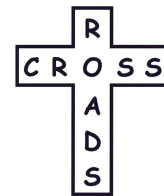


**ST JOHN'S CHURCH,  
NEVILLE'S CROSS**

*December 2011 and  
January 2012*

THE CHURCH

at the



[www.sjnx.org.uk](http://www.sjnx.org.uk)

To contact us please use the links on the main pages of our website.

**Services in December and January**

*Holy Communion 7pm Thursdays;  
Morning Prayer Monday & Tuesday at 9.15am*

**Sunday 4 December 2011 Merryoaks Group**

- 8.45am Eucharist (Prayer Book) Small groups Service
- 10am Eucharist *with groups for children 0 – 14*
- 6.30pm Taste (with Penny & Robin Minney – CMS)

**Sunday 11 December Fair Trade Stall**

- 8.45am Eucharist
- 10am Eucharist *with groups for children 0 – 14*
- 4-6pm Messy Church

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Sunday 18 December**

- 8.45am Eucharist (Prayer Book)
- 10am **Joint Nativity Service at St John's**
- 6.30pm Shalom: a service with quiet prayers for healing

**Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve**

- 4.30pm Joint Christingle and Crib Service at **St Margaret's**
- 7.30pm Joint Carol Service at **St John's**
- 11.30pm Joint Midnight Service at **St Margaret's**

**Sunday 25 December Christmas Day**

- 10am **Joint All Age Eucharist at St John's**

**Sunday 1 January 2012**

- 8.45am Eucharist (Prayer Book)
- 10am Joint Eucharist Service at St Margaret's**

Friday 6 January 6.00pm Eucharist for Epiphany **at St Margaret's**

Sunday 8 January **Baptism of Christ Fair Trade Stall**

8.45am Eucharist *Crossgate Moor Group*

10am Eucharist *with groups for children 0 – 14*

11.45am Bring & Share lunch and de Lange farewell

Sunday 15 January **Recommissioning St John's as a Shared Ministry Parish**

8.45am Eucharist (Prayer Book)

10am Eucharist and Licensing of Judy Hirst as Associate Minister  
*with groups for children 0 – 14*

4-6pm Messy Church

Sunday 22 January **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

8.45am Eucharist

10am Eucharist *with groups for children 0 – 14*

Sunday 29 January

8.45am Eucharist

10am All Age Service of the Word

6.30pm Shalom: a service with quiet prayers for healing

### **Barney writes:**

**Christmas** for Christians is about the reality of God-with-us, and making God known as alive and at work in the world. As a Church we have much to reflect on in this area. Last month, a good number of people from both congregations gathered for an **open meeting** about our Youth and Children's work. I would like to thank everyone who took part; the feedback helped spark a lively discussion at the PCC (Parochial Church Council), and a sub-group is now looking at developing some of these ideas. We will report again in the new year; in the meantime, can I on behalf of the PCC say an enormous 'thank-you' to all involved in leading our youth and children's work both during the week and on Sundays (including at Messy Church, which is continuing once a month - see over for details). We also held our parish **Gift Day** a fortnight later; and, again on the PCCs behalf, I offer grateful thanks for everyone's response on that day.

This month and next month will continue to see exciting developments taking place at St John's. The installation of our PV **Solar Panels** is due to take place imminently; an outward and visible sign of our Church's longstanding commitment to ecological living, inspired by an understanding of the world as God's creation, and our duty of care towards it. January will see a number of **new appointments** and developments. I am very grateful to Joan Twomey, who has volunteered to take on a new Key Communication role: working closely with the Rector, she will be a point of contact for people on Sunday mornings (especially on those Sundays when I am not there) able to provide information and to pass on messages. She is also working with others to build a pattern of prayer at the heart of all that we do. Joan will hold the formal post of PCC Secretary (though the minute-taking part of this job will be undertaken by Valerie Robinson, to whom, likewise, we are most grateful). Joan will also be taking on oversight of this monthly news-sheet. I am also delighted to announce that The Revd Canon Judy Hirst is to be formally licensed as an Associate

Minister, to minister in the parish one day a week. She will initially focus on development of a new Shared Ministry Development Team, and will be licensed at 10am on Sunday 15th January, with St John's being recommissioned as a Shared Ministry Parish at the same time.

Alongside these moments of welcome, though, we have a notable pair of 'farewells' to offer. **Anna and Peter de Lange** are (as many of you will know) moving to Sheffield in the New Year; they expect their last Sunday with us will be 8th January, when everyone is invited to a 'bring & share' lunch at which we will take the opportunity to say a heartfelt 'thank-you', 'God bless' and '*au revoir*' to them both. They have been deeply involved in the life of the Church here - both in the parish and in the diocese - and have witnessed to God in more ways than I can mention (though I will try in due course to do so...!). But I cannot conclude this article without noting the fact that Anna first created and has since edited this monthly news-sheet (whilst Peter has ensured its online publication). For this - and for much, much more - they deserve our deepest thanks.

*Barney.*

PS - if you would like to give a donation towards a parting gift for Peter and Anna, please speak to the Churchwardens or Treasurer (Paul, Phil or Barry).

## DIARY DATES

Remember the **Churches Together New Year's Eve Procession** - bring your whole family (with lanterns) and gather in the Market Place ready to process at 5.30pm up to the Cathedral, for a service that starts at 6.15pm.

**Second Saturday** - The church is open to all between 10.30 and 12.30, with newspapers, a Fair Trade stall and refreshments (with home-made cake!) and a special feature or focus. All welcome on Saturdays 10 Dec and 14 Jan.

**Mothers' Union** - the Christmas meeting is on Monday 12 December at 1.45pm. In January we have a Corporate Communion followed by the Annual Meeting, 1.45pm on Monday 9 January. All welcome.

**Book Group** - Everyone is welcome, whether or not you have read the book. Meetings start at 8pm and end by 9.30pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 48 St Monica Grove, and the book is Gwen Raverat's *Period Piece: a Cambridge childhood*.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** - there's a service at St Mary's Church, Sherburn Village, on Sunday 22 January at 3.00pm. The Salvation Army Band is playing, and there will be a collection for the Edith Jackson Trust (for schools in Sudan).

**Parish Weekend away, 9-11 March** - Our speakers will include our new Bishop, Justin Welby, and his wife Caroline; The weekend is entitled 'A Journey of Faith in the Modern World' and through it, we hope to equip St. John's and its members for meeting some of the contemporary challenges of living out the Christian faith in today's world. We also hope that the weekend will act as a catalyst for renewal in

our discipleship and growth. A few places are still available – please speak to Diane Barthel, Pippa Bell, Tim Marjoribanks or Barney if you'd like to know more.

**Outward Giving** – It is now 3 years since we agreed to support 3 charities in our prayers, and through our outward giving – CMS, NEPACS and Traidcraft. We undertook to review our commitments after three years, so early in 2012 we will be asking you for your thoughts and suggestions. In the meantime please begin to collect your thoughts, and continue to pray. Thank you. *Mike Chater*

**Durham Singers Christmas Concert** – 'Winter Journeys' – music from around Northern Europe, including works by Mendelssohn, Gorecki, Vaughan Williams, Sibelius, and carols for all. Saturday 17 December, 7.30 pm, Elvet Methodist Church. Tickets £10 / £8 from Gala Theatre, choir (Jo Cundy will have some), or on the door.

**Anna de Lange writes:** You will see from Barney's letter that from the New Year this news-sheet will be put together by Joan Twomey. You can send her your news by emailing either [news@sjnx.org.uk](mailto:news@sjnx.org.uk) or [jtwomey@talktalk.net](mailto:jtwomey@talktalk.net). Please also let her know if your address (email or house) changes. Thank you for all your support while I have been editor!

***The next news-sheet will be published on 29th January***