

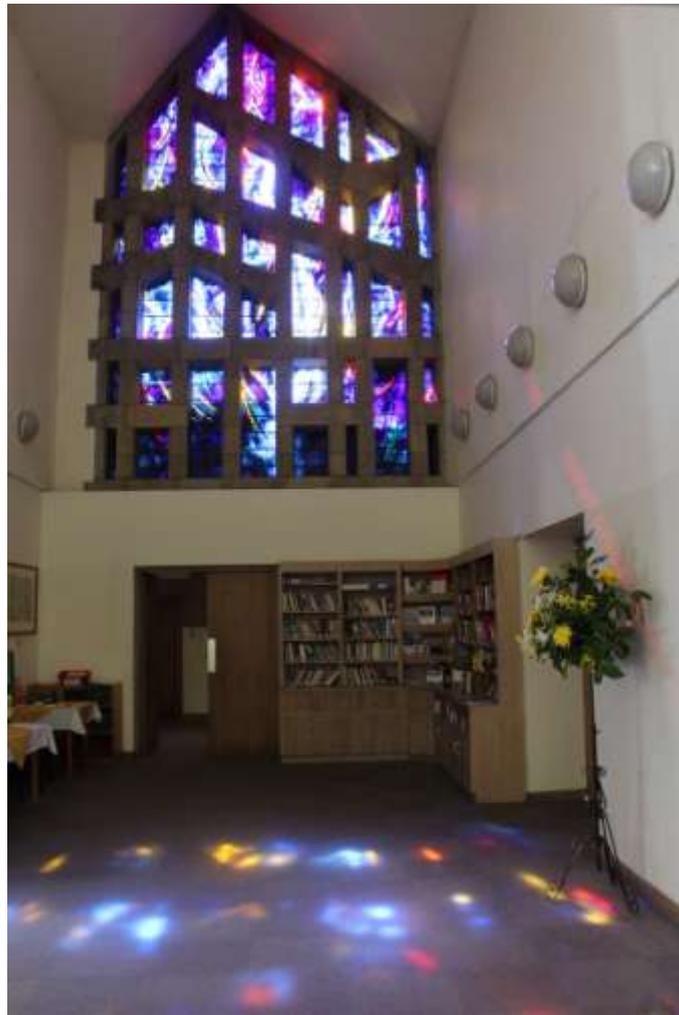


St Mark's Church

Living Thinking Faith

Broomhill and Broomhall, Sheffield

St Mark's Church, Broomfield Road, Broomhill, Sheffield, S10 2SE



ANNUAL REPORT

for the year to the Annual
Parochial Meeting in April 2017

www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Our Vision and Mission

St Mark's Broomhill and Broomhall is part of the Anglican Communion within the world-wide Christian Church.

We understand ourselves to be called to:

- gather together to worship as the body of Christ in this place which welcomes and celebrates human diversity.
- serve our parish and congregation in ways which show the love and compassion of Christ.
- relate our faith to the world around us and campaign for justice both locally and worldwide.
- create a safe and welcoming space where people can question and discover the sacred in their own way.

Living Thinking Faith

We see faith as a journey; dynamic rather than static, with questions as a crucial part of faith and welcoming intellectual challenge as part of our own process of theological discovery.

As followers of a faith inspired by the life and work of Jesus, we work to positively relate our theology and worship to the world we inhabit.

We consider matters of social justice to be central to the gospel and have a strong commitment to inclusivity, valuing difference and offering a safe space for all at every stage of life.

CHALLENGING ASSUMPTIONS (April 2016-Mar 2017)

On April 21 2016 Sarah Colver was licensed as Associate Vicar and so began another chapter in our life together. This last twelve months we have welcomed many newcomers, alongside Sarah, Stephen, Aran (and their extended family) but we have also had to say goodbye to a number of beloved friends. Births, marriages and deaths form the heart of our life together as do the many activities reflected in this year's Annual Report. It is a testament to the vibrancy of the life we share at St Mark's. Whatever part you play, however large or small, thank you for contributing to the life of this church.

We've accompanied one another through a great deal of change over recent years and this year we have experienced a number of significant losses. I would like to express my gratitude for all the hidden acts of kindness that are shared amongst people in this church. Whether you call in to see someone or give them a ring, whether you help out with someone's shopping or bring people to church, you are a living prayer for those who might otherwise feel isolated or forgotten. Thank you. I am immensely grateful to Gill MacGregor for taking on the role of pastoral care coordinator. We now have a core pastoral care team but we are still looking for someone to work alongside Gill. I am grateful to Sarah for taking up the oversight of pastoral care as a key part of her role as Associate Vicar.

During this year we have had to say farewell to Roy and Beryl Barry as they moved closer to their family. They have been members of St Mark's since St George's closed down and brought vision and a passion for justice into the heart of all that we do. Their presence is sorely missed.

Matthew Jennings had only been with us at St Mark's for a short time before he died but his passion for the organ and excitable sense of humour challenged any assumption I may have made about the limitations of disability. Matthew's sudden death, exactly a year ago, caused us to grieve as a community that recognised, the loss of potential of such a gifted young man.

Nothing could have prepared us for the death of Isobel Bowler, a woman in the prime of her life with

so very much more to give. Her loss was felt keenly within the Sheffield community. Our hearts continue to go out to Richard and Mary.

Gary Keeling was also in his fifties when he succumbed to illness. He had only just begun to find his voice here at St Mark's but we could already see his many gifts. We feel for Jane and her family in their loss.

Perhaps we should expect the deaths of older members of the congregation, but this year we've had to say goodbye to Meg Jackson, Fred Gould, Elizabeth Bramley, Rhiannon Clayton and Margaret Lyons, people who seemed to defy their age. Their passing reminds us that none of us is immortal.

And yet we have also welcomed many newcomers to all three of our Sunday congregations. We have celebrated the baptisms of Abigail Ryder, Chloe Jenkins and Hannah Duggan, adding to the growing strength of young children and families within the congregation that gathers at 10am. We have celebrated the marriage of Sam Faulds and Emily Thatcher and look forward to welcoming them back from their honeymoon!

Another significant change which we've navigated these last twelve months has taken place in the church office. Anne Padget served us faithfully as our Parish Administrator since 2009 often giving way more than the hours for which she was paid. In October 2016 she moved on to work for Chorus UK. We still benefit from Anne's great gifts as Reader, Lay Chair of Deanery Synod and as a member of the PCC. We wish Anne every success in all that she is doing and thank her again for all that she has given to St Mark's already. We were very fortunate to find temporary cover in Anna Sandersfield who helped out for a few months, and Anna Ryder who picked up the organisation of bookings. We are delighted to welcome Innes MacLeod into the staff team and hope that you all get the chance to meet him before too long.

I began this piece by celebrating the arrival of Sarah Colver. Having a colleague with whom to share daily prayer and the tasks of ministry, expected and unexpected, has been a great blessing and I am grateful to Sarah for the way that she has thrown herself into the life of the parish right from day one. I feel excited about the year that lies ahead of us both as we build on strong foundations.

During this year both Shan Rush and Liz Anson took some time out to consider what came next for them. Shan has returned with a fresh sense of the importance of presence within our worshipping community, a presence which isn't always at the front of church but which is always attentive to those around her. I am immensely grateful to Shan for not being too busy to notice when people need someone to talk to.

Liz Anson has taken a step back from her duties as Night Service Chaplain and we wish her well as her energies are restored. Her passion for Night Service continues to bear fruit as it explores different ways of being a worshipping community with contemporary spirituality. We look forward to encouraging a small group of people to help shape and form Night Service over the coming months.

Mark McCombs has continued to draw the very best out of our choir, in weekly worship and our seasonal specials. The Carol Service is building up its own reputation for being thought provoking and relevant as part of our preparation for Christmas and the Via Dolorosa is one of the most significant services in the church year for me as the events of Holy Week are echoed in poetry and music. Mark has also been studying hard this last twelve months and so I am particularly grateful to him for his commitment to St Mark's.

Working as part of a thriving clergy team is a great joy and I am grateful to all those who share in ministry here, for Michael Bayley, Michael Page, Tim Gregory and Mark Newitt and for our placement students, Paul Hart and Tracey Morris. Lay ministry continues to thrive and I am delighted that Jonathan Williamson is progressing with his studies as Reader. I am immensely grateful to Sarah Moore and Philip Booth, our churchwardens and to Dilys Noble and Martin Godley for their role as Assistant Wardens.

This year Sarah Moore completes her three years as Churchwarden, a time in which she has flourished and exercised her great many gifts and skills within this community. I cannot thank Sarah enough for all that she has invested in our life together, she leaves us better equipped to move forward and she will be sorely missed.

There are so many more people to thank – the tapestry of people who make up our life together is woven with multicolour strands. We have a great deal to learn from each other which has come into sharp relief in recent months as we struggled to make sense of the controversies surrounding the appointment of a new Bishop. May we continue to challenge assumptions that prevent us from growing in faith. Sue

Sue Hammersley, Vicar



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

In many ways, this year has been somewhat more settled for the Churchwardens, as we have been working with a full staff team. We have been meeting regularly with Sue and Sarah, as well as with the broader Standing Committee to discuss the strategic directions for St Mark's, as well as more everyday matters including planning the PCC agendas. Sarah has developed a Lone Worker policy and Social Media Strategy and Guidelines, as well as updating the Health and Safety Policy alongside completing the risk assessment for the large event we held with Nadia Bolz Weber as the invited speaker. Philip has also carried out significant work to streamline our information storage.

Philip has been leading the ongoing work around the issue of parking on the Crescent. Last year PCC agreed to request the City council to extend the traffic regulation order to cover St Marks Crescent and voted to spend no more than £3500 to achieve that end. The council has prepared a scheme for the order and carried out the statutory consultation.

The European Respiratory Society will pay a third of the cost and the diocese has agreed to pay half the balance. But progress has been glacially slow and although everything is now in place we still await a date for completing the work from the council's contractor, Amey.

We also opened St Mark's for one day as part of the Heritage Open Days in September. This gave us the opportunity to show off our stunning building and was accompanied by a display outlining the history of the building.

As Churchwardens, we occupy a privileged position in that we are able to witness how much is done by so many people to support the ministry of St Mark's. Thank you for everything you do. We are particularly grateful for the support of our Assistant Wardens, Dilys and Martin.

Sarah will be standing down as Churchwarden at the APCM to focus on her EdD studies. It has been a challenging, but enjoyable three years (plus one as Assistant Warden!) and a privilege to serve this community through this role. Getting to know, and work with, so many people from our congregations has been incredibly rewarding. Thank you to all of you for your support.

Sarah Moore

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The new PCC started off the year in May with a reflection of the many and varied activities that contribute to the mission of St Mark's. The PCC looked at how these activities can be co-ordinated by existing and suggested new groups and how the PCC and the clergy would work with these groups. Over the year the following groups have reported back regularly to the PCC on their activities: Children, Young People and Students, Finance and Fabric, Communications, Pastoral Care, Faith and Justice, Hospitality. Their reports are covered below in this report.

The PCC has had a busy year again. These are some of the areas that the PCC has contributed to:

- Reviewing St Mark's safeguarding policies
- Maintenance of the Memorial garden and the organ

- The setting up of a Life and Death Matters Café, now operating independently out of a Crookes café
- Managing the budget
- Restructuring of the website
- Appointment of a new administrator
- Development of a new social media strategy
- Continuing to use the Diocesan tools for strategic planning to reflect on the progress we are making in various areas in the life of St Mark's.

The PCC was consulted as part of the process of appointing a new Bishop of Sheffield, and then played a role in discussing an appropriate response to the appointment of Bishop Philip and his subsequent withdrawal.

Juliet Storey

PCC GROUPS

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

The website has had an exciting year. It continued to be maintained by some regular church attendees for several months. However, the responsibility of keeping the website up to date on a weekly basis was merged into the administrator role, making for a more efficient process! Since the Autumn, a planning group has developed to look at expanding the website's reach and possibilities, as well as looking at wording/content and design. Ben Treadaway, an experienced web developer and also a member of the Night Service, has led this group and will be implementing some of the changes during 2017. Keep an eye on the website to see how this develops. We hope we can build on the current good website, to form an excellent one that is hopefully much more engaging and stimulating.

Rosie Hunt

Social Media

Over the last year St. Mark's use of social media has developed significantly: we now have three Facebook Groups, a Facebook page and twitter feed. The group for 'Students and Young-ish Adults' was started by students but is now open to all at St

Mark's whose self-definition of 'young-ish' will not be challenged, and who would like to keep in touch, arrange social meetings, share news/event invitations etc. The 'St Mark's Discussion Group' is a space for robust conversations where all are welcome who are drawn to discussing the big questions, while the 'St Mark's Faith and Justice Group' has a specific focus on social justice, and an ecumenical membership drawn mainly from Sheffield churches.

The St Mark's Facebook page is our social media window to the outside world, and our updates include parish as well as local/national ecumenical and interfaith news; event invitations and feedback; photos; web links to sermons preached on Sundays, and to the St Mark's Messenger; responses to local, national and international events; links to resources which may be of interest to those following the site. Since last year our 'readership' has doubled, with 271 people from around the globe following us. Our voice speaking out for inclusion and welcome for all is being heard loud and clear, with our website response to the Report of the House of Bishops on Same-Sex Marriage reaching nearly 4,800 people. It's easy for us at St Marks to take our liberal stance and celebration of diversity for granted, but the heartfelt emails we receive after posting an unequivocal 'God loves you' and 'this church community stands with you in solidarity' are a reminder that for many their experience of church has been a source of pain and exclusion. Our posts can be a source of grace, cutting through isolation and rejection.

Our twitter feed, however, is only generated by being linked to our Facebook page so if you are feeling called to tweeting on behalf of St Mark's please let us know.

Using social media responsibly and respectfully can be a challenge, and following a consultation with our social media users the Communications Group has drawn up a Social Media strategy and guidance document which is in its final draft stage, and will shortly be posted on the website.

Problems finding the St Mark's Facebook sites? Want to get involved? Keen to tweet on behalf of our community? Please do get in touch via Innes at the office.

Sibylle Batten

HOME DONATIONS

I've spent my work in the voluntary sector often applying for money, raising money and bidding for money! So it is refreshing to be in the role of helping to decide about how resources can be donated to some brilliant projects.

In 2016 the Home Donations Group made donations, in total of about £7000 to 19 groups and organisations. They included the S2 food bank - assisting very vulnerable people, Assistn - the organisation working with refugees and asylum seekers and the Darnall Family Development Project which improves health and supports families, as well as some campaigning organisations.

The generosity of St Marks's congregation goes mainly to help small organisations working directly with people, for instance, to improve their health or opportunities to find work. It also gives some small donations to support organisations which campaign against the causes of poverty and disadvantage which curtail the life chances of so many people in our city.

Charities in Sheffield are a vital part of improving life in the city, providing personal support, tackling loneliness and contributing to health and wellbeing. They create thousands of volunteering opportunities: everything from sports clubs, community action to visiting older people. Home Donations makes a real difference to the effectiveness of these charities.

I want to thank other committee members for helping me in the role of chair of Home Donations: Rosie Hunt, Dez Martin, David Price, David Ryder, David Trickett and Chris Ware with Sue Hammersley.

We have been reviewing recently how we make donations so they have most impact and making sure that we communicate what we are doing with the congregation throughout the year.

If you've got ideas about charities St Marks's could support and can join the Home Donations Group please contact me.

Judy Robinson

INTERNATIONAL

When I left Nepal at the beginning of June 2016 I was getting one hundred and fifty five Nepali rupees for every one pound sterling I exchanged. Today, 9 months post the EU referendum, that one pound sterling will buy only a hundred and thirty one Nepali rupees. That is roughly a 15% decrease in the value of any funds sent to Nepal or for that matter to any of St. Mark's overseas partners.

St. Mark's Congregation and International Committee have worked hard to redress this downturn generally in the value of charity donations. We have been fortunate in receiving an enhanced total funding allocation from the church coffers this year £13,169.00 instead of £13,085 last year.

The International Committee met on November 6th 2016 to consider how this sum should be allocated. Last year our emphasis was on refugees fleeing conflict in many parts of our troubled world. We had a lively discussion and in general tried to rationalise and slim down our suggested beneficiaries. It was proposed to the PCC that the funds be split between just 11 charities. We proposed 3 major Charities and the remaining 8 were chosen for their links to members of St Mark's with a worldwide spread. It was with some misgivings that we decided to leave USPG off the list this year. The PCC agreed that Christian Aid should receive 25% of the budget as our major charity with the 10 other charities all receiving 7.5% of the funds each. Oxfam and Practical Action fall into the category of major well respected charities, and we included Amnesty International (Robin Story), South Yorkshire Development Education Centre (Roy and Beryl Barry's preferred Charity) and Global Justice Now as educational and campaigning charities.

The remaining charities are Bwindi Hospital's Gender based Violence project in Uganda (Ceri Gallivan); The Omid Foundation Empowering Disadvantaged Young women in Iran (Manuchehr Maleki); SuCCol a foundation in Columbia set up by previous members of St Mark's now living in Columbia that helps pay for further education for disadvantaged students and is monitored by Robin Saunders and Dez and Jenny Martin; Phase - Practical help Achieving Self Empowerment in remote Himalayan villages (Dilys Noble) and Tek

Ura (a charity set up by Tim and Helen Gregory's son Matt to empower the disadvantaged Roma community in Albania).

The Committee has worked throughout the year to raise further funds, to raise awareness of the charities and to welcome members of the church and their friends into the international community.

We had a trial revival of the International Fellowship that has been dormant for a few years, initially with a shared picnic on St Mark's Green on Friday evening 3rd of June. Although not actually raining it was not a glorious June evening and did not pull in the crowds we had hoped. Undaunted we proposed a second meeting in July and had a delightful Taiwanese meal in the lounge cooked by Wu-Long and friends. We took a break over the summer and thought it might be more popular when the new students arrived in the autumn. Zhila cooked an amazing Iranian meal for us in November but this was really just attended by the committee members and one or two others. A decision was made to hold fire for now and to be responsible for 4 Sunday lunches throughout the year and to tailor the cuisine to a particular charity. Sunday January the 8th 2017 was the last with a mostly Nepali style dal baat (lentils and rice!). It was well received feeding around 20+ mouths and raising £106 to be shared between SuCCol and Phase.

Before Ceri returned to Uganda in August, she and her friends and family cooked Sunday lunch at church raising a further £370.00 for Bwindi.

I hope we can continue to work with the generous congregation in this way. International Committee and the congregation have supported Christian Aid throughout the year:- Walkers and marshalls for the May Day trek (approximately 90 people participated in this year's event, with 65 people doing the 6 mile walk and the remainder doing the 11 and 16 mile routes. Unfortunately the weather this year no doubt had an impact on the numbers taking part, and which routes they chose to do. It was COLD!) House to house deliveries and collections during Christian Aid week drew in £1506.49 with gift aid. Christian Aid week is fast approaching again and volunteers are badly needed! (PLEASE talk to Helen Hillman if you can help. Youthful volunteers particularly requested)

Making, selling, buying and consuming luscious jams and chutneys from the harvest stall raised £305.50.

There was also carol singing outside the Town Hall on Saturday December 3rd and generous contributions to the Church Christmas collections.

Also at Christmas we had 2 weeks selling Christmas cards after church which raised £230.00 for Oxfam and a similar amount for Traidcraft. Robin Story ran a Christmas Card signing event after church through Amnesty International for their prisoners of conscience.

Phase has had a good year receiving over £1000 raised through a dal baat evening held in the lounge to mark the anniversary of the 1st of the 2015 earthquakes in April. As a joint venture with St Mary's, Walkley about 60 people attended and also bought some of our Nepali handcrafts.

I had a Nepali handcrafts stall again after church before Christmas and the congregation generously made it possible to send over £200 to Phase. Philip Booth travelled to Nepal in the summer and gave a talk to interested parties in the lounge and raised another £70 for Phase.

In January 2017 we asked members of the congregation to sign cards to their constituency MPs asking that Britain and the EU should withdraw support for the Food Security Programme, as this is opposed in many developing countries by small-scale farmers who find themselves driven into bankruptcy by being tied into costly contracts with multinational corporations who force them to buy expensive fertilisers and pesticides instead of using methods which restore the soil naturally and feed local people by growing a variety of crops. This is a GLOBAL JUSTICE NOW campaign.

My thanks goes to the hard working International committee members Al Tolson, Helen Hillman, Shan Rush, John Hall, Manuchehr Maleki, Zhila Zhare, Tim and Helen Gregory, Dez and Jenny Martin, Ceri Gallivan, Sam Foulds, Sarah Duggan and to the generosity of our congregation who make this all possible.

Dilys Noble

FINANCE AND FABRIC

The past year began with some changes to personnel: on his election as churchwarden, Philip Booth stepped down as chair, and we became a Group, rather than a committee, in line with other areas of work at St Mark's. Philip's tenure will be

remembered particularly for his steering to a successful completion the rebuilding of the organ, and for his persistence in the matter of parking on the Crescent. We welcomed some new members – Sandra Newton, David Speddings, Tim Moore and Peter Ryder. Together with Sue, Robin Saunders, David Ryder, Martin Godley and David Trickett, we have a wealth of experience and expertise on which to draw, and I am grateful for their loyalty and support.

I report here only on fabric matters, as David, our treasurer, will explain the current state of our finances in detail at the annual meeting, and a summary is available at the end of the report.

In June our architect, Andrew Wiles, came to make his Quinquennial Inspection. Once his report had been received a small group was convened to discern priorities, and the flat roofs were identified as the first area for repairs. Quotes have been sought and we hope the work will start soon.

A second group has met several times to consider how best to make use of the generous legacy received from Alan Birchall. Suggestions have been put to the PCC and will shortly be laid before the whole congregation for their consideration.

More recently, another group has begun to survey all our sound reproduction and audiovisual equipment, with a view to making it more fit for purpose, both for church needs and for groups who hire the premises.

A significant development during the past year has been the employment of Tim Moore as caretaker. Together with his cleaning duties he is in church on weekday afternoons, enabling him to tackle a variety of small jobs of repair and refurbishment and to attend to visitors and callers. It is a wide remit and one which demands many skills, but he seems to enjoy the challenge and works with friendly efficiency and thoughtfulness. I know his work is appreciated by many.

Progress on the restriction of parking in St Mark's Crescent has slowed again; we await the introduction of yellow lines and parking notices, but have no idea of timescale.

Other matters requiring outside contractors, which are currently being attended to, include – the installation of signs directing visitors to the main

entrance, the repair of leaded lights and the installation of a bench overlooking the Memorial Garden.

I do hope you have noticed the gardens on the South side of church in recent weeks; they have been a glory of spring colour. The crocus maze on the green reminds us of Kay Hudson's years as gardener, while the spring flowers in the Garden of Remembrance are testament to the love and energy expended by Shelagh Marston in recent months. We also continue to employ Glen Whitfield on an occasional basis, to mulch and prune.

A busy and increasingly elderly building presents constant demands on our budget. Recent purchases and jobs completed include – a new kitchen fan, repairs to floodlights, a seven day timer to enable more effective use of the heating, new storage units and occasional chairs to replace the old wooden ones.

Last, but not least, may I thank those who responded to my plea for help in washing the lounge seat cushions. It may be a small job for individuals, but is large in its effect, and another way in which many people can help with the upkeep of this building, which we appreciate so much and wish to hand on to the future in good condition.

Briony Tayler

FAITH AND JUSTICE

Over the past 12 months the Faith & Justice Group has strategically reviewed, expanded and reprioritised its remit. In addition to its focus on Work with Older People, Poverty Action, Community Development in Broomhall, Environmental Change, and Asylum and Migration, it now covers Inclusivity issues. It has also strengthened its interface with the Diocesan Board of Faith and Justice, by appointing Sibylle Batten as its Faith and Justice *Link Officer* for the Board's Salt and Light strategy (the Board's initiative for serving and transforming our society and God's world).

Inclusivity: St Mark's was proud to share a stall with representatives from several Christian groups at the Sheffield Gay Pride weekend last summer, and intends to do likewise in 2017. The Faith and Justice Group is committed to further developing its outreach to gay and lesbian Christians in 2017,

mindful of the setback the Bishops' Report on 'Marriage and Same Sex relationships after the Shared Conversations' represents.

Broomhall: Friday's Broomhall Breakfast remains a successful intervention, enjoyed by 50 or so regulars and is an important anti-isolation as well as anti-poverty initiative. The Faith and Justice Group is committed to further strengthening its interface with Broomhall over the coming months, and plans to support a dedicated Women's Group for Broomhall in 2017, as part of a wider process of engagement.

Environmental Change: The Faith and Justice Group continues to work to ensure St Mark's remains an eco-congregation. Lobbying of local MPs, working with other groups such as the Diocesan Environmental Group to help shape and deliver local initiatives, and ensuring that the Church's grounds are eco-friendly, are just some of the activities it has engaged in over the past 12 months.

Poverty Action: To maximise the impact the Group can have on poverty action in Sheffield, it works closely with the Sheffield Branch of *Church Action on Poverty*. The last twelve months has seen CAP focusing increasingly on how our churches might need to change to become more 'for the poor', and what help they might need. Members of our Group have taken part in CAP's national conference held in Manchester in November, the local branch of CAP and its *Annual Pilgrimage* held in Sheffield in October, and have contributed to wider work being undertaken by CAP. In 2017, the Chair of the Group intends to explore whether developing closer links between the Group and the Urban Theology Union based in Sheffield, might further enhance opportunities for Christian activism in this area.

Asylum and Migration: In the last year, more asylum seekers have been coming to St Mark's. This presents a challenge to the congregation since asylum seekers, while they have much to offer, also have complex needs and may face a great deal of stress owing to the uncertainty of their position. In view of this, the group arranged an excellent day's training on 17 November for more than 20 church people (not only from St Mark's) who wanted to help asylum seekers. Sarah Eldridge of City of Sanctuary organised the day and the main speaker was Lorna Gledhill of the Regional Asylum Activism Project.

Work with Older People: In 2016 a new part-time worker was appointed for leading on the work with older people under the CTBB umbrella. A bid to increase the number of hours in the post from the previous 2.5 days was unsuccessful, however. Our Faith and Justice Group has a dedicated representative on the CTBB sub-group that leads on this project. We welcome CTBB's plans to raise more funds in order to increase the hours of the worker with older people and to enable her to train volunteers.

Other activities: Periodically the Group organises *Presentation and Discussion Evenings* for Church members on topics of importance and relevance to our congregation and its Faith and Justice remit. One of these was held in the summer of 2016 on the EU Referendum and was well attended as well as enjoyable for those who participated. Another one is being organised for the 28th of May on the implications of the Trump Presidency. A new Facebook page has recently been established for the Group, and members of the congregation who are interested in this work are encouraged to link up with it.

Anyone who might be interested in becoming actively involved in the ongoing delivery of this work should speak with Joe Forde, Group Facilitator.

Joe Forde



PASTORAL CARE

All our activities offered in the name of Christ and embodied in St Mark's and the parish community are an expression of mutual commitment and are pastoral in the widest sense.

The Pastoral Care Core Group, composed of representatives of various pastoral care projects,

works with the clergy to help to structure the work, map out activities, responsibilities and accountabilities and seeks to embrace the safeguarding and welfare of everyone involved in the giving and taking of help.

The Group meets quarterly and is chaired by the Revd Sarah Colver. Gill, as Pastoral Care coordinator meets with her and Sue at the monthly staff meeting which focuses on pastoral care. One of our concerns is the care of those who have been bereaved. Last year there were nineteen funerals at St Mark's. Many of us were involved with situations of loss outwith the parish and community. We are aware that some people may want and need to talk about their bereavement some time after the funeral. A small group of bereavement visitors is being developed to work alongside the clergy in this aspect of their pastoral care ministry. Sarah Colver chairs this group with John Hillman acting as consultant.

A group is developing a "ministry of cards" to remember those who are celebrating wedding and baptism anniversaries, to express our concern for those in difficult circumstances and to mark the year's mind of the departed.

It is a privilege to be involved in pastoral care but it is quite challenging given the nature of the church community and its size. We are all very grateful for the quiet care which goes on week by week behind the scenes. If people are aware of someone who might be "falling through the net" of mutual care, please let us know.

Gill MacGregor

HOSPITALITY

During the past year we have provided food and drink – bought in or as bring-and-share – for a variety of occasions; Sarah's licensing, Matthew's funeral, the "Keeping Pace" day in October, as well as monthly Sunday lunches. These last occur irregularly, as they are planned to mark a season such as Lent or a charity focus. Since Christmas money has been raised to benefit PHASE, SUCCOL, Church Action on Poverty and South Sudan.

I am grateful to those who have helped organise these – but more volunteers to co-ordinate the

food (not necessarily to cook it all!) would spread the responsibility a little more.

Social events have been fewer, largely because we all have busy lives already; though it only needs one person sharing an idea and getting other interested folks together to make something happen. An example from the recent past is a trip to the Drama Studio, organised by Dez and Jennie Martin.

A shining recent example is the Peak Pilgrimage; nominally a Lent Group, but a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of St Mark's better while enjoying the countryside and visiting churches full of human and sacred interest. As ever, offers of help and new ideas are always welcome!

Briony Tayler

STUDY AND LEARNING

Lent Course 2017



For several years now St Mark's and the Manor Parish have joined forces for Lent Groups. This year was no exception. However, preparation of the material was somewhat different. Five of us from the two parishes each contributed one week's material to the course. The result has been a rich course, in which each week has had its own feel, even though the overall shape has been the same.

We took inspiration for our theme from the idea that John and Susan Whitmill had of walking the pilgrim route from Ilam to Eyam on the Saturdays of Lent, and in response to suggestions from various quarters that it would be good to tackle prayer together. The metaphor of pilgrimage appealed to us, and the possibilities that thinking about what people experience – both physically and spiritually – when making a pilgrimage such as the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. So we thought about

preparation, about when times are good, when it's all boring and seems pointless, about mountains that both get in the way and give inspiring views, and resting. Each week not only draws out people's own experience and draws on a variety of spiritual traditions, but crucially involves a significant time of prayer together.

Lots of people signed up for the groups, which at the time of writing are still underway, but feedback so far has been positive: 'we had a really good session', 'I'm really looking forward to the future weeks'.

We hope that this journey through Lent will contribute to participants' understanding and spiritual development.

John Schofield

On behalf of the group who produced the material

CHYPS

The CHYPS (Children's, Young Peoples and Students) group provides oversight for the different groups in church that provide for children young people and students – representatives from each group are invited to attend.

CHYPS meets once every six months to review the current provision, discuss any particular issues, and explore ways of developing further. As a result of the January meeting, a new group for 8 -13yr olds now meets in the snug on Sunday mornings alongside the Godly Play and creche provision.

Sarah Colver

CRÈCHE

Crèche has continued to work well this year, providing the youngest members of the congregation (mainly under 3s) with an opportunity to get to know each other, and their parents with an opportunity to participate in the service without any distractions.

There are a group of 8 or 9 young children who attend on a fairly regular basis and a team of 6 leaders. A number of parents also regularly stay with their children. Visiting children attend from time to time.

Juliet Storey

GODLY PLAY

Our Godly Play storytelling team continues to feel a sense of privilege in introducing the primary age children to the power of biblical stories. This year we have had some new additions to the team, which makes filling the rota each term that much easier (but we are always open to new people who would like to train). Once a term we meet to practise our storytelling, sort out the programme and exchange ideas about how to deal with unexpected boundary-testing by enthusiastic children!

Attendance each week does vary (usually between 3-10 children at a session), but, with a core group who attend most weeks, we have had contact with approaching 40 different children over the past year.

The children and storytellers have enjoyed exploring the new stories we have learned. We are aware of needing to ensure that some themes recur every year (eg leading up to Christmas and Easter), but also that there is enough variety to keep the interest of the slightly older children. One lovely moment was when one of the smaller children suddenly made a connection between the story we were hearing and what happens downstairs. When she heard about the angels who sang 'Glory to God in the highest', she exclaimed 'That's what we say in church!'

Some of our lessons focus on aspects of the liturgy, and we have made a special emphasis on baptism this year, as well as ensuring that the children are in church to witness actual baptisms when they happen. To teach about the Eucharist, we also have a lesson where the parable of the Good Shepherd gradually transforms into a circle of people around the communion table. This lesson has been shared with parents of small children, to help them understand how we welcome children to communion in this church. One parent mentioned how that session made her look forward to when her daughter would be old enough to come upstairs.

Some of our team went to find out how Godly Play stories can be used in the context of care homes, and one member of the group has become very experienced in that setting. Clearly some of the simplicity and strong visual focus of Godly Play can

work at quite different periods of life, and awaken insight.

Finally, the work of Godly Play has helped to inspire a quite different adult group, *Reading the Story*. Realising that some of us were not actually all that up to speed with some of our Old Testament stories, it struck us that the power of the stories could usefully be explored by reading the stories out loud together as they appear in the bible. We need to keep up with the children...

Janet Morley

LIONS REPORT

The Lions are a group of young people, mostly between year 10 and 13, who meet on a monthly basis to share food and fellowship. Due to increasing pressures on our young people and leaders, we now meet on a monthly basis, on the fourth Sunday of every month before night service, with some young people and leaders staying for the evening meeting.

This year, Hannah Speed has taken a lead on email communications, Pete Ryder has arranged room booking and the purchase of Lions pizza-making gear and Jen has been keeping the Lions Facebook group up to date. James and Pete have been training up the Lions and leaders on stone-baked pizza making.

Our evening sessions are often led by the needs on that specific occasion. Conversations and prayers have been driven by the needs locally, nationally and further afield. The young people have pulled together to support each other and have had a mature approach to the challenges they face.

A visit to Greenbelt this August, group outings and fundraising have been proposed but have not yet been finalised.

Alice Newitt

SHEFFIELD STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Starting from September of 2016, the Sheffield Student Christian Movement Society has been based at St. Marks.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the upper lounge of St. Marks Church. We always eat pizza and drink copious amounts of tea every time we meet (well, some do..!).

We have participated in a number of varied activities over the past couple of terms including:

- Teapot Questions – We write down questions, put them in a broken teapot, then pick out and discuss the questions (usually the questions revolve around theology and occasionally breakfast foods).
- SCM Workshops with SCM employees – one on discipleship and vocation
- Peacemeal
- Brainstorming Campaigning ideas
- Watching Videos and discussing them e.g. Rob Bell – The gods aren't angry.
- Shared Meal
- Walk in the Peak

After the Wednesday session, we normally go to the Pub for a drink and further discussion.

We have a core group of about 8 students who come along on a regular basis, and in total we have had 20 different students come along over the two terms.

Next term we envisage doing much of the same activities as we have already, as well as implementing some of the campaigning ideas we have had, such as Sleeping out for Roundabout.

We have a group on Facebook, which students are welcome to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCMSheffield/>



Oli Giles

CHURCHES TOGETHER BROOMHILL AND BROOMHALL WORK WITH OLDER PEOPLE

I have now been in post for nearly a year, and continue to make new contacts, as well as befriending/supporting new people and those I have been involved with since starting the post of older people's worker.

I make regular visits to the lunch club at St Marks Church and Beacon Church coffee morning, but also drop into other groups such as BUZZ , The women's group at the Broomhall Centre, and the art group and knitting group at the Jesus centre.

I have already visited the Sheltered Housing schemes in our area and started visiting some people individually that live there, as well as discussing the possibility of setting up their own groups. I have then made subsequent regular visits to see individuals and provide information/support they have requested.

There are several people who currently require more regular visits and checks due to their circumstances, and as you are already aware, I have identified the need for befrienders, who can continue contact and offer friendship to those most isolated.

Another huge issue is the provision of transport for those people unable to get out due to mobility problems. I have now visited Sheffield Community Transport, so that I am better able to assist individuals with their transport issues.

I am now involved with a number of people on a regular basis. The issues facing individuals are many and varied. So far I have discussed and /or assisted with issues ranging from home care packages and nursing home fees to broken ovens and shopping delivery services. Some people just need a sympathetic ear due to the situation they find themselves in.

I have also found myself much more involved in assisting with claiming of benefits, which in some cases has been a steep learning curve!! I am on a mission to assist as many people as possible, over the age of 65, to claim for Attendance Allowance, which is non means tested. This allowance can assist individuals to get the support they need and to remain independent.

In looking at expanding the role of the worker with older people we felt it was important to make connections with other people working in the area - this has included both Buzz, at St Andrews, and Timebuilders, at St Mary's.

Timebuilders is an initiative funded through various grants and headed up by Graham Duncan. It is using the resources that are already in the community and rewarding them. For example, you might have yoga skills and want to run a group.

Timebuilders will give you one credit for every hour you are involved. These credits can then be used in various ways, in the St Mary's cafe, to buy cinema, theatre or football tickets and much more.

We are now working on a new idea of involving more volunteers through Timebuilders, who would work with Buzz and the sheltered housing scheme of Sunnybank and get to know people and then look at taking people to various groups. The use of volunteers as a person who can facilitate attending groups of interest in the area is our starting point, which we hope will grow over time. Buzz have agreed that they will work within Sunnybank to strengthen their links and encourage people to attend groups in the future.

We also recognise that more hours are essential, so Kim Willis is trying to look at funding bids, but has been busy with her course, so any help in this is most welcome! As a result Kim is hoping to put in a couple of small applications which may enable me to increase my hours by 1/2 - 1 day.

I continue to forge links with other organisations, which I hope will assist me to link with other communities within the Broomhall area

My involvement with Broomgrove nursing home continues to go well, and I visit 8 residents on a regular basis, helping them with routine tasks, appointments and offering outings.

I work closely with all 3 of the churches, and would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during my first year

Claire Brooks

BROOMHALL GIRLS' GROUP

At the time of our last report we had just recruited a new youth worker and she was starting to build

the club up again following the departure of Pippa around Christmas.

The new worker was called Shaida Karim and she spent time meeting community groups and contacting schools to encourage girls to join the club. Progress was a bit slower than she had hoped and we agreed to defer restarting meetings until the summer. It really got going in September and there were a number of very successful meetings where Shaida showed she could create a very pleasant atmosphere and work well with the girls.

Sadly all this stopped abruptly in November when Shaida informed us she was leaving with immediate effect for personal reasons. Once again we had to advertise and interview for a new worker which meant a break in club meetings.

Once again we have been fortunate in finding someone who is well suited and well qualified for the job. Hannah Cawley the new worker is a qualified youth worker working at Sheffield Futures. She is so committed she wants to run our club as well as doing her day job. The fact that she has another job as well has advantages and disadvantages. It means she has less time than might otherwise be the case but she also has more contacts and more experience. She has already made links with Buzz which operates various activities at St Andrews and Springfield school and she is planning an outing to 'Jump'.

She plans to go and visit the girls' parents individually during the Easter holiday which is a major undertaking but important to make sure that registration details and parent's consent forms are properly completed.

Whereas eighteen months ago the club was made up mostly of a particular friendship group of Somali girls Shaida and Hannah have managed to widen the membership to a range of different ethnic groups and religious backgrounds. This was always what we intended for the group and is a definite step forward. Hannah intends to continue building the membership to about 20 girls at least. To do that she will need the help of more volunteers of which she has two at the moment.

Our funds are secure for the next year thanks to donations from a number of charities but we have only a limited opportunity to expand within our current budget. We plan to focus the funds we do have on setting up a boys group to run in parallel

with the girls group. It is early days and there are a lot of discussions to be had. We have one volunteer to run the committee but if anyone else is interested please contact Isabel .

There are times when it feels as if we take two steps forward and then one back but at least it is not the other way around. We would like to spread the work around more people particularly for fundraising so if anyone is interested in joining the committee please let us know by contacting Isabel Lloyd-Jones on 2683370

Isabel Lloyd-Jones

BROOMHALL BREAKFAST

The Broomhall Breakfast provides a nourishing and sustaining breakfast to people from Broomhall and the wider area, including, but not limited to, those living on the street or in reduced circumstances. It offers a place of temporary sanctuary where all can feel welcomed and at home. Through ongoing breakfast conversations, it enables bridges of understanding and respect to be built between people from different circumstances who live or work in Broomhall.

We serve breakfast on Friday mornings between 8.00am and 10.00am in the hall of St Andrew's United Reformed Church on Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield. Volunteers and customers start setting up from 7.30-7.45am and finish around 10.30-11.00am. We offer a full cooked meal, as well as cereal, toast and fruit, tea or coffee and orange juice, in a friendly and animated environment. The volunteers serve on average **55** people each week.

Jane Harley took over leadership of the breakfast in 2014, ably supported by our fabulous volunteers without whom breakfast could not continue to run. We have been joined this year by Sarah Colver who, alongside Robert Beard are 'befrienders' to our customers, offering a friendly ear and support to those who want it. This year, we have also built on the links forged last year with the University of Sheffield Politics Society and through their volunteering rep, Amy, we have secured a reliable cadre of student volunteers. We hope to sustain this relationship in future years and to recruit a volunteer fundraiser from their ranks. Obviously, it costs money to run the Breakfast - the average cost

of a breakfast in 2016-17 was **£2.26** compared to an average customer contribution of **£0.51**.

The Facebook page has helped raise awareness with potential volunteers and donors and we have had some success promoting Broomhall Breakfast in central and local government offices in the Broomhall area. Looking ahead, we want to do more to raise awareness of Broomhall Breakfast with those who need it. We are working with a former customer, Neil, to design a small flyer for distribution.

https://www.facebook.com/BroomhallBreakfast/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Jane Harley

SOUP RUN

Time moves on for soup run and around comes the time for the annual report; volunteers come and go and due to the developed interview process we learned how to judge whether or not people are suitable to join us as volunteers. We get great support from our friends at the Broomhill mosque and this shows how two very different faiths can work together for the good of the community in the unity of love.

We continue to have good links with local companies (Rosie's bakery) who donate food and we are working towards building up networking links with agencies that supply services to the homeless; if anybody has any contact details of people they might think we can contact or any ideas around how can improve on and develop this aspect then please let me know.

In all there is little more that can be said only that in some way it feels that no matter how hard we work (and our volunteers do a wonderful job and work hard and we are grateful for them) we can only ever be a sticking plaster rather than a service that tries to solve the problems of homelessness, and maybe as a church we need to think about what the actual goal of soup run is, sadly there is always more to do as I feel that the problem of homelessness has got and continues to get worse and will do whilst this government stays in power; if anybody has any ideas please do not hesitate to let myself or Gary know.

Jonathan Earle

CHURCH OFFICE

I am now some months into my new role as church administrator at St Mark's and I have found that the work in the church office is both challenging and rewarding. Much of the past few months have been spent getting myself up to speed on the day to day administrative work of St Mark's. The bulk of my time has been spent doing regular weekly duties such as preparing and printing the sheets for services and those that need to be placed around the church.

These weekly tasks are punctuated by the various different types of inquiries we receive at St Mark's. Phone calls, emails and visitors throw up various unexpected challenges but also opportunities to learn. I am gaining more experience of dealing with callers at the church and though the pastoral element of my job is a smaller one than others I am finding it more comfortable and take a great deal from this vital element of the job.

I have recently taken over bookings which were previously being handled, very ably, in a voluntary capacity by Anna Ryder. Now that I have a handle on the bookings system and managing the church calendar I am hoping to spend some time in the next year working with others in the church to improve the bookings system and increase the numbers of people using the church for events. We are lucky to have a number of regular bookers and I am working hard to maintain those relationships and build on them for the future.

My initial period in the office has been a busy one, not only due to my need to learn a great deal for the role but also the various happenings in the church since Christmas and through to Easter. This has at times been difficult but has had the great benefit of allowing me to see the various different duties that come to the office. This has helped me to become more adept at the job more quickly but also given me scope to reflect on where improvements in the running of the church can be made and how I can utilise my skills to improve the day to day running of St Mark's. In the next year I am hopeful that I will have time to work to make the church office more efficient while still ensuring it fits with the needs of the whole St Mark's community.

Though I am the lone worker in the office I would not have been able to perform the role without the support of the clergy and others who work in the church notably Tim Moore and John Whitmill whom I work alongside regularly. I am also indebted to the assistance of Anna Ryder and my predecessors who have provided valuable guidance in my early months in the job.

Innes MacLeod

CHURCH CLEANERS

We have now been cleaning the church for five years and continue to work six hours per week each, split into shifts. Our priority is to keep the building as clean as possible whilst not disrupting those who use it. Tasks are divided between us, with certain ones needing to be done twice a week, such as the toilets and kitchens, whilst others are done only once a week, such as vacuuming the vestry and sweeping the pews. There are other tasks that are done on a rotational basis every six weeks or so, such as cleaning down the tiling in the toilets and polishing the woodwork in the pews. Then there are other, even less frequent tasks, such as carpet cleaning, which are done every six months or so. On occasions when either one of us is on leave, the other cleaner will do both sets of twice weekly tasks, to ensure that the most important tasks are completed during that person's absence. In order to make sure all the tasks are done, we use a system of ticklists, which are stuck up on the inside of the cleaners' cupboard door, under the back staircase. You are welcome to view these and see precisely what tasks are done by whom.

We put a lot of effort into making sure we only work when the church is not being used. In this we would like to thank Innes, the church administrator, who sends us a weekly meeting sheet, allowing us to plan our time accordingly.

We have also found ourselves as the first point of contact for many visitors to the church, providing a welcome in the form of information and help in response to questions we might get asked. We continue to take considerable pride in our church, seeing it as a personal space, and a reflection of our own selves.

John Whitmill and Tim Moore

CARETAKERS

I started work on 29 February, 2016, stepping into a new role for St Mark's. My job description described four main areas: Welcome, Security, Grounds-keeping, and Maintenance. The experience of the past year has developed the range and depth of these elements, and how St Mark's can use a Caretaker more generally.

During my 20 hour week, I typically spend 6 or more hours cleaning, alongside John Whitmill. As Caretaker, my priority is to welcome visitors: there are some who are interested in the building and want to chat about its history or its construction; others will simply smile and sit quietly in the pews, staring up at the Stammers window; some of the homeless callers will need food and clothing, but I also try to steer them towards dedicated provision, such as the Archer Project. Outside, I keep the footpaths and steps clear of leaves, litter, and weeds, which is much more pleasant in summer than winter! I keep an eye out for any maintenance issues and work with the Fabric and Finance Committee to repair/replace what I can, or to oversee contractors when they are needed.

There is scope for some projects and the past year has seen: the flower room shuffled round, with the old Belfast sink coming out and tables and new shelves going in; the hand rails on the main steps sanded down and repainted; broken window panes repaired; new folding chairs bought; and a new panic-bar catch fitted to the East porch fire escape. There are several jobs that have been long in the planning and may be completed by the time you read this, such as the fitting of a new timer to improve the underfloor heating, the fitting of a drainage gully by the North wall fire escape, some redecoration, new bins for outside and yet more folding chairs. I am also putting together a 'Building Book' which lists instructions for all the various systems, and a rough inventory of what we have stored throughout church buildings.

Tim Moore

MUSIC

St Mark's Choir continue to support music at our 10am Eucharist Services, and in 2016 were strengthened by new members Becca and Abi. A whole host of visiting organists have accompanied both choir and congregation alike, including Fraser

Wilson, who was Acting Director of Music during my own brief sabbatical. 2016's choral highlights were the Christmas carol service and Palm Sunday devotion.

In recent years Palm Sunday has featured a different approach to a Passiontide choral service for St Mark's – that of readings and shorter pieces of music to convey the passion narrative in a wonderful and meditative setting, rather than the traditional approach in which the choir would sing a large work such as Stainer's Crucifixion or Walford Davies' Requiem. 2016 was our second attempt at this format, and featured Leighton's *Solus Ad Victimam*, Howells' *Like as the Hart* and music by Gibbons, Chilcott and Stainer. This year's service takes place at 6pm on April 9th, and the choir will be performing movements from William Byrd's stunning Mass for Four Voices.

Contrarily the carol service was a wonderful festive celebration, wonderfully accompanied by Fraser Wilson on St Marks' organ. Fraser had to get his fingers around Simon Preston's setting of *I Saw Three Ships*, which also required considerable dexterity from the choir. The choir sang Rachmaninoff's famous *Bogoroditse Dyevo* from his All Night Vigil, as well as a gorgeous carol by St Mark's own John Earwaker. We have come to know a small amount of John's Christmas music over recent years and have always been inspired by its reverence and its beauty.

Another enormous part of our music at St Marks is of course our tradition at Night Services – and this is also something of which we can be very proud. The flexible nature of these services accommodates the plethora of musicians that want to be involved in them. From Gary's Guitar to Robin's sonorous violin: we've really had a bit of everything – and long may it continue. Our monthly Taize services continue to thrive, and provide opportunity for any number of instrumental combinations with a dedicated congregation filled with keen singers. 2016 also saw the introduction of an St Mark's Gospel Choir, who made their debut in December and continue to be involved in Night Service throughout 2017.

St Mark's organ recital series in 2016 hosted some wonderful musicians from near and far, including Neil Taylor, Derek Grover and Andrew Kirk. All of the visiting organists brilliantly demonstrated the

range of colours that our instrument has to offer, and were impressed by the quality of the 2015 refurbishment by Wood of Huddersfield. The 2017 recital series will take place fortnightly in May, June and July, and will include recitals by Dr George Parsons, Peter Heginbotham, and David Price (all the way from Thailand!).

Mark McCombs

FLOWER ARRANGERS



There are about seven of us who arrange the flowers in church and the lady chapel every week apart from Lent and Advent. We decorate the whole church at Christmas and Easter and Harvest festival. Sometimes I am asked to do flower arrangements for weddings and funerals. People from the congregation donate money for the flowers usually on a certain date in memory of a loved one or birthdays or anniversaries. If you are interested in donating money on a certain Sunday or giving money towards one of the festivals do come and let me know. If you feel creative and want to try your hand at flower arranging do come and have a chat.

Mary-Jane Ryder

CHILDREN'S OUTREACH WORKER

Work has continued at both Ashdell and Broomhill Infants over the past year. At Ashdell this has meant conducting assemblies taken by Sue, Sarah and myself. At Broomhill Infants Assemblies were held during the Autumn Term.

Ashdell held their Christmas services at St Mark's and as in previous years it was very well attended. These services showcase the life of St Mark's and I would encourage church members, if they can, to attend and support them in the future they will not be disappointed!

Christmas Eve once again saw a large number of children attending the Christingle Service, and it was very encouraging to see some of the children from Broomhill Infants there. This service is proving to be extremely popular with both children and parents, and again this is a very good advertisement for the church.

Sarah has become a Governor at Broomhill Infants this proves to be a very useful link with the school.

The Children and Young Persons Committee is currently reviewing the work St Mark's is doing with young people of all ages.

As last year may I urge you all to remember and to pray for the young people in our local schools as well as those in church, and also all those charged with the responsibility of nurturing children including the children's parents, teachers and leaders at St Mark's.

Tim Gregory

THEMED SERVICES

In the summer of 2016 a small group was formed to help devise and lead occasional 'themed' services. There had been a wish to develop the 'all age' services in ways that involved more people of all ages in leading worship, and also to create opportunities to engage in worship in a variety of ways. A 'full' themed service may therefore involve the use of different media and be more multisensory in its approach, but always within a basic Eucharistic framework. Our intention is that these services sit within the worshipping tradition ('house style') of St Mark's rather than being something completely alien- a natural development from the existing services rather than being 'random events'. The hope is that these services will always be followed by a shared meal so that conversation and the building of friendships might continue over lunch.

In addition, the team sometimes helps to provide 'themed activities' in the lounge whilst a service following a more traditional pattern (i.e. with a sermon) takes place.

In the autumn the team co-led two services; the Harvest Festival in September and then a service for World Food Day in October. On the latter occasion Gary Grief read 'Stone Soup' and Shan stepped in to help when Sarah was taken ill! The team were also involved, along with many others, in leading the Christingle service. In February 2017 the Poverty Sunday service helped us all to reflect on journeying as transformation as we heard from the two families who led the 'Go a mile in their shoes'- and we marched around the church...

Each full themed service involves a large amount of detailed planning and preparation, and so the plan is to curate only 3 or 4 of those each year. Our hope for 2017 is that these occasional services will continue to develop fruitful and inspiring worship for us as a community of all ages. We'd warmly welcome more people to join the team - please talk to Sarah Colver if you'd like to join us.

Sarah Colver

NIGHT SERVICE

We continue to operate in the main body of the church (save for an occasional summer service on the Green), due to the size of the congregation continuing to be too large to easily fit into the Chapel. Worship aids are many and varied, regularly including candles, water, fabric, visual aids and natural artefacts.

Prior to the service, a rota of people continue to welcome members of the congregation.

We have occasional 'bring and share' meals, which are enjoyed by all. Also, we always share in tea, coffee, pizza and any food leftover from other services, after the service. This is often followed by a trip to the pub, involving people across a range of ages.

In respect of the range of worship styles employed, we continue to operate on a rota-basis. The rota is broadly as follows:

I. Holy Communion;

2. Services influenced by the worship style and materials produced by the Iona Community/Wild Goose;
3. Services in the style of worship employed by the Taize Community in France.
4. Themed services (worship and messages involving, for example, the involvement of women in the church, LGBTQ, and the many challenges that we face in respect of tackling climate change)
5. Healing/Wholeness

We also continue to enjoy an occasional, more traditional Sung Compline.

Our *Taize* style services have become more frequent, in response to demand. Through our contacts at the Cathedral, worshippers and musicians from the wider city continue to be involved. This growth has largely been down to the capable efforts of Mark Ansell, and Jo and Greg Musker-Sherwood. Tim Jansen has become also become involved, making an extremely valued contribution. We continue to foster connections with the wider *Taize* community in Sheffield and beyond, with some members of the congregation attending either the *Taize* community itself or weekends away within the UK.

Music at night service continues to be run by Mark McCombs (replaced by Fraser Wilson for a period of time), and operates on the basis of a rota. Instruments regularly used are the piano, flutes, violins, guitars and clarinets. Less often, the organ is used. Music is often played from a CD or otherwise.

We have welcomed Rev'd Sarah Colver. She has become an integral part of the service.

Night service continues to be explorative, welcoming and novel. There is an emphasis on lay ministry.

Friendships continue to form, and to grow into relationships which go beyond the confines of the church walls.

Do come and visit us!

Further details can be found at www.nightservice.org.uk

Jez Thomas

JULIAN PRAYER GROUP

The Julian Prayer meeting began in mid January this year and has run weekly, on Monday evenings, since then. Establishing the meeting came out of a desire to have a regular, contemplative space at St Mark's available for people to access as and when they wish.

The St Mark's group has registered with the 'Julian Meetings' organisation, named after Julian of Norwich, the fourteenth-century mystic who considered that the highest form of prayer consists of simply waiting on God. This loose, ecumenical organisation, aims to promote Christian meditation and contemplative prayer. The St Mark's group, thus, also provides a deanery and diocesan resource.

Meetings last for about forty five minutes and consist of two readings, thirty minutes of silence and a time of open, said prayer. The group is, currently, planned and led by myself and Sarah. It is hoped that in the coming year, more people will share in the facilitation.

We now have up to ten people attending, mostly from St Mark's, but some from other churches. For example, we have regular attendees from Whirlow, and two people have recently come along from St John's, Ranmoor, one of our Mission Partnership churches. As was hoped, some people attend most weeks, others more ad hoc or just to try out silent prayer, and we continue to welcome new faces.

Cath Williamson

KNIT AND NATTER

The group has continued to meet monthly. We have tea or coffee (and sometimes cake or biscuits, but all are aware of our waistlines!) and continue with our various craft projects. Not everyone knits – crochet and embroidery are also in evidence. We share tips and patterns, and would love to promote and be a source of "expertise" in the traditional crafts which are dying out.

After producing a dozen or so mini VW minibuses to sell to raise funds for the lunch club transport, we moved on to knit novelty tea cosies in aid of the Bluebell Wood Hospice. These are sold on eBay and raise a surprising amount of money. Hats and scarves for the homeless is an ongoing project. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of

Elizabeth Bramley's stash of high quality knitting wool, knitting needles and patterns (thanks to John) and are in the process of turning it into a number of projects. Some has been taken for personal use and a donation given, and some is being used for charity projects.

We usually collect a small monetary donation each month, which has, during the year, been sent to support the T17 transport, Ceri Gallavan's Ugandan charity and, most recently, Ben's Centre, which supports the homeless in the city centre.

Sadly, some of our earlier participants are no longer able to be with us and we would welcome some new blood. So if you are interested, we meet in the church lounge on the first Saturday each month from 10.30 to 12 noon. Please come!

Jennie Martin and Alison Tolson

THE LUNCH & FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Pauline Miller writes:

Looking back at last year's Annual Report, it seems that not much has changed. The kitchen team has carried on smoothly with the same cooks (Briony Tayler, Mary Tattersall, Mary-Jane Ryder and Pauline Miller), ably assisted in food preparation, serving, clearing away and washing up by our team of helpers which has also remained stable during the year (Fleur Bayley, Antje Barker, John Hall, Judith Price, Carol Rowe, Eve Saunders and Susan Whitmill) Their regular attendance and hard work is much appreciated.

We aim to produce consistently nourishing meals, served and enjoyed in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Some of the menus are old favourites but we are always open to new ideas, and a certain amount of experimentation does go on. The cooks note and share each week what they have served, what has worked well and anything that has been less successful, so that we are constantly monitoring and improving what we do – the best feed-back is in the smiling faces of the members who have enjoyed their lunch.

Special events during the year have included a splendid Christmas Lunch (involving all four cooks) and a 100th birthday celebration meal for Peggy

Bather. In honour of Peggy's Welsh roots a traditional Welsh stew known as Cawl was served, and much appreciated. There was a surprise visit by the Environmental Officer from the Council whose job is to ensure that we are maintaining standards of food hygiene. We were able to satisfy him, and were once again awarded 5 stars!

We are always keen to recruit 'new blood' to join the team and help us in this immensely rewarding task – yes, it is quite hard work, but no-one is on duty every week. So if you could spare a couple of hours regularly over lunch-time on a Wednesday, do please get in touch with one of us for a chat and maybe a visit to see how it all works.

Mabel Padfield writes:

The Club is always well attended and much appreciated by members and visitors. Birthdays are celebrated each month with sherry. The Holy Communion, celebrated by Sue and Sarah regularly, is greatly valued by many of our members.

After lunch the Friendship Club provides a varied programme of entertainment. The many musical items are much enjoyed, and illustrated talks on holidays and journeys abroad are always interesting. A Drama workshop run by Grace Stead from Enrichment for the Elderly was a great success, and Mary-Jane took us through our paces with arm-chair exercises and tips on how to keep mobile. Our in-house entertainment includes singing, craft sessions and board games.

We have a ready supply of committed helpers who greet members and help them to the lounge – Stephen Colver, Pauline Elliott, Sarah Frost, Miranda Myers, Mabel Padfield, Rosalind Rogerson, Renate Smith, Betty Towse, and Rhona Watts. We thank Barry for setting tables out, providing drinks and helping to clear away.

Most of the members rely on Transport 17 to bring them to Lunch Club and take them home safely. The Transport 17 team know the members personally and their good humour and conversation over lunch are greatly valued. The Lunch Club gratefully acknowledges the grant towards running costs that is given annually by Sheffield City Council. And we are always grateful to Roy Godden, who audits the accounts.

We welcomed the arrival of Claire Brooks as CTBB

Worker with Older People in Broomhill and Broomhall, her visits are always appreciated.

Sadly, we have to record the deaths of Peggy Bather, Dot Cotton, Eve McQuater and Roy Woolley. They are remembered with respect and much fondness.

Pauline Miller and Mabel Padfield

BROOMHILL FESTIVAL



The 42nd Festival began on 8 June 2016 with an opening concert by Chorus UK and finished on the weekend of 18/19 June with the Garden Party on the Saturday and the Festival Service on the Sunday. The chosen Charities receiving funds from the Festival:

Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice

Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice care for children and young adults with life-shortening and life-threatening conditions. Bluebell Wood currently support around 250 families, both in their hospice and in family homes, providing more than 50,000 of hours of care each year.

The Sick Children's Trust

This charity provides Homes from Home - a place where families can stay close to their children who are seriously ill in hospital. There are two houses in Sheffield close to the paediatric Sheffield Children's Hospital, Treetop House and Magnolia House.

PACT (Parents' Association of Children with Tumours and Leukaemia)

PACT is a support group for the families of young children with cancer. It is fundraising to support the cost of refurbishing part of Sheffield Children's Hospital's main building in order to create a new Children's Centre for Oncology and Haematology

Friends of The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield

Formed in 1984, the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield (FOBS) support the Gardens and provide the opportunity for gardeners of all abilities to meet, socialise and learn more about horticulture.

As a result of the 2016 Broomhill Festival each of the four Charities received £1800.

As I have said this was the 42nd Festival and over these years a lot of effort has resulting in a considerable amount of money being donated to local charities to help the local community. The Festival has also provided a lot of opportunities to many people bringing laughter, learning and love which are very important components for community cohesion and a sense of belonging. We do not have full records for the whole of those 42 years but we do have accurate figures for the last 21, so since 1996 we have helped 52 charities some benefiting more than once, such as the Children's Hospital, Western Park Hospital, Sheffield Botanical Gardens and Guide Dogs for the Blind. The amount given in those 21 years £204,675.00, so it is clear that over the 42 years this community festival has given substantial benefit to those living and working in Broomhill and Broomhall and beyond.

I stood down as Chair of the Festival Planning Group at the end of 2016 and Shelagh Marston has taken over from me. This year's Festival will begin on Saturday 10 June and finish on Sunday 18 June and as always it will need your support as members of St. Mark's. The Festival has been well supported by the Churches of Broomhill and Broomhall over the years and 2017 is no exception, so please give as much as you can again this year by attending the events and giving of your time and energy to ensure the Festival is successful for another year.

Jane Padget

MARK'S MESSENGER

As in previous years, we produced nine editions of the Messenger in the last 12 months and we believe that they were well up to standard. We would welcome feedback from our readership to check that we are not being complacent.

For the Messenger, one major event of the year was the retirement of John Bramley who since 2010 has faithfully acted as our 'production editor' – putting the pages of the Magazine together. In a tribute, Hazel Elliott-Kemp described him aptly as the 'vital backbone of Mark's Messenger'. We were all so dependent on John's expertise that, even after he had retired, he got called back to help us out. Most fortunately, however, Margot Fox has stepped in to take over John's role and she is now fully on top of the challenges this role presents.

Carol Rowe, Frances Gray and I have continued to rotate as editors and we wonder whether our readers can detect our different styles. Sadly, Carol has now decided that she cannot continue as editor. We are most grateful for the insightful and imaginative contribution which she has made since she joined the team in 2011. From her knowledge of Orthodox Christianity and the Middle East, she has brought valuable fresh perspectives, like her fascinating article about St Nicholas last December. Recently Andrew Burdett, who is on a journalism course at the University of Sheffield, has helped us as a guest editor and we will be looking to him for further help in the future.

We have retained the A5 format introduced in October 2015. We believe readers prefer this pocket edition to the A4 version which we produced previously. Certainly we have received no complaints about it.

We are grateful to members of the congregation who supply us with interesting articles and often with attractive pictures as well. Some articles are offered spontaneously and others are solicited by editors. Editors have a tricky task, as the supply of articles can move from shortage to glut and then back to shortage remarkably quickly. Sometimes prospective authors have second thoughts and say that they would prefer to wait.

The contents of the Messenger are generally uncontroversial but recently we have faced the challenge of covering the appointment of a new Bishop who does not ordain women, at a time when clergy and congregation were trying to come to terms with this unexpected development.

In our view, the Messenger remains an unusual and distinctive parish magazine, reflecting the unusual and distinctive congregation that it serves. But what do our readers think?

David Price

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

2016 began with the optimism generated by the Paris Summit on global warming and ended with the election of a president of the United States who has promised to release US industry from the “unnecessary” restrictions on its CO2 emissions imposed by the previous administration. In the UK there is continuing doubt about whether and how we shall honour our stated commitments to tackle global warming. It has never been more important for individuals and organisations (especially St Mark’s) to show that human thriving need not cost the earth. Caring for creation is, we hope, part of many aspects of the activity of the Church.

Eco-congregation Assessment Oct 2015

Our Eco-Congregation (now Eco-Church) assessment in October 2015 made several recommendations which we are gradually implementing:

- We have made good use of the noticeboard near the entrance to highlight a range of environmental issues. This will continue in 2017/18.
- One display has illustrated the church’s energy use over a year, including the significant contribution of the PV panels, which offset a significant proportion of the building’s non heat electricity consumption.
- Another has encouraged members of the congregation to participate in the CRAG (Carbon Reduction Action Group). A huge amount of work by Samuel Hand has produced a web based household emissions calculator. This is easy to use and rapidly gives members confidential feedback about their household’s carbon footprint. We hope that more people will join up.
- Apart from the very successful PV panels, making the building more efficient is a major challenge, but one which Eco-Congregation asked us to explore. We need to attend to this task more actively in the forthcoming year.

- Considering the development of the grounds as outlined last year, fruit trees planted in January 2015 are maturing well (no longer any risk of over enthusiastic lawn mowers failing to spot them and a beautiful red cherry was spotted briefly before the birds found it). A range of nesting boxes installed in February 2016 is weathering in but there have been no reports of habitation so far. A second batch is to be put up imminently. During 2017/18 we need to decide the next steps in further developing the green in a way that involves the local community and highlights how we demonstrate our stewardship of the natural environment.

Some additional examples of what has been happening are briefly described below:

The building

The church does not lend itself to energy efficiency measures and most of the easy steps have already been taken. Photovoltaic panels previously installed have continued to exceed predicted electricity production; many of the floodlights have been supplied with LED bulbs, which are much more efficient than the alternatives.

Activities in church

Wherever we can we use local or Fairtrade products in church. We use environmentally friendly cleaning materials, avoid disposable crockery/cutlery as far as possible and recycle.

If You Would Like to Find Out More:

At present there is no formal committee that manages Creation Care; Rick Hughes as Eco-Congregation coordinator attends the Faith and Justice Committee on behalf of a network of interested individuals. So anyone who would like to make a more active contribution to the various activities is encouraged to contact Rick, who can give more detailed information.

Rick Hughes

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Over the last year Hope for the Future (HFTF) has directly supported groups and individuals in around

20 constituencies with remarkable results. One of our most successful outcomes was working with a group of Philip Davies MP's constituents. Philip is a climate sceptic and one of the five MPs who voted against the 2008 Climate Change Act. Yet, the meeting resulted in Philip agreeing to challenge the Government on housing insulation standards and the problems caused by the increased renewables tax. Another notable MP we have worked with is Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health. As a result of HFTF input, Jeremy has agreed to encourage uptake of electric vehicles (E.V's) in his constituency, including installation of E.V. charging points and free E.V. parking. In addition to tangible outcomes such as these, the campaigners we work with have consistently reported an improvement in the quality of engagement with MPs. We have met with key political figures such as Government Whip, Graham Stuart MP; former DEFRA Secretary of State, Caroline Spelman MP; and the first Minister for DECC, Ed Miliband MP; all of whom have endorsed and significantly contributed to our approach.

Over the last 3 years HFTF has grown into the UK's leading training body in effective MP engagement. We are the only UK organisation which specifically researches effective climate communications with local MPs. We are the official training body for The Climate Coalition's Week of Action; an annual mass lobby where UK citizens are mobilized to lobby their local MP on climate change. Our research is now recognised by larger NGOs as a valuable source of training for their campaigners. Over the past year we have trained around 1,000 people in effective MP engagement, including for organisations such as the Westminster Abbey Institute, Christian Aid and the Women's Institute. We have developed a climate change workshop for schools which consists of activities designed to educate sixth form students about the UK's political system, its relevance to climate change and how they can engage with their MP. We invite the school's local MP to give a short talk on the opportunities and challenges presented by climate change and to answer questions from the students. We are in the process of applying for funding to continue this work.

The campaign is delighted to have increased its capacity to two full time workers. Sarah Robinson, who began working full-time for the campaign in September as Assistant Director, has been working

alongside the Director of Operations, Jo Musker-Sherwood. Our researcher, Laura D'Henin has also been working for the campaign half a day per week. A board of trustees has been established; Michael Bayley (Chair), Mike Hunt (Treasurer), Brigitte Byart (Secretary), Jemima Parker and Ian Wallis. Our application for charitable status is in progress and with the generous support of many including St Marks, we currently have enough funds to continue in this capacity until August 2017.

Future strategy

1. Funding dependent, to influence over 100 MPs every year in the lead up to the 2020 General Elections.
2. To become more financially independent as we continue to be commissioned to deliver our training to NGOs and other organisations, and to also be in a financial position to offer training to small local groups and individuals for free.
3. To gain charitable status and employ our workers formally.

Sarah Robinson and Jo Musker-Sherwood

LIFE AND DEATH MATTERS CAFE

In July 2016 the PCC approved the proposal to launch a twelve week pilot programme for a Life and Death Matters Cafe to start on Tuesday 6 September based at St Mark's. The cafe completed the twelve weeks, reported to the PCC in January and was granted an extension to the end of February 2017.

The purpose of the Cafe was to offer an open, respectful and confidential environment for people of all faiths and none who want to have conversations about matters of life and death. It is run by a group of people experienced in facilitating groups in work on challenging issues.

Attendance

On average the Cafe was attended by five people each time. People heard about it via the library, a chaplaincy, the Broomhill and Broomhall community network and the news sheet at St Mark's. Most weeks there were one or two "new" people with the majority as "regulars".

Activities

Facilitators use a variety of resources to help participants discuss themes of living well and dying well: the Grave Talk cards produced by the Church of England, the “Fink” cards about advanced care planning, postcards and pictures. Adrian Scott was invited for one session to present some poetry. This also worked well.

Feedback

Those who wished noted feedback on a post it. Some examples: “It was very good to share stuff including funny anecdotes”, “Felt safe”, “The questions are a really useful way of getting conversations going and keeping us on track”, “I was tearful but at the end I smiled”, “Is belief necessary?“, and “Glad this group has been set up. Thanks”. Clearly for some, the Cafe was perceived as a group with some social and spiritual value in the widest sense. Others were happy to drop in and out.

The team of helpers learnt much from the users of the Cafe and the richness of the discussions. It considered that the experience gained at St Mark's could be translated to a setting with an increased “footfall” of users hence the move to a main street cafe for day time activity. Since early March, the team who ran the Cafe has been meeting on Tuesday mornings in the Salon de Cafe on Crookes Road.

We thank St Mark's for the opportunity to pilot a Life and Death Matters Cafe and for the support of members of the congregations. It has been a truly enriching experience and one which we are using as we journey on with this venture.

Team of helpers: Stephen Colver, Gill MacGregor, Jane Padget, Vanessa Senger and Wilma Scott.

Gill MacGregor

GOSPEL CHOIR

Gospel choir began in September 2016 as an informal way for people to come together to learn Gospel-style, acapella songs. The choir is organised

by Sarah Robinson but anyone is welcome to teach and lead songs (especially people who would like to try this for the first time!). We meet to rehearse on Tuesday evenings, 6.30-7.30pm with between 10-15 people attending rehearsals each week. We have sung at one St Marks night service in December 2016 and are keen to sing at more services, perhaps becoming a regular addition every few months. It would be great to grow in numbers over the next year, but so far everyone seems to enjoy coming together to learn new songs.

Sarah Robinson

ST MARK'S CENTRE FOR RADICAL CHRISTIANITY (CRC)

It has for some time been an aspiration of CRC to work more closely with like-minded organisations, and during this last year we had something good to show that this is possible. In May there was a conference in Birmingham addressed by Diana Butler-Bass, the American author, theologian and church historian. Representatives of CRC, PCN Britain, Modern Church and Free to Believe had planned this together. It was an excellent occasion which allowed people plenty of opportunities to get to know each other as well as to listen to an engaging and thought-provoking speaker. It was a fitting tribute to Marcus Borg, but it was a pity that illness prevented Marianne Borg from attending and from coming on to join us in Sheffield. The four organisations are beginning to formulate plans for another joint event in 2018.

On home turf, we had two excellent conferences addressing questions around Jesus. In April Ian Wallis took us on a journey of discovery under the title: *Jesus: Exorcist and Healer – revisiting a reputation liberal thinkers would rather forget*. And in September, Richard Burrige from Kings College London helped us grapple with biblical interpretation and current ethical issues as he talked *about Imitating Jesus: how an inclusive approach to New Testament ethics affects the way we live today*. Both of these were stimulating and thought provoking days.

There have also been three Seminar and Library events, two on a Wednesday evening (as usual), and one on a Saturday morning. In June Imogen Clout, Warden of Readers and lawyer, very engagingly helped us think about issues of family life from both

a contemporary legal and a biblical perspective, building on the book *More places at the table* which she and John Rogerson have co-authored. In October, Alan Saxby, retired Methodist minister and CRC member, talked about his recently published book *James the brother of Jesus and the Jerusalem Church – a radical exploration of Christian origins*, a detailed piece of research which nevertheless left some of us unconvinced. Then in March we had an entirely different sort of event, entitled - *Can you see me home? Christian attitudes to assisted dying and care at the end of life*. Frances Gray wrote a deeply thoughtful and moving play for voices which sparked off much discussion with a panel and in groups.

We have also been seeking ways of working more synergistically with St Mark's as it is one of CRC's strengths that we are based in a specific local church and worshipping community, even though our reach goes far beyond the boundaries of parish and city. First up was an evening with the quirky and inspiring American Luther pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. This free event was oversubscribed in a very short space of time from when it was advertised on Eventbrite, showing a real thirst for the sort of openness which she encourages, probably from many who feel excluded or even alienated from mainstream churches.

Sadly two people who over the years have contributed enormously to our life and our success – Helen Fisher and John Simmonds - have left the CRC Council. Helen was Deputy Chair when I arrived on the scene, and her knowledge and wisdom have been invaluable; John, with whom I worked occasionally in the late 90s and early 2000s, has been instrumental in developing the newsletter into a great vehicle of communication. However, we are delighted to welcome Sue Hobley, no stranger to either CRC or St Mark's, as our new Deputy Chair, and Sibylle Batten and Carol Wise as Council members, as well as Sarah Cole who has taken over from Anne Padget – that indefatigable champion of CRC - as Administrator.

As I enter my last year as Chair of CRC, I feel that, despite fewer members than we would wish (do please join, if you haven't already), we are still making a significant contribution to forwarding the radical/liberal agenda in the church – something which in these unusual days we need more than ever.

John Schofield

LIBRARY

There has been a stock check of the library in autumn 2016. I am pleased to report that there are no books unaccounted for.

I am planning a 'weeding out' of the duplicate copies and out of date books in the Spring, ready for a second hand book stall at our next CRC conference at the end of April.

The catalogues have been updated and published online on the CRC and PCN websites.

Details of the new books bought for the library are published regularly on the websites.

I am very conscious of the need to spend the budget wisely and although I very often buy from Amazon I usually buy from the part of Amazon, which is dedicated to second hand book dealers. I have tried individual second hand dealers over the years, but no one has the same range of second hand books as Amazon.

I buy books requested by our readers and by the themes of the Seminar and Library evenings.

Michael Miller has made some dividers for the library shelves and that has made browsing and searching the library so much easier.

We have a rota of 10 dedicated helpers, who give time and thought to assisting in the smooth running of the library.

I would like to thank Michael and Pauline Miller and all the team for their expertise and hard work which makes the smooth running of the library possible.

Maureen Bownas

Sheffield St Mark Broomhill, - Annual Financial Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2016

Administrative information

St Mark's Church is situated in Broomhill, Sheffield, next to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. It is part of the Diocese of Sheffield within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage, 4 St Mark's Crescent, Sheffield S10 2SG.

St Mark's Parochial Church Council ("PCC") is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity (no. 1128758). Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") or co-opted. The last APCM was on 17 April 2016 ("APCM 16"). PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2016 until the date of this report (those currently serving highlighted in bold) are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Revd Sue Hammersley	
<i>Assoc. Vicar</i>	Revd Sarah Colver	(from 21.4.16)
<i>Assist. Priest</i>	Revd Shan Rush	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mrs Sarah Moore	
	Dr Philip Booth	(from APCM 16)
	Mr Mike Hunt	(to APCM 16)
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>		
	Ms Anne Padget	
	Mrs Catherine Williamson	
<i>Elected members:</i>		
	Dr Sarah Duggan	(to APCM 16)
	Mr Sam Faulds	(from APCM 16)
	Dr Marguerite Gold	(to APCM 16)
	Mrs Helen Gregory	(to APCM 16)
	Mr Rick Hughes	
	Mrs Jane Keeling	(to 18.7.16)
	Canon Sandra Newton	(from APCM 16)
	Mrs Jane Padget	(to APCM 16)
	Mr David Ryder	Treasurer
	Mrs Jen Ryder	(from APCM 16)
	Mr Peter Ryder	(to APCM 16)
	Prof Charles Stirling	
	Mrs Juliet Storey	(from APCM 16)
		Secretary from 16.11.16
	Mrs Briony Tayler	
	Mr David Trickett	(from APCM 16)
	Mr Chris Ware	
	Mr Michael Waring	(from APCM 16)
	Mr Jonathan Williamson	
	Dr Kimberly Willis	Secretary to 7.9.16
<i>Co-opted</i>	Mrs Jane Keeling	(from 7.9.16)
	Mr Robert Beard	(to APCM 16)
<i>Observers:</i>	Ms Kate Pinder	The Beacon at Broomhill MC
	<i>Vacant</i>	St Andrews URC

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC also operates through a number of committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC. These are: *Standing* (with the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC), *Finance and Fabric*, *Faith and Justice*, *International*, *Home Donations*, *Communications*, *Children*, *Young People and Students (CHYPS)*, *Pastoral and Hospitality*.

Achievements and performance

Church Attendance

At 17 April 2016 there were 193 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll including 149 not resident within the parish. Details of changes in the Roll during 2016/17 will be notified at the APCM on 23 April 2017. The average Sunday attendance during 2016 was 158, but this number increased at festivals.

Review of the year

The report on the activity of the PCC during the year together with reports from the clergy, wardens, the above mentioned PCC committees and other groups within the Church are given in the Annual Report for the year, published separately to this Annual Financial Report.

Financial Review (from the 2016 Financial Statements)

Total income for 2016 on the General Fund was £220,363 (2015 £224,170), a net decrease of 2%. Total expenditure was £211,418 (2015 £202,492), a net increase of 4% and which reflects a return of expenditure to 2014 levels that were approximately £9,000 higher than in 2015. Costs were lower in 2015 primarily because following the induction on 3 September 2015 of Revd Sue Hammersley as our Vicar, the post of Associate Vicar, formerly held by her and which was fully funded by the PCC, became vacant, thereby saving on stipend and housing costs for three months. The fall in annual income of £3,807 in 2016 compared to 2015 reflects a decrease in given income but mitigated by an increase in room hire and other income.

General Fund expenditure in 2016 included International and Home donations £20,041 (2015 £20,126), Mission and outreach £5,018 (2015 £6,676), Diocesan Common Fund £85,850 (2015 £85,000), Associate Vicar's stipend, pension and housing costs and Clergy expenses £34,638 (2015 £26,889) (Sarah Colver, appointed Associate Vicar from 21.4.16), Church running and maintenance costs £33,851 (2015 £30,694) (Caretaker salary from 1.3.16 compensated by Utility cost savings), Worship and music costs £10,701 (2015 £9,602), Administration and sundry costs £21,319 (2015 £23,505) (2015 sundry costs included the induction costs of our new Vicar and also advertising and recruitment cost of a new Associate Vicar). From the net General Fund income for the year of £8,945 (2015 £21,678) transfers of £3,045 (2015 £2,413) to replenish reserves have been made. After transfers, a surplus of £5,900 is added to the balance brought forward on the General Fund from 2015 of £33,067 with £38,967 carried forward to 2017.

Movements in the Designated, Restricted and Endowment funds are detailed in the annual Financial Statements for the year. The most significant were the receipt of two legacies, £135,000 from the late Alan Birchall and £2,000 from the late John Roach. Both legacies were unconditional as to their use and have been placed in the Designated Fund General Reserve whilst the PCC considers how they should be utilised. During 2016 £3,556 was expended from Fabric Reserves on fixed asset additions to upgrade the church lighting and purchase folding chairs. In addition, £3,209 has been paid in advance to Sheffield City Council for the provision of Waiting Restrictions on St Mark's Crescent.

Endowment Fund investments showed a capital gain of £8,458 on market values compared to a small loss of £388 in 2015 and a gain of £5,847 in 2014. This highlights the continued volatility of the stock markets.

Reserves Policy

Unrestricted cash and reserves at 31 December 2016 totalled £244,727 (including legacies as above) (2015 £100,902) (Bank current account, General and Fabric deposit accounts). The PCC has no formal policy to maintain a particular size of balance in unrestricted reserves. However, generally, sufficient cash reserves to cover at least two month's unrestricted payments are maintained. It is the PCC's policy to invest deposit fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund and the Sheffield Credit Union.

David Ryder, PCC Honorary Treasurer April 2017 (v4)

**International and Home Donations
made from our General Funds in the year to 31 December 2016**

The lists below show what we gave away in the year to International and Home mission and relief causes

<i>International donations</i>	£	<i>Home donations</i>	£
Christian Aid - General	3,290	S2 Foodbank	1,200
Amnesty International	988	Hope for the Future - The Climate challenge	750
Bogota Street Children Appeal (SuCCol)	988	Assist	550
Ceri Gallivan Uganda projects	988	Broomhall Groups support grant (to be allocated)	500
Oxfam	988	St Mark's Soup Run Project	500
PHASE Worldwide	988	The Children's Society	400
Practical Action (Intermediate Technology Group)	988	Emergency Night Shelter (Stopgap)	400
South Yorkshire Development Education Centre	988	Church Action on Poverty National	250
Tekura - Albania	988	Darnall Family Development Project	250
The Omid Foundation	988	Family Action	250
Global Justice Sheffield (local)	658	Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care	250
Global Justice Now (national)	329	South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Group	250
		South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice	250
		The Church Urban Fund	250
		St Wilfred's Residential Project Sheffield	200
		Transport 17	200
		City of Sanctuary	50
		SAVE (Sheff Agencies for Vulnerable & Excluded)	50
		Church Action on Poverty Sheffield	25
 Allocated totals	 <u>13,169</u>		 <u>6,575</u>

The allocated donations detailed above were budgeted and agreed according to a PCC policy whereby 10% (split 2/3rds International and 1/3rd Home) of the average of our Given Income over the preceding two years is given away to International and Home mission and relief causes. The amounts allocated to individual causes are recommended to the PCC by the International Committee and Home Donations Committee respectively.

David Ryder
PCC Honorary Treasurer

UPDATED ON 24/04/17