



Notices for 30 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 AND IN THE COMMUNITY

ADVENT 2025 – 30 November marks the start of our sermon series and 25 days of action. See later notice for more details.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - International committee will be selling Charity Christmas Cards after 10 am service on Sundays 30 November and 7 December. Please bring change to pay for your purchases if you can.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S WRITE FOR RIGHTS GREETING CARDS CAMPAIGN - Join hundreds of thousands of Amnesty supporters around the world by taking part in our annual Write for Rights Greetings Card campaign. You will demonstrate your support for 10 people and organisations enduring human rights abuses. **YOUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL!**

To take part: [Download the booklet with full details of the cases here](#)

For those with no Internet access copies of the printed booklets will be available. Representatives from Amnesty will be in church on 7 December. When you have sent your cards, do pass the booklet on to someone else. *Robin Story*

YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS 'Coffee after coffee' Sunday 30th November 11.45am – 12.30pm in the vicarage.

WOMEN OF TROY – 30TH November at 12 noon. In the Upper Room. By The Book Theatre will stage the world's first anti-war play, Euripides's one-act WOMEN OF TROY, in a new translation by Frances Gray. It was written in 415 BC by a playwright enraged by his homeland committing genocide and it still hits hard. All welcome – collection for aid to Gaza via Sheffield Palestine Cultural Exchange.



FUND RAISING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY – Our Annual Christingle Service which raises money for The Children's Society will be held on Sunday 30 November at 4 pm. You can still add to money raised by Children and families at the swimathon by donating using the following link:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/swimaton-568>

CONTEMPLATIVE NIGHT SERVICE - Sunday 30th November 7pm

CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING - Saturday December 6th 2.00-3.00pm outside the Old Debenhams on the Moor. St Matthew, Church Caver Street will be open for the usual bag drop and hopefully refreshments. Please sign up list at the back of church as its helpful no know if we have a choir or just a solo singer.

NEWS:

THANK YOU to the team of people who prepared, served and hosted lunch last week. It was thoroughly enjoyed and through the generosity of their time and energy, and the contributions of those who attended, made nearly £200 profit which has been donated to church funds.



THANK YOU – NATURE RECOVERY ON THE GREEN

Environment Group would like to thank all who turned out on a beautiful autumn morning and who worked hard clearing leaves to make compost, freeing the mound for next year's wild flowers and tending the memorial garden. A goodly crowd put their backs into it, including some from Martin's allotment group, who we got to know over refreshments, and who can use our compost for their veg. The leaf blower was a hit with the kids.

Look out for future nature recovery sessions in the spring and help keep our grounds lovely and restorative for people and nature alike.

MARK'S MESSENGER DECEMBER ISSUE Out now! Read or download from the website or pick up a printed copy from the back of church.

COMING UP AT ST MARK'S:

THINKING FAITH 7 December – Have we given up on Truth?

Hallvard Lillehammer, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield
In December Thinking Faith has switched weeks. 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.



CARE HOME CAROL SINGING - On Tuesday 9 December we're doing our visit to local care homes to do some carol singing. We're looking for singers to join us. If you'd like to come then please let David Willington know. We'll meet at St Mark's at 17:30 on Tues 9 December, and we should be back at St Mark's by 20:00

YOUNG ADULTS AT ST MARKS 'Coffee after coffee'



11.45am – 12.30pm on Sunday 14 December

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.

ADVENT

This year our advent theme, **25 Days of Action**, encourages us to turn reflection into compassion, justice, and solidarity. These actions are not tasks to complete but ideas for you to explore. Some suggestions are practical, some relational, some focused on advocacy. Whether offering support to those in need, speaking up for justice, or reaching out to someone who is struggling, each choice contributes to a wider movement of hope within our community. Read on to see all 25 ideas.

Advent 25 days of action

-  Switch one gift this year for a charitable donation instead.
-  Bring items to church for the food bank.
-  Write to your MP about child poverty or universal credit levels.
-  Donate money to the Children's Society at our Christingle Service.
-  Donate a sleeping bag or blanket to Ben's Centre or The Archer Project.
-  Join in with the Sandwich Run, giving out food and drink to those sleeping rough.
-  Volunteer with HARC, homeless and rootless at Christmas.
-  Read the Sheffield Poverty Truth Report, Finding the Root Cause.
-  Donate pre-loved items to ASSIST to furnish accommodation for those seeking asylum.
-  Contact your MP to urge for a fairer asylum system.
-  Find out about Lift the Ban campaign, consider how you could support this.
-  Find out about Hope at Home. Consider hosting a survivor of slavery.
-  Learn one new thing about the UK asylum system and share it on social media.
-  Join a peaceful vigil, protest or prayer walk.
-  Write for Rights. Write a letter with Amnesty International supporting political prisoners.
-  Read a book on liberation theology, poverty or social justice.
-  Invite a neighbour or church member who lives alone for tea or Sunday lunch.
-  Reduce your consumption.
-  Join in with or organise a litter pick around your community.
-  Practise 'buy less, give more' this Christmas.
-  Donate money to Amnesty, SAYiT, Hope at Home and USPG at our Christmas services.
-  Call or visit someone you know who might find this season difficult.
-  Donate baby and toddler clothing, bedding, toys, books and equipment to Baby Basics.
-  Pray for peace.
-  Join in with carol singing at a care home.

...to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God.

www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH

30 November, 4pm
Christingle.

14 December, 6pm
Big Queer Carols
An inclusive and joyful carol service.

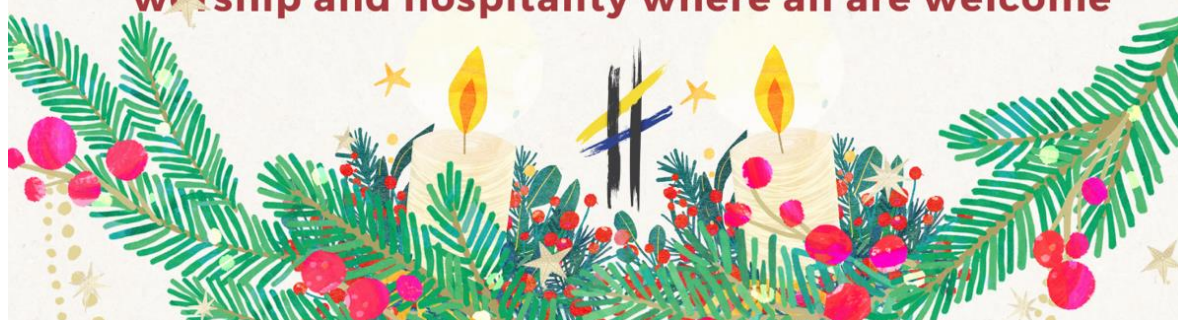
21 December, 6pm
A Carol Service of traditional and contemporary carols
and readings with St Mark's Choir & Steel City Choristers.

Christmas Eve 4.30pm
Nativity Service with hot chocolate from 4pm.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm
Candlelit service of carols, reflection,
prayer, and Communion.

Christmas Day
* 8am BCP Communion
* 10am Festive All Age Communion Service.
* also online via Zoom.

**St Mark's is an inclusive church offering
worship and hospitality where all are welcome**



FAMILY SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS



30 November, 4pm
Christingle Service
and mince pies.

Christmas Eve 4.30pm
Nativity Service
with hot chocolate from 4pm.

Christmas Eve 10am
Festive All Age Communion Service
in Church & on zoom

@ St Mark's Church xx



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IN THE COMMUNITY:

Taizé Prayer for Advent at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

7.00 pm on Thursdays 4th, 11th and 18th December. A time of quiet singing and reflective prayer as we prepare for Christmas. The service lasts about 30 minutes.

CALM Christmas St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church Sunday 14th December at 4pm.

The idea of Christmas is often sold to us as a time of joy and celebration to be spent with those we love. For many of us, and for different reasons, the reality of Christmas can sometimes feel quite different. Maybe we've been bereaved or feel lonely, maybe we feel anxious or overwhelmed and the idea of a get-together brings anything but festive cheer. You are not alone.

An invitation for hot chocolate and mince pies followed by a gentle evening service with a few familiar carols and a chance to reflect mindfully with some simple prayers.

FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

ECO TIPS

Buy local

From clothes to food, the closer to home these products are made and bought, the less carbon is created with their transportation. Not only that, but you'll be supporting the local economy which means that in time you'll likely have even more local items to choose from.

(Source: Good Energy)

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