

## Notices for 9 February

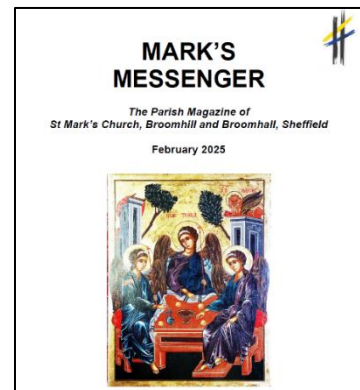
Information about upcoming events, news and how to get involved below.

Patterns of worship [here](#), Children's [here](#), church calendar [here](#) and giving [here](#).

### NEWS AT ST MARK'S:

#### NEW EDITION OF MARK'S MESSENGER OUT NOW -

Get a copy of the latest issue now, copies at the back of church and our website with a suggested donation of £2. The issue has book reviews, news from Beth about the mission area and stories from member of our community on the theme of 'some one who helped me'.



**9 FEBRUARY** – We are celebrating **Candlemas** with an All-Age service. Bring any old candles and we will add them to those collected at church over the year as we mark the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season and celebrate the gathering light. If you are joining on Zoom, you may like to have a new candle ready to light at the end of the service along with those in the building. The service will be followed by Bring and share Pizza. Do bring Pizza, simple salad etc and leave in the kitchen before the service so Hannah and the team can get the pizza's in the oven and lunch sorted as soon as coffee has been cleared away. Thank you.

**COMMUNION** – Having re-introduced both bread and wine to Holy Communion, we have received feedback from those administering and receiving the bread that has led to the decision to change the bread we are using this coming Sunday. We will be swapping to a Gluten free soft pitta. If you have allergies or intolerance that mean you are unable to eat this, we will also have some gluten free wafers available. We hope this means people will be able to continue to receive Communion safely and that it will also be a more practical arrangement that is pastorally and theologically acceptable to the wider congregation. Beth & Shan

#### 9 February THINKING FAITH – How spiritual are children?

Join us as we explore the spirituality of children with 3 speakers:

- *Dr Emily Baughen* (University of Sheffield) – History of childhood and its intersections with humanitarianism and politics.
- *Canon Dr Jane Brooke* (RE Specialist) – Insights into faith development and spiritual education.
- *Huw Thomas* (Director of Education, Sheffield Diocese) – Church schools and the spirituality of children.

This session is open to everyone so join us for this engaging and reflective session in church or on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89515577906> Meeting ID: 895 1557 7906

[Click here for more.](#)

**SAD NEWS REGARDING JANET EARWAKER** – I'm saddened to let you know that Janet, a long-standing member of St Mark's, died on Monday 20 January at Broomgrove Trust, her home for the last few years. Please pray for Janet, her children Bill and Rosie, and Sue Hammersley who along with other people from our congregation, had a deep connection with Janet and her late husband John over many years. Janet's funeral will be on **Friday 14 February at 1pm** at St Mark's and will be followed by refreshments in the lounge. *Shan*

### **HELP OUT AT ST MARK'S:**

**NAMASTE** - There is an ongoing collection at St Mark's of good quality warm clothes and coats, as well as toiletries, shower gel and period products for refugees. Please bring items to the building to be passed on. Do keep this in mind if you received relevant gifts surplus to requirements for Christmas!!! Thank you so much for your generosity. Dilys, St Mark's International Donations Committee chair

**FLOWERS-** Contact Mary-Jane Ryder if you could help arrange the flowers occasionally, training provided. With thanks to Mabel Padfield, John Hall & Jennifer Hurrell for donating flowers, and Rachel Pilkington, Briony Tayler & Jennifer Hurrell for arranging them during February.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST MARK'S:**

**5 MARCH is Ash Wednesday** and we will be holding a service at 7pm at St Mark's this year. This day marks the beginning of Lent and include the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Ash Wednesday, to be marked with the sign of the cross on your forehead and to receive Holy Communion.

### **LENT COURSE 2025: THE PARABLES**

Lent Groups this year will be looking at some of the parables we find in the gospels. To do this the group will be using storytelling and drawing on Paula Gooder's book *The Parables*. Lent Groups from St Mark's and St Mary's will be meeting once a week on 5 consecutive weeks between 6th Mar – 13<sup>th</sup> April. They will be meeting online or in person, on various days/times. You can sign up for a group either by emailing the office or adding your name to the sign-up sheets at the back of church.

Group A with Sandra Newton: Monday evenings at 7.30pm on zoom

Group B with Lynn Pocock and Emily Baughan: Monday evenings at 8.15pm in Hangingwater

Group C with Jane Brooke: Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Netheredge

Group D with Hannah Jones and Michael Bayley: Wednesday at 3pm in the church lounge

Group E with Tim Crome and Tricia Morgan : Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm near Ecclesall Road

Group F with Bekah and Jack Hampson: Wednesday evenings at 8pm on zoom

Group G with Boyd Morgan, Joy and Stephen Straits: Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in Grenoside

Group H with Shelley Johnstone: Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in Walkley at St Mary's Church

Group I Student and Young Adults Group, with Seth Roberts and Bethany Leake meeting as part of their usual group.

**SAVE THE DATE** The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held in church on **April 27**. At the meeting, we review the past, assess where we are now and look ahead at where we are heading over the next year or so. We begin with worship at a shortened 10 am service, hear something of Beth's vision for St Mark's, receive the Annual report in which we share various aspects of the ministry of St Mark's over the last year, thank those who are standing down from lay and ordained service, elect new people into various roles, our treasurer presents the budget and there is an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns before we look forward to how

we can work together to support the mission and ministry of St Mark's as we reach out to the world. Please do save the date so you can attend and be part of this important meeting. If you want to vote or stand for election, you do need to be registered on our electoral roll. Do ask us for more details about being on PCC and the Electoral Roll. *Beth & Shan*

## WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY:

### BISHOP OF SHEFFIELD ANNUAL LECTURE – 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> March.

Happy are those': Wisdom from the Psalms on happiness, wellbeing and caring for mental health with Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Isabelle Hamley has been a parish priest, a university chaplain, chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and now serves as Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge. She is passionate about Scripture and the way it speaks into the life of the world and of the church. She has written extensively on issues of justice, violence, trauma and mental health; her books include *God of Justice and Mercy: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Judges*; *Embracing Justice*; *Struggling with God* (with Chris Cook and John Swinton); and *Embracing Humanity*. [More info and booking here.](#)

**CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE** - The Sheffield CA committee warmly invite you attend an online screening of the annual Changemakers conference on Saturday March 8th - 10.00am until 13.45pm (approx) at St Gabriel's Church, Dobbin Hill. Full details are on the poster on the international committee notice board and you can also use the link below to see the programme for the conference and to register for this regional event- [Click here.](#)

### MENTAL HEALTH & CHRISTIANITY

#### CONFERENCE – 22 March, Wesley Hall Crookes.

Aimed at ordained or lay, who are working or volunteering with people in churches and Christian organisations. However, it is open to anyone who is interested. The Conference aims to deliver a high standard of information based upon both science and experience while respecting and incorporating the Christian faith. **The Keynote Speaker is theologian Dr Simon Hewitt—Lecturer in Philosophy and Religion at Leeds University, he also** draws on his own experience of bipolar disorder. Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day. Suggested donation of £12.00 but pay as you can also available. [Tickets and more information here](#)

A poster for the 'Mental Health & Christianity Conference'. The top left features a logo with a green heart and a cross, with the text 'Mental Health & Christianity'. Below this, the title 'MENTAL HEALTH & CHRISTIANITY CONFERENCE' is written in white on a dark purple background. A QR code is present with the text 'Book now' and an arrow pointing to it. Below the QR code is the URL 'https://MHandCConference.eventbrite.co.uk'. At the bottom left is a logo for 'Organised by Sheffield Methodist Circuit'. On the right side, there is a photo of Dr Simon Hewitt sitting on a rock in a field. Below the photo, his name and title are listed: 'Dr Simon Hewitt, Lecturer in Philosophy & Religion, Leeds University'. At the bottom right, the date and location are given: 'Saturday 22nd March, 2025, Wesley Hall Methodist Church, Crookes, Sheffield'.

**THE UNCONTROLLING LOVE OF GOD** - Join us at Highgate House Conference Centre, Northamptonshire, to discuss ideas that will change the way you think about the divine. Based around a series of set piece dialogues, this conference will open up avenues of theological thought that challenge the mainstream consensus that 'God' is all powerful and fundamentally 'in control'. Drawing on work from scholars and

practitioners from various parts of the Christian tradition, we will question these certainties and explore other ways of understanding the nature of God. [More here](#)

**OUR FUTURE HEALTH** - Like Pauline and myself, you may have already registered for this large scale NHS research to gather data for detecting and preventing diseases earlier, such as dementia, cancer, diabetes and heart disease. It involves completing an online questionnaire, giving a blood sample and having blood pressure checked. As data is gradually assessed you will have the option of learning your future risks and analysis of your DNA. Almost two million have signed up but millions more, any age over 18, are sought. If you join using the link: [ourfuturehealth.org.uk/join/0518](http://ourfuturehealth.org.uk/join/0518) you will be eligible for a £10 “thank you” voucher. Any questions to [support@ourfuturehealth.org.uk](mailto:support@ourfuturehealth.org.uk) Michael Miller

## THE ENVIRONMENT:

**CLIMATE AND NATURE BILL**- This was debated in the Commons on Friday the 24th. Unfortunately it was not passed because the government refused to allow Labour MPs a free vote. It was pushed back to 11 July which means realistically that is dead in the water. That is the bad news. The good news is that there have been positive and encouraging responses from Ed Miliband, the relevant Secretary of State, and Mary Creagh, Minister for Nature. At the end of yesterday’s debate, the Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh, promised MPs that next steps will include “**binding commitments**” to advance the CAN Bill’s objectives. Ed Miliband, said via a video (after the debate), he has promised to “set to work” on the CAN Bill’s objectives—“**including for legislation**”—so that we can “make a meaningful difference for climate and nature”. This means lots more letter writing to our MPs to keep the pressure up. Please get one off as soon as possible to make known your disappointment and to let them know that pressure to do what is needed will be relentless. *Michael Bayley*

**GREAT GARDEN BIRD WATCH** - The Environment Group once again did the Great Garden Bird Watch this January and counted blue tit, coal tit, robin, blackbird, woodpigeon, wren, magpie and crow. Small numbers though. Could we make our Green even more nature friendly? The birds seem to like the shrub cover at the eastern end. Perhaps we could extend the cover around our perimeters? Margaret Ainger



## ECO TIPS

**Now that Christmas is over, do you have an old laptop/phone/ other electrical equipment you wish to rehome or recycle?** Aspire in North Sheffield takes them all and makes good use of them. [Details here](#) If anyone has problems dropping them off, please speak to Michael Miller or Margaret Ainger.

*Eco tips from congregation members are welcome - please send them to the church office.*