



Notices for 26 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](#).

UPDATE ON LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Last week the House of Bishops issued an [update on Living in Love and Faith](#). We discussed this at PCC this week and responded by sending the following statement to our Bishops.

The PCC of St Mark's, Broomhill and Broomhall, wishes to express its deep disappointment at the recent decision by the House of Bishops to delay the implementation of the Living in Love and Faith provisions.

We believe that this delay represents a failure to honour the decisions of General Synod and the process of discernment and consultation that so many across the Church have engaged in prayerfully and in good faith. The statement issued by the House of Bishops has, in our view, significantly undermined confidence in the LLF project and in the integrity of the Church's commitment to radical inclusion.

We are particularly grieved that the bishops appear to have yielded to pressure from those using threats of financial and institutional division—such as through the Ephesians Fund and similar measures—to resist progress towards greater inclusion. Such a capitulation risks legitimising bullying behaviour and deepens the pain experienced by LGBTQIA+ Christians and their allies, who have already borne the cost of the Church's hesitancy and exclusion for far too long.

We urge our Bishops to commit to implementing the LLF outcomes in a timely and transparent manner, enabling bespoke services of blessing, and allowing clergy to enter civil same sex marriages.

St Mark's remains steadfast in its commitment to full inclusion, justice, and the dignity of every person as made in the image of God.

Yesterday, Bishop Pete and Bishop Leah sent out a pastoral letter to the Diocese which you can [read here](#).

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/>

THIS WEEK:



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 26 OCTOBER 7 pm CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

An informal service with an open and inclusive style, modern liturgy, and contemporary worship.

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.



SWIMATHON The Children and Families did a Swimathon last Sunday (19th) to raise money for the Children's Society as we look forward to our annual Christingle Service. 25 people aged 4+(!) swam for an hour and totalled 623 lengths!!! If you would like to sponsor us, here's the link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/swimaton-568>

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.

BIG THANKS TO ALL who contributed to the school uniforms and equipment for the children in the DRC.



Before



After

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

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.

ST MARK'S CRAFT AND KNITTING GROUP welcomes new members! We meet at 10.30 on the first Saturday of each month. Come along on **Saturday 1 November** for fellowship, sharing of craft skills, and tea and biscuits! We knit donated wool into prayer shawls, and garments and blankets for Baby Basics or you could bring along that embroidery or mending you've been meaning to finish for ages! Contact Jennie Martin via the church office.

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



LUNCH SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER, after the 10am service.

We need help with setting up, washing up and clearing away. If you are able to help, please speak to Helen C or Pete R.



YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS 'Coffee after coffee'

11.45am – 12.30pm on Sunday 2, 16, 30 November and 14 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 on our website [here](#) 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.

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY:



EVERYDAY NORMAL Tuesday 4th November, 7.30pm,

Christ Church Pitsmoor, Sheffield, S3 9AJ

Sarah Jones is coming to Sheffield with her show, Everyday Normal. Back in 2005, Sarah was attacked by the tabloid media because she was the first trans woman being ordained as a priest in the Church of England. 20 years on, flourishing in ministry, Sarah is now on tour talking about life, as a trans woman, reflecting on her own experiences. Sarah tells her story with all its

toughness, challenge – and humour. Not to be missed. To book tickets, click below (and scroll till you reach 4/11/25 OR go to a venue near you...but Pitsmoor is lovely!)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sarahjonestoo>

For further information email huw.thomas@sheffield.anglican.org



THE CRUCIBLE by Arthur Miller

12th -15th November 2025 at 7.15pm at Sheffield University Drama Studio.

Production by Sheffield University Drama Society; the cast includes members of St. Mark's. "Rumours of witchcraft descend into mass hysteria, threatening the authority of church, state and the law." Arguably the most important play of the 20th century, The Crucible is a timely and moving exploration of faith, hope and power of love in the face of terrible adversity.

To book visit [ticketssource.co.uk/suds](https://www.ticketssource.co.uk/suds). For enquiries 0114 255 3417

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:

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

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.