

THE BIG CAROL SING OF 2014

This event in All Saints' Square on Saturday 20th December was a success for our town. Plenty of enjoyment was clearly evident, especially among the enthusiastic singers and the people who looked after the distribution of free drinks and mince pies to the public. *Adrian Dexter* was the organiser, and our thanks go to him for his work. *Christian Aid* and *Lighthouse for Women* were the two causes who sought voluntary donations from the public. The weather was certainly kind for this event, the first in what many hope will become a regular part of Rotherham's December calendar in the future. Sincere thanks to everyone who made the Big Carol Sing of 2014 such a success.

FREE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON CHRISTMAS DAY

St James' Church at Clifton is hosting another free traditional Christmas lunch on Christmas Day. Arrive at 1.30 to eat at 2.00pm and it all ends at around 4.30pm. It is open to anyone --- rich; poor; in work; out of work; single-parent families; religious; non-religious. Just come with an open heart to enjoy the community spirit. Ring *Alicia* on 07946676990 to book your place.

NEXT MEETING OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ROTHERHAM

Please note that the next meeting of Churches Together in Rotherham will have a **new venue**. We will be gathering at the **Holiday Inn on West Bawtry Road**, which is close to the roundabout where the A630 from the M1 and Sheffield joins the A631 from Canklow and Brinsworth. A landmark to look for is Dunelm Mill, because the hotel is immediately opposite on the other side of the A631 dual carriageway. The date is **WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2014**, with the usual 7.00 pm starting time. Please note that the normal bring-and-share buffet will not take place, but coffee, tea and other drinks will be available at the hotel.

Everyone is welcome to come along.

ELIM PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, ROTHERHAM

We at Elim are hosting an event to raise awareness around the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation. The day is aimed at parents, youth leaders, teachers,

youth workers, grandparents – anyone who has contact with youth and would like to be more aware of the issue and how to be part of the solution.

Child Exploitation Training Event
Saturday 7th February 2015
10am—4pm
A day for parents, youth leaders, teachers...

In summer 2014 a report into Child Exploitation in Rotherham revealed that 1,400 children and young people had been exploited over a ten year period. But Rotherham is not alone. All over our country there are children at risk. On **Saturday February 7th Elim Christian Centre** is hosting a training day for all parents, guardians, youth leaders and teachers. The aim is to talk about how children are drawn into exploitation, what is the scale of the issue, what help and support is available and how we can be part of the solution. We have *Beth Stout* from Golddigger Trust in Sheffield, to bring this training. Beth and her organisation have been involved in supporting young people at risk of CSE for many years and have a wealth of experience. We intend that you will leave the day more aware of the issues, and more able to bring a positive difference to the lives of young people every day.

Tickets cost £5 and you can reserve your place by calling 01709 835223, or by e-mail to paul.folland@rotherham-elim.org.

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THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2015

This special week for Christians is held annually **between the 18th and 25th January**. In 2015 there will be two Sundays in the *Week of Prayer*, but there will be lunchtime services on the other days, except on the THURSDAY.

The main service will take place at *Rotherham Minster* on the afternoon of *Thursday 22nd January 2015*. The afternoon service last year attracted more congregants than had previously been the case with an evening service.

The theme of the week will be ***“The Well is Deep”***, and it has been researched and planned by Christians in Brazil. These Christians are reaching out to people in a nation where intolerance is strong among many groups. Appropriately, ***Rev ANESIA COOK***, the Brazilian-born Assistant Vicar at Rotherham Minster, will lead this Service.

The schedule of services for the Week of Prayer in JANUARY 2015 is as follows:

MONDAY, 19th JANUARY, 12.30 pm

LIBERTY CHURCH, Station Road

TUESDAY, 20 th JANUARY, 12.30 pm	HERRINGTHORPE URC, at Stag Roundabout
WEDNESDAY, 21 st JANUARY, 12.30 pm	SALVATION ARMY, High Street Kimberworth
THURSDAY, 22 nd JANUARY, 2.00 pm	ROTHERHAM MINSTER
FRIDAY, 23 rd JANUARY, 12.30 pm	ST MARY'S RC, Herringthorpe Valley Road
SATURDAY, 24 th JANUARY, 12.30 pm	ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL CHAPEL

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Janet Vout. She has worked hard to ensure that we have a varied programme for two series of events, The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Lent Lunches to benefit Christian Aid.

We pray you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas and good times in 2015.

Please pray this Christmas for those in our town who are still suffering after the revelations made about traumatic situations that have had terrible effects on many people of all faiths and of none.

Please don't forget to remind people that **CHRIST** is essential if you want **CHRIST**mas!