

Introducing St Mark's Church  
Broomhill & Broomhall  
*“living thinking faith”*



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## Our Vision Statement

*St Mark's Broomhill is part of the Anglican Communion within the world-wide Christian Church. We understand ourselves to be called to: (i) gather together to worship as the body of Christ in this place which welcomes and celebrates human diversity; (ii) serve our parish and congregation in ways which show the love and compassion of Christ; (iii) work and campaign for justice both local and worldwide; (iv) create a space where people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life.*

ST MARK'S is part of the Church of England, the established church of this country. As such, it has responsibilities not only to members of the congregation who attend worship, but also to residents of the parish (a geographical area falling within the following landmarks: Waitrose roundabout – Endcliffe Student Village – Old Grindstone Pub, Crookes - Crookes Valley Park –Arts Tower roundabout).

The church was built in the 1960s according to the design of architect George Pace, following the destruction during the Second World War of the previous Victorian church (only the spire remains). With stained glass by John Piper and Harry Stammers, it is an extraordinary worship space creating a unique ambience. In addition to the main area, there is a chapel, two large meeting rooms (with kitchens), a church office and toilets.

At the heart of church life is worship. There are three services each Sunday (8.00 am, 10.00 am, 8.00 pm) as well as services each weekday. Worship is when we make space in our lives to gather together to give worth (that is what 'worship' means) to who and what really matters.

The inspiration for our worship and for everything else that we do is the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth. He is the origin of Christian faith and embodies a quality of humanity we seek to embrace. Jesus lived and died furthering what he described as God's kingdom on earth – not a political regime, economic programme or cultural revolution; but a reign of justice, compassion, healing and peace, rooted in truth and realised through wisdom.

During his life, Jesus invited others to work with him in realising this kingdom vision and, before his death, he entrusted it to his friends and followers. We see ourselves as inheritors of this vocation and, as such, seek to further it through all that we do. For this reason, much of what we do at St Mark's is for others.

Hospitality is an important part of our ministry as each service of Holy Communion celebrates. It finds expression in many ways, including running a midweek luncheon club for older members of the community, providing a soup kitchen each Saturday night in the city centre, supplying food parcels to occasional callers and cooking a full Sunday lunch each week for whoever would like to stay.

But hospitality finds expression in other ways as well. For example, hosting visits from schools and other bodies, making the church available for public meetings, concerts and community groups, as well as welcoming members of the parish to mark key moments in life at St Mark's (eg baptism, marriage, funerals).

In many ways, Jesus' message was a call to realise the humanity and worth of each and every person. St Mark's is committed to offering financial support to charities and organisations involved in humanitarian relief and well-being in the UK and around the world. Campaigning for justice is another important aspect to this, as well as working with authorities and agencies to challenge injustice and to create a fairer world.

Although faith is our motivation, the vision we pursue and the goals we seek to further are shared in common by many people – religious, agnostics, atheists. Wherever possible, we try to build partnerships and to work collaboratively. Currently, the Churches together in Broomhill and Broomhall (St Andrew's, Broomhill Methodist, St Mark's) employs a worker with older people, resources a youth club for girls at the Broomhall Centre and runs a breakfast club each Friday morning at St Andrew's. Representatives from St Mark's also serve on a number of community groups including the Broomhall Forum, Broomhall Group of Groups, Broomhill Forum, Broomhill Festival Committee.

Because faith is a life-long journey, we try to make provision for all ages and outlooks so that everyone is able to grow and flourish in a way that reflects where they've reached and is appropriate for them.

St Mark's is part of a momentum of faith reaching over 2000 years. It is the privilege of each generation to inherit that living tradition and its responsibility to explore how it can find expression today. St Mark's Centre for Radical Christianity (CRC) is committed to this vocation through reaching back to the roots ('radical') of our faith in order to rediscover Jesus and re-appropriate his vision, teaching and practice. Each year, CRC organises conferences and other events which attract large audiences nationwide.

There is so much more that we could say about St Mark's, but hopefully this brief introduction provides an appetising 'taster' that will encourage you to find out more. We are always ready to share what we have discovered, to receive the discoveries of others and to work together to uphold the dignity of every human being and to build inclusive communities of value and worth.

*Ian Wallis*  
*Vicar*