



St Mark's Sheffield

Notices for 3 December 2023

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

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

WHAT'S GOING ON IN & AROUND ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY:

FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS – The International Committee will be selling fairtrade Christmas cards and gifts on Sunday 3 & 10 December at the back of church. Bring some money.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S WRITE FOR RIGHTS GREETING CARDS CAMPAIGN 2023 - Take part in our annual Write for Rights Greetings Card campaign 2023 by writing to one of the 10 people and organisations enduring human rights abuses. Download the booklet to find full details of the cases [here](#). For those with no Internet access copies of the printed booklets will be available when Christmas cards are being sold (cash only) at the back of church on Sundays 3 and 10 December. When you have sent your cards, pass the booklet on. *Robin Story*



CAROL SINGING FOR CHRISTIAN AID December 2nd 3-4pm. PLEASE JOIN US

We will be singing between Sainsbury's and Atkinson. There will be refreshments/ a place to leave your bags at The Arthouse, next to the church on Carver Street. There will always be someone there. The quickest way down to the Moor is through the new playground, as works are still taking place. Hope to see lots of you there. *Dilys*

4pm on 3 December -CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – A service of light for all ages with refreshments afterwards. Donations go to The Children's Society who work alongside young people who are particularly vulnerable. Please support them either at this beautiful service or directly via their website. <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate>

DAY OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE - Assemble at mid day on 9 December at Devonshire Green. S1 4GT. - As world leaders gather in Dubai for the UN climate talks, join thousands of people around the world gathering to protest and raise awareness.



LOGOS - Old Testament Prophets 12 December

LOGOS is an in-depth bible study group which meets once a month on zoom. On 12 December Revd Prof Matthew Coomber will be teaching on Micah and Isaiah. We meet on zoom from 7.30-9pm. More details [here](#). Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85332336773> , Meeting ID: 853 3233 6773.

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS - The Abbeydale Singers Christmas Concert at St Mark's 7.30 pm on Saturday 2 December. This award winning choir will be presenting a selection of wonderful seasonal music both sacred and secular, reflective and celebratory in our church as a precursor to Christmas. Tickets £15 / £12 Concession / £6 Student / Accompanied children under 16 free. Book online: abbeydalesingers.org.uk or pay on door.

ST WILFRID'S IS LOOKING FOR A WELFARE WORKER - To provide help, support, advice and guidance to clients at the Centre, to ensure that vulnerable people have a safe place to go to and that they receive help to maintain wellbeing. [More here](#)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ST MARK'S:

10 DECEMBER - BIG QUEER CAROLS AT ST. MARK'S – Do join us for an affirming and joyful service to remind us that in this festive period we are loved by the God who created us and who chose to live like us.

Diamond Christmas at St Mark's Church

We are proud to be an open and inclusive church

Christingle Service 3 December, 4pm	A service of light for all ages Refreshments after
Big Queer Carols 10 December, 6pm	An open, affirming and joyful service with Out Aloud choir. Refreshments after
Carol Service 17 December, 6pm & on Zoom	Traditional and contemporary carols and readings for the whole community. With mulled wine & mince pies
Nativity Service 24 December, 4pm on the Green	All ages gather outside to retell the Christmas story. Refreshments from 3.30pm
Midnight Mass 24 December, 11.30pm & on Zoom	Carols and Communion by candlelight celebrating the birth of Jesus
Christmas Day 8am & on Zoom 10am & on Zoom	BCP Communion Festive Communion service

www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk
Celebrate Christmas at St Mark's in our 60th Anniversary Year

St Mark's Church presents...

Big Queer Carols

with **OUT ALOUD**

6pm
10 December
Join us for drinks afterwards!

With launch of "Queer COVID" book: LGBTQIA+ people of faith's experiences of the pandemic. And stalls from:



www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk

CRC (CENTRE FOR RADICAL CHRISTIANITY)/ ST MARK'S ONLINE

RESOURCES - Over the summer CRC (previously Centre for Radical Christianity) stopped being a separate organisation and was integrated into St Mark's. At the same time, the CRC library of resources was transferred to the [St Mark's website](#). The purpose of CRC was to explore the meaning of the Christian faith in the 21st century and to offer a fresh vision of an open and inclusive church, unafraid to ask the big questions. St Marks are continuing this work and we wanted to let you know about what we have planned. Once a term we plan to send out via email, a newsletter including information about upcoming seminars, videos, and the new theological articles being added to the website. If you used to receive the CRC mailing you should automatically receive the newsletter. If you would like to be added to the newsletter list, [please add your details here.](#)

Online Library

Theological, spiritual, and liturgical resources from an open, inclusive, and questioning approach to Christianity.

Use the search tools below to explore our resources.

INTRODUCTION TO TAIZÉ – SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY Join us to find out more about Taizé and share hospitality with a bring and share meal. (we will make soup, you bring bread/cheese). There will be the opportunity to find out about the different roles of the volunteers in Sheffield and practise singing some Taizé chants. Come along to at St Mark's from 4pm until 7pm and do stay on for the monthly Taizé Night Service which follows. Sign up, for free, here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-taize-tickets-752274973697?aff=oddtcreator>

NEWS FROM BEYOND ST MARK'S:

Mission Area - Congratulations to Revd Dr Matthew Rhodes who was installed as Honorary Canon at Sheffield Cathedral this week in recognition of the valuable contribution he has made, and continues to make, to the life of our Diocese.

Diocesan Synod - We are delighted to learn that Beth Keith is now one of the representatives of the House of Clergy at Diocesan Synod. It is important that the Synod reflects the range of views and opinions present in our churches as it is the statutory governing body of the diocese. It meets three times a year, usually in April, June, and November. Beth joins David Clark, Matthew Rhodes and Sue Hammersley giving us both lay and ordained representation from the Mission Area. Talk to one of them to find out more and do pray for them.

Elections to serve as Church Commissioners - 33 Church Commissioners are responsible for the stewardship of over £10bn of funds, dedicated to resourcing the mission and ministry of the Church of England. Recently, Bishop Pete was elected to be one of four representatives from the House of Bishops and Dr Cathy Rhodes as one of the four lay people

from the House of laity of the General Synod. Clearly, a Sheffield voice will not be silent at board meetings any time soon.

Joint Appeal from the Archbishops of Canterbury and Jerusalem - If there is anything which can put the controversies dividing our Church of England at this time in context, it is surely the suffering which has been experienced in Israel and Palestine.

As you may have seen in the media, Archbishop Justin Welby paid a solidarity visit to Jerusalem in the aftermath of the Gaza War's eruption, and immediately following the bombing of our Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which he and Archbishop Hosam had visited just three days before the outbreak of the war. During this visit, the two Archbishops decided that at this time of extreme crisis in the Holy Land, they would launch a Joint Appeal, calling for prayers and donations for the hospital's vital work in Gaza, and the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem throughout the Holy Land which are also being affected by the war.

To that end, you can find a joint appeal letter [here](#); you will also see that *Friends of the Holy Land* is one of the international partners who are set-up to receive donations from this appeal.

If you wish to donate, please do so via *Friends of the Holy Land* acc. with NatWest Bank plc, Sort Code 60-05-41, A/c number – 24591211. You might like to make use of this prayer, composed by The Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum:

**O God of all justice and peace,
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain
and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;
we pray for people of all faiths –
Jews, Muslims, and Christians and for all people of the land.
While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence
and the establishment of peace,
we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.
Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated
with dignity and honour as your children –
for to all of us, you are our heavenly father.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS

YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS

Join us for 'coffee after coffee' 11.45am-12.30pm

Sunday 24th September: **Welcome to St Marks**

Young Adults!

Sunday 1st October: **Harvest meal**

Sunday 8th October: (re)Discovering prayer-
The Examen

Sunday 22nd October: (re)Discovering prayer-
The Rosary

Sunday 5th November: (re)Discovering prayer-
Liturgy

Sunday 19th November: (re)Discovering prayer-
Holy Women and Wholly Saints

Sunday 3rd December: (re)Discovering prayer
roundup

Sunday 10th December: **Christmas social**

WELCOME TO YOUNG ADULTS - ST MARK'S

young adults group meet every two weeks after the 10am service. We welcome students, non-students and graduates aged 18-30(ish). This semester we will be following a series on exploring prayer, so whether you are new to praying or looking for new variety, we will be (re)discovering prayer together. For more information or queries please contact youngadults.stmarkssheffield@gmail.com

AN INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED:

SuCCol (Support for Children in Colombia) - SuCCol was set up 20 or so years ago to raise money for the Zuá Foundation, an organisation founded by Moisés Pedraza, a former member of St Mark's, to provide support for disadvantaged young people in some of the poorer areas of Bogotá. Many of those we helped in the early 2000s are now students at university or have already graduated. One of the subjects which is almost essential for Colombian students who have reached degree level is English, and last summer SuCCol and Zuá set up a WhatsApp group so that the Colombian students could practice their English with some of the students at St Mark's. We are now inviting members of the congregation (and anyone else who is interested) to participate. If you would like to learn more, please contact Dez Martin (0114 2303718 / dezandjenniemartin@btinternet.com). Many thanks to all those who have supported us over the years.

We are looking for new members to serve as part of a team at St Mark's. Below is a list of areas where help is needed. Please contact one of the clergy if you would like to know more.

Welcome - We extend a warm welcome to new visitors to St. Mark's, as well as to those who know us well! We are looking for new team members to enhance our welcome ministry. Could you help welcome newcomers, visitors, and regulars to any of our Sunday services? A big smile and an ability to chat with strangers are the only requirements ... we welcome families, couples and individuals who would be willing to serve on a team once every 4 – 6 weeks.

Sunday refreshments- Serving tea and coffee after the Sunday service is a vital welcoming and hospitality ministry. It's also a fantastic way to meet many other church members and visitors. The main requirement is a friendly face and a positive attitude. Volunteers are always needed to help set up, serve drinks, and tidy up after our normal service once every 4 – 6 weeks.

Worship - We are looking to expand the team who facilitate worship and the running of services both at 10am and at night service. We are looking for singers, musicians, sound desk and audio-visual operators, crucifers, readers, and intercessors. The requirements are simply a willingness to learn, develop and share your skills. Full training and encouragement will be given. It is wonderfully rewarding to take part in worship, in using your skills to help others. You will be added to a rota which means you will be needed once every 4 – 6 weeks. Talk to a churchwarden or member of the clergy after the service or email the office. Thank you!

Flowers - Contact Mary-Jane Ryder if you could help arrange the flowers occasionally, training provided.



1963-2023 DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY
St Mark's Church
LIVING THINKING LOVING FAITH

ST MARK'S DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:
Fundraising total so far: £5168

Pudding Night: It has been decided to postpone this event until the New Year. So watch this space for a re-arranged date after Christmas. *Pauline Miller*

EVENTS IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

08 DECEMBER 7PM - You are invited to come to a Carol Service at St Andrews United Reformed Church on Upper Hanover Street where the Broomhall Community Choir will be singing local carols traditionally sung around the pubs and Clubs of Sheffield at Christmas.

Do come along and join in with the singing or simply enjoy the music. There will be drinks and nibbles afterwards and a chance to socialise.

It is great the choir can find a space in their busy programme to come along. If you do not know their story, then come, and meet them and chat. There will be no charge, but a collection will be taken, and a donation made to the Choristers.

An Altar in the World. Do you want a good book to read this Advent? Or do you want some ideas for Christmas presents? An Altar in the World is a brilliant book by Barbara Brown Taylor. There is a review of it in the latest Messenger. Do read it. *Michael Bayley*



PLACES OF PEACE
A CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR GAZA

SHEFFIELD, ST AIDAN'S CHURCH
TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER, 12:30-14:00

AMOS TRUST'S Christmas tour stops off at ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, 2 MANOR LANE, SHEFFIELD S2 1UF in December, featuring local performers, poetry, music and special guests from Palestine. A light lunch will be provided. **PLEASE JOIN US.**

Proceeds from the event will go towards Amos Trust's Christmas appeal supporting partners in the West Bank and Gaza. For details, please visit amostrust.org/gaza-appeal

To register, please visit our web site -- amostrust.org/christmas-2023





UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
MUSIC PLAYERS'
SOCIETY

Concert Band Christmas

with Clarinet Ensemble
in support of Cavendish Cancer Care

Monday 4th December, 19:30

St. Mark's Church,
Broomhill

£5 General admission
£3 Concessions/Students

