



## Notices for 11 January 2026

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

**ADVERSE WEATHER** At time of writing (Friday morning) Sunday services are going ahead as planned. Please stay safe, and warm, and don't come into church unless you feel confident and safe. The 10am service will as usual be accessible via zoom (link is in the Friday email). If you are intending to come into church, please check the website or Facebook for any updates before setting out.

### COLLECTIONS FOR FIR VALE FOODBANK AND CLOTHES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Please leave donations for Fir Vale Foodbank in the boxes on / under the table by the vestry.

As we did last year, we are collecting warm clothing for women refugees in Sheffield. They badly need help, many have only the clothes they are wearing. Particularly needed are warm clothes in small women's sizes and NEW underwear in original packaging. Please leave any clothing on the table in the entrance corridor. Thank you.

### PHOTOGRAPHS IN CHURCH

For safeguarding purposes, we do not allow photographs during the service, particularly if it is likely to include children and young people. This has not changed!

HOWEVER...

A CHYPS leader (with a rainbow lanyard) will be taking photographs over the next two Sundays so that we can document how our growing numbers of children and families currently use the spaces in church and on the green during services. These photos will be used to aid discussion with the PCC and eventually the wider congregation around our accessibility and provision of space. These group photographs will be stored on a church mobile and any identifiable faces will be blurred. They are for internal use only.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child/ren being photographed please do not hesitate to let us know.

Thank you! (Jan 2026)

# THINKING FAITH

11th January 7pm



**Healing and wholeness:**

**Have faith communities anything to offer?**

**with Dr Charlotte Bryson, Dr Alice Newitt & Rev'd Dr Mark Newitt**

What is health – the absence of disease or something more? Are health and wholeness the same thing? Is the NHS a ‘health’ service or an ‘illness’ service?

What factors contribute to the healing process or to sustaining health and wellbeing? Can a person with an impairment or terminal condition be whole? Is there a spiritual dimension to health and wholeness? Have faith communities a contribution to make? These are some of the questions that will be explored by three healthcare specialists during an evening of input and discussion.

Charlotte Bryson is a GP in Burngreave, an area of Sheffield characterised by ethnic diversity and a strong Muslim community. She specialises in working with the effects of trauma and in providing health care for refugees. Charlotte also has an interest in the humanity and inhumanity of a GP’s life in the current healthcare and political climate.

Alice Newitt is a GP who works at Page Hall Medical Centre, Fir Vale, a vibrant ethnically diverse community with huge resilience and many challenges. She is also a medical educator teaching undergraduate students at Sheffield University. Alice specialises in affirming and developing people, health inequalities and supporting wellbeing.

Mark Newitt is the Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy at the Free Churches Group where his work supporting chaplains and engaging at a strategic level promotes the development of safe, effective and high-quality professional chaplaincy care. He also practices as a chaplain within the chaplaincy team serving Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.



[WWW.STMARKSSHEFFIELD.CO.UK](http://WWW.STMARKSSHEFFIELD.CO.UK)

## NEWS:



### WELCOME REVD HELENA ROULSTON

We are delighted to announce that Revd Helena Roulston will be joining St Mark's as our new associate priest with a focus on teens, students and young adults. Revd Helena is currently Head of Chaplaincy at Sheffield Hallam University. She comes to us with a breath of experience and skills in ministering with young people and we are really looking forward to her joining the team. We don't have a start date yet, but will let you know the licensing date once we have it.

Helena says...

Hello!

My name is Helena and I am greatly looking forward taking up my role at St Marks. I have had a focus on teens and young adults all my working career. I love the vibrancy and energy that is catching when you work with young people and I am confident that the young people of the Parish will have lots to teach me!

To tell you a bit about myself – I trained for ordination at Westcott House, did curacy in Winsford, Chester diocese, and came to Sheffield from there to take up my current role of Head of Chaplaincy at Sheffield Hallam University. I enjoy going out and about with my husband and son and when I'm not with family or at work you may well find me at the gym or going for a run. I love to dance, to be outside and ice cream! I find it easiest to connect with God through exploring the world around us. I look forward to meeting you all and wish you all a happy and Holy Epiphanytide. May we follow in the footsteps of the wise men as they listened to the words of creation and found Jesus to be in the most unexpected places.

**RSPB's BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH – Friday 23- Sunday 25 January** The world's largest garden wildlife survey! Last year, nearly 600,000 people took part and over nine million birds were counted. We've lost a staggering 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. To take part, spend one hour counting the birds you see in one location – your garden, balcony or a local park. Submit your findings to the RSPB. You can download a free guide and ID chart to help you identify the birds you spot on the RSPB website. Find out more at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch> St Mark's Eco group.

**YOUR GENEROSITY** in giving over the Christmas services led to a total of £1,208 being raised for charity. Money has been distributed to both Amnesty and SAYiT from the collection at Big Queer Carols and Hope at Home, USPG and ourselves from the Carol Service and Christmas Day Services. Thank you very much. The Children also raised over £50 for the Children's Society with their sponsored swim and Christingle Service.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to our worship over the Christmas season. The church was beautifully decorated, guests were warmly welcomed, the music uplifting, the readings, prayers and worship well received, and the hospitality greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mark, Rachael and Keira on the recent arrival of Aidan Robert to their family. If you could offer to prepare a meal for the family on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between now and 15 January to support them when Mark returns to work, please contact Shan or Hannah for details of the Mealtrain. Thank you.

**MISSION AREA WEEKEND IN 2026** – Following a successful gathering in 2024, we are delighted that St John's, St Mark's and St Mary's will be uniting to spend time together sharing food, fun, study and worship with activities suitable for all ages between 10 - 12 July 2026. Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders has agreed to join the Mission Area for the day at St Mark's on Saturday 11 July and will confirm candidates from the Mission Area on the morning of 12 July at a service at St John's. Do save the weekend in your diaries. A planning group from across the 3 churches will convene in the near future.



Our 2026  
3 Spires Mission Area Weekend  
will be held over  
**10-12 July 2026**

*Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders  
will join us on 11 July*



**Do save the dates, and talk to  
Alison Wragg, Ian Wallis or Shan Rush  
if you can contribute ideas or can offer help  
with planning**

**SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION PILGRIMAGE** - As part of St Johns Ranmoor's 150th Anniversary celebrations, Matthew Rhodes is leading a pilgrimage to visit the seven churches of Revelation in Turkey 6-13 September **2027** with McCabe Pilgrimages.

Pilgrims from other churches would be very welcome! Please click on the QR code on the attached poster for more information. There will be an online information evening for anyone who would like to know more on 27 January at 6.30pm. Use the QR code on the information evening poster to register.



**Revd Matthew Rhodes would like to invite you to an information evening for his tour to Turkey in September 2027 'Seven Churches of Revelation'**

**Details:** **27<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**Microsoft Teams**  
**from 6.30pm**

scan the QR code to register and we will send you a link to the event



**Come along and find out more,  
we look forward to welcoming  
the community!**

**Revd Matthew Rhodes + McCabe Pilgrimages**

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL GREEN BONDS:** Sheffield Council has announced the launch of their Green Bonds:

“Sheffield Climate Investment is a new community-backed municipal investment scheme designed to bring together residents, businesses and the Council to fund practical, local climate projects.

From solar panels on schools to help cut bills, warmer homes and lower bills, Sheffield Climate Investment gives local people the opportunity to shape a greener, fairer future for the city.”

For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3crtnv>

Michael Miller

## HELP OUT:

### **HELP NEEDED – DELIVERING WARM CLOTHES TO CHARITY FOR THE HOMELESS**

We have some warm clothes sleeping bags etc that would be useful for a local charity. If you would be able to collect and deliver them, please contact the office.

### **ST MARK'S SOUP/SANDWICH RUN – Volunteers and Leaders Required**

The Soup Run has been operating for many years and provides food and drinks for those unfortunately living on the streets of the City. The number of people we serve varies from month to month, but a few months ago we served over 20 people on one evening.

Over the last few years our numbers have dwindled and we now have only one group going out each month. Prior to Covid we had sufficient numbers to cover every week and we would like to try and get back to that position.

As a volunteer you would be involved in preparing sandwiches and drinks in the kitchen at St Marks and then walking around the city centre serving anyone in need. If you are interested in becoming a Leader, you would be additionally responsible for liaising with team members and ensuring that there are adequate stocks of drinks & food.

The current group meets on Sunday evenings at 5pm and are generally finished before 7pm, a relatively modest commitment.

If you are interested a taster session can be arranged, the current team will be next out mid-January (date to be confirmed). Contacts for further information:

**Paula Jones** Mobile 07729 7414970 Email [paulajones024@gmail.com](mailto:paulajones024@gmail.com)

**Tim Wilson** Mobile 077659 15830 Email [timwilsongring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timwilsongring@yahoo.co.uk)

**DONATING FLOWERS.** Many thanks to everyone who donated flowers to decorate church during 2025. Mary Jane would like to check that if the same people would like to continue this year. If you do NOT wish to continue donating, then please contact Mary- Jane as soon as possible, otherwise she will work on the assumption you are happy to continue. If anyone would like to be added to the rota to donate flowers for a certain Sunday then please let Mary-Jane know.

[mjryder.ivypark@btinternet.com](mailto:mjryder.ivypark@btinternet.com)

**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: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](mailto:jean_baxter5@hotmail.com). Thank you.

## IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

**Music Storytime** – new class for under 5s - Fridays at 10am in the Upper Room, starting on 16 January. (Session on 9 January cancelled due to snow) Visit [littlesoundgarden.com](http://littlesoundgarden.com) for more information.

### Could you be a Trustee for Manor After School Kids Klubs?

MASKK is a brilliant charity which runs after-school and holiday playcare, short breaks for children with SEND, training for playworkers and community activities in and from Temple Park Centre at Manor Park. The premises are excellent (the former William Temple Church) and the staff believe fervently in the value of play for young children. They are currently looking for new trustees. I've been one for a number of years and have been really impressed with MASKK's philosophy of play and quality of projects. If you'd be interested in becoming a trustee, please have a word with me. Nick Jowett [mail@njowett.plus.com](mailto:mail@njowett.plus.com)

## FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

### ECO TIPS:



In October 2025, the Government committed to introduce legislation to end the sale of peat. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are leading the way in getting growers, manufacturers and their own gardens transitioned to become Peat-Free.

From 2026, no new peat is allowed to enter RHS gardens or retail.

This is one area we can all contribute to.

As home gardeners, we need to understand that peat-free growing media is different than we are used to because it is more biologically active and has a shorter shelf-life. If you search RHS guidance on using peat-free compost, they have lots of tips to help you achieve the best results.

You can also sign the RHS' Peat –Free Partnership Petition [here](#)

Or by using this address

[Actnow.peatfreepartnership.org.uk/end-peat-sales/](http://Actnow.peatfreepartnership.org.uk/end-peat-sales/)

By signing it, you will be helping to stop the destruction of peatlands, an activity that emits huge amounts of carbon, worsens flooding risks and obliterates wildlife habitats.

Information courtesy of RHS The Garden January 2026

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