



Notices for 15 December

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

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

NEWS AT ST MARK'S:

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION – From 1 December, we will no longer be offering intinction at the 10am service and will move to the single option of homemade bread and the common cup.

We are doing our best to make the bread in such a way that everyone can share in Communion, however, we cannot guarantee that the kitchen in which our Communion Bread is being made is free from gluten or other allergens.

Ingredients in our Communion Bread are Doves Freee © Gluten Free bread flour - rice, tapioca, potato starch, Chickpea flour, Sugar, Salt, Sunflower oil, Cider vinegar, Yeast and Water.

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.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM UPDATE - Thank you to everyone who has reviewed their giving and returned their pledge form. We have now heard from about 50% of the congregation and are encouraged by how many people have been able to increase their giving despite current financial pressures. Small amounts given regularly (e.g. by standing order/direct debit) makes a big difference to our church community. In January, the PCC are meeting to discuss what St Mark's priorities are and how we resource those priorities. This will include reviewing the future of the role of Associate Vicar. It would therefore be helpful anyone who has not yet returned a pledge form could let us know whether you plan to become a regular giver **or**, if you are already a regular giver, if you plan to increase, decrease or keep your giving the same.

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.

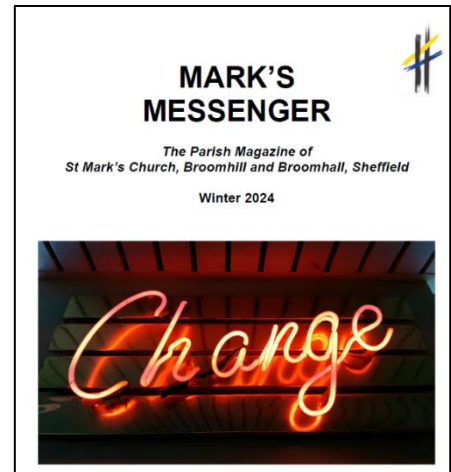
[Please click here](#) to return your pledge form, or there are paper copies in Church. All responses will be treated confidentially and will only be seen by the treasurer.

With thanks to and from the Stewardship Group, who continue to inspire and encourage us.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER - SALE OF NEPALI HANDICRAFTS after 10am service. Proceeds to Phaseworldwide's work in Nepal. Do bring cash / change with you.

MARK'S MESSENGER OUT NOW– The latest edition of the messenger is now available. Thank you to those who contributed to making it. If you would like to write something for a future edition, the next magazine will be published in the New Year and Michael Miller will be editing it.

You will find paper copies at the back of church or digitally on the website.



RESPONSE TO 'ASSISTED DYING' BILL - Following the announcement that MP's voted in favour of the bill that would support terminally ill adults with a life expectancy of six months or less to end their lives, several people have been asking questions and raising concerns about the implications of such legislation and wondering what our role and place as a church is in this.

As a large, diverse church we recognise that there will be many views amongst the members of the congregation. We pray for all those who will be debating the legislation that needs to be put in place before anything can be implemented and that the voices of those who have concerns will be heard alongside the voices of those who support the change.

As part of our Thinking Faith discussions on the second Sunday of the month, one of the Sundays early next year will focus on approaches to life and death offering the opportunity to explore 'Assisted dying' as part of the conversation.

In his Presidential address at Diocesan Synod on 30 November, Bishop Pete spoke of his disappointment at the bill passing due to having serious reservations about its content, while adding he respects everyone's rights to having their own conscientious views on the matter. You can watch his full address [here](#).

If you want to talk to someone, do be in touch with Beth or myself. We may not have all the answers as the process is at a very early stage but we are able to listen to your concerns. Shan

THIS SUNDAY.

ALL ARE WELCOME-



HELP OUT AT ST MARK'S:

HOSPITALITY IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY: There are many opportunities to help with refreshments in the coming weeks. Please see the events below and whom to contact for more details if you'd like to be involved:

- 22 December: Carol Service; mince pies and mulled wine - contact Briony
- 24 December: Nativity Service - contact Hannah

And in the New Year

- 5 January bring and share pizza lunch
- 15th of January Beth's licensing

NAMASTE - There is an ongoing collection at St Mark's of good quality warm clothes and coats, as well as toiletries, shower gel and period products for refugees. Please bring items to the building to be passed on. Do keep this in mind if you receive relevant gifts surplus to requirements for Christmas!!! Thank you so much for your generosity. Dilys, St Mark's International Donations Committee chair



CELEBRATE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WITH US:

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

A decorative border at the bottom of the poster featuring green pine branches, red holly leaves and berries, and two lit yellow candles. A blue and white cross is also visible among the decorations.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



SERVICE OF WELCOME

You are invited to a service of welcome at which

The Revd Dr Beth Keith

will be installed and inducted by

The Bishop of Sheffield

as Vicar of St Mark Broomhill and Broomhall,
and licensed as Priest in Charge of St Mary Walkley
and Oversight Minister in the Three Spires Mission Area.

15 JANUARY 2025

7.30 PM

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

www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk



WHAT'S ON IN THE MISSION AREA:

ST MARY'S WALKLEY:

- **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

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:



Carols by Candlelight

Our traditional service of nine lessons and carols

Conductor: Kate Shipway Organist: Robert Webb

7.30pm, Wednesday 18th December
St Marie's Cathedral, Norfolk Row, S1 2JB

Free entry

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the choir with no name
Find more information at sheffieldchorale.org

THE ENVIRONMENT:

WRITING TO MPS ABOUT THE CAN BILL - 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](#). 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.

DECEMBER 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:

CELEBRATE A GREENER CHRISTMAS - Find ways to make your Christmas festivities both a joyous celebration of Christ's coming and environmentally conscious. Explore A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas [here](#).

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