

PINNACLES

MAY 2025



2025 Rector's Church Warden Mrs Valerie Hamilton and People's Church Warden Mr Jonny Howe are pictured receiving their wands from outgoing Church Wardens Mr Ivan Hamilton & Mr Gregory McCarten.

Alive AND Active

2025

Thursday 5th June

The Mall & Observatory 7pm

meeting at Mall gates of St Mark's

Followed by tea, coffee & treats in a local coffee
shop

Thursday 12th June

Loughgall Park

Bring your own flask for tea/coffee.

Treats will be provided

Thursday 19th June

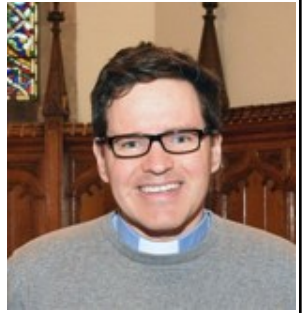
Palace Demesne walk 7pm

Meeting at Palace main car park
followed by ice cream

Everyone Welcome!

For more information please contact Sarah

Rector's Letter.....



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I am sitting in the back garden of The Rectory with the morning sun peeping over next door's roof, blue skies above, noises emanating from distant construction machinery, a neighbour's lawn being mowed and the birds chirping from nearby trees. At times like this it just feels like everything is as it should be! Right now is a setting of peaceful refuge.

However, as we all know, such moments are temporary and we have to reenter the real world! Reality often involves problems to be solved, as well telephone calls, or an electronic messages that can change everything. Peace is what we often need but can struggle to find.

In the resurrection appearances of Jesus in John 20, the Lord greeted his followers with the words 'Peace be with you'. Understandably the disciples felt far from at peace at this point. They had received the perplexing news that the Lord had risen from the dead and they were hiding behind locked doors in fear of those who sent their Lord to his cross. However as Bruce Milne in his commentary on John's Gospel stated, Jesus *"... stills their inevitable anxiety and confusion with the familiar word of greeting, 'Shalom', 'Peace be with you!'"* 'Shalom' is a considerably richer notion than a mere absence of stress. In the Old Testament context it basically means well being in the fullest sense. Shalom is *'... life at its best under the gracious hand of God. (*)*.

Stress inducing situations will come our way. However, the peace giving message of Easter assures us of something deeper and impacting on the realities of life. The risen Jesus gives us reason for hope and incredible assurances to hold on to amidst all that life involves. Through Jesus we experience the grace of God, who is the giver of peace. It is therefore fitting that in Paul's epistles we find greetings that combine these two beautiful words of 'grace' and 'peace'. Easter assures us of the grace of God today and the eternal peace that comes through relationship with him. As his children, we are assured of the gracious presence of God in the Holy Spirit to guide us, enable us and grant us peace.

Continued overleaf...

In anticipation of what was to come, Jesus told his disciples; "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*" (Jn 14v27). Mindful of the grace of God, and through trust in him, may we know and receive a growing measure of his peace.

Yours in Christ, *Malcolm*

* Bruce Milne (2000) 'The Message of John' Inter-Varsity Press

LADIES WALKING GROUP

We continue to meet each Thursday morning at 10.00am outside of the Crozier Hall to undertake local walks around Armagh, finishing with a visit to a local coffee shop. Occasionally trips to other locations are organised. Walks are suitable for all abilities and new members are very welcome.

1ST TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Our monthly Holy Communion Service will take place on Tuesday 6th May at 11.30am in the Church. Following the service, it is our intention to go to the Charlemont Hotel for a light lunch. Everyone is welcome to join us.



UNITED SERVICE

A United Service with our friends from 1st Armagh Presbyterian, The Mall Presbyterian and Armagh Methodist Churches is planned for 18th May (7pm) in St Mark's. On this occasion we look forward to Rev'd Thomas Moore preaching. Thomas has recently come to serve in 1st Armagh and Tassagh Presbyterian churches and we are very pleased to be able to welcome him to St Mark's. Please do come along to join us in this very special act of worship together.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesday evening services have resumed and take place in St Mark's at 7.30pm. This service involves a short Bible Study and everyone is invited to join us on any occasion. The midweek services will take place each Wednesday apart from Wednesday 21st May and shall conclude on Wednesday 11th June. Our theme for this term is that of the prophet Elijah.

COFFEE ROTA

The Coffee rota for 2025 can be found on the noticeboard in the Church Porch.

Volunteers are always appreciated to serve tea/coffee in the Crozier Hall after our monthly family services. For any help you can offer, we would be very grateful.



BOWLING CLUB

Our bowling season concluded with a disappointing loss to Tullyallen/Mountnorris Presbyterian Church. However, throughout the season we have enjoyed some good games and enjoyed the fellowship & craic together. We would like to express our congratulations to our member Jonny Howe who has been appointed Rector's Church Warden for the incoming year. The club members are all very pleased for him!



Wishing all our members a safe and happy summer and we look forward to meeting up again on 17th September with hopefully some new members!

**Pictured above are club members on the final night of the season*

Anne

FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

Our May meeting took place on Thursday 1st May when our speaker was a Representative from the Fire and Rescue Brigade which we all found very interesting and informative. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 5th June and we will meet as usual in the Venue at 2.30pm. As always new members are very welcome.

Ann

FOOTBALL

Our Monday night football sessions continue. All over 18s are welcome to join our WhatsApp group from which members can receive updates and indicate availability to play. To be added, please contact the Parish Office (37523197 / sec.stmarks@gmail.com).

CHI MI/PILATES

Our Chi Mi & Pilates group continue to meet each Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Crozier Hall. This low impact and low intensity class can help to improve mental wellbeing whilst improving strength, flexibility, joints, balance and co-ordination.

Other potential health benefits may include improved heart function and normalised blood pressure. If you are interested and would like to hear more about it, please speak to Arnold Courtney or contact the Church Office.



MEN'S GROUP

All men from our Parish and their friends are invited to join us on Thursday 22nd May for a Go Karting Mini Grand Prix (6.45pm) at Gosford Karting!! The cost for this event is £30pp and drivers should be at least 16 years of age. It promises to be a great night of fun. There is a WhatsApp group for our Men's Group. If you would like to be added, please contact the Parish Office (37523197 / sec.stmarks@gmail.com). If you would like to participate in the Go Karting night, please let us know via the WhatsApp Group, or via the Parish Office.

On 19th June we plan to go fishing near Dungannon. Further details will follow, but if this would be of interest, please add it to your calendars! Everyone is welcome to join us at any time.

The Well

• Cafe Church •

Sunday 11th May
7pm

The Venue | The Crozier Hall

*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks
the water I give them will never thirst
John 4:13-14*

www.stmarksarmagh.org

SUMMER MADNESS

27TH JUNE - 1ST JULY
@ PORTGLENONE



for more info :

www.stmarksarmagh.org

~ Congratulations ~

On Saturday 5th April, the Crozier Hall hosted a gathering of family and friends of Alison & Arnold Courtney for a surprise gathering to celebrate their Golden (50th) Wedding Anniversary. Alison & Arnold are long time active members of St Mark's with Alison serving as a Sunday School teacher for many years and likewise, Arnold as our Parish Treasurer. Organised by their family, a lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all. On behalf of St Mark's we extend our warmest congratulations to Alison & Arnold!



EXAM PRAYER FLIP CHART, YF, NEWCASTLE TRIP & SUMMER MADNESS

The Exam Prayer Flip Chart has returned to the front of church! If young people would like to add their names on the relevant days when they are having exams, they are more than welcome to do so. If family members would like to add names of young people from elsewhere to the list please also, feel free to do so. On the morning of their respective exams, young people listed on the Flip Chart will be prayed for. We hope that all young people from our Parish and beyond will be able to study well and offer their very best as they undertake their examinations.

Youth Fellowship will conclude for this term on Sunday 4th May (5pm). If you read this in time, please feel free to encourage young people of secondary school age along! Last year, to celebrate the end of school exams and the approaching summer holidays, we enjoyed a really enjoyable evening in Newcastle beginning with games on Murlough Beach, chips / pizza for tea and then the dodgems! A return trip is planned for Tuesday 24th June (from 4pm) and all young people from our Parish, and their friends, are very welcome. More details will be found in the June edition of Pinnacles and in Pew News.

Summer Madness is happening soon! This is always a brilliant event and will take place from Friday 27th June until Tuesday 1st July in Portglenone. All young people from our Parish, as well as their friends, who are currently of secondary school age are encouraged to book in. Further details about Summer Madness are available via our Parish Website. Ticket prices are currently £107.50, but will increase by £10 after 1st June. A short parents' information evening will take place Monday 19th May (7pm) in The Venue. In the meantime, for any further details please feel free to speak to Christine Rountree, Ellie Dickson, Michael Dickson, Hannah McKee, Rachel McKee, Claire Kingston or Malcolm Kingston.



Curate's Corner....

Dear Friends,

The eggs have been eaten, children are back to school, parents back to work and we may come to the conclusion that Easter is over. Yet we do not live by resurrection power only on one day of the year. We are encouraged to go forward with boldness and the power of the resurrection every single day of our lives.



It is so easy to fall into the mundane routine of life and to forget all of the benefits of what the Lord has done for us. As Christians we have spent the past few weeks in eager anticipation of Easter. We prepared our hearts, we reflected on the cross and its significance, we felt the long, heavy pause between Good Friday and Easter Sunday – waiting for the discovery of an empty grave and a risen Saviour. And then it comes. He comes. And then it's Monday. The temptation is to treat Easter like it is an ending, we have eaten all the chocolate, we've attended services in Church, Jesus has risen, we are no longer abstaining from things like social media, sugary foods and the likes for lent and so we fall into the trap of thinking 'life can go back to normal'.

But nothing was normal after Jesus, in fact nothing was ever the same again. When a man who claims to be God rises from the dead, "business as usual" isn't a thing. When reflecting on Holy Week author Patreeya Thron said *"Easter isn't just a time to pause and reflect on some nice truths we tend to forget about the rest of the year. It is the entire crux of our faith. It is the only reason we have to hope."*

Easter Sunday is unlike any other Sunday. We come into the Monday as a changed people. Not because we feel shiny and new and different. Not because of what we have accomplished. But because of what was done on our behalf. Because Jesus's resurrection has given us a new identity. Our identity is not in the choices we make or what we accomplish in this life but rather Christ's resurrection.

So let us give Easter the place that it deserves in our lives, not the one day a year but to a moment we celebrate over and over again in the days, weeks and months that follow. As we gather for services from now until Pentecost and as the leader of the service says "Christ is Risen" and we reply with "He is Risen indeed" may we respond with gusto believing that this call to worship is not just for Easter Day but for everyday of the year. Christ has risen! The grave is empty. Everything is changed. How does the resurrection change the way you see your life today?

Every Blessing.

Sarah

EASTER VESTRY UPDATE

On Tuesday 8th April, our annual Easter or General Vestry Meeting took place. During the event, reports were delivered by the Rector, Curate and Treasurer. Sincere appreciation was extended to all who have served in the ministry of our Parish during the year past including outgoing Church Wardens, Mr Ivan Hamilton and Mr Gregory McCarten. The Rector's Report is available to read on our Parish Website.

Whilst there has been much to be encouraged by due to the level of activity in our Parish during the year past, concerns continue regarding our significant financial deficit. As you will see from our Parish's 2024 Financial Report, despite substantial fund raising events, we are still unable to meet our ongoing costs. With this in mind, if it is possible for you to give, or further contribute, to the ministry of our Parish, it would be incredibly appreciated. Details for Standing Orders, Gift Aid Forms and Free Will Offering Envelopes are all available from the Parish Office. Occasional donations can also be received via our Parish Website. The Select Vestry continue to seek ways of reducing costs, but as we do so, we sincerely wish not to reduce the capacity of what we offer as a Parish to our community and beyond.

With regards the elections of Office Bearers and Select Vestry Members the following were appointed :-

Rector's Church Warden : Mrs Valerie Hamilton

People's Church Warden : Mr Jonny Howe

Rector's Glebe Warden : Mr Don McKee

People's Church Warden : Mr Don Maclean

Select Vestry Members : Mr Ian Millar (Hon. Sec), Mr Arnold Courtney (Hon. Treas.), Mrs Florence Magwood, Mrs Heather Chambers, Mrs Linda Pierson, Mrs Lynda Adamson, Mr Gareth Liggett, Mr Michael Dickson, Dr Bob Brown, Mr John McCann, Mr Graham Lavery & Mr Mark Speers.



Opportunities in our Parish for faith encouragement and for friendship

Worship

Worshipping and serving God together is the essence of being in Church. Please know a very warm invitation to join us at any time. Sunday worship takes place in St Mark's at 8.30am, 10.30am and 7pm. What types of services are happening and when they are available can be found on page 17. Weekly midweek services are offered on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm (please see Bible Fellowship below). On the second Sunday of each month an informal Cafe Church Service entitled 'The Well' takes place in the Crozier Hall. We also have a monthly Holy Communion Service on the first Tuesday of each month in St Mark's at 11.30am. This service is followed by a light lunch. We would love for you to join us in worship on any occasion!

Creche

On Sundays when Sunday School meets, during 10.30am Services, a Creche facility is offered in the Beresford Room of the Crozier Hall. All children of preschool age are invited to come along and enjoy the fun!



Sunday School

During the school term we meet during the 10.30am Services and we have lots of fun learning about God and his love for us! Children in School Year 1 to 10 are invited to join us at any time. A programme for when Sunday School meets is available from our website.



GLOW

Our Parish Youth Club meets fortnightly on Fridays (7.30pm) in The Crozier Hall. Intended for young people of School Year 6 and above, we have a range of regular and special activities and trips.

YF3

Youth Fellowship meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 5pm - 6.30pm. It is intended for young people of secondary school age and as well as learning from the Bible, we enjoy crazy games and some time just to chat together.

Home Group

This is an informal gathering of people who meet in a house every three weeks on Thursday evenings (7.30pm) to think about a Biblical passage and talk about it together. Sweet treats and a time to chat also feature!

Bible Fellowship

Bible Fellowship will take place in the context of our mid week services on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Church. We have group discussion and everyone is always welcome to join us.



Prayer Ministry Partnership

The Prayer Ministry Partnership is a prayer group within our parish who pray for those who would appreciate prayerful support for healing or for any need. A monthly prayer list (Christian names only) is compiled and circulated to those who have committed to be involved in this ministry of prayer. If you would like to join this group please feel free to get in touch. If you would like your name added to the prayer list, please feel free to contact us, or use the response form on our Parish Website (Page entitled Prayer and worship).

Parish Choir

Our 10.30am Services, as well as occasional evening services, are greatly enriched by the contribution of our Parish Choir. People of all ages and who enjoy singing are warmly invited to come along and be part of this very important ministry of leading the sung worship of Almighty God. Our choir are a very friendly group and will offer much assistance as new members get settled in. Choir practices generally take place in the approach to important festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.



Alive

Alive is a group for ladies of all ages! Meeting monthly on Thursday evenings (7.30pm). Alive features either a focus on a Biblical person or involve an activity. There is also plenty of time for refreshments and a catch up!

Marksman

Each Wednesday morning (10.30am) a group of men gather to chat about anything and everything! With tea, coffee and scones, this always a very enjoyable time of friendship together. Occasional speakers and trips are organised.



1st Thursday Club

Meeting on the 1st Thursday each month (2.30pm) this group of ladies enjoy topical speakers, activities and occasional trips. Each meeting offers something of great interest and provides an opportunity to catch up with friends of old and create friendships that are new.

Ladies Walking Group

Meeting outside of the Crozier Hall on Thursdays at 10am, a group of ladies undertake local walks and conclude with a treat in a local coffee shop. Occasional trips to other locations also feature.

Drive Through Drop Off

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, the opportunity to drop off groceries for our local Food Bank is available from the front of the Crozier Hall. From 10am-12noon please feel free to drop off and have a chat!



Please know a very warm invitation to our services and activities. To find out more about any of the above, or any opportunity within our Parish and beyond, please feel free to contact Malcolm (37522970) or Caroline (37523197).

Further information, including weekly Pew News Sheets, is available from our Parish website. (www.stmarksarmagh.org)

HOME GROUP – TUESDAY 6TH MAY 7:30PM

Have you ever wanted to share the hope you have found in Jesus with a friend, but held back for fear you don't know enough?

You don't need a theology degree in order to be able to share your faith with other people. God loves it when we partner with Him to share His good news. He longs to work through us. If you've ever wondered what might you say to a family member, friend, colleague, neighbour, children or even spouse about Jesus then come along to this one off Home Group session as we discover how we can effectively communicate the love of Jesus to others.

For questions, queries, conundrums, or just simply more information please speak to Sarah.

St Mark's Armagh



For more information
please contact Sarah

Tuesday 6th May
7:30pm

Join us in a local home as we learn how we can share our faith with others. we'll be looking at how we communicate clearly the love of Jesus to our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues

Everyone welcome

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17TH MAY
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CROZIER HALL



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**HOLIDAY
BIBLE
CLUB**



Mon 11th - Fri 15th August (10am-12noon)
St Mark's Crozier Hall, Armagh
Consent Forms available from www.stmarksarmagh.org
All PIs - P7s welcome!



St Mark's Armagh

'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom'



Parish Office :

The Gate Lodge
44 Victoria Street
Armagh
BT61 9DT

Parish Administrator :

Mrs Caroline Nesbitt
Tel: 02837 523197
Email : sec.stmarks@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarksarmagh.org
Registered Charity : NIC103959

Sexton :

Mr David Mansbridge
(Tel : 07873167120)

Contact Details

Rector : Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston

St Mark's Rectory, 14 Portadown Road
Tel : 02837 522970

Curate : Rev'd Sarah Parkinson

6 Ashley Avenue, Armagh
Tel : 07974252013

Hon. Senior Associate Priest :

Very Revd Robert Townley

Parish Nurse : Dr Bob Brown 07514129195

Parish Visitor : Mrs Maureen Watt

Rector's Churchwarden : Mrs Valerie Hamilton

People's Churchwarden : Mr Jonny Howe

Church Office Opening Hours



**Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday 9-1pm**

Outside of these times, a
message can be left on the
answerphone (37 523197) or
alternatively an email may be sent to :
sec.stmarks@gmail.com

May Flower Rota

4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
May :
The Davidson Family
FONT : Mr Ted Ward



CHURCH RECORDS

Holy Matrimony

Jodie Riddle & Ben McElveen
(25th April)



Service of thanksgiving for the life of :

Anna (Ann) May Somerville
(21st April)

Hazel Acheson
(26th April)

On Thursday 10th April, the Crozier Hall was filled to capacity for a wonderful evening of music, dance, drama and fun and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended! Organised by the young people travelling on overseas trips this year, they were delighted with the support they received on the evening.



May Service Rota

4TH : THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Holy Communion

Reader : Wendy Geary

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

11TH : THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Morning Prayer

Reader : Mervyn Adamson

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

7.00pm : The Well

18TH : THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Family Service

7.00pm : United Service (St Mark's)

25TH : THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am : Holy Communion 2

10.30am : Morning Prayer

Reader : Linda Pierson

7.00pm : Holy Communion

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His GRACE
is enough

Is God calling you to Reader Ministry?

God has given a variety of gifts to his people, for works of service and ministry. He may have given you the gifts for ministry as a Parish Reader or Diocesan Reader. Perhaps you've felt God prompting you towards a new scope of service in his Church. Could it be that God is calling you to Reader Ministry?

Parish Readers serve by leading God's people in worship: by leading the service, or reading the Bible readings, leading the prayers, or assisting at Holy Communion - in their own parish. Diocesan Readers lead God's people in worship in the same way as Parish Readers, and are also authorised to preach - across the diocese by invitation.

Applications are currently open for the next training courses for both Parish Readers and Diocesan Readers: Parish Reader applications will close on Friday 30th May for selection interviews in June with the course beginning in September. Diocesan Reader applications will close on Friday 29th August for selection interviews in September, with the course starting in January 2026 in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

If you would like to explore the possibility of ministry as a Parish Reader or Diocesan Reader, or for more information, please speak to the Rector.

CAFE HOPE



Wednesdays from 3pm - 7pm
in The Venue, Crozier Hall
(with well being walk at 6.30pm)

**A place just to drop in for a
chat and for fellowship.**

Everyone welcome!

for more details, please contact
Bob Brown (Parish Nurse) : 07514129195

CRECHE

Creche is available each Sunday except for Family Services.

All children of preschool age are very welcome! Creche meets in the Beresford Room of the Crozier Hall from 10.15am. For further details about Creche contact Claire (37522970).



Pinnacles notes for June are due in the Church Office no later than

Friday 23rd May.

Thank You!

Gary Dickson FCCA DipPFS

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CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE

Sunday 1st June 2025 : 10.30am



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