



## Notices for 24 November

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 AT ST MARKS:



#### COME AND SING EVENSONG WITH STEEL CITY CHORISTERS

– Sunday **24 November** at St Marks. Rehearsal 2 – 4 pm. Service 4 pm. Followed by tea and cakes. Please sign up. [More info here](#).

#### NIGHT SERVICE, CONTEMPORARY

**WORSHIP** – Sunday **24 November** at **7pm**, relaxed worship, with inclusive and questioning theology, this week our guest preacher is Revd Harry Steele.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** – The International Committee will be selling Fairtrade and charity Christmas cards and goods at the back of church after the 10am service on **Sunday 24 November and 1 & 8 December**. Do bring some cash with you as we support local businesses and charities selling ethically sourced products for a fairer world.



#### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S WRITE FOR RIGHTS GREETING CARDS

**CAMPAIGN 2024** - Join hundreds of thousands of Amnesty supporters around the world by taking part in our annual Write for Rights Greetings Card campaign. You will demonstrate your support for 10 people and organisations enduring human rights abuses. **YOUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL!** To take part: [Download the booklet with full details of the cases](#). For those with no Internet access copies of the printed booklets will be available on those Sundays when Christmas cards are being sold at the back of church. When you have sent your cards, pass the booklet on.

**ANNUAL CARE HOME CAROL SING** - On Wednesday 11 Dec members of St Mark's plan to visit care homes in the area to sing carols. Everyone's welcome - the more the merrier. We'll meet at St Mark's at 17:30 to hand out music and sort out other details, visit the homes, then should be finished by 20:00. Please let David Willington know if you can join in the fun.

**CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING** - We are singing again at the bottom of The Moor on Saturday **7th December**, and I hope that I can encourage lots of people join us. Especially young voices and instrumentalists !!! We have revised the time of the last group, which now will be from 2 to 3 pm. There will be hot drinks at the cafe at St Matthew's Carver Street during the day. Please let me know if you can join us. *Dilys*

**COFFEE CONCERT** - On Sunday 8 December there'll be a Coffee Concert after the morning service. Hannah Gerken, Dylan Arnold, Jasmine Lipka and David Willington will perform music by Bach, Dvorak, Howard Shore, Mendelssohn and David Bedford.

## ST MARKS NEWS:

**SAFEGUARDING** - Churches across the country are encouraged to mark Safeguarding Sunday on or around 17 November. It's an important initiative which we are focusing on this week to bring our current Stewardship sermon series to a close. We know that within our congregation there are people who have come to St Mark's seeking a safe space following traumatic experiences in their lives and we recognise that for some people, publication of The Makin Review (which you can find a link to [here](#)) which identified failures within the Church regarding safeguarding responsibilities and publicity surrounding Archbishop Justin Welby's decision to resign may trigger further confusion, doubt and mistrust in the Church of England. Bishop Pete and Sophie have issued a statement in response to the resignation of the Archbishop, that you can read [here](#). Beth and I would like to reassure you that we and the Safeguarding team at St Mark's are working hard to embody best practice, to support those who have suffered abuse of any kind and to review where improvements can be made to ensure failings of the past are not repeated.

**Safe Spaces** is a free and independent service supporting survivors of church-related abuse delivered by the service providers, First Light.

Their Opening Hours are: Monday to Friday 9am – 9pm Saturday 9am – 1pm Sunday 1 – 5pm  
E-mail [safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk) Telephone 0300 303 1056

A prayer adapted from the Church of England Liturgical Commission:

*Loving God, we pray that St Mark's church may be a place of welcome, security and compassion.*

*Keep us watchful yet caring, trusting yet ready to question,*

*that all who worship here may do so in safety and in the knowledge of your love;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

**PAINTERS NEEDED, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ARTISTS!** The Vicarage needs some brightening-up ready for Beth and family to move in next month. Volunteers requested to help on Saturday 30th November from 10:00 am. Then probably on Monday 2nd December to complete. Paints and turps provided. Please bring old clothes, rollers, brushes and a packed lunch. In particular the lounge walls are to be coated and woodwork touched up throughout. Please contact [martin.godley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:martin.godley@tiscali.co.uk)

**SAD NEWS** – Geraldine Davies-Jones, a long-standing worshiper at St Mark's died on Monday 18 November. Following Aelwyn's death in 2021, Geraldine has been living in a care home in Guildford nearer her daughter. Please hold Jonathan and Rebecca and their families in your prayers. Shan

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORMS** - Thank you to everyone who filled in the questionnaire about what you value about St Mark's. The Stewardship Group were really pleased to have received over 40 responses and very encouraged by what you wrote. There is still time to fill it in ([here](#)) if you haven't got round to doing it yet, and we really appreciate hearing from long-time regulars, those who are newer to St Mark's, and those who worship with us more occasionally. The PCC will be looking carefully at the results of the questionnaire in the New Year as we begin to make future plans.

As you now know, the financial situation is more urgent and we are getting in touch now to ask your plans for giving to St Mark's over the coming year. Many thanks to those of you who are ahead of us, and in response to the questionnaire, have started giving or increased your giving already. It does really help us to plan if we have a better idea of what to expect in the coming year.

The Church of England guidance on giving is to consider giving away 10% of income after tax, with 5% going to the Church and 5% to other charities. We understand that we all have different financial pressures and even small amounts given regularly (e.g. by standing order/direct debit) makes a big difference to our church community. Of course we would not want anyone to feel pressured, but we would ask that you think carefully and pray about this.

[Please click here](#) to return your pledge form, or there are paper copies in Church. All responses will be treated confidentially and will only be seen by the treasurer. It would be great if we could have responses by the beginning of December.

We noticed on the questionnaire that some of you are considering giving your time to St Mark's by helping out in one way or another. If this is you, please follow up that thought. If you know which team you want to volunteer on, please talk to someone on that team about it. Otherwise speak to Beth or the wardens at Church, or email [office@stmarkssheffield.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarkssheffield.co.uk).

With thanks, Beth and the Stewardship Group

**ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION** – From the start of Advent, 1 December, we will no longer be offering intinction at the 10am service and will move to the single option of gluten, soya, dairy and egg free bread and the common cup. Receiving bread or wine only is considered full Communion and there is no pressure for anyone to drink from the Common Cup. Every adult will be offered the chalice and given the chance to hold it for a moment and then return it to the chalice bearer without consuming any wine. We have heard from other churches that this has been well received and offers a meaningful connection to the cup for those who would rather not drink from it. At the 8am BCP service, we will continue to use wafers and will offer intinction and the Common Cup. *Shan and Beth*

### INTRODUCING SOME NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

Shelley Johnstone, Revd Dr Ian Wallis, and Canon Jane Brooke are getting involved in leading at St Mark's. Here's some more information on them and what they are doing.



Shelley Johnstone



Revd Dr Ian Wallis



Canon Jane Brooke

#### Meet Shelley Johnstone

Hi, I am Shelley, I am training for ordination and am very pleased to be on a training placement at St Marks for the next few months. Things I love include chatting over tea, my muddy, naughty dog, and various other four-legged friends that I tend to collect. I also enjoy chocolate and gaming and baking, and I would love to hear from you if you see me around, so feel free to grab me for a chat!

### **Meet Ian Wallace**

Many of you know Ian as he was the Vicar of St Mark's before Sue Hammersley and we're really pleased that he's helping us with Thinking Faith and some other theological things in the New Year. He has nearly thirty-five years of ordained ministry under his belt. He taught New Testament and early Christian origins at Cambridge and Durham Universities, as well as on various ministry training programmes, including the Yorkshire Ministry Course (currently, St Hild) where he served as Principal. Drawing on academic research and personal experience, Ian has spent much of his adult life helping church communities relate contemporary Christian practice to the original impulse of faith embodied in Jesus. Although retired, Ian is currently supporting the parish of Worsbrough during an extended vacancy. Ian will be one of the panel speakers at Thinking Faith on 8 December at 7pm.

### **Meet Canon Jane Brooke**

When I retired, I moved to Sheffield in January 2024 from Chester with my husband George to be near to our daughter and her family. I have been an SSM (self-supporting minister) deacon, then priest most of my adult life, apart from the last 5 years when I was employed as Canon Missioner and Vice Dean at Chester Cathedral where I introduced, in partnership with the diocese, an online and recorded series of theological and Bible studies.

I taught RE for over 20 years in various posts with ages from 3 to 18. I worked for REtoday services delivering courses to teachers on RE. Then worked in Cheshire Local Authority as RE Adviser and Principal Secondary Schools Improvement Adviser. My passion has always been how to teach RE using the creative arts. Alongside this I trained as an Ofsted inspector (RE, Maths, PSHCE) and as a Church School Inspector (Section 48). But found I preferred helping headteachers and teachers to develop rather than making a judgement and then walking away, so I have tended to focus on mentoring rather than inspecting! I was chair of NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) and the English representative on EFTRE (European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education) and worked as RE Project development Officer for the National Society. One of the highlights of my career was introducing the National RE Quality Mark into schools. I have written teaching materials, RE Syllabi and *The RE Teacher's Survival Guide*. I was awarded an honorary doctorate for education from the University of Chester in March 2024.

After five years as a deacon, I was amongst the first women to be priested in 1994, and became associate priest at St George's, Poynton, then became priest-in-charge of St Paul's, Compstall, whilst working as Principal Secondary Schools Adviser in Cheshire Local Authority. In 2010 I became SSM Residentiary Canon Chancellor at Chester Cathedral with a responsibility for Education. Then moved into paid roles as Vice Dean in 2016, Acting Dean in 2017 and then Canon Missioner and Vice Dean where my portfolio included 'Exhibitions, Events, Education and Outreach'. I am always keen that sacred places offer high quality exhibitions and relate them explicitly, through a comment or a question, to the Christian faith. I am now an Honorary Canon Emeritus at Chester with Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Sheffield.

Whilst at Chester, I wrote a Grove booklet on *Holy communion in Primary Schools* as well as five self-published children's books about a mouse in Chester Cathedral called 'Awesome Anselm'. Since coming to Sheffield, I have written a story for Sheffield Cathedral called 'Talbot the dog meets Sav the storyteller' and a booklet for the Benedictine Lay Community to help children understand the Rule of St Benedict.

George and I have three children and nine grandchildren: a son in Sydney Australia, a son in Somerset and a daughter in Sheffield. George is the Rylands Professor Emeritus of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at Manchester University and his career has centred around the Dead Sea Scrolls. In our spare time, we very much enjoy going to the theatre or art galleries or being outdoors with our dog, Bumble.

I join the St Mark's clergy on most days for daily morning prayer and for Sunday night services. I am especially pleased to chair the sessions on the evenings of the second Sunday of the month called Thinking Faith.

**PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Beth's licencing service has now been confirmed for 15 January at 7.30pm.  
Please save the date. More details to follow

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT THINKING FAITH DISCUSSION -**

**THINKING FAITH**

**8 DECEMBER 7PM  
SAVE THE DATE**

**Virgin birth? Incarnation?**

**What do the gospels tell us?**

The evening will explore why the gospels vary and what they reveal about the birth of Jesus, the incarnation and the virgin birth.



On the 2nd Sunday of each month, we explore a new topic with panel discussion and Q&A from guest speakers. This month, The Revd Dr. Ela Nutu Hall, Ian Wallis and Steve Moyise

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

**CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS WITH  
ST MARK'S CHURCH**

**1 December, 4pm**  
Christingle service

**15 December, 6pm**  
Big Queer Carols  
An open, affirming, and joyful carol service

**22 December, 6pm**  
Carol Service of traditional and contemporary carols and readings

**24 December, 4.30pm**  
Nativity Service with hot chocolate from 4pm

**24 December, 11.30pm**  
\* Midnight Mass, candlelit service of carols, reflection, prayer, and Communion

**Christmas Day**  
\* 8am BCP Communion  
\* 10am Festive All Age Communion Service  
\* also online via Zoom

**St Mark's is an open and inclusive  
Church offering worship and hospitality  
where all are welcome**



## WHAT'S ON IN THE MISSION AREA:

### ST MARY'S WALKLEY:

- **Saturday 7 December 10 - 12** Coffee morning with Wreath making workshop
- **Saturday 14 December 10 - 4** (Church and Hall) Walkley Christmas Market organised by Walkley Festival group. St Mary's are providing drinks, cakes and possible other activities

[More on their website here.](#)

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

# A Requiem for Gaza

Kairos Sheffield welcomes  
the Amos Trust's Christmas tour "Steal all the flowers"



**Thursday 5th December, 12.30-2.30pm**  
**including a light Palestinian lunch**

**Philadelphia Conference Centre, 110 Portland Street, Sheffield S6 3HD**  
Music, film, poetry, local performers and conversation with special guests from Palestine.

*Please join us! Booking is essential.*

There is no charge, but contributions to Amos Trust's Christmas appeal supporting their work in Gaza, and towards the cost of the event, are welcome.

To book please visit [amostrust.org/christmas-2024](https://amostrust.org/christmas-2024)

## THE ENVIRONMENT:

### WRITING TO MPS ABOUT THE CAN BILL –

*No, we do not want you to throw tomato soup at a Van Gogh picture, nor do we want you to sit in the middle of a motorway holding up a placard (and the traffic!) All we want you to do is entirely legal, not difficult but could make a big difference.*

The Climate and Nature bill is really important. [Click here to discover more.](#) It is due to receive its vital second reading on Friday, 24 January when it has to be supported by at least 102 MPs.

Here is the problem. Many MPs go back to their constituencies on Fridays. Getting 102 MPs to support it may be a problem.

- So please write to your own MP asking them to support the bill on Friday, 24 January.
- But we want you to do more than that. Please write to family and friends who are in other constituencies asking them to write to their MPs.

[You can find out how to do that by clicking here.](#)

[For a list of MPs supporting the CAN Bill, please click here.](#)

Urge our Prime Minister to oversee a full action plan to get our country to Net Zero by 2050 - We don't currently have this plan, despite our targets

**Full information is on the Environment Notice Board by the main entrance.**

### NOVEMBER 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:

Green your home. Combat climate change and reduce heating costs by identifying and sealing drafts around your home. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, cracks around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards, etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials and online tutorials. Additionally, place foil or radiator panels to reflect heat into your room. Pray for those who might be experiencing the cold this winter

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