



St Mark's Sheffield

Notices for 25 February 2024

Information about upcoming events, news and how to get involved below.

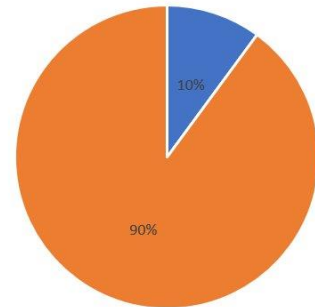
Patterns of worship [here](#), Children's [here](#), church calendar [here](#) and giving [here](#).

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND ST. MARK'S & THE MISSION AREA:

STEWARDSHIP 2024 - We have only had responses from 10% of regular givers to the stewardship letter that was sent in January. We really want a response from everybody so that we know what our likely income will be for 2024 especially as the PCC agreed a deficit budget for this year. So if you have not yet responded please do. You can do this in three ways:

1. by completing [this online form](#)
2. By completing the response page in the letter (this can be found [on the website here](#) or printed copies are available at the back of church)
3. by emailing the treasurer at david.treasurer3@gmail.com

If you have any questions about giving or the finances of the church please get in touch with the treasurer. Thanks. *David Armstrong*



LENT GROUPS - If you missed the seminar on How to Eat Bread with Miranda Threlfall-Holmes it is [available here](#). We hope you are now enjoying your lent groups and if you would like to view the book click, [click here](#).

DR ALAN BROWN – Many of you will remember Alan, a lecturer in Music at Sheffield University, who both composed music and freely gave his time and skills to be our organist at St Mark's for many years in the late 1980's and 1990's. Following his death on 10 February, his funeral will be held at St Mark's on Thursday 29 February at 11am, followed by refreshments in the lounge. Revd Peter Das from St John's Ranmoor will be conducting the funeral. Please hold Alan's family and friends in your prayers. The family can be contacted via Hilary, one of Alan's children: hilary.brown456@btinternet.com



PLEASE JOIN THE YOUNG ADULTS THIS YEAR as we gather to discuss a range of topics of interest. Next gathering is this Sunday 3 March when we will be looking at the composition of the Old Testament. More information about the dates we meet, and our planned programme can be found [here](#)

ORDINATIONS – LU SKERRATT-LOVE AND LIZZIE ILSLEY



Lu Skerratt-Love will be ordained deacon on 22nd June at Liverpool Cathedral and serve their curacy at St Luke's in the City, Liverpool. Lu writes - Thank you so much for your continued prayers, support, and care for myself and Kat during my ordination training, and please do continue to pray for us as we prepare to move. With much love from us both, Lu and Kat.

Lizzie Ilsley will be ordained deacon at 10am on 30th June at Sheffield Cathedral and serve her curacy at Rotherham Minster, with The Chapel on the Bridge and St Paul's Masbrough. She will still be working one day a week as a community speech therapist in Rotherham and is excited to be serve in the same communities in both roles.

Having said goodbye to Lu and Kat before they moved to Birmingham, there will be an opportunity to say farewell to Lizzie on Sunday 23 June.



DIOCESAN ECO CHURCH CHAMPION -We are delighted that Margaret Ainger has taken on the voluntary role of Diocesan Eco Church Champion, supporting registered Eco Churches across the Diocese. As you probably know, Margaret is our Eco lead and under her leadership, we became the first church in the Diocese to gain a Gold Eco Church award. Working alongside Diocesan Environment Officer Cathy Rhodes and the Environmental Projects Team, Margaret is now using her knowledge and experience to provide advice and support to other churches as they register and work towards awards on the A Rocha Eco Church Scheme.

Margaret will also be working with the team to empower others in the Diocese to take on the role of championing Eco Churches in their local area. Eco Church continues to grow in the Diocese of Sheffield and 8 churches have received Bronze awards since October 2023. There are now 64 registered Eco Churches with 36 awards- 27 Bronze awards, 8 silver and 1 gold. To find out more please see <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> If you would like to contact Margaret to discuss Eco Church, you can do so via the main contact address for the environmental projects team- environment.admin@sheffield.anglican.org or chat to her after the service.

ACTION NETWORK: STAND WITH PALESTINE

Rosie Hunt is encouraging people to sign the petition in support of Palestine. [The petition](#) calls on our Council to issue a statement of “unity and solidarity with

Palestinians” [as they did with Ukrainians], declare Sheffield “an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone” [as Sheffield did with South Africa in 1981], and welcome the International Court of Justice proceedings on genocide. Our aim is to require the Council to hold a full debate at its meeting on Wednesday 6th March. We need to submit 5,000 signatures of people who live, work or study in Sheffield by Wednesday 28th February!



VACANCY CONSULTATION PROCESS- The process of appointing a new priest is complex as it is governed by church legislation and Acts of Parliament. We would like to invite you to prayerfully reflect, discern and share insights of what is important to you about St Mark's and its leadership. Please consider the following 5 questions which will help us with the vacancy and appointment process. Please [click here to share your thoughts](#) or add post it notes to the flipchart in church.

1. What is it about St Mark's that inspires you?
2. What values in a future incumbent or Priest in Charge are most important to you?
3. What do you most value about St Mark's that you would like to continue?
4. Is there anything you would like to see change?
5. How would you express the essence of St Mark's in an advert to attract a suitable applicant to fill the vacancy?

THREADS THROUGH CREATION' - From **19 January – 3 March**, Sheffield Cathedral is hosting **'Threads Through Creation'**, a stunning exhibition of twelve embroidered silk panels that explore the story of creation. Admission is free. The panels are individually crafted using layers of silk, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers and gold leaf, miles of thread – and more than eight million stitches! The exhibition has been created by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson, who took her inspiration from the poetic verses of Genesis. Her astonishing stitching is attractive and eye-catching and designed to be accessible to people of all ages. Jacqui has created an exhibition with a vibrant narrative and spectacular designs. She says: My aim was to capture the wonderful extravagance of the Creation story and to delight people who see it. Despite Adam and Eve's fall from grace, it remains a story of love and promise, something we can all do with these days."

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - If you are considering baptism or confirmation and would like to discuss this further, please to talk to Beth Keith either after the service or contact on email beth@stmarkssheffield.co.uk .

FRUITFUL 2024 - a day conference for LGBTQ+ affirming evangelicals and allies, on



Saturday 11th May 2024 - Many evangelical and charismatic churches have already fully welcomed and integrated the ministries and gifts of LGBTQ+ people. Many more are on a journey to doing so. This is a day conference for everyone who is on that journey. Everyone is invited, whether you're joyfully LGBTQ+ yourself, or simply wanting to see our churches become more welcoming, whether you've been in a church that embraced LGBTQ+ folks for decades, or you're at the very beginning of your journey towards inclusion and you still have lots of questions. [More here.](#)

STARMER TO ANNOUNCE SCALING BACK OF £28BN GREEN INVESTMENT PLAN - If this headline worries you as much as it worries us at Environment Group, we have 2 suggestions to make:

1. Contact Paul Blomfield, MP for Sheffield Central, at paul.blomfield.mp@parliament.uk to express your concerns. Remember to add your full name, address and postcode as you will only get a reply if you are a constituent. Or your local MP if you live in a different ward (<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>).

2. Complete the questionnaire seeking views on Labour's main pledges, being conducted by Abtisan Mohammend, candidate elect for Central, via her website on <https://abtisammohamed.com/listening-to-you>. It would seem that anyone can complete this one. Most questions have an environmental angle. It will take 10 mins.

We really want our elected representatives to be aware that renegeing on these pledges is extremely worrying to large numbers of us. Thank you!

NOS INVESTIGATION South Yorkshire Police has confirmed that Chris Brain is being investigated for alleged crimes committed between 1981 and 1995 whilst he was leading the Nine O'Clock Service in Sheffield. The police are appealing for any further potential victims or witnesses, who may not yet have spoken to police, to come forward. Information about how to do this, and a range of support options for anyone affected can be found on the Diocesan website - <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/support/safeguarding/victim-and-survivor-support/nine-oclock-service/> .



SAYiT ARE HIRING - [click here for more](#)

Closing date for applications – Midday Wednesday 28th February 2024

FEBRUARY ECO TIP

This year, we will be supporting the Eco Tip calendar provided by [Rocha](#), who gave us our Gold Eco Church Award last year, follow along for a new tip every month:

Go green for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance, and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being, and enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living?