



Notices for 01 February 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

CHANGE IN WORKING PATTERN AND IMPACT ON FRIDAY MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

From 1 February, I (Shan) am changing my working pattern back to work full days on Mondays, alternate Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays instead of 5 mornings a week plus Sundays. This is to help me try to regain a better work / personal life balance. As a result, St Mark's will not be offering morning or evening prayer on Zoom on a Friday. This will be reviewed once Helena starts after Easter. In the meantime, the option to join St John's Ranmoor for morning prayer will remain but they do not do evening prayer on Zoom. Beth and myself will aim to host Monday to Thursdays as previously.

LOST PROPERTY will be displayed after the 10am service today (Sunday 1st February), and will be available for purchase on February 8 before going to charity.

SADLY, Anne Button, a member of our congregation who made important contributions to the life of St Mark's over many years, died suddenly on Wednesday 21 January. Anne was one of the founder members of the St Mark's lunch club back in 1992 and offered hospitality at church and many of the fetes during Broomhill Festivals. Please hold Arthur and the family in your prayers at this sad time. Anne's funeral will be at St Mark's on **Friday 6 February** at 10.30 am Shan

NEWS:

LENT LUNCHES will take place on February 22 and March 22. February's will be soup, bread and fruit; contributions of bread and spread welcome, *but* don't bring soup without a word to Briony first, as we already have some to use.

LENT GROUPS - Exploring Social Justice: Critical Issues Defining our Time

This year's Lent Course will focus on what it means to seek justice for some of the most vulnerable members of society. Each session will explore social justice through the lens of one of five topics: identity; inequality; disability; asylum; social disintegration. Resource packs will include bible passages, briefings, first-hand testimonies, images, prayers, questions and reflections so that each group or individual can shape the course to reflect their interests, needs or learning styles.

Groups will gather weekly, 5 times during Lent (18 Feb – 28 March) on different days, at different times, in different places, in person and online, so that as many people as possible are able to participate.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheets at the back of church, leaving an email or phone number. We will pass your contact details on to group leaders, and they will be in touch to give you additional details (address, zoom code etc).

Or if you are not coming into church soon, please email the office stating which group you would like to join and we will add you to the group.

Group A with Sandra Newton	Monday evenings at 7.30pm on zoom This group is following the themes and focussing on bible study
Group B with Lynn Pocock and Rosie Hughes	Monday evenings at 8pm in Fulwood
Group C with Michael Bayley	Tuesday mornings at 10-11.30am in the church lounge
Group D with Sam and Felicity Cowling-Green	Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on zoom
Group E with Bek and Jack Hampson	Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Walkley
Group F with Tim Crome and Tricia Morgan	Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, near Ecclesall Road
Group G with Joy and Stephen Straits	Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in Grenoside.
Group H Student and Young Adults Group, with Seth Roberts	meeting as part of the usual young adults group on Sundays after church.
Group I with Robin and Joan Story, and Beth Keith/Ian Wallis	Thursdays at 3pm Ecclesall, near the Ecclesall Road end of Ringinglow Road.

JULIAN PRAYER UPDATE

Following a recent consultation of the facilitators of the St Mark's Julian Prayer Group and those on our list who received the weekly e-mail we sent out, I'm sorry to let you know that we have taken the decision to discontinue offering Julian Prayer in all formats at St Mark's. I'd like to thank everyone who has facilitated our gathering over the years but especially Cath Williamson, Iana Storey, John Hillman, Rachel Vedder and Siobhan Hoyes who have been faithful and consistent facilitators since before lockdown. We will keep our options open and restart a group if we are able to recruit new volunteers in the future.

Shan

A CHANCE TO TAKE ACTION ON WORRYING GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ON IMMIGRATION.

Tomorrow, Monday, our MP for Sheffield Central, Abtisam Mohamed will be speaking at a debate on immigration starting at 4.30pm in Westminster Hall specifically on the issues raised in our letter which you can see at the end of this newsletter. She asked us to let her know immediately how many people have signed the letter as it will strengthen her case. **If you agree with the letter please sign it before you leave church.** It is not often that what we sign on Sunday will in all probability be mentioned in parliament on Monday.

This is the background. The government proposes to make radical and very worrying changes to the immigration rules. They are intended and would make life considerably harsher and more uncertain for many refugees and migrants in the UK. However there is a particularly important opportunity now to try and persuade the government to modify their proposals. Last week David Price and I went to see our MP Abtisam Mohamed who is an immigration lawyer. As a result of that meeting David and I agreed with Abtisam that we should send her a letter signed by as many members of the congregation as possible for her to send on to Alex Norris, the responsible minister at the Home Office.

But more immediately Abtisam Mohamed MP is speaking in the debate tomorrow so, if you agree with its contents please sign the letter. Copies to sign will be at the back of church.

Michael Bayley

ST MARK'S LIBRARY GAZETTE ISSUE NUMBER TWO OUT NOW!

Hard copies available at the back of church. £5 suggested donation to cover printing costs. Also available to download from St Mark's website [here](#).

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.

Helena's Licencing will take place on Wednesday 22 April at 7pm



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.”

Helena is on the diocese podcast this week.

Do listen - either on the diocese website <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/our-diocese/whats-on/podcast/>

Or wherever you listen to podcasts.

It's a great way to get to know about her.

ANN PETTIFOR'S LATEST BOOK The Global Casino: How Wall Street Gambles with People and the Planet will be published next week. Rhyme and Reason (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.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF)

On 15 January the House of Bishops released a statement formalising the end of the Living in Love and Faith process. Whilst this was not a surprise it is disappointing. Many are feeling distressed and in grief that the LLF process has resulted in so little change. Together for the Church of England have written this open letter to the House of Bishops - <https://togethercofe.org.uk/open-letter-to-the-house-of-bishops/>. It sums up the feeling and thoughts I have, and you may find it helpful to read. Please look after each other and look out for those who are being impacted by this. I will be in church this Sunday, please reach out to me, Shan, Ian and the wider team if you would find it helpful at this time.

Beth



SMARTPHONE & SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY UNDER 16'S - The UK Government has launched a consultation on children's social media use and banning phones in schools to protect young people's wellbeing and ensure safer online experiences. There are a variety of views about this and arguments for and against the ideas being put forward through a range of media. You can find out more [here](#)

UPDATE RE SHEFFIELD GREEN BOND

Sheffield Climate Investment has reached the £1 million target in just a month.

Sheffield Climate Investment has seen one of the highest percentages of local investors of any similar raise showing, demonstrating Sheffield's residents and businesses commitment to supporting local climate action.

ROUNDABOUT 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

St Mark's supports the charity Roundabout with a flat which houses young people at risk of homelessness. There is an encouraging news story here about their work in Sheffield - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdex960y38po>



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**

HELP OUT:

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 in a taster session or seeking more information, please contact:

Paula Jones Mobile 07729 7414970 Email paulajones024@gmail.com

Tim Wilson Mobile 077659 15830 Email timwilsontring@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

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.

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

Rita Brock: Rising Fascism and threats to democracy today: the role of moral injury

6pm Tuesday 3 February 2026

Convened by the International Centre for Moral Injury at Durham University, who say:

“The US is currently threatened with a collapse of its democracy, which has global implications. In this session we will examine how the theological system of white Christian nationalism constructs moral injury as a driver of fascism. We will, as well, consider strategies for resistance and surviving the next decade, including what religious communities may offer to address moral injury and sustain moral resistance for the long struggle ahead.

Rita Nakashima Brock, RelM, MA, PHD (she, her) is the first Asian American woman to earn a doctorate in philosophy of religion and theology in 1988. A scholar, educator, editor, mentor to women of colour scholars, and award-winning author, Dr Brock is a recognised expert on moral injury.”

Hybrid Session in Durham and online via Teams. Tickets free via [Eventbrite](#)

Read on for more events....

Pigeons Project



Youth Frontier Trust Pigeons Project Festival Day Wednesday 1 April The Greenhouse at Barnes Close Birmingham

The Pigeons Project, run by the Youth Frontier Trust offers events with and for Christian Youth and their families. The next event is on 1st April – more details on their website [here](#).

Youth Frontier Trust ask all young people to attend as part of a group with an adult group leader. A parent ally who comes to Open Communion with her family is looking to put together a group from Sheffield. To find out more contact Hannah childrens@stmarkssheffield.co.uk



At the Rainbow's End by Clare Summerskill

A new verbatim play addressing homophobic and transphobic abuse of older LGBTQ+ people in care and receiving care in later life.

Saturday 9th May. 3.30 and 6.30pm

Sunday 10th May 6.30pm

The Broomhall Centre, Broomsgreen Lane, Sheffield, S10 2FD

Presented as script in hand performances by Artemis theatre company, and followed by a Q&A with the writer, the audience and informed panellists.

Performances are free but booking via Eventbrite is essential

Saturday 9th May 3.30pm

- ['At the Rainbow's End' by Clare Summerskill - a play Tickets, Sat, May 9, 2026 at 3:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Saturday 9th May 6.30pm

['At the Rainbow's End' by Clare Summerskill - a play Tickets, Sat, May 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Sunday 10th May 6.30pm

['At the Rainbow's End' by Clare Summerskill - a play Tickets, Sun, May 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

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

FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

ECO TIPS:

Try Clothes Swapping as an alternative to fast fashion



"Swishing" as it is known in America is the simple act of swapping preloved clothes <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swishing>

Sheffield Clothes Swap is run by Common Thread

https://www.facebook.com/CommonThreadSheffield/?locale=en_GB

Ecotip supplied by Matt from Night Service

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

LETTER TO ABTISAM MOHAMMED:

Scroll down to see the full text of the letter.

Copies to sign will be available at the back of church

Abtisam Mohamed MP
EDMUND ROAD BUSINESS CENTRE,
Unit 4, 135 Edmund Rd,
Highfield, Sheffield S2 4ED

Dear Abtisam,

We the undersigned members of St Mark's Church Broomhill are profoundly concerned about the new policies towards asylum seekers contained in the documents 'Restoring control over the immigration system' and 'A fairer pathway to settlement' produced by the Government in November. In our view, they lack compassion and humanity, will be extraordinarily complex and expensive to administer and will impose massive extra costs on the Home Office and pain on asylum seekers and refugees. Our focus is on refugees and asylum seekers, but we recognise that these proposals will also create major problems for other immigrants. Moreover, the UK needs asylum seekers and other migrants to maintain population size and demographic balance as well as to contribute to the workforce.

These policies are the latest extension of the hostile environment policy initiated by Theresa May in 2012 - a policy which was opposed by many in the Labour Party at the time. The hostile environment was continually extended by Conservative Governments. Yet it never worked. It did **not** deter people from seeking asylum in the UK. We are puzzled as to why the Labour Government is following the same unsuccessful and harmful path as the Conservatives.

Here are three reasons why we call on the Government to reconsider these policies.

First, most refugees will be expected to wait 20 years for settlement and be subjected to reviews every 30 months. Admittedly there will be exceptions such as the work and study route which is not clearly defined. But for others the long wait and the frequent questioning of their status will place people in limbo, breed a sense of insecurity, prevent integration, make it more difficult to get jobs and progress in them and undermine their youngsters' progress through education. These policies will also create an impossible workload for the Home Office, even with many thousands of additional civil servants. We all know that the Home Office cannot cope with its existing workload.

Secondly, the transitional arrangements. Local communities include many people who came to this country unaware that all these extra obstacles would be placed in the way of them and their children settling happily in the UK. To do so once they are already here is grossly unfair. There is

an important issue of fairness and justice here. They should not be subjected to any extra requirements, just those they knew about when they came here.

Thirdly, there is the issue of refugee family reunion, which has been suspended. New restrictions are planned which could include new income and English language tests. These are totally unrealistic for people fleeing war or persecution.

To conclude, Sheffield was the first City of Sanctuary in Britain. But how can we truly welcome refugees if they are subjected to such irrational and unwelcoming policies? Policies like this reflect a spirit of xenophobia which is afflicting this country at present, and which should be resisted.