

Welcome



St Mark's

Who are we?

We are a family. We come in all shapes and sizes. We welcome you wherever you're from, whoever you are.

Our foundations are not in the bricks and mortar of our beautiful building but are rooted in God. We are one body who inspire each other to love and follow Jesus Christ, everywhere in everything.

We love God, we really do. Through our unashamed passion for Him, our church is a wonderful community of individual, perfectly made people. It's a thriving reflection of Jesus' love.

Whether you are a questioner, a seeker, a doubter, a lover of Jesus Christ, or a struggler - come. If you are young, old or somewhere in between - come. If you know nothing or everything of Jesus - come. St Mark's welcomes you to come as you are.

Our church is big and our love is great. We know that sometimes it can feel a little overwhelming and maybe even intimidating. Especially on a Sunday, met with a sea of faces, it can be difficult to strike up a conversation with someone new. Sometimes we feel the same! We have some great things to help you feel at home as quickly as possible:

01

Service Welcomers

At each service we have a team of friendly welcomers, found close to the entrance. Let them know you are a newcomer. They are a great source of knowledge and will introduce you to the church, point you in the right direction and answer any questions you may have.

02

Home Visit

Our super friendly team of home welcomers can arrange a time to meet you outside of church. This means you can ask any questions, learn more about St Mark's and most of all, get to know some great people.

03

Tea with the Vicar!

Meeting the vicar can feel awkward. Guy, our vicar, is an ordinary man who happens to be a vicar (quite a funny one in fact), with a fabulous wife, four great children and a super cute dog. He would love to meet you. Every month Guy hosts a welcome tea. This gives you chance to get to know each other and meet some more of the team - all over tea and cakes. It's very informal and a great way to feel part of the family.



What's next?

Whether you want some time to settle in, or are eager to get involved, tell us that you're here and we can get connected! Here's some essentials to get you started:

01

Fill in a newcomer form

Collect your form from the welcome desk or from a welcomer at a service or pop into the church office and pick one up. This is your first step to telling us you're here and that you're joining our family.

02

Join our email list

Our weekly email reaches almost 500 people and provides key information and event details about what's going on in church, our wider community and plans for the week ahead.

03

Subscribe to our study notes - Inspire

This is a fantastic resource which builds on from our Sunday teaching. It provides information for the whole family and includes suggested daily prayers. You can receive it by email or pick up a copy in the church porch.

Once we have your details, we will invite you to our welcome tea where you can meet the vicar along with other members of the church family and most importantly, enjoy some delicious cakes!

There's more...

In a large church it's too easy to get lost in the crowd. That's why we have home groups - small, informal gatherings of people who meet during the week, share life together, grow deeper connections and hopefully become great friends. After all, life goes on outside the church services.

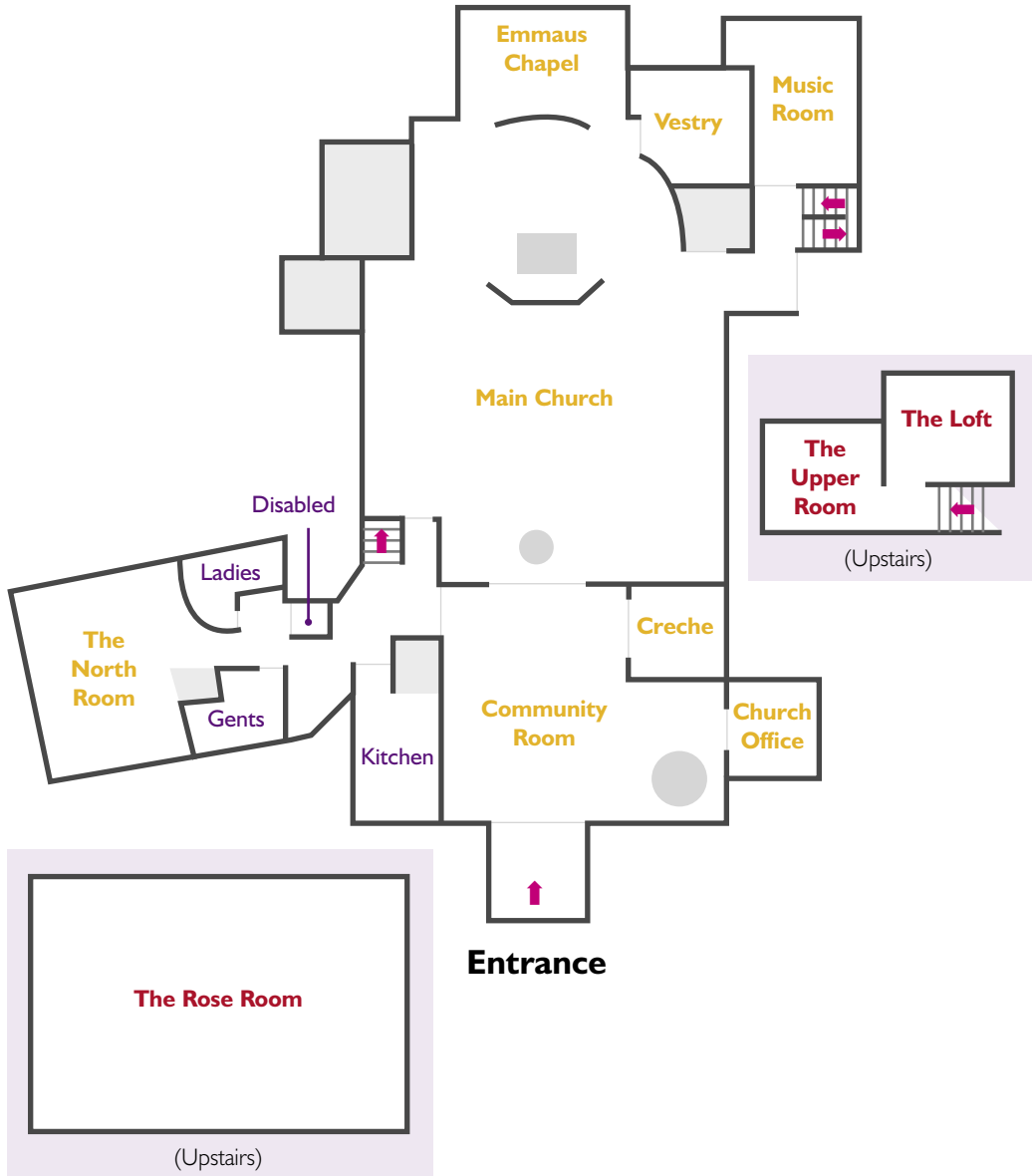
The unique and organic nature of each group means they are continually evolving. We have mixed groups, men's groups, women's groups, challenging and inspiring groups, quiet and reflective groups, daytime and evening groups. We truly want you to feel part of St Mark's and encourage you to join a group where you can build great relationships.

In addition to home groups, we also have Open Church, chess group, knitting group, Mother's Union, uniformed groups, football club, Men's Formation Group, choir, Mission Support Group, ladies' Sanctuary gathering, the list goes on.

Guy would love to give you more information about groups and can put you in touch with the group that will best suit you and your journey.



Finding your way around



Services

We meet, we sing, we pray, we reflect, we learn, we listen, we share, we talk, we have great fun. Like any family, our members are all individual and prefer different styles of services. With five Sunday services and one mid week, we hope that you can find one, or two or maybe even more that suit you.

**SUNDAY
8am**

This is a traditional spoken, Holy Communion service using the Book of Common Prayer.



**SUNDAY
9.15am**

You can expect to hear our wonderful robed choir, great teaching and receive Holy Communion twice a month at this 50 minute service.

Refreshments are served after the service



**SUNDAY
10.30am**

This bustling family service is jam-packed with teaching, singing and prayer. Communion is offered once a month.

Refreshments are served after the service



**SUNDAY
6pm**

Our 6pm service is a 45minute, multigenerational service with worship and prayer, we particularly encourage our youth to take the lead. At 7pm after refreshments, we breakout for adult and youth discipleship and teaching time.



**THURSDAY
11am**

A friendly communion service using teaching from Sunday. A delicious meal is served after the service every 2nd Thursday of the month (excluding August).



Children & Youth

We are blessed to have so many children and young people at St Mark's. We have a dedicated Children and Families Minister - Dan Watts, a Youth Pastor - Natalie Jones and a truly awesome team of co-ordinators, leaders and helpers. Not only do they teach, create, talk, listen and disciple our younger members of the family, but they put on events, go to festivals, climb mountains, fund-raise and attend gigs. Children's groups run on Sunday during the service and there are mid-week meetings for our youth (groups are term time only). Here's a summary:

Sunday 10.30am

Co-ordinator

Rachel Tunnicliffe

Creche: 0-2½

Location: Creche

Little Gems: pre school (from 2-4 years)

Location: Music Room

Scramblers: Reception age

Location: The Loft Room

Climbers: school years 1 & 2

Location: The Upper Room

Xcel: school years 3 & 4

Location: The North Room

Xtreme: school years 5 & 6

Location: The Rose Room

One Way: school years 7-9

Location: The Vestry

We welcome all children and youth. Joining a group is simple, but we understand new groups can sometimes be intimidating! Why not speak to one of our welcomers before the service who will point you in the direction of Dan, Natalie or one of our co-ordinators. Alternatively, you can get in touch with Dan (children) Natalie (youth) who will be happy to give you all the information you need. Contact Dan by email **Daniel.watts11@icloud.com** or Natalie by email **youthpastor.stmarks@gmail.com**.



All those involved with our children and youth are DBS checked and required to comply with our church policies and procedures, a copy of which can be obtained from Dan Watts.

Prayer & Care

Prayer changes everything. Within our church alone, we have seen so many prayers answered and so much thanks given.

We believe prayer is a vital part of our daily life.

We strongly encourage you to try it.

Whole church prayer meetings

Every other month, on the second Wednesday at 10am and 7.30pm, we gather together for an hour of prayer, spending quiet time talking to God and singing great songs of thanks. We encourage everyone to come. Join us to pray silently or out loud. A crèche will be provided at the 10am gathering.

Early birds weekly prayer

Every Tuesday from 7am we meet to pray in the narthex/foyer. Drop in and pray for all or part of the hour. A light breakfast will be provided. It's a great way to start your day.

Daily prayer

Every weekday morning, we devote 30 minutes to prayer. From 9am, we meet in the Emmaus Chapel for a simple service of praise, Bible reading and prayer. Everyone is welcome.

St Mark's Mission Prayer Group

On the second Sunday of the month at 10.30am, a group meets in the crèche to pray for the charities and groups which St Mark's support around the world and locally through our congregations' donations.

Prayer Team

We have a prayer team dedicated to pray for you or with you.

Our prayer team are ready and eager to pray for you or your family anytime. Perhaps you need quiet individual prayer, confidential prayer, healing prayer or our whole church family holding your prayer up to Christ? Whatever the circumstances, please contact our prayer team by email prayer@smch.org.uk

Pastoral Care

We have a wonderful and thoughtful pastoral care team who seek restoration for the whole person through Christ. They aim to ensure no one is uncared for.

Pastoral care comes in many different ways and often depends on the individual circumstance. It can involve listening, comforting, encouraging, providing hospitality, befriending, visiting, celebrating, providing practical help and praying.

Pastoral care can be for anyone of any age. From lifts to home communion, providing meals to the sick or just listening, there are so many ways we can help and care. For more information contact Alison Glover (Pastoral Director) on stmarkspastoral@gmail.com



Meet some of the team

Below are a list of key contacts. Our team is much bigger than could ever fit on paper.

We have teams of volunteers and helpers that we hope you'll get to know and even join, in time. Here are some key contacts to get you started:



guydonegancross@yahoo.co.uk
01423 504160



Daniel.watts11@icloud.com
01423 544674



youthpastor.stmarks@gmail.com
07710 808832



stmarkskingdomlife@gmail.com
01423 544528



stmarkspastoral@gmail.com
01423 507054



prayer@smch.org.uk



stmarksprayercoordinator@gmail.com
01423 507054



opsmanager@smch.org.uk
01423 544528



office@smch.org.uk
01423 544528



communicate@smch.org.uk
01423 544528

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



Our church office is open every weekday 9am-1pm
except Tuesday when the office is closed.

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

www.smch.org.uk   