

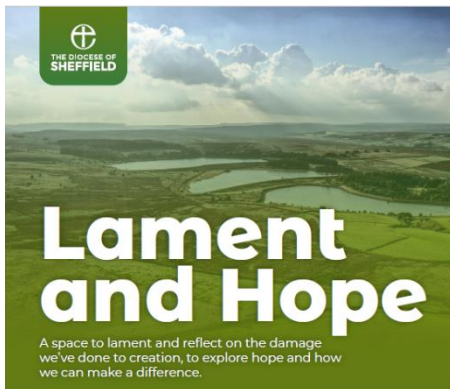


Notices for 19 October 2025

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:



SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 10am -4pm Rotherham Minster

A space to lament and reflect on the damage we've done to creation, to explore hope and how we can make a difference.

Meet other Eco churches and the Diocesan Environment Team. Explore Art created by the late Revd Louise Carr, and the healing and wholeness space. Eco craft activity for all ages.

2pm Eco Church Celebration

3pm Service with the Steel City Choristers.



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

CHANGE OF COMMUNION BREAD

We have changed the bread we are using for communion. The bread is dairy, egg, and gluten free. The ingredients are: Water, Rice Flour, Tapioca Starch, Potato Starch, Rapeseed Oil, Stabilisers: Hydroxypropyl Methyl Cellulose, Xanthan Gum, Yeast, Vegetable Fibres (Psyllium, Bamboo), Maize Flour, Potato Flakes, Humectant: Sorbitol, Sugar, Salt, Raising Agents: Diphosphates, Sodium Carbonates, Fermented Rice Flour, Acids: Tartaric Acid, Citric Acid.

Gluten free wafers are also available.



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 11.45 - 12.30

YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS 'Coffee after coffee'



SWIMATHON The Children and Families are doing a Swimathon this Sunday (19th) raising money for the Children's Society as we look forward to our annual Christingle Service. If you would like to sponsor us, please see the form and/or QR code on the noticeboard at the back of church.



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 7 pm TAIZÉ PRAYER - A service of singing, prayer, & silence, using the pattern & style of worship practiced at the Taizé Community.



THE CORPORATE VETO ON CLIMATE ACTION AND HOW TO GET RID OF IT – Wednesday 22 October at 7pm, Central URC.

Hosted by Global Justice Sheffield. Under the global appeals system, companies can block measures taken to address climate change. Now the UK is being sued for halting a coal mine in Cumbria. The Government so far seems to have

been reluctant to challenge the Investor--State Dispute Settlement ISDS system under which this operates through inclusion in trade deals and biased corporate courts. Further details about the meeting are at <https://groups.globaljustice.org.uk/sheffield/category/events/>

NEWS:

ASSOCIATE PRIEST FOR ST MARK'S

We are seeking an Associate Priest with a heart for ministry among teens, students and young adults. This is a four-year, full-time post, with stipend plus a generous housing allowance. There is an option of reduced hours at 0.75 if any applicants wish to explore this. [More information on the post can be found here.](#) If you know anyone who might be interested, please share the information with them.

HELP TO CHOOSE THE THEME FOR NEXT YEAR'S LENT COURSE To find out more, visit the display next to the notice board by the Chapel at the back of church.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ZERO HOUR

"Last week 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.

If the Government isn't going to share this risk with the public, we need to take matters into our own hands. That's why we're joining the call for politicians to attend a National Emergency Briefing taking place on 27 November just after COP30. The briefing will see world-leading experts report the latest evidence, clarify what is at stake, and outline actionable solutions.

We need MPs to rise to the challenge of the security risk that the climate and nature crises poses. First step? They need to 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

USPG When Carol Miller spoke about the work of USPG in September, she left some interesting literature which is on and underneath the last notice board on the left before you go out of church. Do look at it and take what you want. Michael Bayley

ANN PETTIFOR'S NEXT BOOK The Global Casino: How Wall Street Gambles with People and the Planet will be published in late January 2026. 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.

NEW DATES FOR DEMENTIA STARS TRAINING – The daytime September Dementia Stars course led by Grace Stead of Enrichment for the Elderly has been very popular and helped attendees better understand how somebody with dementia experiences the world around them. Grace has agreed to lead an evening course in November. The course consists of 3x2 hour sessions (Bronze, Silver and Gold) on 3 successive Thursdays. There is no fee and it is important to try to attend all the sessions for greatest understanding. A certificate and badge are awarded to each participant attending each level. There is no test or exam. The course is suitable for welcomers, those involved in pastoral care and family or professional carers of people with dementia but is not for people who are themselves on the dementia pathway. The course will be held on Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th November 6.30-8.30pm at Ranmoor Parish Centre, 5, Ranmoor Park Road, (Opposite St John's Church). You can find a signup sheet on the noticeboard if you wish to attend. See Shan for more information.

DO NOT 'CO-OPT' THE CROSS TO DIVIDE A group of Church of England bishops and clergy have joined other senior leaders from across denominations in signing a joint letter voicing concern at the use of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, at last week's 'Unite the Kingdom' rally.

The letter acknowledges that many of those involved in the rally felt a "deep sense of frustration at feeling unheard and forgotten in the democratic process" but that it also included "racist, anti-Muslim and far right elements". They write "As Christians from different theological and political backgrounds we stand together against the misuse of Christianity. The cross is the ultimate sign of sacrifice for the other. Jesus calls us to love both our neighbours and our enemies and to welcome the stranger. Any co-opting or corrupting of the Christian faith to exclude others is unacceptable."

St Mark's supports this stance. The full text of the letter and the list of signatories can be read [here](#).

IS ENGLAND (STILL) A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY? Some reflections from Ian Wallis on the Unite the Kingdom rally and Christian nationalism, available in the resources section of church website https://www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk/Articles/725850/Is_England_still.aspx

UPDATE TO MESSENGER ARTICLE RE MICROPLASTIC FILTER It has just been announced that the newly introduced filter, which captures up to 97% of fibres without the need for replacement cartridges, is a 2025 Finalist in the Oceans category of the Earthshot Prize environmental award. Founded by HRH Prince William in 2020, The Prize recognises solutions from different geographies, sectors and stages in their life cycle, and is dedicated to solving our planet's greatest challenges. The winners of the Earthshot Prize will be announced on 5th November. Michael Miller

COMING UP AT ST MARK'S:



ALL SOULS SERVICE SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER AT 7PM – a service at which you are invited to gather in faith, hope and love as we pause and remember family and friends who have died. Through poems, scripture, music, candle lighting and reflection, the service offers a space where we can give thanks for their lives, share memories and reflect on the legacy they have left us in a way that does not focus solely on loss, but honours and celebrates each unique life, whether it ended during pregnancy or as an older person. Refreshments will be served before the service from 6pm. A sheet will be available at the back of church for you to print the name of anyone you would like us to read out loud but there will also be space for you to recall people in your own hearts and minds in silence or as you light a candle.

NATURE RECOVERY SESSION – PUT THE GREEN TO BED Saturday 8 November 10-12am. Help needed please for leaf clearing, bramble cutting, compost bagging etc. Meet on the Green, beside the church building. These natural areas don't just take care of themselves! For more info, speak to Martin Godley or Margaret Ainger or email margaret.ainger3@gmail.com.



THINKING FAITH 7-8.30 pm, on the second Sunday of the month 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.

9 NOVEMBER AT 7PM.

Understanding Islam with Ameena Blake,
Muslim Chaplain to the University of Sheffield.

Muslims now play an important role in our nation and in our city. There are 4 million Muslims in England and Wales and 57,000 in Sheffield (2021 Census). But in this country, Islam is widely misunderstood. The activities of a few Islamic extremists capture the headlines, and little attention is given to the beliefs of the many law-abiding Muslims in our society. Christians and Muslims share Abrahamic roots and a reverence for Jesus, even if they see Him in very different ways. At St Mark's, we have over the years had friendly relations with Severn Road Mosque.

This session is for anyone who wishes to gain a better understanding of Islam. We have invited Ameena Blake, a well-qualified Islamic scholar, to talk about her faith and her own spiritual journey. Ameena has a master's in Islamic studies and qualifications in English, Teaching and Leadership. She is Muslim Chaplain for the University of Sheffield and South Yorkshire Police. She is founding Director of Eden Houses UK (EHUK) which provides refuge to women and children suffering domestic abuse. Among other things, she has studied women in the Quran.

7 December – Have we given up on Truth?

Hallvard Lillehammer, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield



BRING and SHARE LUNCH SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER. We are having a bring and share lunch after the 10am service on Sunday 23rd November. We need help with setting up, washing up and clearing away. If you are able to help, please speak to Beth.



YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS 'Coffee after coffee'

11.45am – 12.30pm

Sunday 2nd November
Sunday 16th November
Sunday 30th November
Sunday 14th December

CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING this year will be on Saturday 6th December 2-3pm outside the old Debenhams on the Moor. Please put the date in your diaries! More details later.

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](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. Thank you.

FLOWERS- thanks to Pauline Miller, Gill Macgregor & Fleur Bayley for donating flowers, and Mary-Jane Ryder, Jean Baxter and Jennifer Hurrell for arranging them in October. 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.

STEWARDSHIP

As we enter the season of harvest, we give thanks for the fruit and growth of the past year and begin to look ahead, planning for the year to come. We are deeply grateful for the generosity shown over the last 12 months — in financial giving, expertise, enthusiasm, and care. This time last year we faced a deficit, but through your gifts we are now in a much healthier position. Your support has enabled the PCC to plan wisely and invest in the life of our church and building. On Sunday 12th October Beth shared in her sermon some of the ways your giving has already borne fruit, and some of the things we are looking forward to.

Giving Time

Volunteering is a key way to contribute to the life of the church. A list of opportunities is available at the end of this notice sheet and at the back of church. These range from one-off tasks to regular commitments, and from practical help to ministry roles. Please prayerfully consider whether you could offer your time and gifts.

Giving Money

The Church of England encourages us to consider giving away 10% of income after tax, with 5% to the church and 5% to other charities. We know everyone's circumstances differ, but regular giving — even in small amounts — makes a significant difference. While we expect a modest surplus this year it will need more than this to fund the new clergy post. Please reflect and pray about your giving.

David Armstrong, our treasurer, has produced a list of [financial questions and answers](#). These, and the [church's full accounts](#), are available on the website and at the back of church. If you have questions or want to know more about our finances please talk to, or email, David (david.treasurer3@gmail.com)

Please return your financial pledge, either [digitally here](#) or on the paper forms available in church. It would be great if we could have responses by mid-November. Please remember that if at any time your financial circumstances change you can always amend this pledge. All responses will be treated confidentially and will only be seen by the treasurer.

With gratitude for all that you give and all that you share,
Revd Beth Keith, on behalf of The PCC of St Mark's.

Stewardship 2025

Giving Time

Volunteering is a key way to contribute to the life of the church. Here is a list of opportunities. These range from one-off tasks to regular commitments, and from practical help to ministry roles. Please prayerfully consider whether you could offer your time and gifts.

Sundays

Welcome and Coffee Team - Sunday 10am Service

Join a team to welcome and offer refreshments, commit to helping once a month.

Contact Jean on jean_baxter5@hotmail.com

Sound desk, zoom and visuals - Sunday 10am Service

Full training and support provided. Commit to helping about once a month.

Contact Maria on a.oliver833@icloud.com

Reading, leading prayers, or administering chalice - Sunday 10am Service

Training provided. Commitment variable from once a month to once every 3 months.

Contact Shan on Shan@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Church Lunches – Occasional Sundays after the 10am Service

Join a team preparing, serving and tidying away church lunches. Three times a year commitment. Contact Briony on briony@professor3.f9.co.uk

Children's Team – Sunday mornings, occasional Sunday afternoons

Help out in creche or with the children's and teens groups. Safeguarding training and DBS required. Training and support provided. Commitment once a month.

Contact Hannah on childrensworker@stmarkssheffield.co.uk.

Choir and Music – Sunday 10 am service plus Thursday evening practice.

Commitment from weekly through to occasional for festival services.

Contact David on music@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Supporting Night Service – Sunday 7pm Service

Help set up for night service with the service leader and make drinks after the service.

Commitment once a month. Contact Beth on Beth@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Sandwich Run – Sunday afternoon

Join a team taking sandwiches and hot drinks to those sleeping rough.

Commitment once a month. Contact Paula paulajonesflp@icloud.com

Mid-Week

Lunch and Friendship club – Wednesday lunch during term time

Join the team providing a welcoming space for those largely housebound to enjoy a freshly cooked meal followed by activities. Contact Jean on jean_baxter5@hotmail.com

Painting the church railings – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon.

If you'd like a practical mid week project such as painting the railings, contact Tim on caretaker@stmarkssheffield.co.uk. Commitment can be regular or occasional.

Looking after the Memorial Rose Garden - anytime

If you would like to care for the memorial garden, we are looking for someone to help with weeding and caring for the flowers. Regular commitment but at anytime. Contact Briony on briony@professor3.f9.co.uk

Social media help

We are looking for some to help us by taking photos and creating publicity posts. To find out more contact Rachael on office@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Flower Arranging – Fridays and at festival times

Would you like to create flower displays. Support and training provided. Commitment occasional. Contact Mary-Jane Ryder on mjryder.ivypark@btinternet.com

Care Home Communion – various days and times

Join a team of people going into care homes to lead services, training provided. Commitment once a month. Contact Shan on Shan@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Supporting Asylum Seekers - variable.

If you would like to find out how you can support asylum seekers in Sheffield but don't know where to start, please contact Beth Keith on Beth@stmarkssheffield.co.uk
Commitment variable.

Vocation

Exploring Vocation - ongoing

If you are feeling a call or nudge to explore a call to lay or ordained ministry, please talk to Beth. She can help you to think this through and to gain experience in different aspects ministry. Contact Beth on Beth@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme

If you are aged 18-30 and would like to have a year out exploring what ministry in the Church of England looks like, have a chat with Beth. Commitment 1 year from September 2026. Accommodation and grant provided. Contact Beth on Beth@stmarkssheffield.co.uk
<https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/your-calling/vocation-calling/young-vocations/>

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY:

SUPPORTED LODGINGS Event – Wednesday 12 November. 5.30pm at the Town Hall.

Supported Lodgings is a relatively new service being run by the fostering service for young people aged 16-21. The fostering service say ‘the requirement for their hosts are less than for being a foster carer (e.g. they can provide a home for a young person and be in fulltime work) we think the scheme works particularly well for young refugee young people (also known as Unaccompanied Asylum seeking children or UASC). Sheffield city Council Fostering Service have had people from really diverse backgrounds apply and feel that there may be a whole load of people out there who would be up for considering being a host but who just don’t know about their scheme in the same way that people know and understand about fostering.’ Book [here](#)

PRIME WHOLE PERSON CARE DAY Saturday 15th November 9am – 2pm. St John’s Owlerton, Hillsborough, Sheffield S6 2DF. Dr Emma Hayward, a GP and medical school educator in Leicester and a lay reader in her local church and her team of Christian healthcare educators from Prime will run a half day course on how we can work together with health and social care to enable ourselves and our congregations be healthy and whole. Click [here](#) for more information about Prime.

For more information contact healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org.

To book click [here](#) All welcome! Refreshments provided. Please bring your own lunch.

ANNUAL BISHOPS’ ROADSHOW EVENT 17th November 7-9pm. Christchurch, Pitsmoor. You will have the chance to:

- Meet Bishop Leah and hear her speak about her faith in Jesus Christ and her hopes for her ministry as Bishop.
- Hear a short Bible study from Bishop Pete.
- Meet our Archdeacon – Revd Canon David Gerrard.

All are warmly invited to attend: clergy, lay leaders, and members of all our churches. These gatherings are for the whole Diocese, and your presence will help celebrate being one body in Christ.

FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

ECO TIPS

Have your food shop delivered

Home delivery is like the public transport of groceries. Instead of having 20 odd cars make their way to the supermarket – one van drives around delivering to everyone in the area (and many supermarkets are upgrading to an electric fleet, too). Additionally, it means you’re less likely to impulse buy which can help to reduce any waste food.

(Source: Good Energy)

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

