St Mark's Sheffield

Notices for 29 November 2026

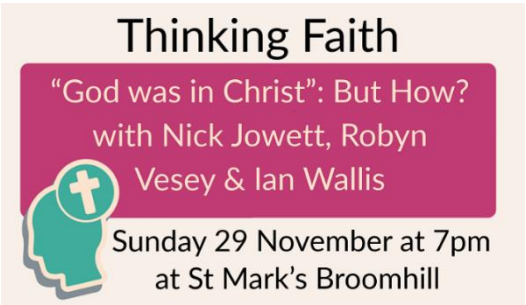
Information about upcoming events, news and how to get involved below.
Patterns of worship here, Children's here, church calendar here and giving here.

THIS WEEK:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – Support the young members of our choir and other young people who are performing an adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' on **Saturday 28th November** from 3.30-5pm at St John's Church Hall Abbeydale Road South. Cash on the door £2.00.



THINKING FAITH SESSION: more here



CHRISTMAS CARDS from Oxfam & Good taste will be on sale after the 10am service, cash please.

TOY SWAP - Calling all grandparents and families, please bring any unwanted lightly used toys for a swap at St Marks on 29 November. Items (including toys, books, Christmas jumpers, Christmas decorations or unwanted gift-wrapping paper) can be brought to church in the morning and then items will be available to choose after church or before/after the Christingle service in the afternoon. We hope that by swapping rather than shopping for gifts we can together reduce our carbon footprint and reduce waste this Christmas.



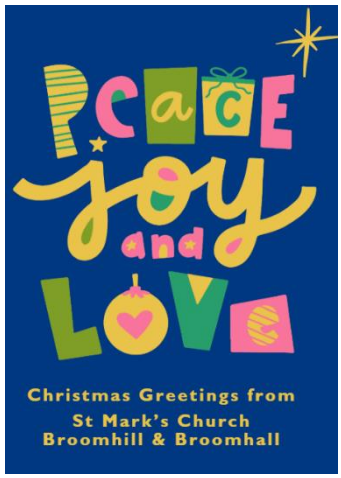
CASIO CPS -7 Electric Piano Keyboard & CS-40P STAND BOXED –This unit has 76 Full Size Keys. The keyboard can be powered by a 12v Mains Adaptor (not sure if this is available) or by Standard type 'D' batteries. Available for a suggested donation of £50 - £75. Other offers will be considered as the donor would rather it is used than not. Item currently in the vestry and will be available at the Toy and Jumper swap or see Shan





COMMUNION BREAD – The gluten free Tiger bread we tried over the last few weeks has proved to be very crumby and difficult to administer without giving people a larger piece which is more difficult to swallow! We have managed to source the gluten free pitta bread we previously used so will revert to this in the short term whilst we explore other options. *Clergy team*

ST MARK'S CHRISTMAS CARD FLYERS - Please take some cards and give them to friends, neighbours, family members or anyone who might like to join us for our Christmas services. Please also consider delivering them to your street if you live near-ish, there will be a sign up sheet in the back of church so we don't duplicate streets.



LOGOS ONLINE BIBLE STUDY
Christian Beginnings According to the Acts of the Apostles
Wednesday 2 December 2026, 7.00 – 8.30 pm
No prior knowledge needed, just an open, inquisitive mind and desire to discover more about the Christian Way. All welcome! The Logos Zoom Link will be on the weekly e-mail. If you do not receive this and would like your name to be added, please contact the Church Office via office@stmarkssheffield.co.uk.

COMING UP AT ST MARK'S:



NEWS

SAD NEWS – It is with great sadness that we let you know of the death of Robin Saunders on Tuesday 24 November. May he rest in peace.
Robin started attending St Mark's Church in 1965 and contributed to a wide range of activities connected to St Mark's including singing in the choir, playing violin, Fabric and finance committee, treasurer of the Centre for Radical Christianity and trustee of SUCCOL to name but a few. Eve really values your support but please could we ask that you refrain from phoning her directly for the time being to give her the space she needs to grieve. Messages of condolence can be sent via WhatsApp or card and please do hold Eve, Anna, Michael, Rob and their families and friends in your prayers. Robin's funeral will be on Friday 11 December at 11am in St Mark's and will be followed by refreshments before the committal at Grenoside Crematorium at 3.30pm. Dress code comfortable /smart casual and does not need to be black. If you are planning to attend, please let Shan know so the family have a rough idea of numbers for catering purposes. Thank you, Shan

NUT - FREE CHURCH, FROM 1 DECEMBER 2026 - The Benedict Law has recently been introduced to make sure that schools (in particular) are fully aware of how to manage allergies, which has in turn led to recommendations from the Diocese of Sheffield. In particular we have decided to follow advice and ask that no nuts be brought into church, and particularly no nut foods to be prepared and/or served from the kitchens. We understand that many wrappers say 'may contain nuts'. We cannot stop using all the products that say this! However, please do not use products that include nuts in the ingredients list. Posters with more information are coming soon. Thank you.

CHANGES TO MINISTRY ACROSS THE THREE SPIRES MISSION AREA

St John's are in the midst of a time-consuming project to save their spire and enhance the church's facilities, and this alongside a reduction in the working hours of Revd Alison Wragg has meant Revd Matthew Rhodes and herself are currently unable to continue to support the ministry of St Mary's in the way they have been doing. For the time being, their ministerial focus will be in relation to St John's rather than to the wider Mission Area.

With the appointment of Helena to St Mark's, the return to full time ministry of Beth and the ministry of Ian, Shan has been able to review her vocation and following a period of discernment, felt called to begin a new phase in her ministry by reducing the time she is at St Marks and offering an increased time commitment to St Mary's predominantly in a pastoral role, working alongside licensed and other lay ministers who undertake specific ministries in St Mary's parish.



At St Mary's, Beth will continue to be the Priest in Charge with oversight of the team of lay and ordained ministers. In addition to Shan, St Mary's will be welcoming another new member to the team, Revd Samuel Tudor as assistant curate. Sam is moving to St Mary's from Manor Parish where he has been a curate for the past 18 months. Following a re-evaluation of the scope of his training incumbent's role, it was felt that Sam would benefit from a new training placement. St Mary's was identified both as a good context to support Sam's continued development, and a parish which could benefit from a full time stipendiary curate with Sam's particular gifts and skills. We will be sharing a photo and introduction from Sam in St Mary's church news next week. Sam will be helping St Mary's with their Christmas Market on 12th December so there will be plenty of opportunity to meet him there.

In order to mark and formalise these changes, Bishop Leah will be at St Mary's at 10.30 am on 13 December to license Sam as Curate of St Mary's and Shan as Associate Priest to St Mary's Walkley and across the Mission Area. Bishop Leah will also use this opportunity to renew Mr Joseph Pritchard's license as Reader at St Mary's. You are warmly invited to join us and clergy and readers are invited to robe. Following the service light refreshments will be served.

HELP OUT:

JOIN OUR CHOIR - If St Mark's would like to continue to have a vibrant choir to lead worship, then we need members of the congregation to contribute and share their vocal gifts. Music is an important part of worship at St Mark's, and the choir is central to this. The choir both leads and enhances worship. We are lucky to have some very dedicated members of the congregation

who do sing weekly but recently, for various reasons, several of them have had to retire. Despite our best efforts, we've had limited success and have only managed to recruit 2 new members.
In addition to the congregation, we try and recruit from outside the church, but our view is that the bulk of the choir will inevitably be drawn from the congregation.
There are no expectations or requirements of membership. Some people come twice a week, to Thursday rehearsals and Sunday services. Others only do Sundays. Some sing when they can, which may be as little as 3 or 4 times a year. Sadly, without singers in the choir stalls on Sunday mornings, the choir will eventually stop.
If you're able to contribute at all to the choir, we'd love to have you along. We're particularly short of sopranos and altos, but everyone is welcome. If you're choir-curious, please give it a go or have a chat to David.

ST MARK'S CAROL SINGING - If anyone would like to join members of the St Mark's choir to do carol singing in local care homes on Tues 8 Dec, they'd be very welcome to join us. We'll meet at St Mark's at 5.30, visit 3 local care homes, then be back at St Mark's by 8.30

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SPONSORSHIP APPEAL: A family of five from Ukraine is seeking a Homes for Ukraine sponsor in the Sheffield area while they settle and look for longer-term accommodation. If you would like to find out more about offering short term accommodation and support, please speak to the office.

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 which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Ordinary people, wherever they are, can help change someone else's life. Together, they have helped secure the release of people unlawfully detained, reunite families, challenge abusive laws and remind countless individuals that they have not been forgotten. To take part visit Write for Rights 2026 Letter Writing Details
For those with no Internet access copies of the printed booklets are now available and will continue to be available during advent. When you have sent your cards, do pass the booklet on to someone else.
Robin Story

2027 CHURCH FLOWER ROTA - This needs preparing! I'm presuming existing donors for the weekly flowers in church are happy to continue unless you tell me otherwise. **New donors are always welcome** so if anyone wishes to pay for the church flowers on a certain Sunday in memory of a loved one or for an anniversary please contact me. **If you fancy having a go at arranging flowers,** the church flower team would love you to join us. We take it in turns to do an arrangement each week so the commitment is not onerous. Help and assistance is happily given! If you are interested to be either a donor or an arranger please contact me. Mary-Jane Ryder,
email: mjryder.ivypark@btinternet.com
Thanks to Vanessa Senger, Helen Fisher, Maureen Bowness and Jennifer Hurrell for donating flowers & Helen Fisher, Tricia Morgan, Vanessa Senger and Jennifer Hurrell for arranging them in November

ACCOMMODATION / NEW HOME NEEDED Anne P has a new job in Broomhill and now wants a new place to live in Broomhill or Crookes to reduce her travelling distance and time to get to work. If you can help, please talk to Anne either in person or email/phone: befreeuk@hotmail.com or 07736527777.



EASY FUNDRAISING – Help us invest in the life of St Mark's and reduce the expected deficit of around £20,000 in 2027. Every little helps!

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING - on Saturday December 5th 2-3 pm outside old Debenhams Please sign up on sheet on the notice board in the corridor.

WALKLEY CHRISTMAS MARKET Saturday 12 December 11am – 4pm at St Mary's Church, South Road, Walkley, S6 3RX. 38 superb stalls from local makers and creators, fabulous festive food and drink and an Alpine Bar alongside live music, festive face painting and a raffle. Admission £1 donation for adults and kids are free.

BRADFIELD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC - Bradfield Festival of Music is a week-long programme of concerts by nationally and internationally renowned performers, held in St Nicholas' church, High Bradfield. The trustees are looking for new members of the trustee board to help with the organisation and management of the Festival. For more information, contact Philip Booth on 07950 472882.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE ABBEYDALE SINGERS, Saturday 12th December at 7.30 **pm here at St Mark's**. It will be a lovely mix of sacred and secular Christmas music with plenty of seasonal good cheer! Tickets £15, Students £6 and accompanied children under 18 free. Book in advance online at www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk (a booking fee will apply) or pay on the door.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT WITH THE SHEFFIELD CHORALE, Wednesday 16th December at 7.30 pm at St Marie's RC Cathedral, Norfolk Street in the City centre. A traditional service of nine lessons and carols - free entrance with a retiring collection to support Roundabout *(Local Youth Housing Charity)*. For more details go to http://www.sheffieldchorale.org

FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

ECO TIPS:

As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence). Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!

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