



Notices for 2 February

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:

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY – We welcome Rev'd Anesia Cook, Racial Justice Officer in the Diocese of Sheffield to our 10am service to preside and preach for us. Anesia's role is to promote racial diversity, equality, and inclusion whilst tackling racism in all forms. Racial Justice Sunday is usually marked on the second Sunday in February but we are fortunate to have Anesia to help us to reflect on this important issue this week. Anesia also has a strong connection with USPG, a charity St Mark's supports through International Committee donations. USPG accompanies churches in the Anglican Communion in their struggles against injustices associated with gender, economic injustice, climate change, migration, race and the human rights of indigenous people. Anesia will talk about their work over coffee in the lounge at 11.45. There is also a coffee concert in church today following the service.

NEW SAVE THE DATE The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will now be held in church on **April 27**. At the meeting, we review the past, assess where we are now and look ahead at where we are heading over the next year or so. We begin with worship at a shortened 10 am service, hear something of Beth's vision for St Mark's, receive the Annual report in which we share various aspects of the ministry of St Mark's over the last year, thank those who are standing down from lay and ordained service, elect new people into various roles, our treasurer presents the budget and there is an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns before we look forward to how we can work together to support the mission and ministry of St Mark's as we reach out to the world. Please do save the date so you can attend and be part of this important meeting. If you want to vote or stand for election, you do need to be registered on our electoral roll. Do ask us for more details about being on PCC and the Electoral Roll. *Beth & Shan*



SAD NEWS REGARDING JANET EARWAKER – I'm saddened to let you know that Janet, a long-standing member of St Mark's, died on Monday 20 January at Broomgrove Trust, her home for the last few years. Please pray for Janet, her children Bill and Rosie, and Sue Hammersley who along with other people from our congregation, had a deep connection with Janet and her late husband John over many years. Janet's funeral will be on **Friday 14 February at 1pm** at St Mark's and will be followed by refreshments in the lounge. *Shan*

HELP OUT AT ST MARK'S:

MUSCLE POWER REQUESTED FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES! -Please would six or eight strong people stay back after the 10 a.m. service and coffee concert on Sunday (2.2.25.) to lend a few hands. We need to briefly lift the grand piano and put some extra wheels beneath its castors. See *Martin Godley & David Tayler*.

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 received relevant gifts surplus to requirements for Christmas!!! Thank you so much for your generosity. Dilys, St Mark's International Donations Committee chair



FLOWERS- Contact Mary-Jane Ryder if you could help arrange the flowers occasionally, training provided. With thanks to Mabel Padfield, John Hall & Jennifer Hurrell for donating flowers, and Rachel Pilkington, Briony Taylor & Jennifer Hurrell for arranging them during February.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST MARK'S:

THINKING FAITH - this monthly event explores diverse topics with panel discussions, guest speakers, and time for questions and responses. Also on Zoom.

February focus: **The spirituality of children**, featuring:

-*Dr Emily Baughen* (University of Sheffield) –

History of childhood and its intersections with humanitarianism and politics.

-*Canon Dr Jane Brooke* (RE Specialist) – Insights into faith development and spiritual education.

-*Huw Thomas* (Director of Education, Sheffield Diocese) – Church schools and the spirituality of children.

Join us for this engaging and reflective session, open to all. [Click here for more.](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89515577906>

Meeting ID: 895 1557 7906

THINKING FAITH

9 FEBRUARY 7PM

How spiritual are children?

Join us as we start to explore the spirituality of children by listening to three speakers, asking questions and reflecting together.

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY:



DREAMS & REALITIES HOMECOMING

Sheffield Cathedral
Tuesday 4 February 2025
Evensong 5:30PM
Reception 6:00PM

Welcome home this powerful and moving portrait exhibition by Sheffield artist Stephen Martin as it finishes its UK tour.

See the paintings and hear about the impact they've made.

Book your place at
[dreamsandrealities.
eventbrite.co.uk](https://dreamsandrealities.eventbrite.co.uk)



DREAMS AND REALITIES

HOMECOMING - Members of the congregation are warmly invited to Sheffield Cathedral at 530pm for Evensong and 6 pm for the reception on Tuesday 4 February. It is an event co-sponsored by the Cathedral, St Mary's Bramall Lane and Church Action on Poverty. David Price

CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE - The Sheffield CA committee warmly invite you attend an online screening of the annual Changemakers conference on Saturday March 8th - 10.00am until 13.45pm (approx) at St Gabriel's Church, Dobbin Hill. Full details are on the poster on the international committee notice board and you can also use the link below to see the programme for the conference and to register for this regional event- [Click here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH & CHRISTIANITY CONFERENCE – 22 March, Wesley Hall Crookes. Aimed at ordained or lay, who are working or volunteering with people in churches and Christian organisations. However, it is open to anyone who is interested. The Conference aims to deliver a high standard of information based upon both science and experience while respecting and incorporating the Christian faith. **The Keynote Speaker is theologian Dr Simon Hewitt—Lecturer in Philosophy and Religion at Leeds University, he also** draws on his own experience of bipolar disorder. Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day. Suggested donation of £12.00 but pay as you can also available. [Tickets and more information here](#)



The poster for the Mental Health & Christianity Conference features a purple background. At the top left is the logo for Mental Health & Christianity, which includes a stylized green cross. Below the logo, the text reads 'MENTAL HEALTH & CHRISTIANITY CONFERENCE'. A QR code is positioned in the center, with the text 'Book now' and a curved arrow pointing to it. Below the QR code is the URL 'https://MHandCConference.eventbrite.co.uk'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for the Sheffield Methodist Circuit with the text 'Organised by Sheffield Methodist Circuit'. On the right side, there is a photograph of Dr. Simon Hewitt sitting on a rock in a natural setting. Below the photo, his name and title are listed: 'Dr Simon Hewitt, Lecturer in Philosophy & Religion, Leeds University'. At the bottom right, the date and location are specified: 'Saturday 22nd March, 2025, Wesley Hall Methodist Church, Crookes, Sheffield'.



The poster for 'THE UNCONTROLLING LOVE OF GOD UK CONFERENCE' has a dark blue background. The title is in large, bold, white and orange letters. Below the title, it says 'UK CONFERENCE'. On the right side, there is a photograph of a large, stone building. At the bottom left, the date is given as 'Date: 4-6 June, 2025'.

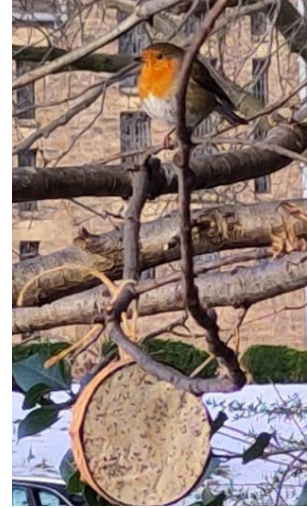
THE UNCONTROLLING LOVE OF GOD - Join us at Highgate House Conference Centre, Northamptonshire, to discuss ideas that will change the way you think about the divine. Based around a series of set piece dialogues, this conference will open up avenues of theological thought that challenge the mainstream consensus that 'God' is all powerful and fundamentally 'in control'. Drawing on work from scholars and

practitioners from various parts of the Christian tradition, we will question these certainties and explore other ways of understanding the nature of God. [More here](#)

THE ENVIRONMENT:

CLIMATE AND NATURE BILL- This was debated in the Commons on Friday the 24th. Unfortunately it was not passed because the government refused to allow Labour MPs a free vote. It was pushed back to 11 July which means realistically that is dead in the water. That is the bad news. The good news is that there have been positive and encouraging responses from Ed Miliband, the relevant Secretary of State, and Mary Creagh, Minister for Nature. At the end of yesterday's debate, the Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh, promised MPs that next steps will include **“binding commitments”** to advance the CAN Bill's objectives. Ed Miliband, said via a video (after the debate), he has promised to **“set to work”** on the CAN Bill's objectives—**“including for legislation”**—so that we can **“make a meaningful difference for climate and nature”**. This means lots more letter writing to our MPs to keep the pressure up. Please get one off as soon as possible to make known your disappointment and to let them know that pressure to do what is needed will be relentless. *Michael Bayley*

GREAT GARDEN BIRD WATCH - The Environment Group once again did the Great Garden Bird Watch this January and counted blue tit, coal tit, robin, blackbird, woodpigeon, wren, magpie and crow. Small numbers though. Could we make our Green even more nature friendly? The birds seem to like the shrub cover at the eastern end. Perhaps we could extend the cover around our perimeters? Margaret Ainger



ECO TIPS -FEBRUARY

Turn it off - Energy conservation is one of the most important things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Leaving your electricals on standby uses unnecessary energy – turn them off at the wall when you’ve finished using them, and you could see your bill going down. (Source Good energy)

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