



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 2018

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 Loving 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.

OPENING WORDS FROM THE VICAR

EMBODYING HOPE

It's never easy writing an Annual Report for a church which has so many different "year-ends". Our Financial year is January to December, our liturgical year December to November and our Annual Report April to March...

Once again, the pages which follow are full of wonderful accounts of the life of this vibrant and growing community. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write but also to each and every member of this church, for the many ways, visible and invisible, in which you contribute to our worship, our life together and our service of the wider community.

I've found myself mulling over the difficulty of trying to provide a sanctuary, a sacred space where people who live busy lives, demanding lives, can come and be refreshed, whilst also providing a prophetic space where people are reminded that God's call is often uncomfortable, comes when we are least prepared and asks things of us which we would really prefer to ignore.

And yet, in our imperfect human way, here at St Mark's we really are trying to be the kind of church which can help people to discern how God's Spirit of life is calling to them.

During the year April 2017 to March 2018 we have celebrated with each other a remarkable number of significant birthdays – often surprising ourselves that this person has reached that age when they look a decade younger! We've rejoiced with couples as they've reached wedding anniversaries and, as usual we have had to say goodbye to some of our members. Although John Wood hadn't been attending St Mark's for some time, he was one of the giants of faith in his day, inspiring the self-educated to keep learning. It was he who encouraged my predecessor, Adrian Alker to read Marcus Borg for the first time. Likewise, Eileen Stamper always kept our critical faculties fine-tuned. She was a remarkable scholar and a passionate advocate for women's education and leadership – and she continued to teach Latin and Greek well into her

nineties. May they, and all who cared for them, rest in peace.

In April last year we were still dealing with the fallout from the controversial withdrawal of the nominated Bishop of Sheffield but we were also receiving news of his successor. A report, written by the Independent Examiner for the Archbishops, exonerated St Mark's but it's important to note that we did lose a small number of members because of how this episode played out. I would like to personally thank everyone for their support during this difficult period, whatever your personal views I think that as a community we did model good disagreement and we were open to dialogue, so let's continue to be open to those with whom we don't agree and find new paths of peace and reconciliation upon which to travel together.

Inevitably we have also gained newcomers who were looking for a church which was serious about equality. Our involvement in Sheffield Pride has also been significant in helping people find a church where they are valued for who they are and for the gifts they bring to this community.

So our welcome and encouragement of new members continues to be a significant part of our life together. In an age when people often expect to be amused (or rejected) by church it is refreshing to hear that people often come to St Mark's as visitors and find that this is a church where they feel that they could come back.

So THANK YOU to everyone who helps build up the community spirit here: to the Sunday morning welcomers; to everyone who contributes to our worship, whether up front or behind the scenes; to the people who ensure that the building and grounds are well-maintained and cared for. Thank you to Sarah Rousseau who so capably picked up the administrative reins when Innes left in the autumn. Thank you to the Churchwardens and PCC who conscientiously attend to the daily running of this amazing organization.

But especially this year, I want to pay tribute to David Ryder, our outgoing Treasurer. It is impossible to praise David too highly (except inasmuch as it could embarrass him!) David has had a steady and skilled eye on the church accounts for over twenty years. His experience has meant that PCC members are

well-supported when financial decisions need to be made. Whether we are considering the budget or the end-of-year accounts, we are informed in such a way that we understand what the numbers mean and how our decisions might affect them. He has helped us to navigate our way through important considerations with gentleness and humility as well as clarity and determination. David has been a true servant of this church in this role and we owe him an immense debt of gratitude. I am delighted that he has felt able to hand over this responsibility in order to enjoy his retirement in different ways. David, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you looking relaxed and refreshed with your family here at St Mark's. Thank you!

We are blessed with a congregation of highly skilled professionals, although the disadvantage of this is that people are not so blessed with free time. I am, therefore, immensely grateful to David Armstrong for offering to pick up the role of Treasurer, should the new PCC be so minded to appoint him after the APCM.

Although this will feature most prominently in next year's report, Mark McCombs has just announced that he will be moving on to new adventures at Liverpool Cathedral. Mark has been a superb colleague and I shall miss his musical genius and sharp eye for detail. I am immensely grateful to Mark for the way that he enables our music to be so much more than the sum of its parts. Thank you, Mark.

Last Advent we launched a "theme for the year" something which we hoped might help us focus our attention. "Embodying Hope" emerged and we have spent the last few months exploring this in a number of different ways. Our Lent course made me think hard about what I mean when I talk about "hope". It can be such an abstract concept, or a piece of jargon, which has the danger of becoming meaningless. At some point during the year someone left a post-it note on our prayer board which reads, "I do not know God, but if I were looking, I think I might find him here." For me, that embodies hope, a sense of that which is both now and not yet.

It seems that there's something about St Mark's, the people and the building, which embodies hope for some people. This is something worth paying attention to and looking after. You will read later of

how we plan to build on the opportunities we're can see in the Heritage Open Days in September.

The unexpected arrival of a number of legacies has given us the opportunity to invest in the vision of this church to serve the local community, nurture the young and reach out to others.

Perhaps one of the real highlights for me during this twelve month period was the way that people from St Mark's supported our Muslim friends in Broomhall who wanted to share Eid prayers but felt unsafe doing so in a public space. About twenty of us went to the Springfield school playground and stood watch as they prayed. It was a very moving experience as people greeted us warmly and we shared "Eid Mubarak" (Happy Holiday or blessed celebration).

As people of faith we believe that we are blessed and that we are called to be a blessing to others. Our vocation, is to become the people we are called to be, theologians within our own context, whether that is at home, in the park, at work or in the church – there's no distinction. Wherever we are, God is with us, calling us into life in all it's fullness. That's an awesome truth to witness to but one which I think is faithfully reflected in the pages which follow.

As usual, I cannot thank my clergy and lay colleagues enough for the gift of their talent, time and tolerance which I think has been rather stretched at times this year. May all of us who make up St Mark's Church continue to embody the love "that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor 13). Thank you for your companionship along the Way.

Sue Hammersley



Sunday Service

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The churchwardens exist to provide lay leadership for the worshipping community and to assist the ordained ministry in carrying out the church's mission. In practice, this role involves widely varying tasks, which change from year to year, and much of the work is routine. The churchwardens are involved in, and provided support for, the groups within the church. Their role also involves engagement with the other churches in the mission partnership and our partners in CTBB.

Central to their work are the meetings between the two churchwardens and Sue and Sarah that take place about every six weeks. These are not primarily decision-making meetings, but open forum discussion meetings. They are an opportunity for the clergy to share their vision and ideas for St Marks, and for the churchwardens to share their vision and perspectives of the past, present and future of St Marks. These have become rich and valuable discussions, strengthening our working together and contributing to building the life of St Marks.

The major task during the past year has been in connection with the large legacies that the church has received, and both churchwardens have played an active role in facilitating meetings and taking proposals forward to implementation. A report of the legacies group features elsewhere in the Annual Report.

An important initiative, started in 2016, has been opening the church during Heritage Open Days, a national programme that aims to make the public aware of buildings of interest that are not normally seen. In 2017, the church was 'open' for two afternoons, with the churchwardens and other volunteers in attendance to provide information and to show people round. Though the number of people who came to St Mark's on the two days that the church was open was small, the response was very enthusiastic, and we were able to introduce St Mark's to people who were unaware of its interest. An attempt to attract children to the church during the two days did not yield results, but we intend to try again in 2018, as well as to produce leaflets on the church and the stained glass, which will be of benefit not only on Heritage Open Days, but for visitors more generally.

In July, the City Council finally imposed parking restrictions on St Mark's Crescent, after a campaign lasting more than three years. As a result, Sue can now get her car out of the vicarage drive unimpeded, and the need to repair the Crescent's surface should be much reduced.

As always, the churchwardens could not do their work without the willing help of volunteers. We are particularly grateful to Martin Godley, Rick Hughes and Dilys Noble, who as deputy wardens take responsibility for 10:00 am services.

Philip Booth & Patricia Hunt

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC welcomed many new members this year and started off by reflecting on the priorities for St Mark's, prompted by the Diocese's Mission Action Planning tool. Part of this was considerable discussion around the role that St Mark's plays within its Mission Partnership and how to balance its own strategic priorities with those of the broader Mission Partnership, particularly at a time when many of the other churches in the partnership have experienced clergy vacancies. Over the course of the year the PCC has contributed to many areas of the church life:

- The launch of the new website
- Overseeing a number of projects set up to benefit from two very generous legacies (Alan Birchall and Margaret Lyons)
- Reviewing some of the material aspects of church life such as room bookings, heating, the audio system and maintaining in the roof and trees in the grounds
- Discussing what it means to be an *inclusive* church
- Reviewing various policies such as safeguarding, domestic abuse, Health and Safety
- The development of a new "telephone tree" to support pastoral care among the congregation.
- Planning the Big Weekend away

Juliet Storey
PCC Secretary



A PCC Meeting in progress

PCC GROUPS

CHYPS

It's been a busy year for children, young people and students' work at St Mark's as the number of families with young children continues to increase and we've welcomed some new students too. The oversight group still meet three times a year, but a major additional piece of work was commissioned by the PCC in the autumn - to scope for the possibility of recruiting a youth development worker within the 13- 25s age range. At the time of writing this has now been refined to look at the potential for recruiting a families and children's worker for a younger age range (0-13s) and there will be further exploration of a potential role with the 18-25s age group, but there is more work to be done on this. There's an ongoing need to be adaptable and flexible in our provision of support for all ages.

All of the groups whose individual reports follow below rely on the exceptional creativity, time and effort given by many volunteers and which mostly goes unseen by the main congregation. We are hugely grateful to all those who support our young people - thank you!

Sarah Colver

CRECHE

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

Part way through the main Sunday service during term time, children of primary school age are invited to go upstairs, where a Godly Play session awaits them. We have been running Godly Play for seven years now, and thanks to the care that we, and the children, take with our furniture and equipment, the Godly Play room looks as fresh and inviting as ever: an ideal "sacred space" for children to explore their own emerging spirituality. This occurs through hearing stories, sharing in feast and prayers, and responding as they wish using a variety of sensory materials such as sand, paints, fabric and clay.

Godly Play introduces children to the Bible stories which form an important part of our cultural heritage: just think of their prevalence in art, music and literature. There are also stories which introduce Christian doctrine and liturgy, and the arrangement of the Godly Play room itself encourages the making of connections between different religious themes, symbols and ideas. When we wonder about a story together, we are not seeking "correct" answers or "appropriate" responses from the children but trusting that the best lessons are learnt through personal discovery rather than the imposition of an adult.

Michael Bayley recently sat in, very quietly, on one Godly Play session and writes of his experience: "I was impressed by how calm it was, despite some quite bumptious children, and how absorbed they were in the story. Their comments were interesting and unpredictable. One very demure girl said she liked the fighting best, and a child observed that you could worship God wherever you were, not just in the Temple. The storyteller accepted all of the contributions to the wondering and the children then got thoroughly involved in their own projects."

We welcome visits from individual members of the congregation; if you would like to do this, please have a word with one of the team. And if you would be

interested in training as a Godly Play storyteller, we always have room for new leaders; please come and talk to us to find out more.

The point at which children are ready to leave Creche and join the Godly Players upstairs naturally varies. We are currently developing our links with Creche in order to facilitate this transition.

In the context of our wish to meet needs where they arise in our constantly shifting population of young people there is an emergence of provision on a Sunday morning for a small number of children aged 8-13 years, which is informal and evolving.

Sarah Armstrong



Godly Play in progress

LIONS

The Lions are young people with a link to our church community aged 16 and upwards. We have continued to meet monthly in the lounge at 6pm for pizza and conversation. We enjoyed a trip to laser quest and pizza hut in November.

We've recently said goodbye to Alice Newitt and Oli Giles while they concentrate on other aspects of our church life. Hannah Dawson and Jen Ryder have been able to do it less frequently therefore we're really pleased that Ceri Gallivan has taken on the coordinating role and James and Pete Ryder continue to be chief pizza makers! We're very excited to have some new leaders joining us - Sarah Buck, Lucy Allison, Jacque Ryan, Bruce Edmonds and Emma Castle - and grateful that Lynn Pocock continues to advise and support us.

We have been meeting weekly in Lent to explore different approaches to prayer and creative responses to God.

Ceri Gallivan

YOUNG ADULTS

The student group at St Marks has now completed the transition to an SCM group which requires it not to be affiliated with any particular church. It is therefore now a fully signed up society at the university of Sheffield. There hasn't been any student specific groups at st marks since SCM became a university society. There is a growing group of 20's and 30's young adults. Recently a weekend to Castleton was organised by Ceri which 27 people attended. We went on a fabulous walk along the ridge from Lose Hill to Mam Tor in crisp February sunshine. Throughout the weekend we were led in liturgy, games and merriment.

Chris Ware



Walkers at the young people's away weekend in February 2018

COMMUNICATIONS

As the church continues to grow and develop, so the need for better communications, both 'internal' and 'external' grows too. During the past year much of the focus has been on the website but the group also devised publicity for Christmas/New Year and more recently has prompted a staff team discussion around timescales and advance planning.

St Mark's now has a Social Media policy which is posted on the website. The Church Facebook page continues to be a valuable tool in communicating the inclusive and affirming ethos of St Mark's to a wider

public. The 'St Mark's Sheffield' Facebook group is open to anyone from church who would like to join, as is the St Mark's Discussion group. The Faith and Justice Group have their own page too, and we are grateful to all those who post and act as administrators.

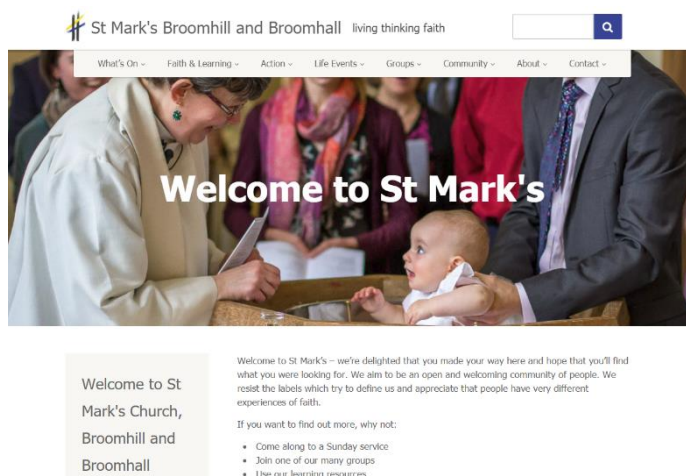
We could do a lot more with social media if more people were involved (e.g. at the moment Twitter is only receiving feeds from the website), so if you can help us please get in touch via Sarah R in the office.

Sarah Colver

WEBSITE

This year saw the creation of a brand new website for St Mark's. The site was developed by Ben Treadway with direction from Sarah Colver and other members of the Communication group. Changes to administrative staff made the transition period more prolonged than anticipated, and we are grateful to Tanya for her emergency posts (even from Lundy Island), and to Sarah R for picking up the reins. The new site is designed to work on both mobiles and desktop and to meet the ever-growing need for churches to have a strong presence in the social media world in which we live. This year we intend to expand the information and content on the site to help existing parishioners easily find relevant information and also to promote the church in the local community and beyond.

Mike Willis



Front page of the new St Mark's website

MARKS MESSENGER

As a newcomer to join the Editorial and Magazine Team of St. Mark's "Messenger", it occurred to me that church magazines from what I have seen vary considerably across the country in the way they present themselves. With that in mind I cannot help feel the magazine is well presented and the quality and variation in content of our magazine compares highly with any other I have seen. It is very interesting to read and it is a privilege to serve as one of the editors.

We shall be saying goodbye to Andrew Burdett, one of the editors, this year as he leaves Sheffield after his final examinations as a student journalist. Andrew has managed to find time to produce and edit the magazine in the latter part of his studies and he has made a major contribution to half yearly meetings when he has been able to attend, which is a measure of his enthusiasm. He has given a lot of his time as an editor and we wish him well as he sets out on his career in journalism. We do hope he will let us know how he gets on.

Those who contribute to and write for the magazine have clearly given careful thought to what they have written and we are well blessed to have such a diverse church family at St. Mark's who have found time to share such interesting submissions with us during the last year. We are grateful to those who give of their time to write articles of topical interest or write to keep the congregation abreast of what is not only going on in the many church activities and groups but on topical subjects that generally affect us as we journey through life as Christians.

We have had a wide variety of submissions on such things as current affairs, health, disability, conservation, the Lenten journeys of one sort or another and people have been very resourceful in keeping us abreast of wider issues that affect the church and society in general. Poems, quizzes, photography and some very interesting book reviews have featured throughout the year so if you feel you have something you would like to share with others please do submit it for publication.

Whilst we cannot guarantee publication it is always nice to read something different, something unusual or a different perspective on a subject that others know well. Activities of the CRC are always

interesting to read and the accounts of their activities during the last year have given our magazine a different outlook on life to many other churches in Sheffield.

Approximately 140 copies of the magazine have been printed each month and over the last year there have been nine separate editions published. We are always particularly on the look out for cover designs that are a bit different so if you have a photograph or two that you feel might be suitable please submit it with maybe a short account describing its context.

Rob Wilks



March 2018 edition of Mark's Messenger

FABRIC AND FINANCE

In recent months two significant projects have been completed; the repair of the flat roofed areas, and, at long last, the establishment of parking restrictions on the Crescent, which have enabled us to improve the surface somewhat, and to allow the Vicar unfettered access to her house!

Matters as yet unresolved include the replacement of a bench overlooking the memorial Garden, the removal and re-siting of the Crescent hoops to use as cycle parking and a viable alternative to the currently unsafe access to the tower spire.

There is also much work going on behind the scenes to develop a more suitable and economical way to heat the church, both for services and for events.

Among current topics being attended to, work on the trees has now started. A few need to be removed and others will be managed with both practical and aesthetic considerations in mind. At the end of 2017 we commissioned a report on all our trees, which goes into considerable detail and is a very useful point of reference both now and into the future. Given the sensitivity of such matters in Sheffield, we are working to the very highest standards, with all the required permissions.

During the past year working groups have been considering how best to make use of the recent generous legacies St Mark's has received. The purchase of a house for use by Roundabout, the possible employment of a children's/youth worker, the purchase, with Museums Sheffield, of a sketch of our Piper window and upgrades to the AV provision throughout the building, are all topics to which members of the F&F Group, and other interested/expert parties, are giving considerable time and attention.

Week by week, many smaller matters of repair, redecoration and replacement are attended to thanks to the dedication of Tim Moore and Martin Godley. The upkeep of this beautiful but complex and ageing building, with its Grade 2 listing in a Conservation Area, requires and deserves constant care to keep it suited to the safety, comfort and delight of worshippers, visitors and community groups.

I must pay tribute to all who serve on the Group – David Ryder, Philip Booth, Tim Moore, Sandra Newton, Peter Ryder, Robin Saunders and Martin Godley, who all contribute in so many ways.

Briony Tayler

CARETAKING

The past year has seen a number of issues resolved, some of which were still coming from the Quinquennial Inspection: the architect recommended fitting quadrant stays to some of the windows on the ground floor, which required cutting steel sections, painting to match the window frames and then attaching to the window frames; a blocked downpipe by the chapel took several afternoons of water blasting to free up; and there were endless hours of removing old paint from the railings along Broomfield road and then repainting. And then there were the ordinary problems coming from the building itself: cold weather affected some of the fluorescent lights, requiring rewiring to accommodate digital ballasts; secondary glazing, made by David Taylor, has been fitted to the office windows; and paper towel dispensers fitted in several of the toilets. We have also bought a carpet cleaner, meaning everyone can now make a lot more mess.

At Christmas we changed how we did the heating, putting it onto a constant, low-power mode, boosted for events, services and concerts. This worked very well and raised questions over how we program the heating for events in the future.

St Marks still gets a steady stream of visitors, interested in the building, or wanting a quiet place to sit and simply be. Our flow of vulnerable callers seems to have ebbed, which I'm hoping is for positive reasons. Those that do come, we try to help with crisis care and how to engage with the system.

Upcoming projects include yet more railing painting; the removal of the metal hoops around the crescent, which will hopefully be re-used as a cycle park either at the west or north side of the church; and the drains running under the north path are completely blocked with tree roots, which will need removing before next winter. There is some redecorating planned, mostly to the upper room, as well as a concerted effort to update the audio-visual capabilities of the building, making it more attractive to potential hirers.

Tim Moore

CHURCH CLEANING

We have now been cleaning the church for six years and continue to work six hours per week, 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 and there are some areas that need to be done twice a week, such as the toilets and kitchens, whilst other areas such as the vestry and the chapel are cleaned once a week. 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 keep track of the tasks that have been completed, we both use tick lists and these are stuck up on the inside of the cleaners' cupboard door, under the back staircase. You are welcome to view these to see 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 Sarah, 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.

Tim Moore and John Whitmill

LEGACIES

The Legacies Group was set up in 2016 to consider how the legacy from Alan Birchall might be used. When we learned that Margaret Lyons had also left a large sum of money to St Mark's, it became clear that the scope of the work that the group was doing needed to be widened and the group has met three times during the year. The first task was to consider the group's terms of reference and the criteria that would be used on how the legacy money would be used. The group was then able to move swiftly to identifying five ways in which the money could be used:

- Purchasing property to be rented to the charity Roundabout to house a for young people at risk of homelessness in the 16-24 age group;
- Employing a youth development worker to work with students and young people in the 13-25 age group;
- Contributing to the purchase by Museums Sheffield of the sketch by John Piper for the west window at St Mark's
- Upgrading the church's audio-visual systems and refurbishing the upper room and lounge;
- Investing the money to provide an income to:
 - Employ a book-keeper to assist the Treasurer
 - Contribute to the General Fund

All five of these proposals have required extra work, which is ongoing:

- A Property Group has been working to establish the principles on which a house could be bought, has had discussions with the Diocese and established an agreement document with Roundabout. The group has now agreed the purchase of a property which it hopes to be able to announce at the APCM.
- The proposal for a youth development worker has required an extensive scoping exercise by CHYPS. As a result of that exercise, CHYPS have identified two groups that would benefit from the employment of a worker: 18-25 and the under-13 groups. The second of these goes beyond the original remit set by the legacies group, but has now been approved by PCC and CHYPS will undertake detailed scoping work in preparation for appointing a worker with families and children.
- The purchase of the Piper sketch has involved discussions with Museums Sheffield who confirm that they expect the funding to be in place to buy the sketch during the spring. There will be an event at St Mark's at which the sketch will be on show during the autumn.
- Finance & Fabric Group have sought technical assistance from the diocesan advisor on the church's AV systems and are moving forward on the refurbishment of the lounge and upper room and updating the sound system in church.
- Investment of funds will take place once all the money been received; discussion on employing a book-keeper has been left in abeyance, pending

the appointment of a new Treasurer in succession to David Ryder.

The work of the group continues with the receipt of a further legacy from the estate of Eileen Stamper. Thank you very much to everyone who is involved in the work of the legacies projects, gifting their time and expertise.

Philip Booth and Patricia Hunt

FAITH AND JUSTICE

Over the past 12 months the Faith & Justice Group has continued to engage in a wide range of work in the areas set out below.

Inclusivity: St Mark's was proud to share a stall with representatives from several Christian groups at Sheffield Pride weekend last summer, and intends to do likewise in 2018. The Faith & Justice Group is committed to further developing its outreach to LGBT+ Christians in 2018.

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. In 2017/18, members of the Faith & Justice Group have continued to liaise with the Broomhall Centre Committee in support of its work to make the Centre even more of a community focus and more financially secure.

Environmental Change: The Faith & Justice Group continues to support the work of activists in the congregation, so that 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 engaged in over the past 12 months. Another has been to encourage members of the congregation to send letters to the Chief Executives of banks, urging them to disinvest in coal mining and other fossil fuel industries.

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 help those 'voices at the margins', and what help they might need. Members of our Group took

part in CAP's national conference held in Sheffield in November, meetings of the local branch of CAP and its *Annual Pilgrimage* held in Sheffield in October, and contributed to wider work being undertaken by CAP. Members have also contributed to the work being undertaken by the Urban Theology Union in Sheffield, on promoting a better understanding of how a grounding in perspectives on urban theology can be of assistance to lay and professional ministers engaged in urban discipleship. The Faith & Justice Group also contributed to the design and delivery of a themed 10.00am service on faith & justice held on 14 January 2018.

Asylum and Migration: The Faith & Justice Group has continued to keep in touch with and support asylum seekers in the congregation and to contribute to the work of SYMAAG, which, in 2017/18, has remained active in campaigning for improved treatment of asylum seekers in various ways, including organising marches and demonstrations. It has also held a conference on asylum housing and the need to persuade the Home Office not to use G4S again, when its current contract expires.

Work with Older People: In 2017 the part-time worker for leading on the work with older people under the CTBB umbrella had her hours increased from 2.5 days to 3.5 days per week. This has strengthened her contribution, especially *vis-a-vis* the training of volunteers. Our Faith and Justice Group has a dedicated representative on the CTBB sub-group that leads on this project.

Other activities: Over the last year the Group has organised a number of meetings for Church members (and sometimes a wider audience) on topics of importance and relevance to our congregation and the Faith and Justice remit. The following have been held:

- 21 May 2017. Film: 'I Daniel Blake' about benefit sanctions etc.
- 28 May 2017. Implications of the Trump Presidency by Professor Richard Cawardine.
- 4 June 2017. Hustings for the 2017 General Election.
- 8 October 2017. Politics and sermons. Discussion session.
- 11 February 2018 (Poverty Action Sunday). Andy Buck, Chief Executive, on the work of Citizens Advice Sheffield.

All these have been well attended and generally much appreciated.

A Facebook page has 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 me.

Joe Forde



Joe and Carol campaigning

HOME DONATIONS

Home Donations does what it says on the tin! It supports voluntary and community groups with small grants to promote social justice and wellbeing, and actively connects St Mark's to this work. The grants come from congregational giving.

This is the first year we have used our new way of deciding donations. This aims to make fewer but more substantial grants in order to use scarce resources to best effect. It focusses on charities where a larger grant will make a material difference to their work. How have we done this in 2017?

Finding out

We wanted to make sure donations hit the right target so we looked at current evidence about the state of the charity sector in Sheffield. This showed that small to medium sized charities are most at risk of closure because of the difficult funding climate. Larger, often national organisations may contract but have the robustness to survive and have

considerable marketing, promotional and fund raising capacity.

How are grants used?

The Group then had an active programme of visiting current grantees to find out how they used their grant and what they were planning for the future. This helped us to determine if continued support was needed.

New needs

We also considered new needs and initiatives so that we could respond appropriately. In doing these visits and talking with recipients we discovered that some groups were managing well and not dependent on our support. We also found out about the new asylum seekers centre, developments in the Hope for the Future project and a learning programme for young charity leaders from black and minority ethnic and disabled people's organisations.

Telling the tale

The Group also had a programme of communicating our work through articles in the Messenger. Members also talked with some groups in the congregation about their concerns.

Making decisions

It is always hard to decide between competing priorities, especially in the face of growing needs.

We decided not to spread donations too thinly and to focus on charities where our support can help their organisational sustainability and impact.

We realised that this means some donations would cease. This was not a critical comment on the work on any organisation but, about concentrating funds where they would make the biggest difference and on the basis of research and clear criteria.

We did agree also, however, that some small donations do help organisations with a specific project so we reserved some funds for this purpose.

Grants for 2017

The pot for 2017 was just over £7000. On the basis of our agreed purpose and criteria and especially with regard to more strategic grants to help the sustainability of organisations, to enable their development and to help them make an identified impact on social justice and well-being we agreed a

list of grantees. These include, for example: the City of Sanctuary Welcome Centre, Hope for the Future to help them set up new systems and a small grant to Ben's Centre for outreach work.

During 2018 we'll continue to work with organisations receiving donations, linking them to the congregation-maybe with invites to talk with us- and keeping an eye on new needs and initiatives.

Thanks to all the Group: Rosie Hunt, Dez Martin, David Price & Chris Ware.

If you would be interested in joining please get in touch with members of the Group or email Judyrob9@gmail.com.

The following list is all the grants agreed by the PCC for 2017.

Project	Grant
Larger grants	
City of Sanctuary ~ Welcome Centre "the Sanctuary"	2000
ASSIST ~ general	1000
Leaders Development & Learning Programme	1000
Hope for Future	1000
Smaller grants	
King Edward VII swimming pool: equipment/refurbishment	100
Ben's Centre: outreach work	100
SY Migration & Asylum Action Group: general costs	500
Law & Justice Group: general costs	500
Church Action on Poverty subs	25
St Wilfred's: general costs	500
SAVE subs	50
Broomhall reserve	300

Judy Robinson

INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS

St Marks International committee has been listening to you, our donor congregation, on where you would like your money to go. We have tried to incorporate as many charities favoured by members of the congregation, especially those where we have firsthand experience of their work, but without having too many to make the donation insignificant.

We have kept **Christian Aid** as our major recipient, 20% of the total £13,143 (just £26.00 less than last year) available this year from our generous congregation. Christian Aid also benefits from the house to house collection, May Day Trek and other special collections throughout the year. We are working on a donations POLICY and hope to have this ready before deciding beneficiaries for next year. **OXFAM** was dropped before the current problems came to light, in favour of smaller more accountable charities and projects.

Amnesty International we felt was best served by encouraging the congregation to write letters to prisoners and politicians rather than fundraising

Christian Aid We thought hard about retaining the house to house collection as despite the difficulties in finding enough collectors and misgivings about knocking on doors, it does raise a significant amount of money in our parish and always some memorable encounters. Last year House to House collectors raised £44,069.72 in Sheffield, so we won't give up.

We supported the May Day trek with walkers and marshals and there was at least one Big Brekkie held by a member of the congregation. A small group from St Mark's turned out to boost the carol singers in Fargate before Christmas and helped to raise £1336.85. Worth the cold and damp I think!

USPG Last year with some misgivings the committee dropped USPG (after two re-brandings now USPG again United Society Partners in the Gospel) as a St Mark's beneficiary. This caused dismay amongst some of our church members and we have taken on board their concerns. Michael Bayley joined the committee and talked about the work the society does, not only providing support for ministerial and lay work and training in resource poor countries, but also projects focussing on equal rights and inclusion for so called untouchables and

tribal peoples, and a programme to "support the girl child" in India. We have made USPG a major beneficiary this year to receive 10% of our total budget.

We decided that the remaining 70% should be divided equally amongst 10 charities with close church connections - £988.00 each.

Zua Foundation and SUCCOL The Foundation aims to impact on poverty by creating an alternative social and economic model to the current market economy in Colombia and socialist economy, through their organisation in communities. It is supported through SuCCol, a charity set up by members of St Marks whilst Moises Pedraza, ZUA's founder, was here in Sheffield working for his PhD.

Literacy for Life Rosie Hunt wrote an article in the Messenger about Abura Literacy school in Ghana where she had worked and it seemed a very good idea to support this project.

Bwindi Hospital Uganda Bwindi Community Hospital is a Church of Uganda (Anglican) Hospital under the Diocese of Kinkiizi Uganda. Last year we funded Bwindi Hospital's Gender based Violence project. With Ceri Gallivan's ongoing involvement there we thought it appropriate to continue to support their work.

DECSY is one of 30 Development Education Centres in England and was established in 1984.

Roy Barry, a former member of St. Mark's, was instrumental in setting it up. It has an interesting library of materials, useful resources and books for borrowing, the staff are experts in the field. By virtue of our ongoing support anyone from St. Mark's is welcome to use it free of charge and to attend their courses (for a charge!). Just say who you are.

Global Justice Now (Sheffield and National branches) Global Justice Now, which was formerly the World Development Movement is not a charity, and this allows them to campaign on what may be deemed "political" issues in pursuing "justice for the world's poor". It 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.

Phaseworldwide is a charity working in remote villages in Nepal to improve access to health care,

education and livelihood opportunities through practical help achieving self empowerment. I am a trustee and have volunteered as a mentor and teacher to the nurses in the villages 9 times so have had first-hand experience of the work.

During the year St Mark's generosity has helped raise £2700 from a superb concert held here in November last year just before I left for a months visit there, and a further £437.00 from a Christmas sale of Nepali goods in church. Thank you all so much.

Practical Action uses technology to challenge poverty in resource poor countries. It transforms lives and inspires change. Their vision is for a world where all people have access to the technologies that enable them to meet their basic needs and reach their potential, in a way that safeguards the planet today, and for future generations

SANA This is a charity that works in Srebrenica supporting equally, projects chosen by Christians and Muslims who are living in poverty there. The Bosniak and Serb communities in this little town remain divided by conflicting and painful narratives of the war which ended 22 years ago.

Omid Foundation Manucher who is from Iran and a strong supporter of SYMAAG keeps us in touch with the valuable work done in Iran by OMID, it was set up in 2004 to help young women in Iran who are victims of sexual, physical or mental abuse. Starting with a small group of 15 women, OMID now caters to more than 200 women at any one time. More than a quarter of them are Afghani immigrants.

TEK URA is a faith based organisation under the auspices of The Baptist Missionary Society. It is passionate about working with people to change lives and transform the environment around them. Tim and Helen Gregory's son Matthew and family are working with Tek Ura in Albania, working alongside the local church supporting development projects mostly for the impoverished marginalised Roma community . We gain so much insight from Matt's blog.

International Committee hosted Harvest Church lunch and raised some money for Phaseworldwide and SuCCol. We look forwards to hosting another this year.

In the run up to Christmas we sold out of Traidcraft cards and paper and had a successful event sending cards to prisoners of conscience via Amnesty International.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and thanks to all at St Mark's who are so generous with their time and money. If you would like to join us on the Committee you would be most welcome, new people, new ideas, new beneficiaries always appreciated. Please contact myself or another committee member.

Dilys Noble

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

St Mark's has a long tradition of awareness of the need to protect the environment, to husband responsibly the resources we have been given; 2017 has seen the maintenance of long term projects rather than the launch of new initiatives. Action on the environment has not been limited to the informal network of interested individuals at St Marks but has been also been supported by the formal PCC groups. Environmental work has been at international, national, diocesan, church and individual levels.

St Mark's supported Christian Aid's **Big Shift** campaign, urging banks to divest from fossil fuels.

Via the Home Donations Group, the congregation supported **Hope for the Future** at a crucial stage in its development, as it went through the process of becoming a registered charity. Hope for the Future are UK specialists in training citizens to work with MPs on climate change. We would like to express our thanks to Michael Bayley as he steps down as Chair of this visionary organisation.

Finance and Fabric continue to grapple with **St Mark's church building's energy efficiency**. 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. During **church activities**, wherever we can, we use local or Fairtrade products. We use environmentally friendly cleaning materials, avoid disposable crockery/cutlery as far as possible and recycle.

The Green is managed in such a way as to minimize the use of watering, fertilizers and pesticides and to encourage diversity of plant and animal life. Recent initiatives have included the making and installation of nesting boxes and the planting of fruit trees which remind us that the earth is the source of our physical sustenance.

St Mark's Carbon Reduction Action Group (CRAG) formed several years ago when interested members of the congregation agreed to measure their own carbon footprints with the aim of reducing them. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the confidential online 'carbon counter' which allows you to find out how your lifestyle contributes to your carbon footprint through heating, electricity use, car travel and public transport.
<http://crag.stmarkssheffield.co.uk/>
(don't put in a www or you may not find it!).

On 18th March 2018 an Open Meeting was held to review our activities and discuss how best to move forward. This was well attended and a number of themes received assent:

1. St Mark's should register with the Eco-Church scheme (this is the successor to the Eco-Congregation scheme of which we have been members for about 12 years).
2. Mitigating climate change should remain a distinct focus as it is possible that simply following the Eco Church guidance might not provide as strong an emphasis on climate change as some members of the group feel is essential.
3. Climate change/environmental issues should be a routine part of the thinking and action of many groups within St Mark's rather than the province of a separate "environmental group".
4. Taking action on climate change is an important way in which St Mark's embodies hope.

If You Would Like to Find Out More:

We are looking for ways in which we can incorporate environmental hope into all aspects of our own lives and our church's life. Could you be part of this vital venture? If so, contact Rick Hughes, Rachael Hand or Michael Bayley.

Rachael Hand and Rick Hughes

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Although not part of the responsibility of the PCC, and now an independent charity, this seems like a good place to report on the progress of Hope for the Future (HftF).

2017 has been a year of progress and change for HftF. We received charitable status in August 2017 and were successful in securing a grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust which promises a third of our minimum required income for three years. After spending a year in an office in Victoria Methodist Church on Stafford Road, we recently moved to a bigger, more central office in the Workstation on Paternoster Row. Our staff team has increased to four members (2 full time, 2 part time) and we have four active volunteers supporting our work. Our incredibly valued Co-founder and Chair of Trustees, Revd Michael Bayley, decided it was time to retire as Chair and we recently appointed Emeritus Professor Glyn Turton who will be appointed as Chair this month.

We were incredibly grateful for the financial support from the St Marks Home Donation Committee in December which has allowed us to consolidate our transition to a more formal organisation by funding staff training, and professional support from Voluntary Action Sheffield to help us formalise the appropriate policies and procedures needed to underpin our work.

Not only has HftF seen some exciting progress in our organisational development, we have continued growing our outward facing work and influencing MPs across the UK. Over the past year we have directly engaged with 35 MPs and Councillors. **Including MPs we have engaged past and present, we currently have 84 former and current MPs in our network, 77 of whom are MPs still in office.** We have trained over 500 people in MP communications over the last year. This includes the Grantham Centre at the University of Sheffield, Faith for the Climate Network and the Sheffield Student Christian Movement. Furthermore, we were the official training body for the Climate Coalition's Speak Up Week of Action 2017.

We have three main projects currently running: Target Constituencies (funded by Polden Puckham); Constituency Events (funded by the Sheila

McKechnie Foundation and Esmee Fairbairn); and School Workshops (funded by Scurrah Wainwright). Highlights of actions MPs we have worked with have gone onto take include:

- Climate sceptic MP, Philip Davies, submitted two written questions to Government regarding housing efficiency following an HftF event in his constituency.
- Tom Tugendhat MP agreed to host an exhibition in Parliament for the Climate Coalition's Show the Love campaign, being organised by HftF.
- Laurence Robertson MP has spoken up about solar energy in Parliament frequently since we met with him last year. He will be visiting a solar farm with some constituents and has agreed to speak on a panel discussion on solar energy.
- Chair of the 1922 Backbenchers committee, Graham Brady MP attended an electric vehicles event following a meeting with a constituent and Hope for the Future where they discussed EVs. Following a second meeting, he has agreed to take part in an HftF schools workshop.

Sarah Robinson and Jo Musker-Sherwood



Meeting in progress in Shipley with Philip Davies MP

SOUP RUN

I took over the admin of Soup Run last year from Jonathan – we are grateful for his many years of hard work and the advice he continues to give. We have a team of excellent supervisors at the moment – Gary, Mike, Ceri, Tim and Helen from our congregation and Paula, Liz and Dave from the local community. We are grateful to Donna, Rosie and Sibylle who have had to step down from supervising this year due to work/study commitments.

We have a great group of volunteers at the moment – 44 people split into 5 teams and a team of reserves who step in if a team is low on numbers one week. We continue to be supported regularly by Abdul and friends from the mosque who bring food and join us to serve it. We also continue to receive donations of bread and cakes every week from Roses bakery in Ecclesall. We have recently begun to receive donations from the Greggs store in the city centre who give us their sandwiches, sausage rolls etc at the end of the day. We are grateful for donations of tinned soup from members of the congregation and to the church for funding additional soup, the sandwich fillings and hot drinks.

We have been joined on Saturday evenings by a few new people who we are slowly getting to know. They bring hot food so we have been working out how much we need to bring to complement that. We hope to develop this working relationship so that we can co-ordinate our provision.

The numbers we serve have been rising, in line with the rise in the number of homeless people visible in the city centre day to day. Numbers are usually around 40 – 50 but we have seen even higher numbers than this at times. We bring sleeping bags, coats and other basic supplies and signpost people onto other services as necessary.

Jen Ryder

HOSPITALITY

Sunday lunches continue to take place each month – but not regularly – so keep a lookout for upcoming dates. More people are becoming involved, which is good, but there is always room for more volunteers!

Last year, we marked Rogation Sunday in May, joined St Andrew's for lasagne in June and had a picnic on the Green in July. In September and October we departed from the monthly tradition with four weeks of lunches as part of our student welcome. This seemed to be a good way of new and more established people making contact. One of these celebrated Harvest and was attended by around 50 people. It's more usual to have 20 or 30 staying for lunch. In addition, food was, as ever, a significant part of Advent and Christmas and tribute should be paid to Vanessa and her team for a memorable Christmas Day lunch.

The only "specials" we have catered for have been the funerals of John Wood and Eileen Stamper. These are an exception, as such occasions are more usually organised by catering firms; we are lucky to have several good ones locally.

There are always opportunities for trying out other ideas; sharing food will always be central to what this community is about.

Briony Tayler

LUNCH & FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Mary Tattersall writes: In Lunch Club we aim to provide a variety of well-balanced and enjoyable meals which are mostly ones which our members would not make for themselves at home. We cater for those who don't eat red meat, those who eat fish but no other meat, vegetarians, coeliacs and one or two who strongly dislike certain meals by offering an alternative. We have not been asked to provide meals for a vegan-----yet!

Pauline Miller, Mary-Jane Ryder, Briony Tayler and I take it in turn to cook. The team of kitchen helpers; Antje Barker, Fleur Bayley, John Hall, Judith Price, Carol Rowe, Eve Saunders and Susan Whitmill have been joined this year by Sarah Frost. A very flexible rota enables them to assist the cook on the day.

We are grateful to Stephen Colver, Pauline Elliott, Miranda Myers, Mabel Padfield, Rosalind Rogerson, Renate Smith, Betty Towse and Rhona Watts for their cheerful help each week. Thanks also to Barry Dobson who sets out the tables and helps clear away for us every week.

This year we have celebrated Nellie Alker's 100th birthday and the Club's 25th Anniversary with two special meals. We received a "Certificate Celebrating 25 years of St Mark's Church Lunch and Friendship Club" from the City Council Community Services and Voluntary Action Sheffield. We have also purchased a new set of matching cutlery.

Occasionally we ask for feedback to adjust the meals we provide but the best feedback is seeing food which comes back or doesn't come back when plates are collected in.

Speaking for myself I sometimes feel a slight anxiety when planning and preparing a meal. What if I drop

the dinner as I get it out of the oven? What if, because of a mistake by me, the members all fall ill the following day with food poisoning? Neither has happened and despite these fears I really do enjoy doing this task because I know it is enjoyed by those who turn up each week.

Pauline Elliott writes: Have you ever wondered what it is like to have a warm feeling, regularly, once a week? The Friendship Club takes place after lunch in the church lounge every Wednesday afternoon, during term time. The warm feeling is felt by members and helpers alike and is not down to the heating - good though it is.

We volunteers meet and greet the members; that is the beginning of the warm feeling. This increases steadily during the lunch and friendship club -- all our interesting members have such a lot to offer.

If you are interested in joining either as a member for lunch or the Friendship club, or both, or as a volunteer, please contact Rosalind Rogerson on 0114 268 1426.

Birthdays are celebrated each month with sherry -- only one birthday per person is allowed, even Nellie Alker who turned 100 in April 2017.

This year we have been to Edinburgh and Romania. We have been Around the World in Song, had Desert Island Discs and Pointless. We have heard about Whirlow Farm, about Lancashire, and made fabulous collages - which you can see on the lounge notice board. We have learnt about and practised floral decorations and been entertained by some very talented and enjoyable singers -- and that is only the members.

As ever, we are delighted to have had the continued support of Transport 17, without whom the club would not exist. Members pay for their lunch and Friendship Club, and those who use Transport 17 pay for that. We are grateful that our funds have been augmented for a number of years by a grant from Sheffield City Council, earmarked for running costs, hire of the room and a subsidy towards transport. Many thanks to Roy Godden who annually takes on the auditing of the accounts with acumen and understanding.

During the year, some members become too frail to attend but we try to keep in touch. We remember with love and much respect Paul Fox, Joan Chibnall, Norma Crossland and Gwen Mason who have died during the year.

Pauline Elliott and Mary Tattersall



Preparing for lunch club

KNITTING AND CRAFT GROUP

The group continues to meet each month, although sadly, we have lost some of our regular people leaving a hard-core of only 3 or 4. We have welcomed Nicole from Canada who introduced her prayer shawl ministry. Her knitting group produces shawls which are either used in the church itself – people who wish to pray privately put a shawl around them – or are given away as gifts to commemorate life events or as a comfort for illness or bereavement. We have knitted many tiny baby hats to donate to the Jessop Wing Premature Baby unit. Our main knitting project for the year is a further set of nativity figures to be circulated round and welcomed into people's homes during advent.

We are hoping to develop the group to be a craft group rather than focus on knitting although over the time we have been meeting, people have brought other crafts such as embroidery and crochet to work

on. We meet on the first Saturday each month from 10.30 to 12 in the church lounge and would love to see more people coming along to share our fellowship.

Jennie Martin

PASTORAL CARE

“We are very blessed at St Mark's to be part of a friendly and warm hearted community – but it is a relatively large one, and even during coffee time after the service, when there is much talk and laughter, it is very easy to feel outside it all...” from an article on “Keeping in touch” by Helen Fisher, Mark's Messenger March 2018. Helen's insights and experiences have prompted the Committee to discuss the issue of loneliness and to plan the launch of a telephone network: “Keeping in Touch” in April. People may volunteer to offer a call and /or to receive one.

The Committee, chaired by the Revd Sarah Colver, has continued to meet quarterly to review pastoral care. It welcomes suggestions and ideas about “embodying hope” in the sharing of care in the community and beyond.

Gill MacGregor, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

STUDY & LEARNING GROUP

The group, currently being facilitated by John Schofield, has met three times. The first meeting was a creative session out of which came the idea of using a theme for the church year, to be explored in many different ways - for this year, it's Embodying Hope. The main focus of our work has been to establish a set of aspirations, or a framework (depending on how you look at it), for all the study and learning provisions offered at St Mark's across the range of age, experience and different ways in which people prefer to engage with learning.

In February, the PCC gave its approval for the group to continue fleshing out what this means both for existing opportunities for study and learning, and for identifying other needs and possibilities. Later on this year we will be sharing our thinking with the whole congregation in various different ways, so that we can listen, learn and develop as together we explore our living, thinking faith.

John Schofield

LENT COURSE

We continued our theme of 'Embodying Hope' into Lent 2018 as groups met weekly to watch and discuss episodes of the TV series 'Broken'. In it Sean Bean plays Fr Michael, a Catholic priest, who is struggling to deal with issues from his own past as well as trying to support those who turn to him for help and advice. The questions for discussion each week asked us to observe the characters portrayed and to wonder how, if at all, we saw hope embodied. Sometimes it wasn't that easy to say how, as some of the subjects tackled were very difficult indeed. But 'Broken' certainly provoked discussion and a deeper sense of the challenges many people face in their daily lives. And yes, there was hope...

Once again we joined the Manor Parish Team who also hosted a session, and all the groups gathered to watch the final episode together in the Upper Room on Weds of Holy Week. This year's format was a departure from previous years in style and content, but most feedback has been positive. We hope that it offered further opportunities to reflect on what it means to embody hope as a community of faith, centred in the Eucharist.

Sarah Colver

WORSHIP & LITURGY

Given that our worship is such an important part of our life together, it's rather strange that we haven't always had a vibrant group to plan and critique our liturgy, "the work of the people".

A small group of committed liturgists has now met a couple of times to review the words and music we use when we worship together. If this is something which interests you, please consider joining us.

Sue Hammersley

THEMED SERVICES

Following the pattern begun last year, there have been several 10am services that, whilst still centred on the Eucharist, have tried to approach worship in a different way; the May Rogation Service included a 'virtual' beating of the bounds, a service in September shared what some of us had learned at Greenbelt and at Candlemas - we lit a lot of candles!

We have also started to develop the potential for alternative styles of worship at 4pm on Sundays. Jen Ryder created two wonderful interactive services for

all ages in January and March 2018 - the hope is that these will take place in alternate months, with informal 'families' get together' social events during the months in between.

After the positive response to the first Open Sheffield Open Communion - providing a safe and sacred space for LGBT+ people and friends - St Mark's is going to host this service at 4pm monthly too - see website for the dates.

Even with those regular commitments, there are still plenty of spare 'Sundays@4' slots- so please get in touch if you'd like to develop the idea of an act of worship/ community gathering at that time.

Sarah Colver

NIGHT SERVICE

This has been another successful year for Night Service. We continue to rota the services, communion, Celtic/Iona, Taize, themed. Numbers are about the same or have risen for Taize. Attendees are still made up of those members of St Marks who only come to Night Service regularly, members of St Marks who attend other services too, members of other churches who additionally come to Night Service and new people who have read about the service via the website.

The Communion service is led by a member of the clergy alongside a lay curator. The other services are curated by one or two non-clergy members. Services are supported by a rota of musicians and in addition the Gospel choir has sung at a number of services. Grateful thanks should be extended to all curators, musicians and members of the Gospel choir.

Services continue to be led by prayer, conviction and creativity. We use the main church, chapel, lounge and the Green to host services.

This year has seen the introduction of a steering committee which has met once so far and is due to meet imminently and the twice monthly pre service bring and share meals (before Communion and Taize) where people who wish to meet for food and socialising. This attracts members and non-members of the Night Service.

Night Service members are involved in various St Marks activities and outreach including, PCC, Lent Groups, Introduction to Faith Group, Big Weekend

steering group/fundraising, steering group, Soup run and volunteering with ASSIST.

Kathy Baillie

JULIAN PRAYER GROUP

The Julian Group has met in the Lady Chapel every Monday at 6.30. Whoever is leading sets out the Chapel with candles and the icon of the Three Angels. After a reading, often a poem, we sit in a mindful silence for 30 minutes. Then intercessions are offered, in words or in silence. We end with the Grace. It is a blessed time for those who take part. We sense we are offering something on behalf of St Mark's as a whole.

John Hillman

FLOWER ARRANGERS

My thanks go to the members of the dedicated Flower Team who help me throughout the year. They are Judith Pitchforth, Briony Tayler, Carol Rowe, Jean Baxter, Judith Harrison, Jennifer Hurrell and Doreen Godden. Each tirelessly take turns via a rota to arrange the church flowers each week. Apart from Lent and Advent, we arrange a pedestal in front of the lectern and in the Lady Chapel fresh for each Sunday. We also decorate the whole Church for the major festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest. At these times some extra willing volunteers come to help us; namely Pam Gould, Pat and Barbara Lane and Vanessa Sengar along with anyone else who is able to come. I must not forget to mention David and Roy as the sweeper-uppers/coffee makers, very important jobs! Sometimes after arranging flowers for a festival or special occasion the whole team sit down together in the Church Lounge and have some homemade soup and bread and a good chat!

During the year I liaise with couples over their requirements for their wedding flowers and sometimes I am asked to arrange funeral flowers. For Mothering Sunday I often get involved either in making bunches of daffodils or buying pot plants.

If anyone would like to come and join our flower arranging team and be on the weekly rota we would love to have you. If you have not done much flower arranging I could give you a few pointers and show you what to do.

The weekly flowers are generally paid for by donations usually from church members in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an anniversary. If you wish to make a donation please contact me.

Mary-Jane Ryder



Flowers for Easter Season 2018

MUSIC

St Mark's Choir continue to support music at our 10am Eucharist Services, and in 2017 were strengthened by new soprano recruit Abi Stevely. Fraser Wilson has been a regular fixture on St Mark's organ bench, which has given the choir the platform to improve enormously in the last twelve months. I'm constantly appreciative of Fraser's sensitive accompaniment – he manages to find so many colours with the organ without ever overpowering the choir.

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. 2017 was our third attempt at this format, and music from William Byrd's *Mass in Four Parts*, motets by Orlando Gibbons and John IV of Portugal, and Kenneth Leighton's *Solus Ad Victimam*.

Contrarily the carol service was a festive celebration, wonderfully accompanied by Fraser on St Marks' fabulous organ. William Matthias' *Sir Christemas*

opened proceedings, followed by Peter Warlock's *Bethlehem Down*. The choir also fell in love with a new setting of *Lullay, Mine Liking*, by contemporary Composer Thomas Hewitt Jones.

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 with the help of Tim Jansen, providing opportunity for any number of instrumental combinations with a dedicated congregation filled with keen singers. St Mark's Gospel Choir have continued to contribute to music at Night Service and are growing in number.

St Mark's organ recital series in 2017 hosted some wonderful musicians from near and far, including our friend Julian Gunn, Joe Hutchinson from Mount St Mary's College, Dr George Parsons, and David Price from Thailand. 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.

Mark McCombs

GOSPEL CHOIR

Gospel Choir began in September 2016 following the University of Sheffield Gospel Choir's end of year concert which was held at St Marks. I (Sarah Robinson) was the President of the UoS Choir at the time and was approached to see if I would be keen to set up a similar choir at St Marks as there might be interest from members of the congregation. Initially, we had around 6 people attending each week but this has now grown to around 15 regular members. With support from St Mark's Director of Music, Mark McCombs, the choir has been singing in evening services around every three months. We recently sang at a christening at St Marks and are looking forward to singing at a wedding in May. The choir meets to rehearse every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm for an hour.

Sarah Robinson

CHURCH OFFICE

It's hard to believe that I've only been St Mark's administrator for six months, time does seem to fly when you're having fun!

Coming into the church in November, I was soon thrown straight in with Christmas preparations, and only now after Easter do I feel I've got to grips with the day to day elements of the role – the Service Sheets, room bookings, callers, groups and wrestling with the photocopier, as well as learning the workings of a busy Church. It's been a steep learning curve!

Everyone has made me feel very welcome, and I'm enjoying being part of the life of the church. I much very enjoy the sense of community I feel at St Mark's, making my role so much more than just a 'job'.

Now that I'm up to speed with the day to day, I'm working on a few little 'projects' which will assist with the smooth running of the admin side of St Mark's. You may have heard of 'GDPR' (General Data Protection Regulation); and I'm working with the Clergy to ensure we are compliant in the way we record and store personal information. I'm also hoping to increase the number of people using the church for events, with a leaflet advertising the rooms for hire.

As I continue to find my way, I must thank the whole staff team at St Mark's for their support, and members of the wider congregation who have assisted with my (often ignorant!) questions. But a special thank you has to go to Michael Hunt for handling the rotas for me until recently.

Sarah Rousseau

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS/DEANERY

In this past year we have been working hard at developing the relationship between the five churches in the Mission Partnership; The Vine, Netherthorpe, St. Timothy's, Crookes, St. Mary's Walkley and St. John's, Ranmoor. We're at the beginning of the process, but representatives from all the churches have got together to build trust, share our strengths and weaknesses, and to build stronger relationships.

The need for this relationship has been intensified by the fact that three of the parishes are now currently in an interregnum. St. Timothy's, The Vine and St. John's all lost their incumbents last year and so it has become even more important that we all support each other. On top of this, part of the ceiling at St. John's fell in, meaning that the church is now inaccessible. Other churches in the deanery are helping to support them by taking services and hosting some of the many weddings that are booked to take place at St. John's.

The Mission Plan has a vision that eventually there will be 4 vicars covering our 5 churches. To this end, both the post at The Vine and at St. Tim's are interim posts initially advertised for 3 years. This may be extended in either church, but it leaves room for a flexibility in the process of developing what our Mission Partnership will eventually look like. St. Timothy's has now announced that their new vicar will be Revd. Malcolm Lambert and he is due to be licenced on Monday 25th June.

In addition to this, we currently have no Area Dean for Hallam since Phil Batchford left his post at The Vine to go to Rotherham Minster, and the post at St. John's will be not only for an incumbent, but to be the new Area Dean also.

It has been made clear in advertising for all three of these posts that the development of the Mission Partnership is to be a priority and this is something that has been and will be essential in appointing to each church.

Sue Hammersley has been invaluable in this process as she has taken on the role of Assistant Area Dean and her leadership and assistance to me as Lay Chair has enabled everything to run very smoothly. We have a long journey ahead with our Mission Partnership and it relies on all of us wanting to make connections with our brothers and sisters to enable a contribution of resources, a willingness to learn and a sharing of our faith.

Anne Padget - Hallam Deanery Lay Chair

CTBB

Churches Together in Broomhill and Broomhall is a charity led jointly by St Mark's, Broomhill, St Andrews URC, Hanover Way and The Beacon Methodist Church, Broomhill.

This charity has been active for many years and is very diverse in the ways it helps and supports the community. It employs the Worker for Older People, runs the Broomhall Breakfast and also the Girls Youth Group.

CTBB shows us how we are the Church, the Body of Christ, active in our community. Listening to the needs of the community and responding with love and care. We are called to help make this world more Kingdom-like. We are not called to get bums on seats, but to reach out to the stranger and help them and this we do!

The people who are involved with this charity are passionate about helping people in the community. We do this together by building connections, growing community and offering tea and toast.

We are always on the lookout for new members. If you feel that you could offer a few hours a year to help your community please contact us.

After having the privilege of being the moderator for two years I leave knowing that it will now be in the good hands of Rev Will Fletcher, from the Beacon.

Kim Willis

WORK WITH OLDER PEOPLE

I have been in post for 2 years, 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 have become more involved with lunch club at St Marks Church and regularly attend Beacon Church coffee morning, but also drop into other groups such as BUZZ , The women's group at the Broomhall Centre and social gatherings at Dellside and Sunnybank sheltered housing schemes.

I have recently had discussions about joint working with Buzz in the local sheltered housing schemes and care homes. This will include setting up and supporting groups to enjoy the benefits of socialising together.

There are several people who currently require more regular visits and checks due to their circumstances, which might include, for example, attending health appointments, shopping, social visits, transport issues and help with benefits. Some people just need a sympathetic ear due to the situation they find themselves in.

A number of people have required intensive support over the past year, such as assisting to set up a care package at home or to support them to get home from hospital or into a place at a care home/nursing home. This can be very involved and time consuming, which often means some difficult prioritising.

Over the past few months I have concentrated a lot of effort into the work required to get volunteer befrienders in place. I have sought advice from different voluntary agencies including VAS, SCCCC's, Care in Crosspool and St Wilfred's. I have now finished all the procedures and policies, job role, induction and training and recruitment pack to enable CTBB to welcome volunteers. I continue to forge links with other organisations, which I hope will assist me to link with people and groups within the Broomhall area.

My involvement with Broomgrove nursing home continues to go well, and I visit several residents on a regular basis, helping them with routine tasks, shopping, occasional outings and befriending.

In September 2017 my hours increased by a day a week, thanks to increased funding obtained by Kim Willis. This extra day will now be able to continue into 2019, thanks to a financial commitment from St Marks Church, from a recent legacy.

I work closely with all 3 of the churches and would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support.

Claire Brooks

BROOMHALL GIRLS' GROUP

The club has continued to meet through the year albeit with a brief gap when our leader left unexpectedly. We were able to interview a number of candidates and from a stronger field than usual appointed Hannah Cawley who had proved a great asset. She is a qualified and experienced youth worker who has full time employment and runs the youth club in her 'spare time'. She puts a lot into it

and as well as preparing for club activities keeps in touch with the girls and attends groups and meetings in Broomhall to get herself known and the group accepted. Hannah has been assisted by two committed volunteers throughout the past year who have both sadly from our point of view moved on to other things. More happily we now have four new people putting themselves forward who we hope to take on subject to a few more conversations and also DBS checks for which we are grateful to Sarah Jenkins and the St Mark's safeguarding system generally.

There are about 12 girls on the register at present and Hannah is working on increasing that. They are drawn from a significantly different section of the community than before. Previously most of the members were from a Somali background and already knew each other. Now the group is more mixed which is what we had always hoped.

We are also forging links with a boys group which was already in existence but which has difficulties because of lack of funds. We are working to create links with them and to raise funding with them for the coming year. The idea is that it will be mutually beneficial as they are more readily accepted in Broomhall because the leaders are known to the parents. We have in fact just embarked on a round of fundraising in the hope of raising about £20,000 which will allow us to keep going well into 2019. It is more ambitious than anything we have tried before and only time will tell how successful we are.

We continue to run under the umbrella of Churches together in Broomhill and Broomhall although we are entirely responsible for our own fundraising and management. We do report back to them however and their support is a great help in fundraising.

The committee is still made up of members of the congregation of St Mark's and we shall be appointing a new chair soon. The current members are Dilys Noble, Rhona Watts, Hannah Jones and Isabel Lloyd-Jones. If anyone is interested in joining the committee please let us know. It will be expanded by the addition of Duncan Lennox who will take the lead in liaising with the existing boys group leaders and help integrate them into our arrangements. We hope that may also include people from the wider Broomhall community.

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 continuing 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 8.00-10.00am in the hall of St Andrew's United Reformed Church on Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield. Volunteers and customers start setting up from 7.15am and finish around 10.45-11.00am. We offer a full cooked meal as well as cereal, toast and fruit, muesli bars, tea or coffee and orange juice, in a friendly and animated environment. The volunteers serve on average 61 people each week.

Jane Harley took over leadership of the Breakfast in 2014. Her volunteering for the community of Broomhall – comprising both her coordination of the Breakfast and her nine-month work on a National Lottery-supported local-history project, for which she took a career-break in 2014-15 – alongside her professional role in the civil service saw her awarded an MBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours. Since autumn 2017, Mat McCann has joined Jane in coordinating the Breakfast, and they are ably supported by our fabulous volunteers, without whom the project could not continue to run. Sarah Colver and Robert Beard are 'befrienders' to our customers, offering a friendly ear and support when it is wanted. We now also have a strong and sustained relationship with the University of Sheffield Politics Society and, through their volunteering rep Remi, 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. We are now in discussion with Sheffield Hallam's new Social Work Society as another source of volunteers and, more crucially, fundraising.

Needless to say, running the Breakfast costs money and the average cost of a meal in 2017-18 has been £2.05, compared to an average customer contribution of £0.45. We have been applying for community grants but have not yet had success since

the last annual report. In January we held a bake sale following the 10.00am service at St Mark's church and raised £200, and we hope to repeat this in the future. We also understand that any proceeds from St Mark's event at Broomhall's summer get-together (16 June) will be given to our project.

Our 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 area. We have also had an encouraging conversation with the manager of the Barker's Pool branch of Nationwide about getting Broomhall Breakfast on the building society's list of supported charities which, if selected, would result in a three-month display at the entrance to the branch to give the public the opportunity to get involved or offer donations.

Looking ahead, we want to do more to raise awareness of Broomhall Breakfast with those who need it. We have created a small flyer – designed particularly to be usable by those with limited English or literacy – and will start distributing it as soon as it is signed off by the committee.

Jane Harley

BROOMHILL FESTIVAL

The Festival ran from 10th-17th June with a Festival service on the 18th June. The strap line for the Festival was 'By the community for the community'. A new committee of 10 members had taken over the running of the Festival in the January and had decided to make it much simpler than before. The Festival was reduced from 2 1/2 weeks to one week and there was no fundraising for major charities. The organisers of each event decided which charity would benefit from any profits made; 10% of the profits were given to the Festival to cover the costs of the brochure and web site.

The brochure for the Festival was much simpler too. The committee decided not to include advertisements because it had inherited a problem with advertisements for 2016 still not paid for. The only advertisements included were for the Rutland Hotel, which gives the committee a free room and coffee for its meetings, and VAS, the volunteer centre, which prints the brochure at a very reasonable cost. The committee encountered a

number of serious problems with the web site it inherited, many of which could not be resolved.

The ever-popular children's 5-a-side football tournament, organised by Buzz, took place at the Goodwin Athletics Centre with 47 teams taking part. There were evening concerts by the Bach Choir, the Sheffield Music Academy, and Martin Cropper's Trio, and daytime concerts by Robin Ireland and MarksThree. The Library ran several events including a grand book sale, an art and craft workshop, Broomhill Music at baby-time and an open garden afternoon. The Library also organised the local history walks around the four Broomhill pubs. Michael Hannon gave a talk about his Broadwood square piano. Buzz organised a charity car wash, the York pub ran a backgammon tournament, Broomhill School had a table top sale and an open garden and took part in the fancy dress parade for St Mark's Great Get Together. There were a number of Open Gardens including the Endcliffe Triangle. Frances Gray's 'Duck, a Play in a Day' was one of the highlights of the week at St Mark's.

The St Mark's Great Get Together at the end of the week included the ever-popular café, a craft fair, a plant stall, Lydia Monks running a Twit –Two school, children's games on the Green and the Great Broomhill Bake-Off. There was a competition for local infant and primary schools to design on a postcard a new logo for the Festival. The cards were displayed in local shops and prizes awarded at the Get Together.

The feedback after the Festival was that it had been a very happy and relaxed Festival, exactly what the committee wanted; and many local charities benefitted too. The Festival service celebrated a successful community event.

The committee members were:- Shelagh Marston (chair), Judith Pitchforth (treasurer), Frances Gray (secretary), Jenny Carpenter (Beacon), Eilis Coffey (Library), Sue Hammersley (St Mark's), Paula Higgins (Buzz), Sheena Ritchie (open gardens), Judy Robinson (St Mark's), Margaret Robinson (Beacon).

Shelagh Marston



The Smoothie Bike in action on the Green

CRC

It's a long time since I wrote an annual report for St Mark's, but I succeeded John Schofield as Chair of CRC at the AGM last November. We thank him for his work during 3 years in post and his vision for the future of CRC which has challenged us to re-think our "brand". The committee was largely re-elected but we welcomed a new member, Carol Wise, who is a Quaker and brings a different and welcome perspective to our deliberations. John remains as Deputy Chair, Frances Gray as Secretary and Robin Saunders as Treasurer. I am grateful to them and the other committee members for their work and support on the ground, since for the first time the Chair of CRC is not a worshipper at St Mark's and does not live in Sheffield.

The year brought a conference with Mark Vernon leading us on the "Inner Life" and 6 seminars covering a wide range of pertinent subjects. Particularly interesting and well-attended by folk who had previously little connection with CRC, or indeed St Mark's, was the seminar on "Being Gay in Church" with a discussion led by Jeremy Pemberton and Sandra Newton. Also we enjoyed seminars on poetry, Martin Luther, paganism, gay parenting and a morning led by Rachel Mann. Feedback on all our events has been very positive and they have been well attended.

The big news for us is the successful bid and award of £20,000 from the Jim Cotter legacy fund. The money is to be used to:-

- Broaden understanding of different approaches to spirituality
- Encourage inclusivity, especially for those who are marginalised
- Modernise interpretations of religious materials

This is an exciting project for CRC and we have set up a small project group to oversee the work, led by John Schofield. We have recently appointed Nicky Woods who will work on curating materials which meet the criteria and hope to set up an on-line library facility accessible to all who would be interested in submitting or using such materials. This is a task which will take up to 3 years.

Finances remain stable, but we rely on membership fees for our income, so we do need to attract more members, and in particular younger people. After conversations with some younger members of St Mark's congregation, we spent time at our January "Away Day" re-branding and reconsidering the format of our Conferences and Seminars. We will be holding a Re-launch Event in early summer and although some of our conference and events may remain in the familiar format, we hope to include some new formats and timings of our events. Finally we have appointed a new CRC administrator, so welcome, Charlotte Robinson! We say thank you to Sarah Rousseau for her work with us and wish her well, in her role as St Mark's Administrator.

Please continue to support our work and to use us as a resource as you engage with the world and wonder about your place in it. We aim to make theology and spirituality relevant, exciting, accessible and open to the questions that we all live with. We are St Mark's CRC – Constructive, Responsive Christianity.

Sue Hobley (Chair)

LIBRARY

The library continues to be a valuable resource to both our congregation and to CRC members. There have been 30 books added to our shelves in 2017, of which 6 have been donations. These reflect the interest of congregation and CRC and the cost is allocated to the appropriate source.

Books are bought at the request of readers and as an example, the opening of the Life and Death café and the seminar on that subject, meant that 5 books were added to the shelves on that topic this year. Seven books have been bought, on request, on the subject of Theology and 5 books on the subject of Sociology and Sexuality. We have a wide range of readers, including students, who are preparing for Readership or the Priesthood, Night Service attendees and our morning Sunday service participants, as well as members of CRC.

With the help of Pauline Miller, the Deputy Librarian, there is a regular 'weeding out' of the duplicate copies and out of date books. These are sold from our annual bookstall, both to the congregation and at the CRC conferences. The money returned to the appropriate source.

The catalogues and list of new books are published on the church website, the CRC website and the PCN website.

I am still buying books from the Amazon website, mostly from that 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 have a team of 12 dedicated helpers on the rota, this means that they are on duty only every three months. They give time and thought to assisting in the smooth running of the library. This year we have welcomed to the library team, two new, young members of our congregation, and I am pleased to report that our team reflects a wide range of interests.

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 2017

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 23 April 2017 ("APCM 17"). PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2017 until the date of this report (those currently serving highlighted in bold) are:

Incumbent: **Revd Sue Hammersley**
Assoc. Vicar **Revd Sarah Colver**
Assist. Priest **Revd Shan Rush**
Wardens: **Dr Philip Booth**
Mrs Pat Hunt (from APCM 17)
Mrs Sarah Moore (to APCM 17)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Ms Anne Padget
Mrs Catherine Williamson

Elected members:

Mr Mark Ansell (from APCM 17)
Mr Sam Faulds
Mrs Helen Fisher (from APCM 17)
Mr Rick Hughes (to APCM 17)
Miss Rosie Hunt (from APCM 17)
Canon Sandra Newton
Mrs Jane Padget (from APCM 17)
Mrs Anna Ryder (from APCM 17)
Mr David Ryder Treasurer
Mrs Jen Ryder (to APCM 17)
Prof Charles Stirling (to APCM 17)
Mrs Juliet Storey Minutes secretary
Mrs Briony Tayler
Mr David Trickett (to APCM 17)
Mr Chris Ware
Mr Michael Waring
Mr Jonathan Williamson
Dr Kimberly Willis
Mr Michael Willis (from APCM 17)

Co-opted **Mrs Jane Keeling** (from 22.5.17)
Observers: Ms Kate Pinder The Beacon at Broomhill MC
Vacant 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 23 April 2017 there were 201 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll including 153 not resident within the parish. Details of changes in the Roll during 2017/18 will be notified at the APCM on 29 April 2018. The average Sunday attendance during 2017 was 165, 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 2017 Financial Statements)

Total income for 2017 on the General Fund was £231,809 (2016 £220,363), a net increase of 5%. Unfortunately, the increase was not as high as hoped for and was exclusively from given income with all other forms of income remaining static. Total General Fund expenditure was £226,479 (2016 £211,418), a net increase of 7% due mostly to paying the Associate Vicar's stipend costs for a full year in 2017 whereas in 2016 payments did not commence until 21 April 2016. A summary of General Fund Expenditure in 2017 is given below.

International and Home donations £19,706 (2016 £20,041) (reduced in 2017 because given income levels over the previous two years have fallen), Mission and outreach £5,260 (2016 £5,018), Diocesan Common Fund £85,850 (2016 £85,850), Associate Vicar's stipend, pension and housing costs and Clergy expenses £46,878 (2016 £34,638) (as noted above, Sarah Colver, appointed Associate Vicar from 21.4.16), Church running and maintenance costs £36,105 (2016 £33,851) (in 2017 higher electricity usage (heating) and caretaker salary for a full year (commenced 1.3.16)), Worship and music costs £10,796 (2016 £10,701), Administration and sundry costs £21,884 (2016 £21,319). From the net General Fund income for the year of £5,330 (2016 £8,945) transfers of £1,910 (2016 £3,045) to replenish reserves have been made. After transfers, a surplus of £3,420 is added to the balance brought forward on the General Fund from 2016 of £38,967 with £42,387 carried forward to 2018.

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 further legacies monies (additional to the £135,000 received in 2016) comprising a final payment of £28,941 from the estate of the late Alan Birchall, a payment on account of £50,000 from the estate of the late Margaret Lyons and also bequests of £15,000 from the late June Ronan, £1,000 from the late Isobel Bowler and £500 from the late Betty May. All legacies and bequests received 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 2017 £10,937 was expended from Fabric Reserves on fixed asset additions as follows: upgrades to the church flat roof, the surface of St Mark's Crescent, the organ blower and humidifier together with the purchase of additional folding chairs, a new projector, carpet cleaner and fly mower. In addition, contributions totalling £2,139 were received from the Diocese and another resident of St Mark's Crescent towards the £3,209 paid in 2016 to Sheffield City Council for the provision of Waiting Restrictions on the Crescent.

Endowment Fund investments showed a capital gain of £5,791 (2016 £8,458) on market values.

Reserves Policy

Unrestricted cash and reserves at 31 December 2017 totalled £328,777 (including legacies as above) (2016 £244,727) (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 2018 (v3)

**International and Home Donations
made from our General Funds in the year to 31 December 2017**

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

<i>International donations</i>	£	<i>Home donations</i>	£
Christian Aid - General	1,970	City of Sanctuary (2017 for Welcome Centre)	2,000
USPG	1,314	Hope for the Future - The Climate challenge	1,000
Bogota Street Children Appeal (SuCCol)	986	Assist	1,000
Bwindi Hospital, Uganda	986	VAS Leaders Development & Learning Programme	1,000
Literacy for Life	986	South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Group	500
PHASE Worldwide	986	South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice	500
Practical Action (Intermediate Technology Group)	986	St Wilfrid's Residential Project Sheffield	288
SANA	986	King Edward VII Swimming Pool	100
South Yorkshire Development Education Centre	986	Ben's Centre	100
Tekura - Albania	986	SAVE (Sheff Agencies for Vulnerable & Excluded) *	50
The Omid Foundation	986	Church Action on Poverty Sheffield *	25
Global Justice Sheffield (local)	657	(* annual subscription)	
Global Justice Now (national)	328		
Allocated totals	<u>13,143</u>		<u>6,563</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