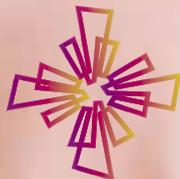


JESUS' FAMILY OF SERVANTS ON MISSION

FOLLOW CHRIST | SHARE JESUS | BE FAMILY | TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

INFORM

YOUR GUIDE TO 2019 - SEASON ONE



St Mark's

RESURRECTED
BITES

PAY AS YOU FEEL COMMUNITY CAFE

Feeding the 5000

The Gathering

KX

Lent

Sanctuary

and lots more inside!

'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.'

John 15:16 NIV



Holy Communion and fellowship lunches

Come and join us for a delicious light lunch after the Mid-week Communion Service. All are welcome and there's no need to book.

- Jan 10th Christingle
- Feb 14th Valentine lunch
- Mar 6th Ash Wednesday (TBA)
- Mar 14th Lent Lunch
- Apr 11th Lent Lunch

B.R.I.C.K IS BACK FOR 2019!

Join us for the next season of B.R.I.C.K - a series of free short lectures with time for questions.



BEING, BELIEVING AND BELONGING

Shaping a Christ-centred Church
A Bible study on St Paul's letter to the Colossians, led by Ven David Shreeve.

Mondays, 7.30-8.30pm

**January 21st & 28th
February 4th & 11th**

AN EVENING WITH
St. Aidan's CE High School
Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra
IN AID OF CARING FOR LIFE AND ST AIDAN'S MUSIC ASSOCIATION
IN CELEBRATION OF A 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Friday 1st Feb 2019 at 7:30pm
St. Mark's Church, Harrogate HG2 8AY

- 50
- 50 CONCESSIONS (OVER 60S & CHILDREN)
- CARING FOR LIFE STALL (RUN BY CFL'S HARROGATE SUPPORT GROUP)
- REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Tickets can be purchased in person* from: St. Mark's Church Office (office hours), from Mrs. M. Hammetton at St Mark's Church after the Sunday Services; or from St. Aidan's CE High School Reception (office hours)
*cash or cheque, payable to Mrs. M Hammetton



Children's groups will start back 6 Jan and finish 7 April (24th Feb and 3rd March will be All Age Service) Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and 28th April will be an All Age Service (groups start back on 5th May)

NEW BEGINNINGS

We have been blessed for many years with the wonderful Alison in our team. As Pastoral Director, she has touched so many lives at St Mark's and beyond, as she has faithfully served our community. We want to take this opportunity to thank her for all the love, support, wisdom and direction she has shared with us. We hope that our church family will join us in praying for whatever God has in store for her next.



LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

When I say 'Passover', what comes to your mind?

Maybe you are recalling the story of Moses and the Hebrew slaves as they fled from tyranny in Egypt? Maybe you know something of the Jewish celebration that takes place every year? The food that is shared and the story that is remembered?

Passover is all of these things – recalling God's saving act of the Israelite people. But as Christians, we remember and celebrate who God is and what God has done in Jesus our Lord and Saviour through the Communion service – His perfect and complete saving act. The Communion service centres around the re-telling of the story of who God is and what He has done around a shared meal; it is a time of celebration, just as the Passover is.

Our St. Mark's communities are practising these rhythms – they meet, tell stories of how God is at work in their daily lives, reminding one another of who He is and his story of

love, restoration and redemption. Communities share their ordinary lives with one another, celebrate key life events together and eat food together.

This year, as we approach Easter, our communities will use the Christian Passover story and the ancient rhythms of story-telling, as they eat together and celebrate on Maundy Thursday - the night we remember Jesus' mandate to love one another, just as we are loved.

Simple resources and training will be provided so our community leaders can bring this ancient festival of sharing and remembering to those they share their lives with. We will remember God's redemptive character as seen throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament story, culminating in Jesus' death and resurrection. Throughout Lent, a reading list will be provided for individuals and communities to use to prepare our hearts and minds for this coming Eastertide.



PRAYER DIARY JANUARY 2019

Please use this to guide your own prayers for our community and the wider world.



Our prayers particularly focus on one of St Mark's Mission Partners:

Craft Aid International

(www.craftaidinternational.org/)

"Enabling, empowering & supporting differently-able people in the UK and overseas, creatively." Local contact:

Craft Aid Director Susie Hart MBE

Sun 30th Dec – Sat 5th Jan

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank God today for our church family and the privilege of being included in God's family. Thank God that He includes people from every nation, language and ability. Praise Him for Craft Aid International's work, empowering and loving people with different abilities both here and across the world; lifting disabled people in Ecuador and Peru out of extreme poverty to dignity and hope.

Sun 6th – Sat 12th Jan

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pray today for people who you know are nearing their journey's end on this earth.

Pray that they might indeed find their place, their purpose, and their peace in Jesus Christ.

Pray also for young children at the start of their life journey, and for opportunities to guide them to Jesus' love, through baptism, through Toddler Praise, through Sunday groups, and through the care of loving families. Lift up any known to you in need of love and security.

Sun 13th – Sat 19th Jan

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Jess and Andy Lynch, and their daughter Francesca, go to Ecuador next month to work for two years at the Craft Aid International project in Santo Domingo. Pray for God's presence and peace as they prepare and pack, travel, begin to learn Spanish, and get to know the participants and the community in Ecuador. We give thanks for the way God has blessed the work so far and for all the lives that are already being transformed through this ministry.

Sun 20th – Sat 26th Jan

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Thank God that He reveals himself in Jesus – that we don't need to puzzle over what sort of God he is. Pray for the Spirit to equip you with integrity, at work, at home, with family and friends, as a consumer, that you may demonstrate God's glory in every interaction.

Please pray for Craft Aid International's new after school club for differently-able children starting this week. This pilot project will be the forerunner for other groups to come. Pray for the volunteers, children and their carers, that all might be blessed through this new initiative, and especially that the children coming would enjoy making new friends and learning new skills, in a creative and supportive atmosphere.

Sun 27th Jan – Sat 2nd Feb

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Please pray for the weekly therapeutic craft sessions that Craft Aid International runs in local hospitals, especially for Ruth Cundy and the team of volunteers that run sessions at the Lascelles Unit for brain injury patients. Pray that the patients would be truly blessed by the experience of doing something creative, to take their minds away from their aches, pains and despair. Please pray for new volunteers to join the team, so that we may answer the hospital's request to increase this work.

Can you join with others to Pray and Fast for the Climate on 1st February? Lift to God the work of Zero Carbon Harrogate, and pray for Jemima Parker our Diocese Environment Officer.



We pray for the continuing needs of Frances and Andy Kershaw, Erik, Bob Hammond, Marion Turner, Mo Clarke, Liz and Shirley Ruddle, Stephen, Amjad, David, Morag, Charlie, Leah, Kay, Dave, Gordon and Judy, Roger and Elizabeth, Allison and Mark, Mark and Julie Wood and family, Miles and Lisa, Jeanne, Michael, Shirley, Jane, Sue, Clive and their families and all those who care for them.

We pray for all in our church family who have been bereaved recently. We pray also for their families and friends.

SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Quiet reflection or rejoicing in song - join us.

Every Sunday

8am Communion service with the Book of Common Prayer. A spoken, traditional and reflective service with a shorter sermon.

9.15am A 50 minute service with songs and teaching. Communion is twice a month on the 1st and third Sunday.

10.30am A family service with songs, teaching, and children's groups. Communion once a month on the 4th Sunday.

6pm This is a multigenerational service and we are committed to equipping and releasing disciples who make disciples.

It includes 45 minutes of worship time followed by a break after which youth break-out for discipleship and social time and adults break-out for teaching and discipleship time.

Every Tuesday

7am-8am. Early birds prayer - drop in to pray out loud or in silence for all or part of the hour.

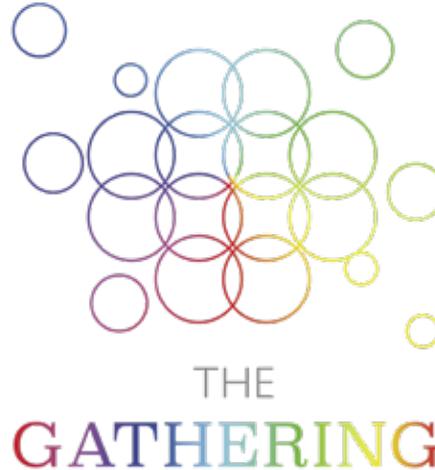
A simple breakfast is served afterwards.

Every Thursday

11am. A friendly communion service with Sunday's teaching, often followed by food.

Every weekday morning

9am-9.30am Morning prayer in church. Everyone welcome - a great way to start the day!



This service has been going for two months now... New congregations take time to settle down, and teams take a while to form, but there has been a great spirit of working together – thank you.

There are some strengths to celebrate:

There is a real multi-generational feel of The Gathering – it's been great to see people of all ages participating, leading and serving.

There is a big desire for encounter with the Holy Spirit in worship and teaching.

Youth have had both social space and been doing the Alpha course – over 30 every week.

There has been learning about the Holy Spirit and practising listening to God.

There has been good social encounter between all ages, and sharing of testimony.

These are all significant gifts.

The new structure gives us opportunities to be flexible. There are many training and learning needs at St Mark's, particularly around discipleship and mission. As The Gathering develops we will be seeking to use this time and space to enable us to address this in flexible ways.

Many thanks to everyone who has been willing to adapt and embrace a new development. If you have any questions, or would like to get more involved, please talk to any of the staff team.

MORNING PRAYER

Each weekday morning, the staff team gathers for morning prayer. We often start our time in worship - singing and reading from the Bible, and then we turn to intercession, praying for the for the church family and for the ministry and mission of the church.

We would love to invite you to join us - we find that as more people gather together we are increasingly encouraged and inspired to intercede.

Our office hours have been amended - we now open at 9.30am and therefore enable the team to attend morning prayer.



OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY:

Morning Prayer, 9-9.30, weekdays in church

Mondays for our church family

Tuesdays for our mission and our world

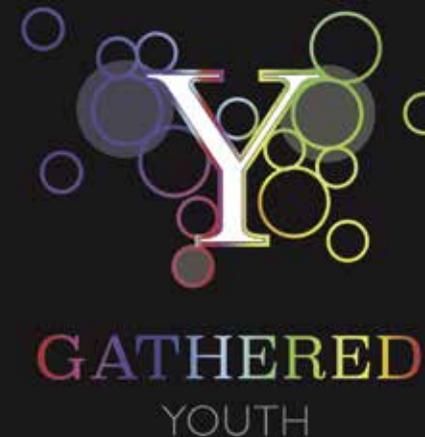
Wednesdays for our vision and our leadership

Thursdays for our ministries

Fridays for our town

Early Birds, 7-8am, Tuesdays in church.
Pray before the working day, out loud or in silence

Intercessory Prayer Group, 9.30-10.30, Tuesdays in church.
Pray for our church family, the community, our mission partners, the nation and the world



The Gathering has been a positive step for our young people – it has provided them the opportunity to be part of a multi-generational service, where they can serve and grow in their gifts.

The Youth Gathered time from 7- 8pm has seen young people come together in new ways too. As we dedicate our resources to focusing on our vision, 'to be Jesus' Family of Servants on Mission - during 1st and 3rd weeks, we have built in a social time where they can spend together and build relationships across year groups. On 2nd and 4th weeks we have begun our Youth Alpha course, with 24 young people attending this. It is clear there is a desire from our young people to invest their time in discussions around faith and belief. It is a real privilege to work alongside a team of people who are dedicated to serving our young people and we are continuing to pray for God's leading as we continue to step in this new direction.



Lent

40 DAYS WITH JESUS

Lent begins on Wednesday March 6th. Ash Wednesday. We mark it here by having a service of communion at 11am and another at 7pm, and by being marked with the sign of the cross in ash.

It's a season of intentional focus on our walk with Jesus. It used to be the period people would prepare themselves for baptism...

In fact, on Easter Day we are going to have some baptisms! If you have never been baptised and want to explore it, come and chat... It's a great opportunity to embrace your identity as a Christian...

To make the most of this season, particularly if you are able to be in a community, these three things are offered around the Up, In, Out of our relationships with God, each other, and as missionaries:

Up: Why not read a Lent book together. A great book to follow on from our "Beauty of the Cross" series would be "The Merciful Humility of God" by Jane Williams – out now.

In: On Maundy Thursday, we are encouraging communities to celebrate Passover together in homes. The Passover meal tells the story of God's deliverance, and for us, as Christians, points wonderfully to Jesus. Resources will be shared for doing this simply and easily.

Out: During Lent, we will share a few simple ideas about how to engage with and bless different sectors of our community. Information will be given out soon.

Further dates and times of services during Lent to follow in our What's On Guide and weekly newsletter.



BAPTISM

Baptism is at the heart of an amazing journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ.



You are never too young or too old to take this step, and being baptised as an older child, young person, or adult – when you can make the decision and promises for yourself – is a wonderful experience. Baptism is saying "Yes" to Jesus; "Yes" to a new and deeper relationship with God and His family, "Yes" to becoming Jesus' disciple, and "Yes" to being sent out to be Good News.

This year on Easter Sunday (21st April), we will be having baptisms at our 6pm service for anyone old enough to say "Yes" to Jesus for themselves. There will also be the opportunity for anyone who is already baptised (for example, as an infant) to renew their baptism vows. If you are interested in taking this step for yourself, or would like more information, please contact the church office.

FOR WE WERE ALL BAPTISED BY ONE SPIRIT SO AS TO FORM ONE BODY

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 NIV

CONFIRMATION

We are really pleased to say that a Confirmation Service has been booked for **Sunday 12th May during The Gathering at 6pm**. Confirmation can be an important part of a lifetime journey of faith as we seek to become disciples of Jesus.

If you are interested in finding out more about what confirmation means and why it could be for you, please speak to Dan or Natalie. We'd love to talk to you!

**Sunday
12th May
6pm**

Walking the Camino de Santiago



On Saturday 13th April 2019, nineteen pilgrims will be leaving their home comforts in the UK to walk the final stage (Camino Frances - the French Way) of the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. The finishing line being the

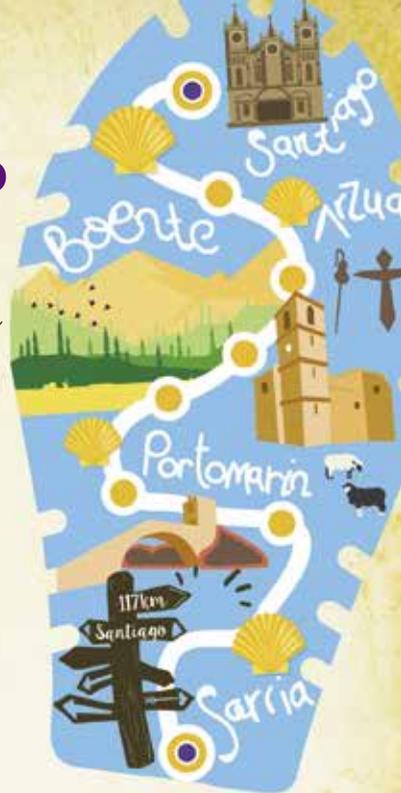
powerful and moving experience of the pilgrim's mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela on Good Friday morning.

We will collect our iconic pilgrim's passport and commence our walk from the town of Sarria located in the charming hills of Galicia. We then hike 117km west through Portomarin, Palas de Rei, Arzua, Rua and finally onto our final destination of Santiago de Compostela. Santiago is a spectacular city, and it is widely published that when you see its spires in the distance, your heart soars at its beauty and an overwhelming sense of achievement and togetherness at what you have managed to accomplish!

Vicar Guy Donegan-Cross and Laura Brett, our Evangelist Coordinator, are leading this missions trip from Harrogate and we have five additional pilgrims joining us from other parts of the country.

There are many reasons to walk the Camino: some of our team are simply hungry for a break from the stresses of modern life and need to realign themselves, some want to deepen their relationship with God, some may be seeking faith for the first time and some are working through or overcoming difficult circumstances. It will be our privilege to walk beside them and guide them through their pilgrimages, whatever their reason for participating, and celebrating the shared feeling of satisfaction when we all receive our Compostela certificate at Santiago.

The pilgrimage falls during Holy Week and we will be offering optional daily devotions and space each day to reflect on the meaning and purpose of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We are trusting God that it will be a very special time of both personal challenge and reflection physically, emotionally and spiritually and boundless fun! There will be tears of joy and laughter for sure: a life-changing experience meeting fellow pilgrims, exchanging stories and turning strangers into friends for life.



Kairos
Connexion
Raising Missionary Disciples



I am really excited to report that at the November PCC it was agreed to formalise a partnership that we have established with Kairos Connexions (Kx) over the last two years. The name comes from a combination of two words: Kairos – a significant moment for decision or action; a moment of opportunity to hear from God and respond to him. Connexion – connecting with God in covenant relationship, with each other in extended family, and with the world in kingdom purpose.

Kx is a network of churches and leaders in England and Wales that have committed to travel together on a journey of mission and discipleship. The aim is to learn from each other and see our nation transformed by the gospel through a movement of missionary disciples.

As a network, Kx realise there is so much to learn about being missionary disciples, being formed in community, and being sent into the world. We need each other to continue to grow and develop and to become the church that Jesus died for and is coming back for.

The network is led by Nick Harding, who came to St Mark's in October and provided a day of input and training for the PCC, church leaders and St Mark's community leaders. Some of you may well have heard him preach at the morning services following the training day on Saturday. Being part of the network allows us the opportunity to

connect with and learn from churches and leaders that are wrestling with the same issues and questions around discipleship and mission as us. We also have access to leaders' days, training, resources, retreats, coaching, and church planting workshops.

"As a network, Kx realise there is so **much to learn about being missionary disciples**, being formed in community, and being sent into the world."

Guy and I are hugely excited about the partnership with Kx and the opportunities that it will bring to us at St Mark's.

We have both been blessed, encouraged, inspired and challenged by the ministry of Nick and the Kx network and we will pray that God will use this partnership to grow His kingdom here in Harrogate.

For more information contact Dan Watts.

APCM, PCC AND ELECTORAL ROLL ALL EXPLAINED....

Every year we take stock of where we are at as a church, looking back at what God did among us in the previous year, and together elect members of our church council (PCC). This year we are meeting on Sunday, April 28th at 7pm. It would be great to have everyone there. We will also be doing our electoral roll from scratch again (we are required to do this periodically).

PCC

£

?

Electoral Roll

Confused?

If you were visiting earth from Mars you might get a bit perplexed by all the different structures of leadership in the church...so here's an "earthling" explanation as simply as possible...

Leadership

Leadership in the church is a mixture, a partnership, between and elected group of people from the church (PCC) and various appointed folk (vicar, staff, churchwardens).

They aim to work together – listening to God, providing oversight, and seeking vision.

The PCC has some new members elected every year – four or five in our case.

They meet five times a year.



**Sunday, 28th
April at 7pm**

Joining the PCC

To stand for election, you need to fill in a simple form and have a proposer and seconder who are on the electoral roll. Oh yes, and you must be on the electoral roll...

...which is a list of people who can stand for the PCC, or vote for people on it...

...To be on the electoral roll is easy. You must be 16 or over, be a meaningful part of the church community, and fill in a simple form fifteen days before the AGM.

Simples!

We want you!

Seriously, please come and serve on the PCC, get stuck in to the AGM...we are looking for people who are willing to pray, learn, and have a passion for the mission of the church.

Why not you?

SOUL SURVIVOR FUNDRAISING



Our young people heading to Soul Survivor this summer are already getting itchy feet! Thousands of young people in worship, listening to God, yummy camp food and (maybe) some muddy wellies – it really is one of the best weeks of their year. This year, as part of our planning, we are aiming to raise some money to help send other young people to a summer camp as part of the organisation Mission Without Borders. Our aim is to send 25 young people to camp – the same amount of our young people going away. We are holding a fundraising event in the new year – please watch out for the date coming soon!

More info to follow soon!

www.mwbuk.org



Sanctuary 2019

The Sanctuary Leadership Team are so expectant about what God is going to do at St Mark's in 2019!

Michelle and Laura are also excited to be visiting South Africa in February to speak at a Women's Conference alongside Di Queripel - please pray for them!

Our first Sanctuary event "Spring Awakening" will challenge and inspire & refresh and renew us in our journey with God as we head into the season of Spring. As well as worship and teaching, there will be opportunity for reflection and fellowship.

Please join us on Friday 29th March at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church and invite any women in your life to come along too!

We really hope you can join us as we head into this new and exciting season of women's ministry at St. Mark's.

Fri 29th March 7.30pm	Sanctuary Spring Awakening
Fri 12th July 7.30pm	Sanctuary Summer Fruits
Fri 6th Dec 7.30pm	Sanctuary Christmas Celebration

HG1000

Four years ago, we launched the HGI 000 campaign. In the first year, thanks to the generosity of people in the area, we were able to buy 1000 water filters to provide safe water to 1000 families living in extreme poverty.

Now four years on, we are approaching the audacious target of 1000 children being sponsored (952 currently) by people in the HG postcode. We are planning a big celebration in the Spring when we reach the target, so if God is putting it on your heart to sponsor a child to lift a child out of extreme poverty, please go to www.compassionuk.org



FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

This January marks the first anniversary of the Resurrected Bites café. The café has been a huge success, with lots of regular customers and a great community where people can find friendship. Lots of parents come in with their little ones as we are very family friendly and we even offer a free creche once a month so that parents can have their lunch in peace whilst their children are being looked after by our fabulous "Full of Beans" crèche team. We ran a Resurrected Bites Alpha

in the autumn which had 14 participants and they were able to leave their little ones in the FoB crèche each week. The café runs on a pay as you feel basis and gives ten percent of the donations to a different charity each month. In the first year we have raised over £2100 for charities including Christian Aid. And we have intercepted around 9000kg of food this year. A huge thank you to all of our café, crèche and Alpha volunteers and our suppliers.



Every day, countless people are sold into slavery, as slave owners make a profit off their misery.

International Justice Mission is a global organization with a plan to eliminate the slave trade everywhere.



We Rescue Slaves

We've rescued more than 45,000 people from slavery and other forms of violence.



We Work with Police to Throw Slave Owners in Jail

We've helped local authorities arrest more than 3,300 suspected slave owners and other criminals.



We're Putting the Slave Trade out of Business

As laws are enforced, the business model of slavery becomes unprofitable for slave owners.

In Oct, I had the opportunity to go to Ghana to see what God is doing through IJM to release children from slavery on Lake Volta. An estimated 30,000 children, mostly under the age of 10 are enslaved there in the fishing industry.

IJM work with the government, church, police, lawyers and social services to find the children, rescue them, restore them and prosecute the slave owners. I expected to come home feeling despair but instead I came back filled with hope as I saw how quickly God was moving to end the slavery and to restore the children. The church has been a major contributing factor in ending slavery. IJM's Justice Conference opened the pastors' eyes to God's heart for these children and now the pastors are preaching this to their congregations which will include many slave masters & some of them are being convicted to set the children free. If they don't repent, the pastors report them to the police. IJM work in dark places around the world fighting for justice for the poor but are sustained in their work by the prayer that goes into all of their operations. If you would like to pray to end the injustices to the poor sign up to www.ijm.org/get-updates Next year we hope to do some fundraising across Harrogate to help support their amazing work.



A huge thanks to the Woodroofe's community who organised the Big Quiz on 17 Nov. It was a fantastic evening which raised £406 for Tearfund.

Once again St Mark's generosity knows no bounds and you blessed the socks off the various charities we collected for over Christmas. The boxes were overflowing with gifts for SASH, IDAS, Caring for Life and In2Out. St Georges' Crypt were very grateful for the toys donated to children in Leeds. And our Christmas collections for the Children's Society and Manara Project in Lebanon (Youth for Christ) will provide much needed funds. We will update you with how much you raised in the Jan newsletter.

Meet some of the team

Our team is much bigger than could ever fit on paper.

Here are some key contacts to get you started.



Guy Donegan-Cross

VICAR

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01423 504160



Michelle Hayes

KINGDOM LIFE DIRECTOR

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Dan Watts

MINISTER FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Shirley Jones

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Frances Bryant

PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR

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Andy Wilson

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01423 544528



Cathy Meadows

ADMINISTRATOR

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01423 544528



Janet Green

COMMUNICATIONS

communicate@smch.org.uk
01423 544528

Visit St Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8AY



Our church office is open **Mon:** 9.30am-12noon **Tues:** Office closed
Wed: 9.30am-12noon **Thurs:** 9.30am-12noon **Fri:** 9.30am-12noon

Call 01423 544528 **Email** office@smch.org.uk

www.smch.org.uk   

To be included in next edition of Inform, please send content to Janet Green by email communicate@smch.org.uk by 1st March 2019. For items in the weekly email, please send to Janet by the preceding Wednesday. For printing and photo copying please allow the office three days' notice. Thank you.

Whilst we hope everything in this issue of Inform is correct, times and dates sometimes change beyond our control we hope you understand.