

# St Mark's Church Broomhill & Broomhall

Annual Report 2025  
April 2026



Broomfield Road, Broomhill, Sheffield, S10 2SE

The Diocese of Sheffield

Charity No. 011287558



# Vicar's Report

*Beth Keith (she/her)*

The past year has been a rich and encouraging one in the life of St Mark's. This report reflects the many ways in which our church community continues to worship, learn, serve and grow together. From Sunday services and weekday prayer to pastoral care, children, youth and students, music, study and learning, social justice, environmental action and the care of our buildings, St Mark's is sustained by the generosity, commitment and imagination of many people. I would like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to the life of the church. Your time, gifts and dedication make possible all that we share as a community of faith, and this report offers just a glimpse of that collective effort.

At the beginning of the year, we gathered as a church community for my licensing as Vicar of St Mark's. Thanks to everyone who helped to make that occasion such a joyful and memorable celebration. It was a wonderful moment in the life of the church, bringing together many people from across the congregations, the mission area and beyond, and it reflected the warmth and generosity that characterise St Mark's so well. It was also good to hear many people from further afield comment to me on the significance of St Mark's and its contribution to the wider church. One of my prayers this year has been that we will together live up to our calling.

Over the course of the year, it has been encouraging to see a sense of growth and energy across the congregations. There is a real feeling of life on a Sunday morning, and it is not unusual for people to continue chatting long after the service and coffee have officially finished – sometimes to the point where we have to gently encourage people that it really is time to head home! Alongside this, many new people have visited St Mark's over the past year, and it has been a joy to see some of them settling in and becoming regular members of the congregation.

It has also been a year of development within the ministry team. It has been wonderful to see the theological aspects of ministry developing and growing through Ian Wallis' ministry. And to welcome Shan Rush back in Sheffield fulltime, as she continues to develop her leadership of pastoral care among us. We have also had some changes in the team during the year, and we are very grateful to Eleanor who stepped up as Assistant Director of Music in the autumn, in preparation for covering David Willington's sabbatical, and to Rachael Hand for covering the office and helping to keep things running smoothly.

As always, the life of St Mark's depends on the generosity and commitment of many people who serve faithfully behind the scenes. I am especially grateful to Dilys Noble, our Churchwarden, for her continued dedication, to David Armstrong for his careful work as Treasurer, to Martin Godley for his leadership of the Fabric and Finance Committee, and to Bek Hampson for their service as PCC Secretary.

Looking ahead, we are currently seeking new Churchwardens, new PCC members, and a PCC Secretary. Please do consider whether you might be able to stand for one of these roles. If you would like to find out more, do speak to Dilys, Bek, or myself. If those particular roles are not for you, there are many other ways to be involved in the life of the church, whether by joining the welcome team or coffee rota, helping with one of our committees, or supporting one of the groups mentioned elsewhere in this report. If something sparks your interest, please do speak to the person named.

St Mark's is a church where you are very welcome to come along and be anonymous if that is what you want or need. It is perfectly possible to slip in quietly and slip out again. But it is also a church where you can get to know people, build friendships, and become part of a community. And it is a church where there are many opportunities to become involved in its life and ministry. The church

relies on those who are able to share their time, skills, enthusiasm and energy, and if you feel able to get more involved, we would love to hear from you.

Another important development this year has been the continued growth of partnership. With my appointment as incumbent of both St Mark's and St Mary's, this is the first time the vicar of St Mark's has been significantly shared with another church. Overall, this has worked well, and it has been encouraging to see St Mary's also experiencing a period of growth and revitalisation. Their Sunday congregation now averages around fifty people, which is almost double what it was five years ago.

We hope that over time the links between us, St Mary's and St John's, as part of the Three Spires Mission Area, will continue to deepen. During the past year we have also begun exploring what it might look like to develop a resourcing partnership with St Cuthbert's, Fir Vale. While these conversations are still in the early stages, there are already encouraging signs. St Cuthbert's is looking for people who might be willing to support their work with the foodbank and community meal on Thursdays, or to help with funding applications and faculty paperwork relating to building work. If you would like to know more about this, please do come and talk to me.

Across the Diocese we are finding we are getting more requests for support from churches and individuals wanting to work towards greater inclusion. Open Communion continues to be a safe space for those from the LGBTQ+ community, and we are also involved with Together for the Church of England which is working to support better representation from those supporting inclusion across Church of England governance structures. If you would like to be part of this, please speak to me or Chris Ware.

St Mark's seeks to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all. For that reason, some contributors to this report have chosen to include their pronouns alongside their names. Sharing pronouns can help people address one another respectfully and avoid assumptions about gender. Not everyone will choose to include pronouns, and we are not listing them for everyone, as doing so could place pressure on people to share information they may prefer to keep private. It is simply an optional practice that some people find helpful, reflecting our commitment to hospitality, dignity and care for all who take part in the life of the church.

Overall, it has been a busy but good year in the life of St Mark's. There is much to be thankful for, and it has been a privilege to share in the life of this community as your vicar. As we look ahead, we do so with hope and expectation for what 2026 might bring.



# Churchwarden's report

*Dilys Noble*

## What is a Churchwarden?

From the English Dictionary

- either of the two elected lay representatives in an Anglican parish, formally responsible for movable church property and for keeping order in church.
- a long-stemmed clay pipe.

To be clear; as St Mark's Churchwarden 2025-2026, I have been neither of the above definitions as I am not one of two Churchwardens nor am I a long-stemmed pipe.

I maybe just the one Churchwarden but I am part of the team; Clergy, staff, PCC and congregation that make the role manageable. Just think how much more enjoyable it would be if there were 2 of us. The role has a legal status in Canon (church) law involving management, maintenance and ministry. But for the day-to-day functioning of the parish we have an administrator Rachael (and Zoe of course). For building maintenance, management and operation, we have Tim the Caretaker, the PCC and the Fabric and Finance committee. The Welcome Team is not just for Sundays but is operational at many other church events. Clergy paid and non-stipendiary run our services, talks and events.

So, what is left there that I might have done over the year?

The services of welcome for Beth and Ian (and confirmations) in January and July required a warden carrying the ceremonial staff for the Bishop's protection. The staff, I am told may also be weaponised by the warden for the removal of rowdy and unsavoury members of the congregation, I have never found this necessary.

Sunday services require a warden to oversee the smooth running of worship, greeting, getting to know new faces and keeping an eye out for problems, head counting and locking up afterwards. We have had a team of 5 assistant wardens for over a year, who do not have the legal status of warden but rotate on Sunday 10 am service duty. The team of 4 vergers attend to the material side of Sundays, candles, laying the altar, bread and wine and washing up. 8 am Communion and evening services have their own Wardens. So a Warden's physical presence is not required on 52 plus days in the year.

The ability to count, not just heads in church during services but the *annual trawl through the service book* for the "Statistics for Mission" and the Archdeacons Articles of Enquiry, to be returned on-line to the Diocese are just simple exercises in arithmetic.

What's not to like about being a Churchwarden (one of two)?

Please join me and make us true to the definition.



# Parochial Church Council and Committees

## PCC

*Bek Hampson, PCC secretary (they/them)*

The churchwarden, clergy and the PCC members are a wonderful bunch of people. Together we do the serious team job of being responsible for the overall wellbeing (practical and spiritual) of our church, our church members, and our church buildings. I have also experienced it as a space of great care and often laughter - who knew!

In the past year, some key things PCC has worked together on include successfully recruiting Revd Helena Roulston as Associate Priest, encouraging the installation of swift boxes, financial matters, regular safeguarding updates and reviewing successes of our Advent and Christmas services (especially Big Queer Carols which was, again, utterly joyous).

As in other years, Dilys, as the churchwarden, has done a lot of work behind the scenes. I would like to take the chance to recognise her dedication and diligence and to say thank you to Dilys!

### PCC Members during 2025

Beth Keith (vicar, chair)  
Dilys Noble (churchwarden)  
David Armstrong (treasurer, vice-chair)  
Bek Hampson (PCC secretary)  
Martin Godley (chair of F&F)  
Margaret Ainger (co-opted, chair of the Environment Group),  
Briony Tayler  
Katherine Tattershall  
Amanda Pilkington  
Rachel Heginbotham  
Frances Gray  
Jane Padget  
Nana Nyarko  
Joy Straits  
Boyd Morgan (stepped down in July to begin ordination training)  
Shan Rush (licensed priest)  
Ian Wallis (licensed priest)  
Jonathan Williamson (licensed reader)  
Anne Padget (licensed reader)

Deanery Synod Representatives - Chris Ware, Robyn Vesey.

Members of Diocesan Synod - Beth Keith, David Armstrong, James Morgan.

## Fabric and Finance Committee

*Martin Godley*

St Mark's Fabric and Finance Committee meet almost every month to identify, discuss, agree and action issues in the maintenance and improvement of the building and grounds. Associated financial matters and other budgeting issues are also discussed. We take direction from and report back to the PCC.

Below is a list of items covered:

## Finance

- Prepare annual and management accounts to regularly monitor income and expenditure.
- Support the stewardship campaign.
- Review and support staff resourcing, including to support church music and the children's choir.
- Agree and monitor the church room hire and car park charges.

## Fabric Works Completed

- Double glazed units to the Upper Room and Ground Floor Lounge,
- Infra-red electric heating panels installed to the Upper Room and First Floor Office, in place of gas-fired central heating.



*Infra-red heating panels to Upper Room Ceiling, February 2026*

- On-going monitoring of the building thermal performance through use of remotely connected sensors and heating timers, as we endeavour to lower our 'carbon footprint' by measures such as above.
- Maintenance of internal systems including fire protection & detection, intruder alarm, CCTV, lighting, WiFi, PA and Video systems.
- Damage repaired at retaining wall to the southeast corner of The Green due to large sycamore roots. This was completed using innovative helical stainless-steel bars set in mortar courses.
- Ongoing grounds maintenance including drainage clearance, memorial garden upkeep, tree management, re-wilding steep banks below church, leaf collection and composting for future use.

## Fabric Works in Progress

- Faculty Applications recently approved for:
  - Further double glazing inside the existing leaded-light windows to the remainder of the main worship area north elevation.
  - Internal doors from the Entrance Corridor into the Narthex and from the Narthex into the Lady Chapel to be replaced with glazed doors. These will help with visibility through these entrances, allow heat retention by keeping doors closed and improve the welcoming ambience.

- Future double glazing to the south elevation of the main worship area and lady-chapel being considered.
- Faculty Application submitted for installing swift nesting boxes in the church tower between louvres.
- Plasterwork repairs to main staircase ceiling and walls to be carried out.
- Electrical repairs to be arranged to correct faults discovered in five-yearly electrical inspection last autumn.
- Better insulation to the church office windows and walls being investigated.
- Short handrail to lectern steps being designed; Faculty Application to be submitted.
- Tarmac repairs to be carried out to north and south paths across the grounds.
- Architect's Quinquennial Report to be commissioned this year.
- Attend Major Churches Meetings, including hosting this at St Mark's in April 2026.



*View of St Mark's from The Green, February 2026*

## Legacies

### *David Ryder*

Update from the Legacies 'Home from Home Group ('HFHG') on St Mark's owned flat used by Roundabout during 2025

In 2018 the PCC made a decision to purchase a two bedroomed flat in Woodhouse, as a social investment, using legacy money to be leased to Roundabout, a local youth housing charity providing shelter, support and life skills to young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The current lease with Roundabout commenced in January 2024 for seven years and provides for the rent payable by them to be reviewed annually according to the Consumer Price Index.

David Armstrong and myself were able to visit the flat with Roundabout last June when it was between residents and found it to be in a reasonable state of repair but in need of some redecoration and also new flooring and carpets. These have since been replaced by Roundabout with the PCC contributing £385 being half the cost. In addition, Roundabout have added some new furniture and made improvements to the kitchen and bathroom significantly enhancing the internal state of the flat as evidenced by photos (see one below showing the lounge) and a walk-through video they subsequently provided to us. As landlord, the PCC also paid £570 in December 2025 for essential repairs to the flat's heating boiler.



*The lounge in the flat we lease to Roundabout*

Roundabout has reported that during the year, three homeless young people have been housed separately in the flat. One prior to moving into their own tenancy, another requiring emergency accommodation whilst the City Council completed works on their own property and thirdly, a new tenant who moved in during December and who “is loving their new flat, and the safety and independence it provides”.

From information previously provided by Roundabout regarding the turnover of residents placed in the property, St Mark’s has, through its social investment, indirectly supported up to nine homeless young people since the project started in 2018.

## Home Donations

### *Chris Ware*

This year, our committee wanted to respond to the rise of racist and anti-migrant sentiment being voiced in public, including by politicians and within government.

We donated £2,000 to Nomad, who are providing emergency housing for newly granted refugees facing eviction from asylum accommodation at short notice. South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice received £1,000 to offer legal support to those with unsuccessful asylum applications, whilst £1,000 went to Solace for mental health services through Sheffield’s SPRING project, one of the few local trauma processing services available.

Hope at Home received £500 to support volunteers hosting survivors of modern slavery.

Maintaining our local connections, we gave £500 to the Broomhall Centre and £1,000 to Broomhall Girls Group. The Bens Centre, a day centre in our parish for people using substances, received £500 for sleeping bags.

Recognising the need for greater inclusivity within the Church of England ahead of General Synod elections, we donated £1,000 to Together for the C of E to support their inclusive candidate slate.

As our donation responding to the climate crisis, we contributed £1,000 to Hope for the Future, an organisation with roots in St Mark’s. Hope for the Future continues to equip the majority who are concerned about the climate to engage effectively with politicians of all parties.

Finally, we maintained our annual subscriptions: £500 to Inclusive Church, £75 to Eco Church, and £25 to Church Action on Poverty.

## International Donations

### *Dilys Noble*

We support Charities that reflect the ethos of St Mark's, celebrating human diversity, campaigning for and upholding justice and discovering the sacred in life. Where possible St. Mark's has a connection to the charity and its work. St Mark's has generously donated £9100 which we will divide between 9 major recipients and the remaining £100 to Bwindi in Uganda where Ceri has worked.

#### 1 Christian Aid £1000.00

An exception to our policy to support smaller charities with a St Mark's connection. It exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty; by working through established church communities and through other established NGO's in places like Gaza. It responds to humanitarian needs anywhere and to major world and climate disasters, earthquakes, floods, famines and wars

#### 2 Global Justice Now £1000.00

This is a democratic, social justice organisation with an active Sheffield branch that is part of a global movement challenging the powerful to create a just and equal world. It particularly engages with young people to raise their and public awareness of social injustice and to fight against it.

#### 3 USPG £1000.00

Michael Bayley has forged close links with this large well-established Charity over many years. Carol Miller recently preached here at St Mark's; their programme in the Amazon resonates very closely to our environment and ecological concerns. USPG's Christmas appeal for their work in Tanzania preventing mother to child transmission of HIV during pregnancy has had amazing results. In Tanzania there is a 40% chance of a baby being born positive for HIV. Through USPG's work in some hospitals this has been reduced from 40% to 0.5% chance of a baby being born HIV positive.

#### 4 Care4Calais £1000.00

Around 700 refugees are living around Calais sleeping rough. The French police regularly confiscate their tents, sleeping bags and possessions. Care4Calais delivers direct aid in the nature of food, clothes and medical supplies. Manuchehrm has collected and delivered supplies in the past.

#### 5 Abura Literacy for Schools £1000.00

A small charity founded by Rosie Hunt who work in Ghana. It supports families by funding books, uniforms and sanitary supplies enabling girls to continue at school through puberty.

#### 6 SUCCOL Foundation £1000.00

This charity supports children from poor backgrounds in Colombia through their education. Many have gone on to further education. It was founded by members of St Mark's over 20 years ago when the Pedraza family from Bogata attended St Mark's.

#### 7 Phaseworldwide £1000.00

Phase works through its partner in Nepal to deliver integrated community development projects by providing practical help with health, education and livelihood programmes. I have mentored in many of the health posts as a GP and have been a trustee for over 10 years

#### 8 Practical Action £1000.00

Practical Action works with local communities enabling people living in poverty to change their world. In Nepal, I have personally seen their work in road building and providing simple chimneys in smoke filled houses. It works worldwide with communities finding practical solutions to their climate and water problems.

9 Richard and Jenny Hide are setting up a charity to fund children orphaned by the recent war in DRC where Richard works. St Mark's has previously sent money for school uniforms and books to enable the children to attend school through ADELIPO, a DRC charity that does not have a UK bank account. The money for their work is being held over until the charity is established.



*An example of work supported by Phase*

## Parish Safeguarding

*Duncan Lennox, Parish Safeguarding Officer (he/him)*

My main responsibilities are to liaise with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and pass on any safeguarding concerns and to provide advice on safeguarding issues to the PCC and clergy, as appropriate. I am not 'in charge' of safeguarding issues in the church.

Beth Keith is the clergy lead on safeguarding. Hannah Jones is the Safeguarding Administrator dealing with DBS and training records. This also involves reviewing the Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure that all requirements are being met or actioned. Hannah is also the lead on safeguarding relating to under 18s. Cath Williamson was the lead on issues relating to vulnerable adults, including Lunch Club and Domestic Abuse Officer. Bek Hampson is now the Domestic Abuse Officer, and Safeguarding Lead for Open Communion, and Dilys Noble Safeguarding Lead for Lunch Club.

Meetings have reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures. We have focussed this year on looking at safeguarding issues relating to groups using the church building. There are now more musical activities and other services which are not part of our main structure.

I have had regular contact with Beth both in person and by email.

We keep records showing DBS and training status. This is necessary to ensure that people have done training. It is easier to monitor training now as people can allow us to access their training records.

Every year the CofE increases its procedural requirements and expects churches to comply more with standardised procedures. Good procedures are important though I have concerns that increased procedures do not necessarily get to the heart of safeguarding.

It is essential that we comply with requirements. It also shows that we see safeguarding as important. Cooperation here is greatly appreciated.

Happily, I have not had to pass on any safeguarding concerns to the Diocese in the past year. With thanks to the church team for their a strong commitment to safeguarding

## Environment group

### *Margaret Ainger*

Now that Environment Group has been going for many years, our activities largely follow the seasons and the church year. Plus we respond to major national and local campaigns to help bring the voice of Christians to the Climate and Nature (CAN) agenda, specifically supporting the CAN Bill, which has yet to get to its first reading. You can find out more about how to support this here: [www.zerohour.uk](http://www.zerohour.uk)



So, in spring we planted cowslips and yellow rattle on the Green and conducted a wild flower survey. We are slowly digging out the accumulated leaf compost and donating it to allotment holders. Our annual “Picnic on the Green” marked our solidarity with Great Big Green Week. As did our nature photo competition “in my back yard”.

Creationtide saw not one but two Creation- themed services, displays on Eco Church and our Net Zero ambitions for our Heritage Open Days, plus a stall for Fair Trade Fortnight with a petition to our MP to improve the appalling conditions faced by many tea pickers. Which brings us to the conference held to explore the failings of our current economic systems and what might work better for people and the planet, with Ann Pettifor talking about her book “Just economics”.

The group meets monthly and everyone is welcome. We strive to keep up the commitments expected of a Gold Eco Church and to support other churches in their journey where we can.



# Church Administration and Operation

## Caretaking & Cleaning

*Tim Moore & John Whitmill*

Over the last year we have continued to spend around 15 hours a week cleaning the church. Not much changes in this regard. Some days it is more messy than others, especially in wet weather. Stocks of supplies have to be kept up to date, kitchen areas hygienic and toilets clean, especially in preparation for upcoming events.

John - I've changed my hours slightly to fit in with the use of the building and my other job. I continue to make the building look welcoming for visitors and the congregation. I see this as being an important part of the hospitality we provide.

Tim – I've been working with a new Infra Red heating system in the upper room. It proved to be difficult partly because of the control system itself, but also the way infra red heating works. Any new system would require time to understand how it heats a room, therefore how to set it accordingly. Thanks to the support from several professionals and members of F&F - who tested their theories on a cold night in January - we arrived at a solution which seems to be working.

Thanks to the donation of a sit-stand desk, the office furniture has been updated, allowing whoever is in the office to work in a more flexible manner. Making this workplace hospitable for different body types is vital for St Mark's to maintain its position as an inclusive organisation. Plus, having a desk that rises to around 4 feet makes working on the computer wiring a lot easier!

Since Covid, much more communication has gone through the email notices and notice boards, and the administrator was running out of space. So in October, with agreement from Fabric and Finance, Tim took apart two of the notice boards on wheels and fixed them together and hung them in the Narthex to form a much bigger Notices Area.

## Church Office

*Rachael Hand (she/her)*

Since May 2025 I've been looking after the office while Zoë has been on parental leave. There is an art to 'holding the baby' of someone else's job - not disrupting too many routines whilst it continues to develop and then handing it back in a good state of health!

Zoë created a comprehensive manual of the routine weekly tasks - preparing the notices and Powerpoint, posting on the website, posting to Facebook, maintaining the contact list and sending the Friday email. Also how to fulfil our legal functions around weddings - and a timetable of tasks leading up to an APCM! Never-the-less, in a complex role it is impossible to convey the tacit knowledge built up over years of experience. I'm grateful to the clergy, staff, F&F, and Dilys for their support as I got to grips with the role.

Managing the church calendar and supporting hirers continues to be a big and growing part of the job - booking income has increased by 30%, from last year. It is great to see the building so well used. A couple of visitors recently remarked on how welcoming and well maintained the building is - many thanks to Tim, John and F&F for all their work.

Many thanks to the sound team for recording sermons and to Mark Greengrass for posting them on the website. The website gets lots of visits in particular the online library - most articles get thousands of views, and the Lent course page has received around 4700 views, suggesting the online resources serve a much broader community of interest than St Mark's.

Thanks to everyone for your support - I'll be handing back to Zoë in mid- April.

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|---|---|
|  | <b>15 March 2026 - Asylum</b><br>Beth Keith<br>Today is Mothering Sunday. And it is also the fourth Sunday in our Lenten cycle of sermons, linked to Lent study-groups, on issues of our Christian faith and social justice. This Sunday's subject is asylum, and Beth Keith finds parallels between the Biblical passages and links to the relationships of care, loyalty, nurture and love that are central to what we celebrate in Mothering Sunday today.<br><a href="#">Listen</a> <a href="#">Download</a> MP3 Audio 14.1MB (19:29)<br><a href="#">Read</a> <a href="#">Download</a> PDF Document 173.9KB |
|  | <b>Sunday 8 March 2026 - Disability</b><br>Michael Bayley<br>In this, the third of the Lenten series of sermons in the series 'Exploing Social Justice', Michael Bayley considers the issue of disability.<br><a href="#">Listen</a> <a href="#">Download</a> MP3 Audio 8.9MB (13:49)<br><a href="#">Read</a> <a href="#">Download</a> PDF Document 184.1KB   |
|  | <b>Sunday 1 March 2026 - Inequality</b><br>Sam Cowling-Green<br>For this, the second Sunday in Lent and the second in the topics for our Lent study groups on 'Social Justice', the focus for Sam Cowling-Green's sermon is inequality. Sam is Had of Chaplaincy for the MHA (Methodist Homes).<br><a href="#">Read</a> <a href="#">Download</a> PDF Document 136.8KB<br><a href="#">Listen</a> <a href="#">Download</a> MP3 Audio 7.3MB (09:30)  |

This photo highlights our weekly recorded sermons, available on our website for everyone to listen to and reflect on.

## Pastoral Care & Hospitality

### Pastoral Care

*Shan Rush (she/her)*

Much of the pastoral care we experience as members of church occurs naturally (organically) between friendship groups because we are all called to love and serve each other. As it says in John 13:34-35,

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Overall this works well but there are drawbacks to this approach particularly if you are new, do not have friendship groups within the church or have become isolated from the community for some reason. It also has the potential to be unsafe if boundaries of care, competency and confidentiality become blurred.

With the Church of England continuing to face a loss of trust and integrity that stem from failures of safeguarding vulnerable people, St Mark's is reviewing its pastoral care policies with the aim of bringing clarification about what constitutes a non-church activity carried out by friends and what is a church based activity carried out by an individual who is accountable to the church.

We don't want the naturally occurring care to stop, but we hope that a more formalized approach by a team of volunteers commissioned by St Mark's will have benefits for both the carers and those on the receiving end of pastoral care.

It is work in progress and we are not doing it in isolation but working with colleagues within the Mission Area and Diocese. It will mean that those with a recognized pastoral responsibility within St Mark's will be offered greater oversight and support and anyone new wanting to join the team will be recruited following a safer recruitment and people management code which builds on current national guidance.

I aim to undertake an audit to review what we are currently doing and seek your views about how you think we could improve the provision of pastoral care in our church.

Do have a conversation with me if you have thoughts or are interested in being involved.

## Lunch & Friendship Club

*Briony Tayler and Jean Baxter*

The lunch and friendship club enters its 36th year in good heart, serving a two-course hot meal for about 40 weeks of the year to between 18 and 25 people, including helpers, and transport staff if they are able to stay.

We offer a warm, welcoming space for members to relax with friends over their meal with an activity afterwards.

We celebrate birthdays monthly with a glass of sherry and also enjoy cake and sweets when it seems appropriate. Activities include singing, quizzes, chairbics, readings, visits from local schools or informative talks. We also had a very enjoyable summer outing to the Francis Newton pub nearby.

New volunteers Tony, Clare and Mia have joined Carol, Dilys, Kathryn, Miranda and Jean as much-appreciated 'Lounge helpers'. We are delighted that the current team of three cooks – Pauline, Mary-Jane and Briony - will be joined after Easter by Kate, who has been shadowing us recently. We look forward to Paula joining the kitchen team which currently consists of Eve, Carol and Susan with occasional help from John.

We thank Transport 17 and Community Transport for invaluable service collecting and bringing members. Thanks too to Rosalind for regular wheelchair-user assistance and to the clergy for taking Communion on request. On the finance and administrative side many thanks to David, Kathryn and Renate for their invaluable input. Finally our thanks to the Council for the grant which enables the Club to continue.

## Craft Group

*Jennie Martin*



A small group of knitters and crafters meet in the church lounge on the first Saturday of each month. We either make items for charities we learn about or do our own projects. This year, we have made cot blankets and items of clothing for Baby Basics, for which they are always very grateful. We have a stash of yarn and needles waiting for anyone who might like to come along and join us. Or come for coffee, biscuits and a chat. All welcome

## Sandwich Run

*Paula Jones*

Originally there were 4 teams, 1 per week but sadly that reduced to one.

Our team has continued to deliver sandwiches & hot drinks on a Sunday evening once a month. The homeless people we serve in the city centre are always appreciative of the food & drink or just a chat. A second team is about to start up & it would be great if we could form 2 more teams.

If you are interested in seeing what we do contact Paula on 07729741497 or Tim 07765 915830 & you can come out on a trip with us.

We meet at St Marks @5pm to prepare the sandwiches & drinks get out soon after 5.30 & are home for 7pm.

# Study and Learning

## Study and Learning

*Ian Wallis*

During 2025, the Revd John Schofield stood down from convening the ‘Study and Learning Group’ after many productive years, with highlights including the incorporation of the CRC online library into the church website, thereby establishing for the foreseeable future an accessible, far-ranging learning resource within the liberal-progressive tradition – one that continues to grow with new articles added regularly.

We offer John our heart-felt thanks for his major contribution, which continues, albeit at a gentler pace, through articles and presentations. We also offer our thanks to other members of the Study and Learning Group. St Mark’s remains committed to ‘thinking faith’ and is currently exploring the optimum way of developing and coordinating this central, multi-stranded core running through our common life.

One of this year’s highlights was our well-attended Autumn conference on ‘Just Economics.’ Internationally acclaimed economist, Ann Pettifor, offered a spirited critique of prevailing governmental strategies before outlining an alternative ethically-driven, environmentally-responsible approach – prescient advocacy for economics serving the common good.



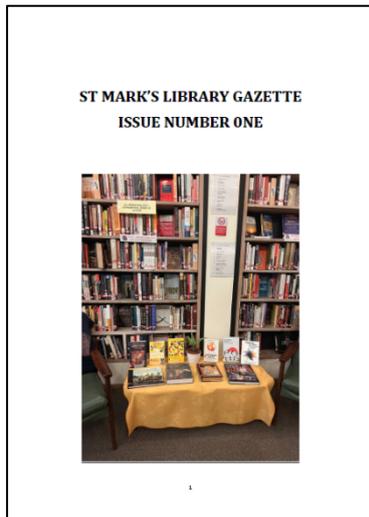
Under the leadership of Canon Jane Brooke, ‘Thinking Faith,’ our monthly Sunday evening seminar, has established itself as a valuable forum for engaging with topical issues of life and faith. Here is the programme for the past twelve months: the Dead Sea Scrolls, Evangelism, the American Right, Faith in the City, Church-State Relations, Disability, Islam, Truth, Healing and Wholeness, the Emergence of Christianity from Judaism.

‘Exploring Social Justice: Critical Issues Defining our Time’ is the title for this year’s Lent Course, with weekly topics covering identity, inequality, disability, asylum and social disintegration. The course has been designed for group use and personal study, accommodating different expectations and learning styles.

As you would expect, plans for the next twelve months have yet to be finalised, but they are likely to include the relaunch of our online ‘Logos’ bible study, the staging of an eco-justice event, the introduction of a poetry section within the church website and the preparation of additional resources responding to the CofE’s ‘Living in Love and Faith’ project.

Let me close by thanking everyone who has contributed to ‘thinking faith,’ thereby ensuring that St Mark’s continues to be a church where you don’t need to leave your brain at the door when you enter.

## Library Carole and Joe Forde



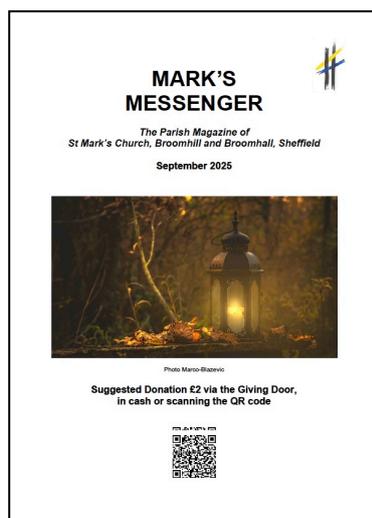
Over the last twelve months, use of the library has increased, with an average of 45 books on loan at any given time. Over thirty new acquisitions have been added, and we continue to grow the stock. We have developed a more open display style, and our new seating area has been welcomed by several congregants. We have also issued two editions of our new publication, *St Mark's Library Gazette*, and we have supported growth in the number of additions to the Online Library. Additionally, we have continued to supply *Mark's Messenger* with book reviews, and have incorporated them into our library copies for readers to use as introductions to the books. We have also selected books that have been mounted in themed displays for initiatives such as the lent course programme, and we were pleased to be able to showcase our strengths in areas such as social justice, poverty alleviation, liberation theology and Anglican social theology. We have also provided support to the *Thinking Faith* initiative, and were pleased to help launch a book co-

edited by a member of our congregation, at one of the *Thinking Faith* sessions. Overall, we hope you think that the Library Group has continued to make an important contribution the running of St Mark's Church over the last twelve months, and Carole and I we would like to thank everyone for the support and encouragement that members of the Group have received from so many of you, as we have gone about our work.

## Mark's Messenger Shan Rush (she/her)

Producing Mark's Messenger can be a challenging job but the reward of doing so is the feedback we continue to receive that each of the 4 editions that come out in February, June, September and December is appreciated.

Having 3 editors, (Frances Gray, Michael Miller and Shan Rush) means each edition takes on a slightly different flavour in the way the news, articles and book reviews covering a variety of subjects is presented.



We are seldom short of news, prayers and poems, stories of how faith is expressed in the world, inspirational or reflective pieces and book reviews, that help nourish and sustain us, encouraging us on our faith journey.

We reached a point where so many book reviews were being submitted that we did not have space to include them all and after discussions with Joe Forde and the library group, a new biannual publication independent of The Messenger is being produced – The St Mark's Library Gazette. This is a scholarly thought-provoking collection of articles and reviews covering a broad range of topics.

We could not continue to produce Mark's Messenger without the support of Dez Martin, Margot Fox, Rachael Hand and Zoë Varcoe. Its success is dependent on the teamwork of the above people, most of whom are unpaid volunteers.

If you have ideas or thoughts about the content of future editions, please do get in touch with us. We want to know what you really think and produce a magazine that interests you!

## Children, Young People and Students

### CHYPS

*Hannah Jones (she/her) and Lynn Pocock*

Hannah Jones:

It has been another great year for Children and Families' work at St Mark's. Similarly to the previous year, we have offered a full range of opportunities for children and young people to access worship on a Sunday morning including fortnightly Crèche and Godly Play Sessions, and monthly opportunities for Gathering on the Green and Family Sessions and All-Age Services. This rich provision is delivered by a team of volunteers for which we are deeply grateful.

This year, we had a wonderful first camping weekend for Children and Families. This was held in May at Thornbridge Outdoors (near Bakewell) and was very well attended, involving 48 campers and additional people joining us for the Saturday. The sun shone and we made the most of it with a fundraising walk for Christian Aid; Afternoon Service at the campsite; BBQ and campfire. The children and young people had a wonderful time playing together freely around the campsite for much of the time and offered a resounding 'YES!' when asked if we should go camping again next year! We are set to try again this year, and if anyone would like to join us for our Christian Aid walk, service and barbecue on the Saturday you'd be most welcome!



2025 also saw the launch of 'Parent Space' which is a monthly opportunity for parents to meet up during the week. So far this has been low key with 2 – 3 people attending most times and a variety of people involved. Though small in numbers, it feels like a valuable opportunity that parents appreciate accessing as and when they are able. It has been great to get to know people better through uninterrupted conversation!

Hannah continues to work with the wider community of Broomhill. Connecting with Broomhill Infants and developing intergeneration work with St Mark's Lunch Club. We were delighted to invite 70 Year 1 and Year 2 pupils to attend the annual 'Heritage Open Day' workshop. She also regularly supports toddler groups at Broomhill Community Library and at Broomhill Methodist Centre where she is on the steering group supporting their work establishing a climbing wall and role play centre with a focus pioneer ministry and community development.

Lynn Pocock:

Lions is the CHYPS group for teens which young people join as they come to the end of year 6. This year there were 10 young people in this age range, and it is due to grow again in September! We meet on the first Sunday of the month at the same time as Godly Play for chat, prayer and study. Thanks to Jack Hampson who is taking a lead in this as Lynn begins to handover.

Half termly there are Sunday afternoon meetings – in the lounge and out and about. There is usually food to be had, crumpets are popular. Activity wise, in this past year we have had games on the green, pizza-making (thanks Matt!) an excellent afternoon making chocolate cake decorations (thanks Lizzie!), a time to learn card games, an origami star-making session (thanks Hannah!) and a great afternoon at the recently opened climbing wall in Broomhill. Several members also took part in the interview process for the appointment of Helena Roulston.

Attendance is haphazard (which is what we expect with a group of youth who are very busy in their every-day lives) but the enthusiasm and laughter is unfailing every time. And those of us helping with this group feel it is a privilege and a blessing.

## Young Adults & Students

The students and young adults group continue to meet regularly after the 10am service for their group called 'coffee and coffee', staying connected through a WhatsApp group and occasional social gatherings outside of church. This year, they have explored various topics (see poster) and had their own Lent group, focusing on the same content as the rest of St Marks. Thank you to everyone who facilitated and participated in this group.



**YOUNG ADULTS AT  
ST MARKS**

Join us for 'coffee after coffee' 11.45am-12.30pm

Sunday 28th September: **Welcome to St Marks Young Adults! (with board games)**

Sunday 12th October: **How does st Mark's do church? (Q&A)**

Sunday 19th October: **Introduction to Taizé**

Sunday 2nd November: **LGBT+ Inclusion in church**

Sunday 16th November: **Christianity and activism**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November: **Ethical consumerism**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December: **Christmas social**

\*Anyone is welcome age 18-30(ish)- students, non-students & graduates



## Worship

### Sunday Worship

*Beth Keith (she/her)*

#### 8am Communion, Book of Common Prayer

We meet for two services each month, on the second and fourth Sundays. Although this is a small congregation it is a faithful group who gather regularly for a quiet Communion with traditional, poetic language. This year we have seen an increase in people attending the 8am, which whilst still the smallest adult congregation, is now proportionally the becoming the most diverse. It is a surprisingly peaceful space for worship. Do come along and you can and see for yourself.



#### Parish Eucharist

Our weekly 10am Sunday service continues to draw people of all ages, and it has been particularly encouraging to see growing numbers of children among us. Our worship follows liturgy shaped by the church year, combining traditional forms with contemporary language. We aim to be attentive to the words we use in both liturgy and hymns, reflecting the diversity of our congregation and our commitment to an inclusive theology.

It has also been a joy to see the choir continue to grow over the past couple of years. This year our links with Steel City Choristers developed. They are now based at St Mark's rehearsing on Mondays and Fridays, and have contributed to some of our services. St Mark's Children's Choir and our choral and organ scholars have added to our music provision. It has been good to see the young people develop and grow, with some moving on to further study or organ scholarships in Cathedrals.

During term time there is usually provision for children, either in the lounges or outside on the Green, helping them to engage with the service in ways that are appropriate for them. We are continuing to think carefully about how best to support people of all ages so that everyone can participate meaningfully in Sunday morning worship. With our children

growing older, we advertised for an associate priest to work especially with teens and students, and we are looking forward to Revd Helena Roulston starting with us after Easter.

Our All Age Services, which usually take place twice each term, give us the opportunity to gather for worship with all ages together, contributing and participating. These services also allow us to explore simpler forms of worship, storytelling, and music. The feedback has been very positive, and it has been encouraging to see how much these services are valued across the congregation.

We are fortunate to have a number of people who contribute to preaching and leading worship, including clergy, Readers, those exploring a vocation to ordination, and others with theological expertise to share. This brings a variety of voices and perspectives to our services. Our team of readers and intercessors is also continuing to grow, and if you would be interested in becoming involved, please contact the office.

We are always grateful for those who help make our worship possible each week. At present we are particularly looking for volunteers to join the Welcome Team, help with the sound desk and Zoom support, or assist with flower arranging. There are many ways to contribute to the life of the church, and we would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

## Night Service

Our evening services continue to offer a range of different styles of worship, and it has been encouraging to see growing engagement over the past year. In particular, attendance has increased on our Thinking Faith evenings, when we explore a particular theme or topic with guest speakers. These evenings provide an opportunity to reflect more deeply on questions of faith and life, and the thoughtful contributions from speakers and participants alike have made them a valued part of our pattern of worship.

Alongside this, our contemporary worship service, Taizé, and contemplative communion are now well established. These services tend to gather smaller congregations, drawing both those who come regularly for a quieter, more reflective style of worship and others who join us from time to time. Together they offer a space for prayer, reflection and stillness within the rhythm of church life.

## Taizé Worship

*Robyn Vesey*

St Mark's Taizé, on the third Sunday night service, is a long-running prayer service with the music and style of the Taizé community – an ecumenical monastic community in France founded after the second world war.

Many of the small group who lead the service have visited Taizé and find encouragement there. With a focus on young adults, but with relevance to all of us, the Taizé community asks questions to do with how we find purpose for our lives and how we sustain ourselves as we seek to serve the needs of others. The answer comes in both biblical theological engagement and a

communal life. The communal life we get a taste of in Taizé is inclusive and playful, consisting of shared meals, work and prayer with music and silence. The current prior of Taizé is Brother Matthew, a Yorkshire born Bradford City supporter, who himself came to St Mark's when he was a medical student in Sheffield.

St Mark's Taizé night service is part of a wider Taizé in Sheffield group with other Taizé prayer services at St Mary's Walkley, and St Timothy's in Crookes. We have a Facebook group where we share information about upcoming services across Sheffield.

As with other St Mark's night services, we find people come who do not come to other services at St Marks, including local students, regular attenders and people new to the church. The prayer is contemplative, calming and spacious, with simple, beautiful music. All are welcome.

## Open Communion

*Beth Keith (she/her) and Bek Hampson (they/them)*

Open Communion continues to meet monthly and is now an established congregation. On the second Sunday of each month, we host a gathering for the LGBTQI+ community and allies. The afternoons begin with refreshments and conversation, before moving into a simple Eucharist led by different clergy from across the diocese. Over the past couple of years this group has grown both in numbers and in its sense of community. There is now a committed team of people who help lead and support the service, together with Bek Hampson who acts as host and warden.

Big Queer Carols was once again a highlight of the year. Hosted by the Open Communion team, this joyful and inclusive carol service filled the church once more, with extra chairs needed to accommodate everyone who came.

At a time when some members of the LGBTQI+ community are feeling particularly vulnerable because of attitudes within parts of the wider church, we are grateful that St Mark's can offer a worshipping space that is clearly and wholeheartedly welcoming and supportive.



## Weekday Worship

*Shan Rush (she/her)*

St Mark's continues to offer a variety of opportunities for worship during the week, predominantly on Zoom.

Monday to Friday we have morning and evening prayer. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, St John's and St Mark's unite, with St John's leading on a Tuesday and Friday and St Mark's on a Thursday.

The Thursday mid-day celebration of the Eucharist in the Celtic tradition continues with its small but faithful congregation which values the opportunity to pause in the day, to gather on Zoom and for everyone to contribute to the worship, whether that is by being present, leading the congregational response or the Gospel, offering an insight at the homily, suggesting people or situations for prayers, sharing the peace or introducing the blessing. All are made welcome whether attending regularly or on an occasional basis.

Sadly we had to disband our Julian Prayer group as the number of people available to facilitate the worship in any form diminished until it became unsustainable.

Thank you to everyone who helps facilitate or joins weekday worship.

## Music & Choir

*Eleanor Jarvis*

Music at St Mark's continues to grow in strength and remains a vital part of the church's worship and community. During David Willington's sabbatical, our Assistant Director of Music, Eleanor Jarvis, has taken on his responsibilities. We are extremely grateful to the freelance organists who have played for our weekly services during this period.

Our music scholars continue to flourish, and we are delighted to have such a talented and committed group contributing regularly to worship. On Sunday mornings, the choir is further enriched by the involvement of two excellent singers, alongside our instrumental scholars whose musicianship greatly enhances services. The choir sings a wide-ranging repertoire, from Renaissance polyphony to contemporary choral works, as well as folk music and modern popular song.

We have also been pleased to welcome Steel City Choristers, who now rehearse twice weekly at St Mark's. It has been a joy to see them become part of the church's musical family, particularly through their participation in services and their involvement in our coffee concert series.

St Mark's Songbirds, our children's choir, has resumed rehearsals. It is wonderful to hear young voices in the church again, and we hope to continue developing this choir as a regular part of Sunday worship. Our thanks go to the volunteers who support and chaperone our children's musical activities.

Finally, the choir was saddened by the death of Anne Button in January. A much-loved member of the choir, Anne will be greatly missed, and our prayers remain with her family.



## Three Spires Mission Area and Hallam Deanery

### Mission Area

*Shan Rush (she/her)*

Although described as a Mission Area, St John's Ranmoor, St Mary's Walkley and ourselves are 3 individual benefices each with our own unique identities with priorities that sometimes overlap. To date the majority of our interactions have been focused on enabling one another to sustain existing patterns of worship within our churches both short term, such as Matthew's 3 month sabbatical last year, or regularly as at St Mary's when we preside and preach at least once a month.

This fits in with one reason Mission Areas were established in Sheffield, to counteract the impact of reducing clergy numbers but where do we stand in relation to other reasons?

Mission areas are also intended to develop a coordinated approach to mission beyond the needs of the worshipping community. We do it on a small scale in the work we are doing through our dementia core Group but there are other areas we have in common such as Eco Church, inclusive church and work with children, families and young adults that each church is pursuing individually when we could potentially work more collaboratively.

In July this year, we will be gathering at our second Mission Area Weekend. Bishop Leah will be joining us on Saturday 11 July and is going to help us explore what the priorities, gifts and skills within the Mission Area are, and how we might take the next steps in working together on projects that will help us connect with people beyond church in our parish, city, country and world in a way that could have a transformative impact on the lives of those we strive to serve in God's name.

### Deanery Synod Report

*Beth Keith (she/her)*

During 2025, Deanery Synod meetings were held jointly with our twinned Deanery of Ecclesfield. The meetings covered a range of topics including developments in Focal Ministry, the Church's ministry of healing and wholeness, racial justice, and the Diocese of Sheffield's strategy and funding plans for 2025–2031.

In March, the Revd Dan Brown, Vicar of Wadsley Church, was licensed as our new Area Dean. The year concluded with the Bishop's Roadshow at Christ Church Pitsmoor, where Bishop Pete, Bishop Leah and Archdeacon David Gerrard shared reflections on their ministries and the life of the diocese. St Mark's was represented at Deanery Synod by Chris Ware and Robyn Vesey. Beth Keith and Shan Rush also attend Deanery Synod and Chapter. They are happy to answer any questions about the work of Deanery Synod.

This year new synod representatives are due to be voted in. Deanery Synod reps are welcome to go to Deanery Synod meetings, and vote for members of General Synod. Representing St Mark's and representing progressive inclusive theology and church practice is important and valuable. If you would like to find out more, please talk to Chris Ware or the other members of Deanery Synod.

