



Notices for 09 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

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.

PROTEST IN SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE 8th November. UKIP is organising a protest in Sheffield City Centre on Saturday, the 8th of November outside the cathedral from 1 pm. There is a counter protest meeting at the Cathedral at 12.30pm if anyone would like to join in. The counter demo is being support by **Stand Up to Racism, Sheffield Communities Against Racism & Fascism (SCARF)**, and **SYMAAG**. The **police appear to be well-prepared**, and the **City Council has already issued the necessary guidance** to them.

9 NOVEMBER AT 7PM. THINKING FAITH 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.

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

THE CRUCIBLE by Arthur Miller

Production by Sheffield University Drama Society; the cast includes Anne Padget, Linda Kirk and Victoria Wassell. "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. For enquiries 0114 255 3417

NEWS:



SWIMATHON The Children and Families did a Swimathon on Sunday 19 October 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!!! It's not too late to sponsor us, here's the link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/swimaton-568>

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.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ZERO HOUR

“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.

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

UPDATE ON LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Last month the House of Bishops issued an [update on Living in Love and Faith](#). We discussed this at PCC last 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.

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/>

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



Before



After

COMING UP AT ST MARK'S:

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



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 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

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.

STEWARDSHIP

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:

REQUIEM FOR UNSUNG HEROES 15 November, 7.30pm. All Saints Church, Eccelsall, Ringinglow Road, S11 7PP. Sheffield Chorale and Yorkshire Wind Orchestra perform a programme including Sue Hughes' new Requiem for Unsung Heroes, and music by the Wind Orchestra's musical director Keiron Anderson. For tickets in advance (Adult £12, Student £8, under 16s free) go to yorkshirewinds.co.uk/requiem (depending on payment method a booking charge may apply).

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:

A prayer for COP30

God of creation and mercy, as nations gather in Belém guide leaders to choose truth over delay and courage over comfort. Strengthen by your Spirit the will to cut emissions, protect forests, and fund adaptation and loss and damage so that communities in poverty may flourish. Give courage to the Indigenous guardians of the Amazon. Inspire your church to pray, to speak, and to live faithfully for the healing of the earth you love. We pray in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all creation is bound together. Amen.

Rev'd Dr Mike Perry
Bishop of Salisbury's Adviser on Creation Care and Climate Justice
29 October 2025

A briefing paper on COP30 by Mike Perry can be found [here](#)

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.