



## Notices for 25 January 2026

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

**RSPB's BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH – Friday 23- Sunday 25 January** The world's largest garden wildlife survey! Last year, nearly 600,000 people took part and over nine million birds were counted. We've lost a staggering 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. To take part, spend one hour counting the birds you see in one location – your garden, balcony or a local park. Submit your findings to the RSPB. You can download a free guide and ID chart to help you identify the birds you spot on the RSPB website. Find out more at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch> St Mark's Eco group.

Sunday 25 January 7pm Contemporary worship

### NEWS:

#### JULIAN PRAYER UPDATE

Following a recent consultation of the facilitators of the St Mark's Julian Prayer Group and those on our list who received the weekly e-mail we sent out, I'm sorry to let you know that we have taken the decision to discontinue offering Julian Prayer in all formats at St Mark's. I'd like to thank everyone who has facilitated our gathering over the years but especially Cath Williamson, Iana Storey, John Hillman, Rachel Vedder and Siobhan Hoyes who have been faithful and consistent facilitators since before lockdown. We will keep our options open and restart a group if we are able to recruit new volunteers in the future.

Shan

#### CHANGE IN WORKING PATTERN AND IMPACT ON FRIDAY MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

From 1 February, I (Shan) am changing my working pattern back to work full days on Mondays, alternate Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays instead of 5 mornings a week plus Sundays. This is to help me try to regain a better work / personal life balance. As a result, St Mark's will not be offering morning or evening prayer on Zoom on a Friday. This will be reviewed once Helena starts after Easter. In the meantime, the option to join St John's Ranmoor for morning prayer will remain but they do not do evening prayer on Zoom. Beth and myself will aim to host Monday to Thursdays as previously.

#### LENT GROUPS - Exploring Social Justice: Critical Issues Defining our Time

This year's Lent Course will focus on what it means to seek justice for some of the most vulnerable members of society. Each session will explore social justice through the lens of one of five topics: identity; inequality; disability; asylum; social disintegration. Resource packs will include bible passages,

briefings, first-hand testimonies, images, prayers, questions and reflections so that each group or individual can shape the course to reflect their interests, needs or learning styles.

Groups will gather weekly, 5 times during Lent (18 Feb – 28 March) on different days, at different times, in different places, in person and online, so that as many people as possible are able to participate.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheets at the back of church, leaving an email or phone number. We will pass your contact details on to group leaders, and they will be in touch to give you additional details (address, zoom code etc).

Or if you are not coming into church soon, please email the office stating which group you would like to join and we will add you to the group.

Group A with Sandra Newton	Monday evenings at 7.30pm on zoom This group is following the themes and focussing on bible study
Group B with Lynn Pocock and Rosie Hughes	Monday evenings at 8pm in Fulwood
Group C with Michael Bayley	Tuesday mornings at 10-11.30am in the church lounge
Group D with Sam and Felicity Cowling-Green	Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on zoom
Group E with Bek and Jack Hampson	Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Walkley
Group F with Time Crome and Tricia Morgan	Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, near Ecclesall Road
Group G with Joy and Stephen Straits	Day to be confirmed, evenings at 7.30pm in Grenoside.
Group H Student and Young Adults Group, with Seth Roberts	meeting as part of the usual young adults group on Sundays after church.
Group I with Robin and Joan Story, and Beth Keith/Ian Wallis	Thursdays at 3pm Ecclesall, near the Ecclesall Road end of Ringinglow Road.

## **WELCOME REVD HELENA ROULSTON**

We are delighted to announce that Revd Helena Roulston will be joining St Mark's as our new associate priest with a focus on teens, students and young adults. Revd Helena is currently Head of Chaplaincy at Sheffield Hallam University. She comes to us with a breath of experience and skills in ministering with young people and we are really looking forward to her joining the team.

**Helena's Licencing will take place on Wednesday 22 April at 7pm**



Helena says...

Hello!

My name is Helena and I am greatly looking forward taking up my role at St Marks. I have had a focus on teens and young adults all my working career. I love the vibrancy and energy that is catching when you work with young people and I am confident that the young people of the Parish will have lots to teach me!

To tell you a bit about myself – I trained for ordination at Westcott House, did curacy in Winsford, Chester diocese, and came to Sheffield from there to take up my current role of Head of Chaplaincy at Sheffield Hallam University. I enjoy going out and about with my husband and son and when I'm not with family or at work you may well find me at the gym or going for a run. I love to dance, to be outside and ice cream! I find it easiest to connect with God through exploring the world around us. I look forward to meeting you all and wish you all a happy and Holy Epiphanytide. May we follow in the footsteps of the wise men as they listened to the words of creation and found Jesus to be in the most unexpected places.

**SAD NEWS** – Those of you who have been members of St Mark's congregation for over 40 years will remember Rev Canon John Giles who was Vicar of St Mark's from 1978 until 1987. John kept in contact with several members of the congregation and returned to St Mark's in 2018 to conduct his son's wedding. We have been informed that John died peacefully on Tuesday 13 January. We hold John, and his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers as they mourn his death and prepare for his funeral which will be held in Aldeburgh in February. If you would like details of the funeral once the date is confirmed and are not in direct contact with the family, please let me know. Shan

**SADLY**, Anne Button, a member of our congregation who made important contributions to the life of St Mark's over many years, died suddenly on Wednesday 21 January. Anne was one of the founder members of the St Mark's lunch club back in 1992 and offered hospitality at church and many of the fetes during Broomhill Festivals. Please hold Arthur and the family in your prayers at this sad time. Shan

**ANN PETTIFOR'S LATEST BOOK** The Global Casino: How Wall Street Gambles with People and the Planet will be published next week. Rhyme and Reason on Ecclesall Road) have kindly offered to make this available to members of St Mark's at a reduced price of £15.00. Anyone interested in taking up this offer is encouraged to contact Rhyme and Reason directly.

### **LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF)**

On 15 January the House of Bishops released a statement formalising the end of the Living in Love and Faith process. Whilst this was not a surprise it is disappointing. Many are feeling distressed and in grief that the LLF process has resulted in so little change. Together for the Church of England have written this open letter to the House of Bishops - <https://togethercofe.org.uk/open-letter-to-the-house-of-bishops/>. It sums up the feeling and thoughts I have, and you may find it helpful to read. Please look after each other and look out for those who are being impacted by this. I will be in church this Sunday, please reach out to me, Shan, Ian and the wider team if you would find it helpful at this time.

Beth

**SMARTPHONE & SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY UNDER 16'S** - The UK Government has launched a consultation on children's social media use and banning phones in schools to protect young people's wellbeing and ensure safer online experiences. There are a variety of views about this and arguments for and against the ideas being put forward through a range of media. You can find out more [here](#)



### **Rita Brock: Rising Fascism and threats to democracy today: the role of moral injury**

6pm Tuesday 3 February 2026

Convened by the International Centre for Moral Injury at Durham University, who say:

“The US is currently threatened with a collapse of its democracy, which has global implications. In this session we will examine how the theological system of white Christian nationalism constructs moral injury as a driver of fascism. We will, as well, consider strategies for resistance and surviving the next decade, including what religious communities may offer to address moral injury and sustain moral resistance for the long struggle ahead.

Rita Nakashima Brock, RelM, MA, PHD (she, her) is the first Asian American woman to earn a doctorate in philosophy of religion and theology in 1988. A scholar, educator, editor, mentor to women of colour scholars, and award-winning author, Dr Brock is a recognised expert on moral injury.”

Hybrid Session in Durham and online via Teams. Tickets free via [Eventbrite](#)

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES** – You have an important chance to make your views known on the government's proposed changes to the immigration rules. Amnesty says:” In summary, the proposals are dreadful. They are intended and would make life considerably harsher, more uncertain, more marginalised for many refugees and migrants in the UK. The Government generally intends to make refugees and migrants unwelcome in the UK unless they are regarded as highly skilled or relatively wealthy.” You can decide what you think by looking at the consultation papers which are available through the Home Office consultation, which is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/earned-settlement>. The consultation response form is available on that link. **Responses must be received by midnight on 12 February.** Amnesty have produced a very helpful guidance form. <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/guidance-responding-fairer-pathway-settlement-consultation>. I strongly recommend using it. This is not a quick job. It takes the best part of an hour (less if you don't add comments) but it is important that we make our views known. Please do it. Michael Bayley

### **UPDATE RE SHEFFIELD GREEN BOND**

Sheffield Climate Investment has reached the £1million target in just a month.

Sheffield Climate Investment has seen one of the highest percentages of local investors of any similar raise showing, demonstrating Sheffield's residents and businesses commitment to supporting local climate action.

### **ROUNABOUT 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

St Mark's supports the charity Roundabout with a flat which houses young people at risk of homelessness. There is an encouraging news story here about their work in Sheffield -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdex960y38po>

Read on.....





**Our 2026  
3 Spires Mission Area Weekend  
will be held over  
10-12 July 2026**

***Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders  
will join us on 11 July***



**Do save the dates, and talk to  
Alison Wragg, Ian Wallis or Shan Rush  
if you can contribute ideas or can offer help  
with planning**

**SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION PILGRIMAGE** - As part of St Johns Ranmoor's 150th Anniversary celebrations, Matthew Rhodes is leading a pilgrimage to visit the seven churches of Revelation in Turkey 6-13 September **2027** with McCabe Pilgrimages. Pilgrims from other churches would be very welcome! Please click on the QR code on the attached poster for more information. There will be an online information evening for anyone who would like to know more on 27 January at 6.30pm. Use the QR code on the information evening poster to register.



**Revd Matthew Rhodes would like to invite you to an information evening for his tour to Turkey in September 2027 'Seven Churches of Revelation'**

**Details: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Microsoft Teams  
from 6.30pm**

scan the QR code to register and we will send you a link to the event



**Come along and find out more,  
we look forward to welcoming  
the community!**

**Revd Matthew Rhodes + McCabe Pilgrimages**

## HELP OUT:

### **ST MARK'S SOUP/SANDWICH RUN – Volunteers and Leaders Required**

The Soup Run has been operating for many years and provides food and drinks for those unfortunately living on the streets of the City. The number of people we serve varies from month to month, but a few months ago we served over 20 people on one evening.

Over the last few years our numbers have dwindled and we now have only one group going out each month. Prior to Covid we had sufficient numbers to cover every week and we would like to try and get back to that position. As a volunteer you would be involved in preparing sandwiches and drinks in the kitchen at St Marks and then walking around the city centre serving anyone in need. If you are interested in becoming a Leader, you would be additionally responsible for liaising with team members and ensuring that there are adequate stocks of drinks & food. The current group meets on Sunday evenings at 5pm and are generally finished before 7pm, a relatively modest commitment.

If you are interested in a taster session or seeking more information, please contact:

**Paula Jones** Mobile 07729 7414970 Email [paulajones024@gmail.com](mailto:paulajones024@gmail.com)

**Tim Wilson** Mobile 077659 15830 Email [timwilsontring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timwilsontring@yahoo.co.uk)

**DONATING FLOWERS.** Many thanks to everyone who donated flowers to decorate church during 2025. Mary Jane would like to check that if the same people would like to continue this year. If you do NOT wish to continue donating, then please contact Mary- Jane as soon as possible, otherwise she will work on the assumption you are happy to continue. If anyone would like to be added to the rota to donate flowers for a certain Sunday then please let Mary-Jane know. [mjryder.ivypark@btinternet.com](mailto:mjryder.ivypark@btinternet.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jean_baxter5@hotmail.com). Thank you.

## IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

### **Could you be a Trustee for Manor After School Kids Klubs?**

MASKK is a brilliant charity which runs after-school and holiday playcare, short breaks for children with SEND, training for playworkers and community activities in and from Temple Park Centre at Manor Park. The premises are excellent (the former William Temple Church) and the staff believe fervently in the value of play for young children. They are currently looking for new trustees. I've been one for a number of years and have been really impressed with MASKK's philosophy of play and quality of projects. If you'd be interested in becoming a trustee, please have a word with me. Nick Jowett [mail@njowett.plus.com](mailto:mail@njowett.plus.com)

## FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:



## ECO TIPS:



In October 2025, the Government committed to introduce legislation to end the sale of peat. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are leading the way in getting growers, manufacturers and their own gardens transitioned to become Peat-Free.

From 2026, no new peat is allowed to enter RHS gardens or retail.

This is one area we can all contribute to.

As home gardeners, we need to understand that peat-free growing media is different than we are used to because it is more biologically active and has a shorter shelf-life. If you search RHS guidance on using peat-free compost, they have lots of tips to help you achieve the best results.

You can also sign the RHS' Peat –Free Partnership Petition [here](#)

Or by using this address

[Actnow.peatfreepartnership.org.uk/end-peat-sales/](https://actnow.peatfreepartnership.org.uk/end-peat-sales/)

By signing it, you will be helping to stop the destruction of peatlands, an activity that emits huge amounts of carbon, worsens flooding risks and obliterates wildlife habitats.

Information courtesy of RHS The Garden January 2026

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