

Please **remember in your prayers** Ben Oxley, whose funeral took place this week. Remember too Charlotte, Tilly, Harry and Jack, who will be admitted to Communion for the first time on Sunday 20th July.

Also next Sunday at the 10am Eucharist, Phillip Stephenson will be speaking about his recent visit to the Diocese of Mara, and will also be showing of his favourite pictures – he has hundreds, but has promised not to show them all!

Last Friday's **wine tasting evening** was both great fun, and also raised £235 for church funds. A big thank you to everyone who supported it, and especially to Ben and Wendy Drury who organized it. *Tony Hillam*

A reminder that there will be **no Evensong at St Matthews this evening**, as we go instead to take part in the Service of Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the link between the Dioceses of Mara and Wakefield.

Find out more about why the link between the **Diocese of Mara and the Diocese of Wakefield** has grown and is now recognized as one of the ten most successful Diocesan Companion links in the worldwide Anglican Communion. Bill Jones book, *Shoulder to Shoulder*, has been written to celebrate the 20 years of the link's existence. Copies are available to buy in the reception area, or can be ordered from me. *Ernest Gelder*

Next **Fridays family service** will be the last of the current series, as we take a break for the summer. Services will begin again on Friday 5th September.

The **Friday Lunch Club** has proved very successful and is much enjoyed by all our guests. We regularly provide lunch for 24 to 28 people per week but could easily accommodate more. If you are interested in joining our happy band, or know of someone who would appreciate a good meal and companionship, please contact me on 01422 205776, or Susan Taylor on 01422 203781. Transport can be arranged if required. We have six teams of helpers and a reserve list of people to assist us occasionally when a team member is absent for any reason. If you are unable to join a team on a regular basis, but would like to help occasionally, we would be happy to put your name on our reserve list. Please contact either myself or Susan on the above numbers. *Lorna Painten*

Looking ahead.. our patronal festival this year is on Sunday 21st September, when we welcome the Revd Hilary Barber, of Halifax Parish Church, who is patron of St Matthew's, as our preacher. The following Sunday, 28th September, we shall be celebrating our Harvest Festival.

St Matthew's Lightcliffe

striving to live in worship and prayer
growing in faith and love
serving the community
and so bringing people to Christ



Sunday 13 July 2008: The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

From wherever you have come, be it just around the corner, or from further afield, a very warm welcome to St Matthew's. We pray that you will find something here to inspire, challenge and comfort you.

Today at St Matthew's

8am The Eucharist
10am The Parish Eucharist: 46, 221, 172, 72, 68, 409, 494, 522

This week at St Matthew's

Tuesday 9.15am: Eucharist. 7.30pm: Deanery Chapter Meeting
Wednesday 7pm: Eucharist
Thursday 9.15am: Eucharist, 1.45pm: Faith and Life, 2.30pm: Eucharist at Sandholme Fold, 4pm: Communion Preparation Group
Friday 12.30pm: Lunch Club, 6.15pm: Family Service

Services next Sunday:

8am: Eucharist
10am: Parish Eucharist
12 noon: Holy Baptism
6.30pm: Evensong

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 55.10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: `Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds

came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

Post Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
to you be glory to you for ever.
Amen