

# ST MARK'S CHURCH BROOMHILL & BROOMHALL

## Annual Report 2022-23 April 2023



[www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk](http://www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk)

Broomfield Road, Broomhill, Sheffield, S10 2SE

The Diocese of Sheffield

Charity No. 011287558



St Mark's Broomhill and Broomhall living thinking loving faith

## Vicar's Report

### *Sue Hammersley*

The Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect on the very many activities which make up the life of this church community. It accompanies our annual accounts which cover the year of 2022 but, writing in the Spring of 2023 it is also an opportunity to look ahead and comment on our priorities for the coming year.

As I read the many reports included in this publication I am heartened by the life of this church and the great many activities taking place here and further afield because of you. As you read it, please consider whether there is a role for you too. Joining a small group or being part of a team helps us to get to know one another and be part of the life of this church. The more people who offer to help the less onerous it is on any one person so do please give this your serious and prayerful consideration. There are several behind the scenes roles as well as the more obvious ones!

When I look around the community which gathers on a Sunday morning or evening I am grateful for the diversity of backgrounds and ethnic groups who gather here. Where else are we able to meet people across the age groups, from babes-in-arms to the most elderly? Even within our families that might not be our experience. In the past people would attend their parish church, the church which was closest to their home. Churches have now become more flavoured and we tend to travel to a church which nurtures our understanding of God.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. *Ephesians 3.18-19*

Here at St Mark's we are one church with three congregations, each distinctive and diverse. We are also building stronger relationships with our Mission Area, St John's and St Mary's and reaching across the city to another church opposite a hospital, St Cuthbert's Fir Vale. It is a rich tapestry, like those being worked on by the craft group, and each of us contributes to it, just as each stitch in the tapestry adds to the colour and texture.

Since the pandemic we have welcomed several newcomers to the church which is a sign of life and vibrancy. As we look back over the last sixty years of the current building so we plan ahead to the next sixty so that the church will be a rich resource for people still to arrive.

As we continue to celebrate the rich diversity of life experiences which people bring to the church, we also recognise how much we have to learn together about the liberating life of Jesus who helps us to respond to a world of inequality and injustice and play our part in discovering a better way of living together for the good of all.

We have a long way to go on this journey but we are so much stronger for being on it together. Thank you for your company.



## Churchwarden's reports

*James Oliver*

I find it encouraging to meet and talk to the broad breadth of congregation which includes familiar faces who have attended St Mark's for many years, families and children who bring new life and also more recent attendees. All being drawn to worship in a church that has been and remains inclusive and welcoming to all.

St Mark's is obviously a place of worship and offers a variety of services throughout the week on a blended basis but also opens its doors to a variety of community groups using the excellent facilities to enjoy their activities. We are all so fortunate to be a part of the life and history making at St Mark's.

In 2023 we are celebrating 60 years since the re-opening of St Mark's and this helps me to consider the significance of those people that have been forerunners in creating and clearly understanding the importance of providing an inclusive space to worship, and so demonstrating Gods love for each and every one of us. Collectively we have a responsibility to understand and maintain this; looking for what sustains us rather than picking out the differences.

We are blessed to be led by a variety of clergy and lay preachers who support and encourage us in our journey of Faith, and we thank them all for their dedication, expertise and care. We give our gratitude to Sue for her love, service and devotion and wish her a well-earned and enjoyable sabbatical.

*Dilys Noble*

At the beginning of the year Sunday morning Warden duty started with opening the windows to let covid out; nearly a year later we are closing them to keep the heating in and costs down. I am still learning there is much more to the warden role, pastoral and practical, than lighting candles and washing up. It is a joy to greet known faces, meet new ones and support those unwell, and those whom the day is a real trial or who have come in search of a few moments' peace and solace from their painful world.

The Churchwarden role is really without boundaries despite being shoehorned into the 3Ms of Management, Maintenance and Mission, and is only achievable through the wonderful support of our congregation, staff, PCC and committees. Safeguarding is deemed to be everyone's business and, in my mind, so are the 3Ms. Without helpful comments pointing out maintenance needs; health and safety hazards; participation on committees and willing help from the congregation, St Mark's would not function. So it is with my thanks to everyone who makes this church work and especially to James and our deputy wardens who fit around my chaotic lifestyle and pick up duties, especially now I can go to Nepal again.

In the next few months we are looking at Sue's sabbatical and how to enable her to leave without worrying about what we are getting up to in her absence. This will be a challenge and a responsibility for the Wardens.



# PCC

## PCC

*Dilys Noble, churchwarden*

The PCC is a TEAM, well your home Team that is responsible for the well-being, spiritual and practical, of your church, the members, the building, and the contents. So, diversity is of the essence. We could really do with a full TEAM of 12 plus the clergy. During this year we welcomed a couple of new faces and co-opted a couple more to help make up the number and diversity of skills needed. At the APCM in April we will still need a few more, so PLEASE consider it, everyone has something to offer.

Last year we declared a climate emergency and much of the PCC business has been with that on our minds considering the best possible heating systems; fixing the old boiler upstairs or replacement with infra-red system; insulation including double glazing the church windows which involves a faculty; a diocesan privilege circumventing the need for planning permission and unbelievably more time consuming to acquire.

Safeguarding measures are a regular agenda item and we have to thank Sarah Jenkins so much for systematically keeping us on top of this essential element of our church work .

Inclusivity can be elusive; it took months to have the lift repaired, through lack of parts, despite our best intentions.

Finance is no small part of every idea and decision and how to match expenditure and income. Painfully we decided to reduce our contribution to the Common Fund to balance our books; it was felt that we were out of kilter with the diocesan vision and as part of a Mission Area, our vicar is also Priest in Charge of St Mary's Walkley. The PCC wrote to the Archdeacon outlining our rationale for this and mentioning several other areas of disquiet including suggesting that the faculty process is not working.

We hosted the Archdeacon at our January meeting and await diocesan response.

Please do think about joining our team. Thanks

## Caretaking

*Tim Moore*

The main work of John and I has been the cleaning of the building, which ranges from weekly tasks like vacuuming, sanitising the kitchens and toilets, to carpet cleaning, dusting and polishing. It is hard work in an often freezing-cold building that is intended to stay under the radar, but without which the building could not be used.

Since the relaxation of Covid restrictions, there has been an effort to increase bookings back to pre-pandemic levels. I therefore put up banners on the wall of the green and made sandwich boards for Glossop Road and Beech Hill Road.

I worked with the artist, Bettina Furnee, in the installation of the neon art exhibit, sending pictures and having video calls to decide where and how the piece could be safely displayed.

I installed a new bench by the memorial garden last year and I have been trying to keep both the grounds and building safe and welcoming for everyone. There have been some problems with teenagers from King Teds which we are still trying to resolve.



Cleaning products have moved back to being eco-friendly, after the pandemic.

At Christmas I made the tree out of wood pruned from lime trees around the grounds, strung together with twine and decorated with tinsel and lights. It only cost the church a new set of lights.

## Church Office

*Zoë Varcoe*

It is my pleasure to present the annual report for the Church Office. The past year has been a busy and productive one, filled with new challenges such as issues with the current website and accomplishments such as working on the 60th anniversary programme of events. Working a full year has helped me understand the patterns of the church calendar and anticipate upcoming tasks, allowing me to effectively plan and prepare for events.

One of the highlights of the year was the fruitful jazz fundraiser in aid of the windows, which raised over £1000. This was a testament to the community's dedication to this church building. Another major project that was completed successfully was contacting all church members to update their details and ensure that we are storing information in accordance with current data regulations.



Next year's focus will be migrating the website to a new provider and learning to manage this system.

Bookings have also been steady, and we have seen a consistent income from the use of our facilities by the community. Day-to-day life in the office is busy, with enquiries, bookings, liturgy & festival preparation, and the focus of 2023 of course being the 60th anniversary celebrations.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me in my role over the past year. There are still some members of the church who I have not yet had the chance to meet, but I am always available to chat and answer any questions.

In conclusion, the past year has been a productive and successful one for the Church Office, and I look forward to continuing to serve and support our church community in the coming year.

1963-2023 DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY



# St Mark's Church

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**FULL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**  
ON OUR WEBSITE [www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk](http://www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk)

## Mission Area

### *Sue Hammersley*

The South West Hallam Mission Area (St Mary's Walkley, St John's Ranmoor and St Mark's) continues to develop with relationships strengthening and new possibilities for working together being explored. Sue and Matthew share clergy responsibilities between them, Matthew covering fabric, including St Mary's building project, Walkley Cemetery and St Mary's CofE School, with Sue picking up Governance, chiring the PCC, Worship, Occasional Offices and Pastoral Care. We will be having a review of the Mission Area, conducted by Canon Ian Parkinson, Assistant Archdeacon Transition Enabler in March 2023, the second anniversary of our Licensing.

Some of our successful joint ventures include the dementia awareness service and support for Care Homes. The Administrators of the 3 churches now meet together as do the churchwardens.

## Parish Safeguarding

### *Duncan Lennox*

My main responsibilities are to liaise with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and pass on any safeguarding concerns and to provide advice on safeguarding issues to the PCC and clergy, as appropriate. I am not therefore 'in charge' of all safeguarding issues in the church. Sue Hammersley is the clergy lead on safeguarding, Sarah Jenkins is Safeguarding Administrator dealing with DBS and keeping training records, Hannah Jones deals with safeguarding issues relating to children, Cath Williamson has become involved in issues relating to vulnerable adults, including the Lunch Club and Jane Padget remains the Domestic Abuse Officer. Jane is hoping to hand on her responsibilities to someone else asap and Sarah has also given her notice so thank you to both of them. Hannah Jones has offered to pick up Sarah's responsibilities.

A meeting in September 2022 reviewed safeguarding policies and considered safeguarding issues for the various groups. We also reviewed the training and DBS requirements for church personnel and our recommendations were adopted by the PCC. DBS checking is a slow and onerous process.

We have compiled our own records showing DBS and training status. The latter is necessary to ensure that people have done training as we have no ability to access C of E records. So this relies on people feeding back to Sarah Jenkins. We rely greatly on people doing their training promptly and giving feedback.

Happily, I have not had to pass on any safeguarding concerns to the DSA in the past year nor have there been any safeguarding concerns which I needed to raise with the PCC.



# Children, Young People and Students

## CHYPS

*Hannah Jones & Lynn Pocock*

Throughout 2022, the provision for children and young people steadily settled into a regular pattern, with Creche and Godly Play occurring fortnightly, alternating with monthly Gatherings on the Green and family music and storytelling sessions, facilitated by a small group of committed leaders. The hope is that this enables us to offer something that most children and families feel able to connect with alongside engaging with the Parish Eucharist.

The steering group continues to explore the question of what we are hoping to provide throughout the year and for different ages; and within each setting look to provide opportunities to learn about the bible, ritual and key moments within the Christian calendar, as well as exploring how we feel about issues around faith, spirituality and caring for our communities and the world around us.



One of the ways we are trying to build continuity throughout the provision is to introduce 'Out of the Box' as an approach to exploring ideas through storytelling and play that can be adapted for use in many of these settings. Sarah A and Hannah J received training in this and delivered an introductory session with Kathryn Lord (co-founder of Out of the Box) in October. This was a great event, which was open to everyone. Parents were able to experience it alongside their children, as well as it being an opportunity for other adults interested in exploring its potential use within worship and wider community activity. Since then, we have used Out of the Box with a broad age range of children, with the Godly Play group and within Night Services; and are continuing to introduce it into other areas and train others in its delivery.



We are fortunate to have a growing number of teenagers and young people. We continue to revisit their provision to find ways of offering relevant spaces for them to meet and discuss faith and their lives and find roles within church life such as supporting creche or joining the tech team. This year we have introduced a monthly board games group for the older teenagers at the 10am service. In early summer, these teens took part in a series of afternoon meetings, Big Questions, with young people from St John's Ranmoor, to explore faith and consider confirmation. They also attended the Diocesan 'Breathe

Deep' event for young people earlier this year. Younger teens have had half-termly Sunday afternoon meetings, centred around crafting or baking with space to discuss Advent, prayer etc. Recently they enjoyed an outing to Tenpin bowling.

As a team, we feel blessed with the number of children and young people with whom we minister. We are always ready to welcome other adults who might like to share in this ministry with us.

## Young Adults & Students

*Bethany Leake*

The young adults group continues to be an important community for students and young adults at St Mark's.

This year, Izzi has stepped back from leading the group, and in September Bethany took over the role. After a discussion with the group, we have adapted our sessions a bit, now meeting fortnightly after the 10am Sunday service, running a combination of bible study and discussion sessions, film sessions as well as socials. We are currently following the church Lent course as a group.

We have continued to strengthen our relationship with the National Student Christian Movement, attending the 'Big groups meet up' online during Autumn Freshers week, meeting other SCM groups across the UK. And we celebrated the Universal Day of Prayer for Students (Student Sunday) on the 19th of February. We hope to continue developing our links to other student groups into the next year.





# Communications

## Website

*Katherine Tattershall*

This year we have come together as a communications group and our main task was to review how we're communicating so that we can put together some achievable projects to improve it.

The first project we've made good progress on is our website. We're moving provider and reviewing the content we use on it and how it's structured, to make sure that people find what they need easily. This will also make it easier to maintain as Zoë can get the support she needs. I've also been putting in some work so that people find us when searching for key terms like 'inclusive church Sheffield'.

Next year we'll be looking at how we can make better use of our social media channels with some new imagery of our church and our people.

We're only a small group so if you would like to join us we'd love to have you, or if you could help with a short term project do let us know!

## Mark's Messenger

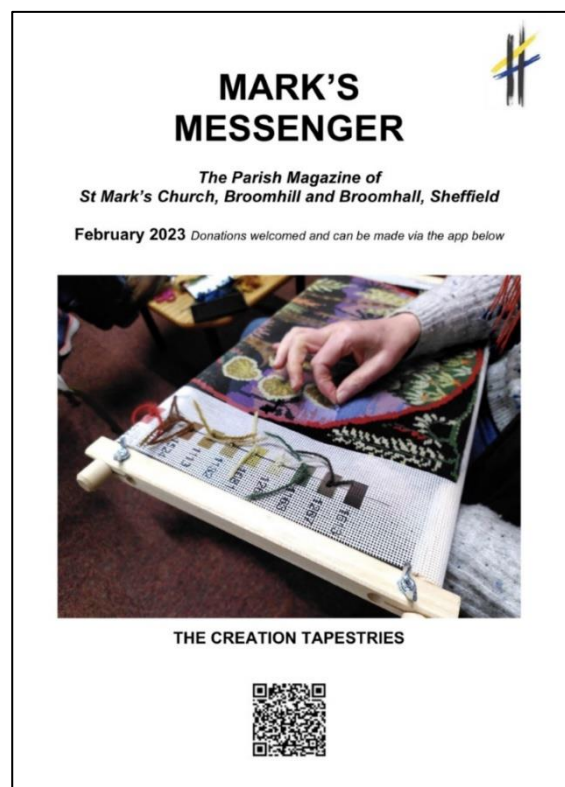
*Shan Rush*

The Messenger team continue to produce a bumper 28-page edition of The Messenger which is valued by those who subscribe to it. Sadly, shortage of editorial staff has led to the decision to reduce the number of editions to 4 a year – February, June, September & December. Since the pandemic, most people have received their copy via e-mail. Considering several people asking for reintroduction of printed copies which they find easier to read, we are once again offering a choice of receiving it by e-mail or printed. We suggest people consider donating £5 a year for e-mail copies and £10 a year for printed copies. These voluntary contributions help to affirm the significance of the publication to those who receive it.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles or photos over the last year. A special thanks to Dez (proof reader), Frances (editor), Margot (formatter), Mark (website editions), Mike (subscription collector), Rob (editor) and Zoë (e-mail and printed copies) for their ongoing regular commitment to producing and distributing Mark's Messenger.

(Thank you also to Shan for helping to re-imagine how to work as a smaller group and to act as the link with PCC).

Pick up a copy of the latest edition with its focus on climate change now!



# Fabric and Finance

## Fabric matters

*Briony Tayler*

The past year has been dominated by the faculty process to enable us to install double glazed units into the bottom row of windows in the worship area. This has been subject to delays and difficulties but should show progress soon. They will provide a valuable precedent for the challenge to come – installing similar units throughout the building, enabling us to further reduce our carbon footprint and making the building warmer and more inviting to use.

Repairs in recent months include cracked and missing roof slates replaced, the flat roof areas made watertight and the solar panels mended.

More recently, two areas of exterior wall were damaged in one week – slippage on the slope between the church and the Crescent resulted in a length of wall collapsing, while the corner of the Green to the south-west was apparently hit by a lorry. Repairs are progressing.

Two of the ash trees on the Green have considerable ash die-back, so permission has been granted for them to be removed. We are encouraged now to plant two more trees for every one taken down and will take advice from our arborist as to the most appropriate varieties to plant.

Inside the building, Martin Godley keeps a close eye on the lighting, replacing bulbs as necessary so that nearly all of them are now LEDs.

After a considerable delay, we have been able to purchase new chairs for use in the lounge. This was originally part of the plan to refurbish the room when it was redecorated and had new carpet and curtains. Finally, it was arranged that the old chairs would be given to St Aidan's, who had some that were even older and heavier!

The gas boiler, which heats the radiators upstairs and provides hot water to all toilets, has needed new parts; we hope it will function until we have decided how to replace it in a responsible way.

We are indebted to the loyal hard work of Tim and John, who keep the building warm clean and safe and attend to the paths and litter bins. Tim also does many small repairs and has re-purposed old chairs to make temporary signage.

Similarly we owe a debt of gratitude to Shelagh and her loving and voluntary care of the Memorial Garden, as well as David Hendrick who we pay to look after the grounds as a whole for nine months of the year.



# Faith and Justice

## Social Justice

*Sue Hammersley*

St Mark's continues to give generously (10% of our annual given income) to local and international groups and charities and the Home and International Donations groups have written reports explaining how they allocate these funds. Several church members are engaged in social justice, including Amnesty International; Broomhall Group of Groups; Church Action on Poverty; St Mark's Environment Group; South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group; and the Soup Run, to name just a few. It feels at the moment that meeting together to discuss our activities would not add anything to our work because church members are so committed to local action. If there are activities you would like us to support, or make more visible, please contact the church office.

## Home Donations

*Chris Ware*

The home donations committee is made up of David Price, Dez Martin, Rosie Hunt, Donna Bawden and Chris Ware. We welcome new members of the committee, please email [chrisspjw@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisspjw@hotmail.com) if you are interested in joining. We decided our main focus to be the cost of living crisis and consequently Citizens Advice Sheffield and foodbanks received the largest donations. Having seen the many refugees from Ukraine and in light of the Rwanda policy we also wanted to support the asylum seekers most in need in Sheffield through South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice. We were also asked to embed climate change into our thinking and so decided each year to include a charity that responds to the climate crisis, we chose Food Works.

At the end of 2022 we donated the following:

Citizens Advice Sheffield	£1975
S2 foodbank	£1500
S6 foodbank	£500
Ben's Centre	£1000
Food Works	£1000
South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice	£1500
Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care	£1000
Carers Centre hardship fund	£1000
Broomhall Girls group	£1000
Broomhall Centre	£500
Church Action on Poverty Membership	£25



## International Donations

### *Dilys Noble*

A huge thank you to St Mark's for maintaining its generosity and donating £11,000 to overseas charities. As in previous years we have divided this equally between 10 charities with which St Mark's has a personal link. We are a small shrinking group but continue to support the following charities and we would love anyone with heart for overseas mission to join us in our occasional meetings.

- **Reach Bwindi** (featured below) is a UK charity supporting the lives and work of the communities of Bwindi, Uganda, with the aim of relieving or preventing poverty. Their main beneficiary is Bwindi Community Hospital. Ceri Alamsetti spent 2 years working there.
- **Phaseworldwide** a charity I am a trustee and medical mentor for, deliver health, education and livelihood opportunities to remote communities in Nepal suffering from climate change induced landslides and earthquakes.
- **SUCCOL** educate street children in Colombia (Dez and Jennie Martin and Robin Saunders)
- **Omid** is a non-religious, non-political charity supporting traumatised women survivors in Iran that Manuch is in touch with.
- **Practical Action** recently fitted street lights in the many refugee camps in Rwanda to make them safer places. In Nepal they fitted stoves and chimneys in mountain villages improving health through less smoke inhalation and more efficient cooking requiring less wood and deforestation.
- **Literacy for Life** supports a small school in Ghana, a charity founded by Rosie Hunt after spending a year working there.
- **Global Justice Now** is a democratic social justice organisation working as part of a global movement to challenge the powerful and create a more just and equal world. They mobilise people in the UK for change and act in solidarity with those fighting injustice, particularly in the global south.
- **USPG** works mainly to increase capacity in established churches throughout the world with some projects designed to alleviate poverty and improve health. Our link is Michael Bayley.
- **Care4Calais** supports refugees stranded at Calais. Manuch has organised collections of clothes and other necessities to deliver there.
- **Christian Aid** a UK charity helping people all over the globe, regardless of race or religion.

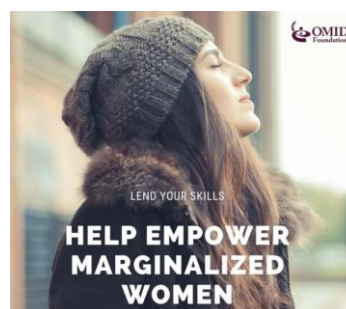
Throughout the year International Donations also held events, sales and "bucket collections" for disasters. During Christian Aid week 2022 we collected:

- £573 via deliver only envelopes
- Christian Aid Lunch made £100
- Church service envelopes made £77
- Walk around the Parish Boundary - £160
- St Mark's E-envelopes - £200

**Total: £1345.625 with gift aid**

Additionally we:

- Held a Harvest Lunch and sold jams and marmalades on 2 occasions.
- On Sundays during Advent we sold Christmas cards, wrote letters to Prisoners of Conscience on behalf of Amnesty International and had a sale of Nepali handcrafts.
- Fairtrade Fortnight was marked with displays at coffee time.
- Carol singing for Christian Aid in Sheffield was well supported



## Environment group

### Margaret Ainger

The group have been working on the extensive programme which is Eco Church, looking to see if we can function at the highest suggested level throughout our church life.

The categories are:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Of these, managing our buildings sustainably and working towards Net Zero is the biggest challenge but we are getting our heads around the language of energy and carbon and how to best use this precious resource.

Outdoors we are working to increase the value of our Green to birds, bees, plants and people.

And wider still, we are making the links between climate change mitigation and supporting social justice issues, especially in the global south. We have church members who have helped found charities who do this work so we have very direct links and can help by donating money, fundraising and prayer.

We lobby where we can and have recently had our first meeting with Abtissam Mohamed, the future Labour candidate for Central, to share concerns about these issues.

Your ideas and feedback would be very welcome.

Dates for your diaries:

**Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>:** Green picnic: celebrating Nature. Details to follow

**Saturday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>:** Diocese-wide Eco Church celebration in the Cathedral. At which we hope to receive our Gold award from the Bishop.



# Pastoral Care & Hospitality

## Pastoral Care

*Shan Rush*

At St Mark's, we really value the extensive informal support which takes place behind the scenes on a day-to-day basis. More formalised care takes many forms and is carried out within the church building, in people's homes and in our local community. A team of lay and ordained people co-ordinate and facilitate different aspects of this care.

We have an active group who send cards for a variety of occasions. A new bereavement support group is due to start meeting after Easter. The team taking home Communion to people has grown and we offer services in 3 out of the 4 care homes in the parish. Meals before or after services are held once or twice a month.



Prayers for people who are anxious, sick, in any kind of need or those who have died, as well as for the world and its needs are read aloud at the Thursday Eucharist and Sunday worship or meditated on in silence at daily prayer. Pastoral care conversations take place in our building, in people homes, via the telephone and via Zoom.

We always need more people to help, formally and informally.

- At present we really need a lay person to work alongside myself who can be a point of contact on the ground whilst I work remotely. This role will be especially important whilst Sue is on sabbatical.

There are other opportunities to undertake small roles such as:

- Checking the prayer board for new requests and notifying Shan
- Noticing and informing Shan if regular members of the congregation are missing unexpectedly.
- Watching out for new people in church and welcoming them as part of the welcome team.
- Serving refreshments after the service as part of the welcome team.

If you could undertake one of these roles, do get in touch.

## Lunch & Friendship Club

*Briony Tayler and Jean Baxter*

Since our careful return from the pandemic, numbers of meals served, including helpers, fluctuate between 20 and 30. There are now only two cooks, as Pauline Miller has stepped down from this role except on infrequent occasions. The kitchen helpers are a smaller band, too, but as loyal and cheerful as ever.

We continue to serve a two-course hot lunch, using fresh ingredients where possible and offering many traditional favourite dishes. We celebrated the club's 30th anniversary in September with a special menu and some invited guests, but bad weather forced us to cancel the Christmas meal at late notice. It became a 12th Night feast in January instead!

After lunch activities are varied and our kind and caring Lounge Team enables the smooth running of these. We have had a visit from the Lady Mayoress, an illustrated talk on local birds, music from the Palm Court trio, collage sessions to decorate the notice board, quizzes, board games, music videos, singing and reminiscences. The imagination of helpers is impressive, and it is always an uplifting afternoon.

The Club is extremely grateful for a grant from Sheffield City Council which enables us to keep down the cost to members. Thanks too to David Ryder who audits our accounts (and for operating the projector!). We are also particularly grateful to Transport 17 who transport our less mobile members to St Mark's, whatever the weather or traffic.

## Craft & Knitting group

*Jennie Martin*

The group continues to meet on the first Saturday morning each month in the Church Lounge. There is usually cake and/or biscuits! The numbers vary, from about 6 up to maybe 25 for the October and November meetings.

It was at that point that we began our "magnum opus" – working in collaboration with the Environment Group making 6 tapestries on the theme of Creation. This will be a contribution to the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Mark's reopening and we hope they will be displayed in the church. It was exciting to introduce some people to a new skill (training was provided) and also to allow experienced stitchers an opportunity to contribute. We look forward to them being completed in time!

Otherwise, the rest of us continue to knit and sew as usual. We were pleased to have a stall at the Broomhill Garden Party and managed to raise £200 (much of which came from the sale of Antje's lovely birds and socks) which we shared between 2 charities – SuCCol and Ben's Centre.

We are grateful for donations of wool which we make into shawls and blankets. We also welcome any new people who might like to come along, with or without their crafting or knitting, to join us.



# Study and Learning

## Study and Learning Group


*John Schofield*

These are the main areas we have been engaged with this year:

- **Faithful Living:** Producing short pieces about an open and questioning approach to ethics has been a major focus for the work of four members of the group, and the first products of our endeavours are now on the website. There will be more to come this year.
- **Lent:** A course focusing on five critical moments as recorded in the early chapters of the Acts of the Apostles is being shared with the other Mission Area churches and the Manor Parish. 10 groups are meeting, both face to face and on Zoom. Over 80 people are taking part.
- **Work has continued with people new to St Mark's/Christianity** through the Being With course.
- **Work with families:** Hannah Jones is leading on the burgeoning work with families and children/young people. The launch of the Out of the Box approach was well attended.
- **CRConline:** The grant money for the CRConline project runs out in the middle of the year. The Management Group – which reports to the Study and Learning Group – has been working with the Communications Group to ensure that the powerful collection of materials will be an integral part of the new St Mark's website, enhancing our digital presence and reaching a wide audience.
- **Members:** we were sad to lose Lu Skerratt-Love when they moved to Birmingham to begin ordination training. We would welcome expressions of interest from others to be part of the group. We meet about four times a year.

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HOW GOD SHAPED, SHAPES AND WILL SHAPE  
THE LIFE OF GOD'S PEOPLE



**LENT 2023**

St Mark's Broomhill and Broomhall,  
St Mary's Walkley, St John's Ranmoor  
and the Sheffield Manor Parish

To download a copy please visit  
<https://stmarkssheffield.co.uk/lent-2023/>

## Library

*Maureen Bownas*

I am very happy to report that there is more interest being shown in the library. The Library Team has had two meetings to plan a new way forward and there is now a 'browsing corner' established in the narthex. Thanks to Tim we have two refurbished armchairs and two coffee tables permanently beside the library shelves. Every Sunday we place more chairs to encourage the congregation to 'Browse and Borrow'.

We are very grateful to Beth Keith who has been very helpful in the planning and advising us on the themes that are current in the Church calendar. We have already mounted a display for Advent and another for Christian Climate Action. We are also displaying books on 'Gender', timed for the



upcoming Lambeth Conference and will shortly be arranging the display for 'Racial Justice' and 'Church Action on Poverty'. Thanks also to Sue Godley who has expertly minuted our meetings.

I am very keen to allow access to the library at all times and we are thinking about how to monitor borrowing by the congregation at the Sunday Evening Service.

In this year of celebration, we are planning a Book Sale on the 19th March. The proceeds will go towards the purchase and donation to the congregation of a book on the work of Harry Stammers. This special edition contains pictures and references to the east window in St Mark's church.



The Library Team is committed to continue to encouraging readership and serve the congregation. . Without such a dedicated team, it would be impossible to run the library as efficiently as we do.

## Logos

*Mark Newitt*

In September 2022 the Logos Bible Study group both celebrated its 6th birthday and finished our marathon exploration of John's gospel. Many thanks to Ian Wallis for being our guide over those years. After a short break, we reconvened in January 2023 to start an exploration of Jeremiah and Old Testament prophecy. This time we have engaged Beth Keith to act as our tour guide.

Central to Logos are two interlaced aims. The first is a desire to take a scholarly approach to the bible and, by drawing on academic research, seek a deeper understanding of the meaning of the text and a broader appreciation of the context to which it bears witness. Secondly, alongside investigating the significance of the text within the context it was written, we seek to explore its relevance for Christian faith today. In seeking a deeper understanding we're not afraid to wander along unexpected paths and, in the strong tradition of St Mark's, there are plenty of questions and we don't aim to come to a common mind. Logos takes place on-line on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9pm.



# Worship

## 8am Communion, Book of Common Prayer

*Sue Hammersley*

Since the pandemic we have returned to a pattern of two services each month, on the second and fourth Sundays. Although this is a small congregation it is a faithful group who gather regularly for a quiet Communion with traditional, poetic language. Occasionally we are joined by people who want to worship earlier than usual and they are often surprised by how much they enjoy this peaceful and refreshing service in the chapel. Do come along whenever you can and see for yourself.

## Parish Eucharist

*Sue Hammersley*

Our weekly 10am Service on Sundays continues to draw an average of 130 people each week, of all ages. We use liturgy which reflects the church's season and is both traditional in form and contemporary in language. We try to reflect a variety of musical sources, written by women as well as men, from different eras and communities within the church which seems to



go down well with our diverse congregation. We are sensitive to the language we use in our liturgy and hymns, representing God as feminine as well as masculine and becoming more aware of how our different life-experiences are reflected in the words we use. Being a member of Inclusive Church means that we try to value people with different experiences of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality without detracting from our core aim, to worship God together as the Body of Christ.

We are fortunate to have several preachers, both Clergy and Readers, as well as people training for ordination or those with particular theological expertise to share, which makes for a variety of voices and approaches. Our team of readers and intercessors is growing and if you would like to get involved, please email Zoë in the office.

We are actively looking for volunteers to help with the Welcome Teams, sound desk and Zoom support, Flower Arranging and linen rota but there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved, either up front or behind the scenes. Before the pandemic we had a team of vergers and, longer ago, servers who would prepare the altar and serve as acolytes and crucifer each week. Do please let us know if you would like to get involved in any way.

## Open Communion

*Sue Hammersley*

On the second Sunday of each month we proudly host a gathering for the LGBTQI+ community. Starting with refreshments and conversation we then share in a simple Eucharist led by different clergy from across the diocese. We never know who will come and we love meeting new people and enjoying time together so do pass on the word. At a time when some members of the LGBTQI+

community are feeling particularly threatened by attitudes within the wider church we are glad to be able to hold an unequivocally supportive worship space.

## Night Service

*Beth Keith*

I'd like to begin with a big thank you to everyone who has supported and been part of Night Service this year. The Night Service continues to be a place for prayer, community, contemplation and healing.

Our monthly pattern starts with a communion on the first Sunday of the month.

The second Sunday focusses on discussion over food followed by prayer and meditation, often using Celtic liturgies and silence.

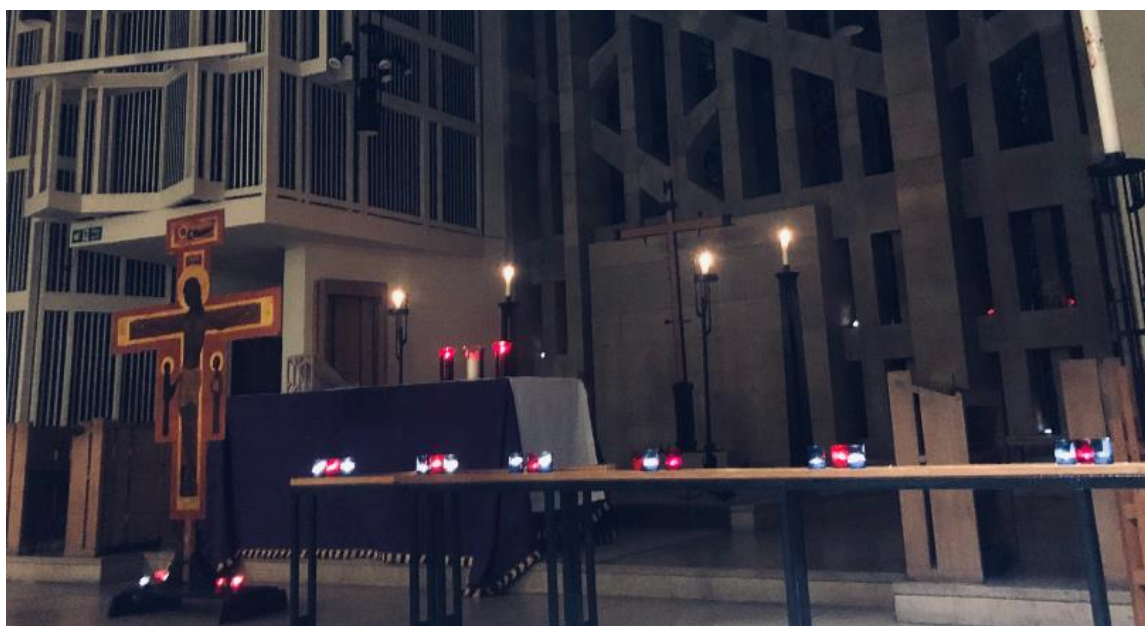
On the third Sunday there is a well-established Taizé Service, that attracts both St Mark's members and those from further afield. It is led by a committed team of volunteers.

Night Services on the fourth Sunday are set around different themes and tend to be a space for creativity.

When there is a fifth Sunday, we offer a service on the theme of healing and wholeness which is organised by Revd Dr Louise Castle, the bishop's advisor on healing.

There are usually between 8-25 people who attend, with the meal on the second Sunday and Taizé often having more attendees than other weeks.

There is a small number of committed volunteers who help to lead the services, but we are always keen for more people to get involved.



## Thursday mid-day Communion *Shan Rush*

This service which usually attracted 2 or 3 people in the chapel pre pandemic, now regularly has an average attendance of 5 or 6 people on Zoom every week. About once every other month it is offered in person in the chapel as well as on Zoom. We continue to use the Celtic liturgy and keep the first Thursday in the month as having a focus of praying for our planet and the effects of climate change. It's a friendly and informal gathering with those attending participating by reading the Gospel or leading the responses. There is an opportunity for those gathered to chat after the service and this is especially valued by those who are unable to meet friends in person. All are welcome to attend.

IN THE COMPANY  
OF CHRIST AND HIS OWN



*A Celebration of the Eucharist  
in the Celtic tradition*

## The Sacristy *Boyd Morgan*

The St Mark's Sacristan is a bit of a behind the scenes job, and a really new one to me, meaning lots of learning and adjustment to the 'rhythm' of the church, this role means I spend (and should spend far more) time behind the action – in the vestry. You'd be forgiven in thinking sacristy means linen and candles (because a lot of it is!) but really, it's about keeping the tangible aspect of our liturgical and collective worship going, silently and without fuss.

These are the kind of things I get up to:

- Changing the altar frontals for each shift in the liturgical year (I've learned there is a very specific fold and a very cool box there all live in hanging on poles!) ordering all the different kinds of 'stuff' we might need to keep services going.
- If you want special candles, stones, rope, ribbons (even a box of short ribbons and long ribbons) you name it, I can't necessarily find it yet but it's there!!
- Washing, ironing, and keeping an eye on the linen lots of tidying up! (Did you know there are very specific folds and uses for all the linen)? I do now!


And so much more I'm still learning, it really is a fascinating insight in the 'rhythm' but also the history and heritage, if I can help anyone's curiosity, I'd love to share what I've learned and to learn, from and with others too, Vestry team anyone?



## Music & Choir David Willington

1863-2023 DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY  
St Mark's Church  
LIVING · THINKING · LOVING FAITH

*St Mark's Church, Broomhill, S10 2SE*  
**Sunday 5 March, 2pm**



**The Stadler Ensemble**

*Music for clarinet and basset horn*  
with Neil Aston and Sue Ryall  
David Willington - piano

including works by  
Mendelssohn, Krommer, Weber, Stadler and Rolla

**Free entry - retiring collection**

During the last 12 months we've been delighted to welcome new musicians who contribute regularly to our worship instrumentally and vocally, as well as bringing new ideas for music that we use in services. James, our organ scholar, has continued to develop as an organist, singer and conductor and continues to be a great asset to us. We've also taken our tentative first steps to setting up a children's choir and we hope that they'll be able to take an active part in music making during services later this year.

As part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we are planning a number of events including concerts, services and a come-and-sing evensong with the Steel City Choristers. It'd be great to have as much support as possible for these so please do come along if you're able to.

Over the last 12 months the choir has continued to sing regularly for Sunday morning services as well as other events. In June we hosted a come-and-sing Creation for the Broomhill festival. We welcomed around 80 singers from across Sheffield. December's carol service was another highlight. Our series of

informal Coffee Concerts has been well received and has presented a good opportunity for young musicians to get experience of performing to a large audience. Performers in the Coffee Concerts also contribute to the service before-hand and it's proving a great way to attract extra musicians to St Marks.

## Julian Prayer Shan Rush

23 people currently receive the Julian Prayer e-mail which is sent out on a weekly basis and facilitated by 6 people within the group. We are registered with The Julian Meetings which encourage the practice of Christian Contemplative Prayer and Meditation within our daily lives in a way that is appropriate to us. They produce a quarterly newsletter which can be found near the library and contains resources to support the ministry of the facilitators. In Contemplative prayer, we seek to be aware of the presence of God, and to remain silently and attentively in that presence, open to God. If you would like your name to be added to the circulation list, please do contact me directly or via the office.



## Parish Weekend Shan Rush

Following a very successful Parish Day at home in 2021, we decided that rather than go away for the weekend, we'd spend the time based at home and in church. This led to a very different dynamic. Being close to home enabled people to dip in and out rather than committing to being there all the time and led to a higher level of flexibility in taking part around family life and a greater sense of

inclusion whether you came on one day or all three. There were also less worries about cost and cancellation as a result of Covid and over 100 people attended at some stage over the weekend.

It was unfortunate that our guest speaker, Mark Oakley was unable to attend as he was recalled to his official ministerial duties following the death of the Queen, however we decided to go ahead with the weekend using a couple of recordings of his talks and Sue standing in to do his workshop. Other activities included a dedicated morning session for the children, a parish walk, flower arranging, singing, a talk about liberal theology, Bible study and craft.

Community prayers and Sunday worship were woven through the weekend and were described in the feedback as enriching, joyful and very moving.

A team of volunteers ensured refreshments were available throughout the weekend and a meal hosted by Blend on the Saturday evening was extremely good value, well attended and enjoyable.



Thank you to everyone involved in both the advance planning and delivery of the weekend.

Mark Oakley has agreed to come to join us at another time and we hope to hold another weekend at home in 2024. If you could help with the planning, or have ideas about the theme, do let me know.