



Notices for 23 November 2025

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

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

THIS WEEK AT ST MARK'S & IN THE COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS CARDS - International committee will be selling Charity Christmas Cards after 10 am service on Sundays 23, 30 November and 7 December. Please bring change to pay for your purchases if you can.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S WRITE FOR RIGHTS GREETING CARDS CAMPAIGN - Join hundreds of thousands of Amnesty supporters around the world by taking part in our annual Write for Rights Greetings Card campaign. You will demonstrate your support for 10 people and organisations enduring human rights abuses. YOUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL!

To take part: [Download the booklet with full details of the cases here](#)

For those with no Internet access copies of the printed booklets will be available. Representatives from Amnesty will be in church on 23 November and 7 December. When you have sent your cards, do pass the booklet on to someone else. *Robin Story*

JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER, after the 10am service.

Roast pork and veggie option, followed by crumble. Suggested donation adults £4, children £2, family of 4 £10. Donations of crumble appreciated. We also need help with setting up, washing up and clearing away. If you can help, please speak to Helen C or Pete R.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING – 27 November

“Recently the Government blocked a joint committee report stating that the destabilising impact of the climate and nature crises on national security is one of the biggest risks facing Britain.

Join the call for politicians to rise to the challenge of the security risk that the climate and nature crises poses by attending the National Emergency Briefing where world-leading experts report the latest evidence, clarify what is at stake, and outline actionable solutions. This will help them get to grips with the depth of the problem and the cost of inaction.

Please visit <https://www.nebriefing.org/> to check whether your MP has committed to attending. If they haven't, you'll be able to email them directly through the site.” Michael Bayley

NEWS:

UPDATE ON LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Last month the House of Bishops issued an [update on Living in Love and Faith](#).

If you would like to sign an open letter to the House of Bishops, Inclusive church has one here <https://www.inclusive-church.org/llf-open-letter/>



THANK YOU – NATURE RECOVERY ON THE GREEN

Environment Group would like to thank all who turned out on a beautiful autumn morning and who worked hard clearing leaves to make compost, freeing the mound for next year's wild flowers and tending the memorial garden. A goodly crowd put their backs into it, including some from Martin's allotment group, who we got to know over refreshments, and who can use our compost for their veg. The leaf blower was a hit with the kids.

Look out for future nature recovery sessions in the spring and help keep our grounds lovely and restorative for people and nature alike.

COMING UP AT ST MARK'S:



FUND RAISING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY – Our Annual Christingle Service which raises money for The Children's Society will be held on Sunday 30 November at 4 pm. You can still add to money raised by Children and families at the swimathon by donating using the following link:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/swimaton-568>

WOMEN OF TROY – 30TH November at 12 noon. In the Upper Room. By The Book Theatre will stage the world's first anti-war play, Euripides's one-act WOMEN OF TROY, in a new translation by Frances Gray. It was written in 415 BC by a playwright enraged by his homeland committing genocide and it still hits hard. All welcome – collection for aid to Gaza via Sheffield Palestine Cultural Exchange.



YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS 'Coffee after coffee'

11.45am – 12.30pm on Sunday 30 November and 14 December

CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING - Saturday December 6th 2.30-3.30pm outside the Old Debenhams on the Moor. St Matthew, Church Caver Street will be open for the usual bag drop and hopefully refreshments. There is a sign up list at the back of church as its helpful no know if we have a choir or just a solo singer.



THINKING FAITH

In December Thinking Faith has switched days. It is on 7th Dec from 7-8.30 pm in the Upper Room.

Each month we tackle a different topic, with a panel discussion, and lots of time for questions and responses from guest speakers.

7 December – Have we given up on Truth?

Hallvard Lillehammer, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield

CARE HOME CAROL SINGING - On Tuesday 9 December we're doing our visit to local care homes to do some carol singing. We're looking for singers to join us. If you'd like to come then please let David Willington know. We'll meet at St Mark's at 17:30 on Tues 9 December, and we should be back at St Mark's by 20:00

HELP OUT:

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER –Would you be interested in joining the Church Library Group? The role is not onerous as the Library Group only meets up about two to three times a year. You would join their rota and be available to offer advice and support to library users at the main 10.00am Sunday service every couple of months or so. If you are interested, please contact Joe Forde, Church Librarian, at joe.forde@tiscali.co.uk

WELCOME TEAMS - would very much appreciate some additional help. If you would like to be involved (one morning every 6 weeks) in this role of welcoming people and serving refreshments, please speak to **Jean** or **Maria** or email jean_baxter5@hotmail.com. Thank you.

FLOWERS- thanks to Helen Fisher, Jennifer Hurrell and Vanessa Senger for donating flowers, and Jennifer Hurrell, Tricia Morgan, Alan North and Vanessa Senger for arranging them in November. Please contact Mary-Jane Ryder if you could help arrange the flowers occasionally. Current arrangers are happy to offer support and guidance if you have not done flower arranging before.

ADVENT

This year our advent theme, **25 Days of Action**, encourages us to turn reflection into compassion, justice, and solidarity. These actions are not tasks to complete but ideas for you to explore. Some suggestions are practical, some relational, some focused on advocacy. Whether offering support to those in need, speaking up for justice, or reaching out to someone who is struggling, each choice contributes to a wider movement of hope within our community.

Read on to see all 25 ideas.

Advent 25 days of action

-  Switch one gift this year for a charitable donation instead.
-  Bring items to church for the food bank.
-  Write to your MP about child poverty or universal credit levels.
-  Donate money to the Children's Society at our Christingle Service.
-  Donate a sleeping bag or blanket to Ben's Centre or The Archer Project.
-  Join in with the Sandwich Run, giving out food and drink to those sleeping rough.
-  Volunteer with HARC, homeless and rootless at Christmas.
-  Read the Sheffield Poverty Truth Report, Finding the Root Cause.
-  Donate pre-loved items to ASSIST to furnish accommodation for those seeking asylum.
-  Contact your MP to urge for a fairer asylum system.
-  Find out about Lift the Ban campaign, consider how you could support this.
-  Find out about Hope at Home. Consider hosting a survivor of slavery.
-  Learn one new thing about the UK asylum system and share it on social media.
-  Join a peaceful vigil, protest or prayer walk.
-  Write for Rights. Write a letter with Amnesty International supporting political prisoners.
-  Read a book on liberation theology, poverty or social justice.
-  Invite a neighbour or church member who lives alone for tea or Sunday lunch.
-  Reduce your consumption.
-  Join in with or organise a litter pick around your community.
-  Practise 'buy less, give more' this Christmas.
-  Donate money to Amnesty, SAYiT, Hope at Home and USPG at our Christmas services.
-  Call or visit someone you know who might find this season difficult.
-  Donate baby and toddler clothing, bedding, toys, books and equipment to Baby Basics.
-  Pray for peace.
-  Join in with carol singing at a care home.

...to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God.

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH

30 November, 4pm
Christingle.

14 December, 6pm
Big Queer Carols
An inclusive and joyful carol service.

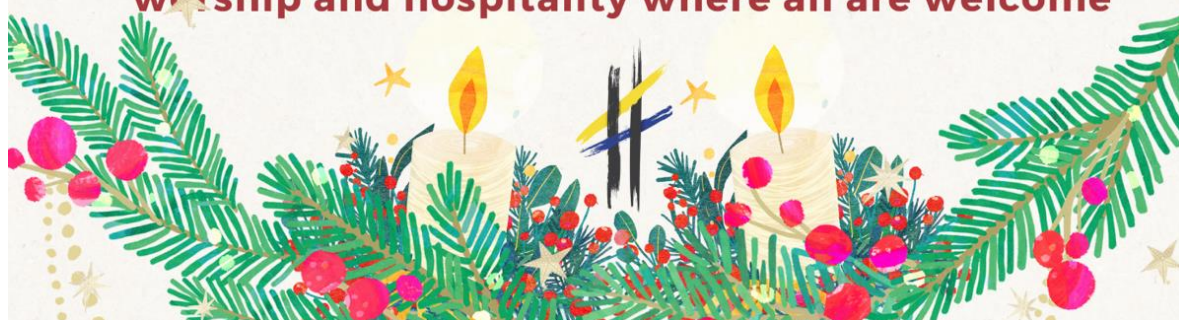
21 December, 6pm
A Carol Service of traditional and contemporary carols
and readings with St Mark's Choir & Steel City Choristers.

Christmas Eve 4.30pm
Nativity Service with hot chocolate from 4pm.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm
Candlelit service of carols, reflection,
prayer, and Communion.

Christmas Day
* 8am BCP Communion
* 10am Festive All Age Communion Service.
* also online via Zoom.

**St Mark's is an inclusive church offering
worship and hospitality where all are welcome**



FAMILY SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS



30 November, 4pm
Christingle Service
and mince pies.

Christmas Eve 4.30pm
Nativity Service
with hot chocolate from 4pm.

Christmas Eve 10am
Festive All Age Communion Service
in Church & on zoom

@ St Mark's Church xx



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FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

ECO TIPS

Don't waste food

Waste not, want not. Did you know that 9.5 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK every year? This isn't just a huge waste of food and money, it adds to the amount of CO2 and methane being created in landfills. An easy way to be more eco-friendly in the kitchen is to freeze leftover portions and eat food that is due to go out of date first.

(Source: Good Energy)

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