to go outside the normal routine of life so something new can happen, to answer an inner call to go, to give thanks, to express love of God, to draw near to the sacred. Christians see life itself as a journey, coming from and returning to God, a journey from earth to heaven.

In 2014 the diocese will be marking its Centenary. The theme will be Journeying. The celebrations will start with the re-opening of our Cathedral at Pentecost and end with a service on the Feast of Christ the King when we will be joined by the Archbishop of York. In between, we are asking people to join together with Bishop Steven and myself on a journey that will include major historical and spiritual sites around the diocese. There will be no long walks; we are simply asking people to join us at sites local to them. At each pilgrimage site Bishop Steven will offer teaching, and there will be a service of thanksgiving and events for all, including times of fellowship and prayer. More details will be available shortly.

We hope that journeying together will be a time of real celebration and party as we give thanks for the past, the present and look in expectation to the future. We hope that the physical and spiritual journey will be an opportunity to experience the things outlined by Jean and Wallace Clift, but above all a time to draw closer to God, to find spiritual insight, wisdom, healing and strength for God's mission.

Please remember the planning group in your prayer and if you have any ideas about how we might develop the diocesan celebrations please do get in touch.

+Peter

ST WILFRID'S RESIDENTIAL

Homelessness in Sheffield increased 38% in 2011 and is likely to go on increasing. Kevin Bradley, Director of St Wilfrid's Centre in Queen's Road, believes that the biggest cause of homelessness is mental ill-health. St Wilfrid's is an excellent day centre for the homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded. But Kevin has long seen the need for a residential centre to run alongside the day centre. The residential centre could give homeless people somewhere to live for up to two years while they attend the day centre and improve their capacity for independent living.

On 21 March, the appeal was launched for £1.85 million for a new 50-bed centre to be built just a



Planned new Residential Centre

couple of hundred yards further along Queen's Road. Those backing the venture include Paul Blomfield MP and many other city leaders, including managers from both rival football clubs.

I hope that St Mark's with its concern for homeless people will back this appeal. Further information is on www.stwilfridscentre.org.

David Price

CHRISTIAN AID IN SHEFFIELD

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK itself is **MAY 12th-18th**. If you collected last year, you'll already have been contacted. If you fancy doing some house-to-house collecting this year, you'll be most welcome!

- 6 May: MAY DAY TREK – 9.30am, Bolsterstone Village Hall.
- 9 May: Ascension Day PARTY after the evening service here at St Mark's.
- 11 May: BUSKAID in BARKER'S POOL (with our very own Gary Grief!). Christian Aid CONCERT at St Luke's, Lodge Moor, 7.30pm.
- 12 May: Christian Aid Sunday. Bake cakes for us to sell after the 10.00am service. (Christian Aid cupcake cases available from Helen H.)
- 20 June: Supermarket collection at Tesco, Abbeydale – collectors needed.
- 6 July: NIGHT HIKE 8.30pm, St Luke's, Lodge Moor. (www.sheffieldnighthike.org.uk)

Look out too for information about the big campaign – Enough food for everyone IF... , and the demonstration in London, Saturday, 8 June.

More information about any of these events from **Helen Hillman** 2584241 or **Alison Tolson** 2214578.

UPDATE FROM REID HUMBLE



Charlotte and I have well and truly settled into life in Cambridge since moving in July from Sheffield. Since then, Charlotte has managed to occupy three different jobs, all by her own choice. She moved down with Majestic and then was quickly recruited by Cambridge Wine Merchants. After realizing working in wine was not what she wanted to do for the long term she looked for jobs closer in content to her degrees in Politics, and she's now working for Cambridgeshire County Council within children's services. Charlotte also joins in life at Westcott House as much as possible, because this time is as much a transition for her as it is for me. As a result, she's been lured into being the Partners' Rep for the House.

My own life has two extremes – life in term and life out of term. During term time, I attend the Daily Offices at Westcott House, which means I'm on site from 7.30 to 18.30 on weekdays because we currently live off-site. During the day, I attend lectures and supervisions, and do research for essays as part of the Certificate in Theology for Ministry. I'm also on attachment at Clare College Chapel, where I attend, assist in leading services, and offer pastoral support for members of the college. During the year, I also completed a week-long placement at a local primary school. It was great to see the daily functioning of a system that I didn't grow up with.

Outside term time is almost the exact opposite. I don't have any responsibility at Clare College or Westcott House. This is when Charlotte and I can catch up on time not spent together during the busyness of term. I also join Charlotte in attending St Benet's Parish Church on Sundays. Unfortunately, I can't simply sit around and relax out of term, as that's when I have the uninterrupted time needed to complete my research and writing for various projects that are underway. After the academic year ends, I shall be on placement full-time at the Church of the Good Shepherd, a local parish church. I'm very much looking forward to the

experience and opportunity to continue my theological education in parish ministry.

This year of training has only continued to confirm my sense of vocation to be a priest. Within that vocation two passions of mine are theological education and parish churches/local communities. In particular, I'm interested in the relationship between the two. Whilst I still personally enjoy theology within the Academy and think it immensely important, I'm becoming more and more interested in the informal culture and attitude towards learning theology within local parish communities for both lay people and clergy. At the moment, the plan is for me to begin my PhD at the University of Sheffield on 'The Theological Interpretation of Scripture and the Gospel of Mark', beginning in September. This is still contingent on my receiving the funding to cover the final year of tuition, which I should find out definitively by the end of May.

Our future is largely dependent on what happens with the plans for the PhD. If I'm granted the funding, we shall be in Cambridge for three more years prior to ordination so that I can complete the PhD. If not, there is a good chance that I shall only be in Cambridge for one more year prior to ordination. However it works out, we shall seek to return to the Diocese of Sheffield for my curacy. We're grateful for the support we received from St Mark's when we first moved to Sheffield and hope to be able to visit and see everyone soon.

Reid Humble



On 12 March, the Vicar and Abdool Gooljar of the Sheffield branch of the Islamic Society of Britain arranged a gathering for 'food and friendship' at St Mark's to mark the 20th anniversary of **Islam Awareness Week**. Food included splendid celebratory iced cakes, and the quality of conversation and sharing was high. A group of Muslim young adults also brought food for, and joined in, our Soup Run session on 16 March.

UPDATE FROM JELLY MORGANS

Hello, lovely people at St Mark's!

Many of you will remember that I left Sheffield in September with Stephen to begin training as an ordinand in the Church of England, soon after we married.

Well, I have now completed two terms of training at Queen's Foundation for Theological Education in Birmingham, and I am having a fantastic time.

Modules I have done so far include:

- New Testament Greek (Ian will be proud);
- A Fresh Look at Amos (which included reading aloud Amos 3:15 to people living in massive houses in leafy Edgbaston);
- The Person of Jesus (I wrote my assignment on Jesus the feminist);
- Practical Contextual Theology (Elaine Graham is amazing; you should read her books!);
- Cross & Salvation (not my favourite – apparently lots of people still think that the best thing about Jesus' life was his death – and that it was all our fault).

I am training alongside Methodist ordinands, as well as students from black-majority Churches and independent evangelical Churches. We also study with international students from all over the world, including some enormous Samoan lads, a group from a theological college in southern India, and a few Methodists from Sub-Saharan Africa. This diversity means that the community is loud, argumentative and fascinating. Most of the time, it's lots of fun, though of course there are times when it's deeply tedious or rather frustrating. Nobody said living in community would be easy.

In the summer semester I am going to be on placement full-time at a church in Erdington, north Birmingham. I don't yet know much about the church or the area, but I am very much looking forward to getting out into the real-life work of ministry again, and putting into practice some of the things that I have learned. And in September, I am starting a PhD as part of my training, which I am really excited by. I am going to be researching the spirituality and identity of first-year students at university.

Stephen and I are feeling happy and settled here. Stephen has been involved in the community as much as he has wanted to be. The food is pretty good so he eats there with me a lot! We still have our lovely cat who moved with us, and she too is enjoying her new home, though she is not impressed with all the snow we've had. We have continued our tradition of offering hospitality, with different friends staying most weekends and lots of people coming over for dinner. We are also in



the early stages of working with asylum seekers through a local church-based charity.

We have been trying different churches since we have been here, and have been disappointed – but not surprised – to discover that there is nowhere quite like St Mark's! So far I have mainly been based at a small city-centre church with box pews and Book of Common Prayer at most Sunday services. I have learnt a lot there, but that was quite enough for me! I have appreciated the times that I have come back to St Mark's for CRC conferences just to remind myself that there are churches with more progressive, questioning approaches to faith, and with liturgy where you can say the 'amen' with integrity. I don't think I realised the legacy that St Mark's had given me until I left. As Marcus Borg said, 'How long does it take to grow a church like St Mark's?' Well, too long for me to grow one in Birmingham quite yet!

So, on that note, I am sure I will keep returning in future, and I very much look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jelly Morgans

MIND HOW YOU SAY IT!

Hong Kong dentist's advertisement: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

Tailor's shop, Rhodes: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush, we will execute customers in strict rotation.

JANET BROWN



Janet Brown is retiring after working with and on behalf of the three churches in Churches Together in Broomhill and Broomhall as our worker with older people for over 13 years.

Many people have cause to be grateful for the timely, skilful and thoughtful way in which Janet offers her help. One of the staff at Broomgrove Nursing Home wrote: 'Janet has had a great impact on our residents who have always been happy to see her friendly and smiley face. She has been of great support to both residents and staff, emotionally and practically. She is always there to help and cheer you up.' Many people said how comforting it was to know that Janet was there if needed – 'We knew she was there for us.'

What people may not realise is the extremely effective working method that Janet has developed as a locally-based worker. She has a wide range of contacts with all the local organisations as well as good contacts with both statutory and voluntary services. Janet keeps in close touch with St Mark's Lunch Club and the three social clubs in the area as well as the Broomhall Centre, the local churches and other workers in the area. She also maintains regular contact with the ten residential homes.

The links with the Lunch Club and local clubs are particularly important because they make it very easy for people to contact her. The volunteers and staff at these clubs are in close touch with the people they serve and if they are worried about anybody, perhaps because they haven't come that week, it is easy for them to seek Janet's advice. The result of this is that these local clubs and centres become more effective as channels of the support and expert advice Janet can offer. The older people's forum that Janet organises is invaluable for keeping people updated about

policy changes that affect them, such as important changes in the benefits system. Many elderly people in the area have cause to thank Janet for ensuring that they are receiving their full benefits, especially attendance allowance. Janet is probably in touch with about 250 people individually in the course of the year.

Here are some examples of people with whom Janet has worked over the years. Note the way in which she withdraws as soon as it is safe to do so but remains available:

Janet's first contact with Hester Strong was through her son, who lives in Newcastle, Janet thinks that he got her phone number from Social Services. He was concerned about his mother and asked if Janet could arrange for her to have more contact in the local community. Janet visited and was able to arrange for her to go to the Lunch Club. Other problems emerged and Hester had to have a spell in a residential home, but when she returned home she also returned to the Lunch Club. This was about the time that Janet had to go on sick leave, but one of the Lunch Club volunteers maintained contact with Hester while Janet was on leave. Note the importance of Janet's close link with the Lunch Club.

Janet had helped a lady who lived close to Stella Parkin. This lady said, 'If you want help, you ask Janet.' So Stella did, and Janet helped her with Attendance Allowance and checked that the application had been successful. After that she had no further contact, except by chance when Janet visited the sheltered complex, but she has Janet's phone number

Janet was asked to call on Mabel Tonbridge because she was living in a large house and needed to move. The estate agent had suggested a particular sheltered housing complex, but Mabel needed one-to-one help over the complicated family ownership of her house. This was sorted out and Janet, together with her sister, helped her to make the move. Janet now visits her on an occasional basis to check that she is not suffering from the loneliness she had experienced before she moved.

All the names above have been changed, but let the last word be with Ralph Tarrant, at 109 the oldest man in the UK: 'She is a gracious lady, helpful and truthful. Nothing is too much trouble.'

Michael Bayley

VIEW FROM THE PCC SPRING 2013

The PCC has met twice since the last *Messenger*.

February's meeting endorsed changes made to the Social Responsibility Group (SRG) following the Consultation on 2 February facilitated by Ruth Shelton. SRG has been replaced by the Faith and Justice Committee (FJC), convened by Robert Beard, with the following remit: strategic oversight; theological support; prioritising areas of work; resources and training; appropriate links with Voluntary Action Sheffield and other relevant local organisations. It will co-ordinate and support existing and future social action groups, which include Work with older people, Poverty action, Community development in Broomhall, and Environment and climate change. FJC will also develop working relationships with other groups engaged in the faith and justice agenda, including Broomhall Breakfast; Lunch Club and Soup Run. It will retain a whole-church inclusion (equality and diversity) brief with membership open to all members of St Mark's, CTBB and other interested parties.

The PCC agreed to hold a half-day parish conference on the subject of marriage, with special reference to equal marriage, on 19 October 2013. This will look at how traditions relating to marriage have developed in the UK and what the Bible has to say about marriage, and will examine the role and attitude of the Church of England in relation to marriage and the ways in which this attitude has changed since the mid-twentieth century.

Both meetings discussed women bishops. In February, the PCC considered the consultation document, GS MISC 1042 (setting out a new way forward to enabling women to become bishops in the Church of England), sent to General Synod members but with an open consultation brief. Ian Wallis submitted a response on behalf of the PCC supporting all four key propositions outlined in the document. The results of this consultation will be taken into account at the meeting of the House of Bishops in May, when a decision will be made on what legislative proposals to bring to General Synod in July 2013. In March, there was a discussion about the General Synod election process and how to prepare for the next elections in 2015. Some suggestions included an open discussion meeting to support those thinking about standing, and local co-ordination in order to increase the likelihood of electable inclusive candidates being in place and to encourage strategic planning so that voting is not diluted across candidates.

In March, the Treasurer, David Ryder, reported back on the positive response following the Pledge Sunday appeal. At that time 113 pledges had been received, representing an overall increase of £18,500 (including recoverable tax), exceeding the pledge target of £13,000. This magnificent response included a significant number of new pledges and it is hoped that this will largely be sustained over the year.

Lastly, the PCC decided to consult with the congregation over a fitting way to mark the 50th Anniversary with a fabric-based item of some sort before further discussion at May's PCC meeting.

Tanya Ralph, PCC member

MORE ON WINIFRED HOLTBY

Mark's Messenger for February 2013 contained an article on the novelist Winifred Holtby, author of *South Riding*, and this article brought to light an interesting link between Winifred Holtby and a member of the St Mark's Lunch and Friendship Club, Rita Holtby. The connection



was spotted by Rosalind Rogerson, who alerted me, as the author of the article, and I was glad of the opportunity to meet Rita and to discuss the book and her family. She and her sister, who lives in Hull, are very interested in Winifred, who was their cousin. Rita had visited some of the places connected with Winifred's life, and she quoted the family belief that Robert Carne, who is in a way both the hero and the villain of *South Riding*, was modelled on her own father. Our conversation was a fascinating opportunity to go back some 80 years in time, and to locate a distinguished Yorkshire writer among the people and in the environment where she grew up.

John Roach

**'ANYONE UNWILLING TO WORK
SHOULD NOT EAT.'**
(2 Thessalonians 3:10)

The rhetoric of the press and the Government with phrases such as 'the culture of dependency' and 'three generations of the same family who have never worked' might lead people to support the view expressed in Thessalonians, but is the rhetoric true? Or are those without work being made scapegoats for the ills of society? Researchers have been unable to find these 'three generations of workless families'; instead they have found that a commitment to wanting to work is widespread, that people value work (see *Are 'cultures of worklessness' passed down the generations?* by Tracy Shildrick, Robert MacDonald, Andy Furlong, Johann Roden and Robert Crow, available as a free download at www.jrf.org.uk).

So what is wrong? Is it that there are not sufficient jobs? Is pay too low? Are the only jobs available part-time or zero-hours jobs (that is jobs for which people are contracted to be on call but may not be given any work, and hence pay, during a week)?

If we as a society believe that work is good for both society and the individual, does not society have a responsibility to provide sufficient jobs? And if the private sector cannot supply the necessary number of jobs, should not the state, in the form of national and local government, be the employer of last resort?

Should not work pay a 'living wage'? Is it right that a person working full-time does not earn sufficient to provide an adequate standard of living, but needs to receive benefits? Is this not simply a subsidy to employers and a form of servitude for the employed? Is it right that large companies can avoid responsibilities, and hence increase profits, through the widespread use of part-time and zero-hours contracts?

Furthermore, do we not have a duty to provide work suitable for people of all abilities and disabilities? Such work might not be economically efficient but does it not contribute to the dignity of an individual and to a healthy society? Why are we increasing the age of retirement at a time when there is high unemployment among young people?

As we look around our cities and our countryside, is there not much work that could be done? Might it be that what is wrong with our society is not an unwillingness to work but selfishness, individualism, corporate greed, and tax avoidance that reduces the funds available to the government and which could, should it so choose, be used to create useful work that would contribute to the common good?

Stuart Bennett

**WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE
STAND UP?**

To open the CRC Seminar and Library evening on Wednesday, 10 April, Dr Mark Finney, Department of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield, flashed up on the screen the covers of a range of books on the historical Jesus. From John Dominic Crossan's peasant, through Yoshiko's Jewish sage to Tom Wright's Messiah – take your pick.

Using the images portrayed in art, Mark demonstrated the evolution of depictions of Jesus from the earliest, seen in the Roman catacombs, to eastern icons and the western Nordic man illustrated in Bible pictures. Depictions reflected the culture, clothes and ethnicity of their time. Since then, we have developed a Hindu Jesus, a black Jesus and a Chinese Jesus, among many others. Over the last 200 years, Jesus has been shown in situations that proclaimed a contemporary message, including suffering on the battlefield, the resurrection in Cookham village (Stanley Spencer) and the crucified woman Christa. A poverty-stricken and tortured Jesus painted for the World Council of Churches meeting to spur it to tackle these urgent issues was taken down after only a day: perhaps it succeeded by touching too many nerves. So Jesus has become an icon for anyone to use.

Mark illustrated with clips of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* how film has emphasised another version of Jesus. On the other hand *Jesus Christ Superstar* promoted a trendy charismatic hero. Similarly, in fiction writers grind their own axes as they portray Jesus. Mark asked, 'Jesus for everyone? If so, can we ever get back to the historical Jesus?' This generated a lively discussion.

Some 22 people attended this informative and enjoyable seminar. Thanks are due to Maureen Bownas for organising it.

Robin Story

FUTURE SEMINAR/LIBRARY EVENINGS

27 June: Dr Val Webb on her book *In Defence of Doubt: An Invitation to Adventure*

10 July: Rev Jan Berry author of *Ritual Making Women*

16 October: John Vincent and Ian Wallis will take a fresh look at the Gospel of Mark.

Future CRC conferences are listed on p. 2



Spring is here!

OBITUARY?

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who had been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago tied up in bureaucratic red tape and lost. He will be remembered as having taught us such valuable lessons as:

- knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- why the early bird gets the worm;
- life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial principles – don't spend more than you can earn. His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their disruptive children. He declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to students, but could not inform parents when a pregnant student wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense became bed-ridden as charities became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. He finally gave up the will to live when a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a large settlement.

Common Sense had already mourned the passing of his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility, and his son, Reason.

He is survived by his five step-brothers,
 I Know My Rights, I Want It Now,
 Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm A Victim, and
 Pay Me For Doing Nothing,
 but they lost contact with him long ago.

Not many people attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

WHO'S WHO

<i>Vicar</i>	<i>Rev'd Dr Ian Wallis</i>	<i>267 0362</i>
<i>Associate Vicar</i>	<i>Rev'd Sue Hammersley</i>	<i>327 6908</i>
<i>Curate</i>	<i>Rev'd Shan Rush</i>	<i>07598156817</i>
<i>Lay Reader</i>	<i>Anne Padget</i>	<i>266 3613</i>
<i>Hon. Staff</i>	<i>Rev'd Dr Michael Bayley</i>	<i>258 5248</i>
	<i>Rev'd Peter Fisher</i>	<i>327 4718</i>
	<i>Rev'd Mark Newitt</i>	<i>230 4586</i>
	<i>Rev'd Canon Michael Page</i>	<i>266 3798</i>
	<i>Rev'd John Wood</i>	<i>266 5173</i>
<i>Director of Music</i>	<i>Mark McCombs</i>	<i>07725544842</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Prof. Andrew Linn</i>	
<i>Wardens</i>	<i>Mr Gary Grief</i>	<i>231 6031</i>
	<i>Mr Michael Hunt</i>	<i>285 1473</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr David Ryder</i>	<i>230 3242</i>
<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	<i>Mrs Judith Pitchforth</i>	<i>230 7685</i>
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>Miss Tanya Ralph</i>	<i>232 6696</i>
<i>Transport</i>	<i>Mrs Briony Tayler</i>	<i>235 0174</i>
<i>Worker with older people</i>	<i>Miss Janet Brown</i>	<i>07799435146</i>
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	<i>Mrs Sue Whitmill</i>	<i>266 7316</i>
	<i>Mrs Briony Tayler</i>	<i>235 0174</i>
<i>Student Worker</i>	<i>Mrs Jen Ryder</i>	<i>07845464712</i>
<i>Lunch Club</i>	<i>Mrs Briony Tayler</i>	<i>235 0174</i>
	<i>Mrs Rosalind Rogerson</i>	<i>268 1426</i>
<i>Sunday Club</i>	<i>Mrs Sarah Armstrong</i>	<i>266 3023</i>
<i>Lions</i>	<i>Mr Alistair Sutcliffe</i>	<i>07929200763</i>
<i>Child Protection</i>	<i>Deni Ennals</i>	<i>07771 786819</i>
		<i>258 5512</i>
<i>Vulnerable Adults</i>	<i>Jane Padget</i>	<i>07921 863281</i>
<i>Servers</i>	<i>Mr David Armstrong</i>	<i>266 3023</i>
<i>Library Team</i>	<i>Rev'd Peter Fisher</i>	<i>327 4718</i>
	<i>Mrs Maureen Bownas</i>	<i>230 2757</i>
<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Mrs Mary-Jane Ryder</i>	<i>230 3242</i>
<u>Committees:</u>		
<i>International</i>	<i>Rev'd Shan Rush</i>	<i>07598156817</i>
<i>Social Resp.</i>	<i>Mr David Price</i>	<i>296 0806</i>
<i>Home Donations</i>	<i>Mrs Miranda Myers</i>	<i>268 0043</i>
<i>Finance & Fabric</i>	<i>Dr Philip Booth</i>	<i>255 0634</i>

The Vicar normally takes Friday as a day off.

The Associate Vicar normally takes Tuesday as a day off.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN DAILY
 MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 9.00 AM TO 1.00 PM
 Church Administrator: Anne Padget
 TEL. 0114 266 3613 & 07736 52777**

**Email: office@stmarkssheffield.co.uk
 Visit us on www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk**

May Highlights

5	Sun	Easter 6	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am The Parish Eucharist: <i>(Preacher: The Vicar)</i> Sunday Club & Lions 2.30pm Lionstale rehearsal 8.00pm Night Service – Holy Communion
8	Wed	12 noon Lunch and Friendship Club 7.30pm Finance & Fabric meeting 7.30pm InSpire (@Francis Newton)	
9	Thu	11.30am Discussion group: Parables 7.30pm Ascension Day service followed by buffet supper in support of Christian Aid	
11	Sat	10.00am CRC Conference: "Why Jesus Didn't Die Out" - Gerd Ludemann	
12	Sun	Easter 7	
		8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am The Parish Eucharist: <i>(Preacher: the Vicar)</i> 12.15pm Sunday Lunch 8.00pm Night Service – Celtic / Iona	
13	Mon	7.00pm "Exploring Silence"	
15	Wed	12 noon Lunch and Friendship Club Parochial Church Council 7.30pm InSpire: Meditation, Chapel 7.30pm	
16	Thu	11.30am Discussion group: Parables Deanery Confirmation (St Columba's, Crosspool) 7.30pm	
18	Sat	9.30am St. Mark's Parish Day!	
19	Sun	Pentecost	
		8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am The Parish Eucharist: CTBB joint service 12.15pm CTBB Lunch 2.30pm Lionstale rehearsal 8.00pm Night Service - Sung Compline	
20	Mon	7.00pm Soup Run meeting	
22	Wed	12 noon Lunch and Friendship Club Welcome Team social 7.30pm InSpire: "He who sings prays twice" (@ Whirlow) 7.30pm	
23	Thu	11.30am Discussion group: Parables	
26	Sun	Trinity Sunday	
		8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am The Parish Eucharist <i>(Preacher: Alison Creasy)</i> Sunday Club & Lions 12.15pm Sunday Lunch - BBQ 2.30pm Lionstale rehearsal 8.00pm Night Service - Completeness	
29	Wed	7.30pm InSpire (Coffee Revolution)	
28	Thur	11.30am Discussion group: Parables	

Weekday Worship:

Monday 9.00am: Holy Communion
Wednesday & Friday 8.00am: Holy Communion or Morning Prayer
Thursday 10.30am: Holy Communion

There will be no Holy Communion on Mondays 6th & 27th May

Concerts this month

Friday 10th May 7.30pm Sheffield Medics' Orchestra

STOP PRESS!

At a Meeting of Parishioners on 25th April, Michael Hunt and Gary Grief were re-appointed Churchwardens. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting that followed, the maximum of fifteen Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council were elected. They are:

Philip Booth, Deni Ennals, Geoff Fisher, Helen Gregory, Rick Hughes, Rosie Moffatt, Jane Padget, Tanya Ralph, David Ryder, Peter Ryder, Charles Stirling, Alistair Sutcliffe, Briony Tayler, Catherine Trickett and David Trickett.

As St Mark's representatives on the Churches Together in Broomhill and Broomhall General Council, Rosie Moffatt, Tanya Ralph and Briony Tayler were appointed. There remains one vacancy – a volunteer would be welcomed.

Messenger editorial team: Hazel Elliott-Kemp, Carol Rowe, David Price, Dez Martin, John Bramley. This issue was edited by Carol. Cover pictures by Tanya Ralph and Shan Rush.

The Editors welcome comments and suggestions, and invite contributions. Items should be submitted by the **15th of the month** to be considered for the next edition. It should be noted that the Editors cannot guarantee to publish material and wish to point out that items included do not necessarily reflect their views or those of the Parochial Church Council.