

PINNACLES April 2025



PALM SUNDAY HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST



MAUNDY THURSDAY DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED



St Mark's, Armagh HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday (13th April) 8.30am, 10.30am & 7pm

Monday - Wednesday 8am & 8pm

Maundy Thursday 8am & 7pm

Good Friday 8am, 12noon – 3pm & 8pm

Easter Sunday (20th April) 8.30am, 10.30am & 7pm

for more info. : www.stmarksarmagh.org

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 SUMMER MADNESS 27TH JUNE - 1ST JULY @ PORTGLENONE for more info : www.stmarksarmagh.org

Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

I wonder if there are any jobs that you know need doing, but you just keep putting them off? I can procrastinate as much as anyone. can justify not doing what I should by saying



Ι

that I don't have time right now. However, in truth, the reason for my delays are to do with a lack of priority and motivation. For instance, a major tidy up of my study is something that will always be done 'some day'!

Sometimes in life there are things that have to be done and the challenges involved present much greater reasons to delay than disinterest or inconvenience. Perhaps fear holds us back. Or maybe there is a sense of letting go of something that is really precious to us. There can be a number of reasons why certain actions, that we know are necessary, can be too much for us to undertake, at least right now.

In the approach to Good Friday I am always moved by the immense tension within the Lord Jesus that is revealed in his prayer at Gethsemene. Jesus clearly knew what he was going to have to go through during the hours ahead. The intensity of his anguish was emphasised by Luke recording that he sweat what appeared like drops of blood (22v44). The cup of suffering that was Jesus' would be beyond what we can imagine. However, we can be deeply inspired by the prayerful request of greatest importance to the Lord, that the will of his Father would be fulfilled.

Sometimes in life, we have to 'press on'. The end result can give reason for the process, as uncomfortable as it may be. In accordance with the will of God, Jesus had to go through what he endured in the hours that followed. That Jesus followed through and was able to proclaim '*It is finished*' (Jn 19v30), expressed his completing of what he was given to do. His obedience had meant that God's purpose was accomplished. Because of Jesus' sacrificial death, the price for sin had been paid. The intention of what happened during Holy Week and Easter continues to be that we might know restoration of relationship and the opportunity of being a child of God.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, may we be filled with thankfulness for the Lord Jesus who prayed and fulfilled the prayer of ultimate obedience "... yet not my will, but yours be done."

Yours in Christ, Malcolm



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 <u>Tuesday</u> <u>1st April</u> 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.

YF

Due to dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Youth Fellowship will not be meeting during April, but will return on Sunday 5th May. The Exam Prayer Flip Chart will also appear in the church for May and June so that young people who add their names to the Flip Chart Timetable will be prayed for on the morning of their exams.

SUMMER MADNESS plans are beginning to take shape! 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 begin at £97.50, but increase in price after April 1st, and again after 1st June.

A short parents information evening will take a 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.

MEN'S GROUP

Our March meeting of the Men's Group took place in 'On the Hoof' in Richhill during which we enjoyed a lovely meal and 'a wee thought' to take home with us! Due to Easter, we won't be meeting during April, however in May and June we plan to race Go Karts and go fishing! More details shall be available in the May edition of Pinnacles and on Pew News sheets towards the end of April onwards.



GLOW

Our Youth Club (GLOW) are looking forward to an exciting trip to Airtastic on Friday 4th April. This shall be the last time we shall meet until September, so we are most definitely ending on a high! Thank to the team of leaders and helpers who so willingly give of their time to ensure our young people have fun at GLOW!





BOWLING CLUB

The results of recent matches played are : Redrock Presbyterian Church - Lost Corkley Cross Community Group - Win Aghavilly Church Of Ireland - Lost



Despite losing 2 games, everyone was on form and the craic was good! Our bowling season is coming to an end with just one game left to play and we are hopeful of a win.

Anne

FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

Our next meeting shall take place on the Thursday 3rd April.

At our meeting we have a Representative from the ABC Borough Council coming to talk to us about "Recycling" and how important it is in this day and age. We meet as usual in the Venue at the Crozier Hall at 2.30pm and new members are always 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).

GENERAL OR EASTER VESTRY

Our Parish's General or Easter Vestry meeting will take place in The Venue, Crozier Hall on Tuesday 8th April (7.30pm). At this annual meeting, those present will hear reports delivered by the Treasurer, Curate Assistant and



the Rector. Incoming Church Wardens will then be appointed, as will Glebe Wardens, and Select Vestry members. This is an important meeting in the life of our Parish to which everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

HOME VISITS AND HOLY COMMUNION

In the approach to Holy Week, Sarah and Malcolm will be visiting homes of Parishioners who may be unable to attend church due to health reasons. If you, or someone that you know would like to be added to our usual visiting list for before Christmas and Easter, please do feel free to get in touch via The Rectory (37522970).

Holy Communion will also be available in homes of people unable to attend services. Again, if you or someone you know, would value Holy Communion at home, please do feel free to let us know.

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

During Lent, Holy Week and Easter we have a range of additional services to which everyone will be most welcome to join us for.

On Wednesday evenings (2nd and 9th April) our 7.30pm Lent Services will continue to feature short sermons focusing on the themes of the Minor Prophets. Please do feel free to join us at any time.



On Palm Sunday morning (13th April) a special service will take place at 10.30am, followed by an evening service featuring hymns, anthems sung by the Parish Choir, and readings which are appropriate for the week ahead.



During Holy Week from Monday 14th, 8am Services will take place in St Mark's. These will be very short devotional services especially intended for those going to work at 9am. Holy Week Evening Services will take place from Monday to Friday at 8pm, except for on Maundy Thursday.

The evening service on Maundy Thursday (17th) will take place at 7pm and include a meal and Holy Communion. This annual service will feature the Archbishop of Armagh and sign up sheets for catering purposes will be available in the Church porch.

The Good Friday, '3 Hours Service' will take place from 12noon to 3pm. Conducting this Service will be The Rector. This is always a very moving service as we focus upon the final hours of the Lord's life on the cross. Please feel free attend at any stage, and for as long as you are able.

Easter Sunday Services begin at The Argory with the Diocesan Dawn Service at 6.30am. This is always a very joyful service and will feature the St Mark's Portadown Worship Band, and the Archbishop of Armagh. If attending this service, please dress for outdoor weather! After The Dawn Service breakfast will be served in The Crozier Hall to which everyone is invited. Any donations received will contribute to Summer Madness costs.



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.





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

St Mark's, Armagh Maundy Thursday Service and Meal

> 17th April, 7pm in The Crozier Hall Everyone Welcome

To assist with catering, please see sign up sheets in church porch or contact The Parish Office (37523197) by Monday 15th April, 10am

GOOD FRIDAY 3 HOURS SERVICE

'By his wounds you have been healed' with Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston 12noon - 3pm in St Mark's, Armagh



HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or a member of your family or a friend from our Parish are in hospital, please do let Malcolm or Sarah know at your earliest convenience.

We are always very glad to visit and pray with our parishioners in hospital and value the phone calls to let us know.

BARBARA'S BOOKS

Barbara Wilson was wonderfully talented when it came to putting pen to paper. Barbara's family have left a selection of her books in the Church Office which can received on a donation basis.

All donations will be forwarded to the Southern Area Hospice by Barbara's family in her memory.

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 - THANK YOU!



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 19. 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

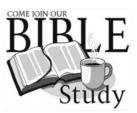
Youth Fellowship meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 5pm - 6.30pm. It is intended for young people of secondary school age and as well as learning from the Bible, we enjoy crazy games and some time just to chat together.

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!

Marksmen

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 our 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. (<u>www.stmarksarmagh.org</u>)







Curate's Corner

Dear Friends,

I heard this funny story of a lonely man who decided that life would be more fun if he had a pet. So, he went to the pet shop and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he decided a centipede would be the right pet for him. He brought his centipede who he'd named Colin home in a little white box to use as its house. He found

a good location for the box, and then decided he would start off by taking his new pet to a restaurant to have dinner. So, he asked the centipede in the box, would you like to go out with me to have dinner? But there was no answer. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, how about going out for a meal with me? But again, there was no answer from his new friend. So, he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time; this time putting his face against the centipede's house and shouting, Hey, in there! Would you like to go with me to have dinner? A little voice came out of the box from the centipede: Patience man! I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!

Patience is something that many of us have trouble with (me included!). From driving down Drumadd Terrace and coming to a long line of traffic, and knowing you're going to be late, to arriving at a long queue at the check-out. We become annoyed and irritated at little delays like this. We get worked up and can become very impatient.

Someone once defined patience as: the ability "to let your light shine after your fuse has blown". As the old saying goes "Patience is a virtue". It's a quality we may admire in others. Patience is difficult because our pride, selfishness, and anger stand between us and patience. Many of us would have to admit that we find it difficult to be patient (I certainly do!).

But Scripture stresses that it is important to be patient. But why are we commanded to be a patient people? Because God is patient with us and because of this we are called to be patient with others, but it's easier said than done right?

What patience teaches us most of all is that God is still at work. He hasn't finished yet. He is working in our world and he's working in our lives. Sometimes that's tough to see. Sometimes it's tough to believe. We've waited and waited and hoped and prayed, and things are still the same. The new job hasn't come through; our loved one hasn't become well; the situation is still the same. But patience teaches us that God is still at work, and as hard as that may sometimes be to learn, that's the most important lesson of all.

The story is told about the great 19th century New England preacher Phillips Brooks, (Who wrote "O Little Town or Bethlehem") He was normally very calm but this day, he was irritated, and when a close friend asked about it, Brooks said, "Well, I'll tell you. I'm in a hurry; but God isn't." Peter tells us in the New Testament that a 1,000 years are like a day for God. But sometimes, we want God to act and to act right now.



Continued overleaf

Patience teaches us to wait, to remember that God is still in charge. As we mature in our Christian faith, as we learn to trust more and more that God really is in charge of this world and our lives, then patience is the fruit that grows as a natural result of our relationship with God. Remember, patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 says, "God's Spirit makes us... patient". It's a fruit that God will grow. And he grows that fruit as we grow in him. As we learn to trust him and as we learn to rely upon him.

I think the most important step we can take to develop patience is to *give God* control of our life. "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry," says Psalm 40:1. Think of it this way, every time you and I lose our patience we're saying in effect, *I'm in control and God's not!* We're taking God out of the driver's seat and putting ourselves in it.

So let's challenge ourselves (me included) to be a patient people trusting the one who is in complete control.

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or more inform

ation

ease

contact Sarah or Malcoln

Every blessing, Sarah

St Mark's Armagh

Friday 11th April & Thursday 8th May 7:30pm

Join us in a local home as we gather together to connect, share in God's word and grow in our relationship with Jesus

Everyone Welcome!



On Saturday 8th March, a very successful **BIG BREAKFAST** was held in the Crozier Hall. The craic was good and the food was even better!

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us and to all those who worked hard behind the scenes.



VARIETY CONCERT

The Crozier Hall is the place to be on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm, where you will be thoroughly entertained by a host of acts during our Variety Concert!

As you may already know, some young people from our Church are travelling overseas to serve on teams in Romania & India later this year, Katie Megarity, Adam Donnelly, Laura Rountree, Katie Dickson and Thomas Stewart, along with the Rector, will travel to Romania in August while Alfie Abbott and Isaac Kingston will travel to India in October. Each team has to raise significant funds to enable their travels. The young people have been instrumental in organising this concert which we know you will all enjoy!

Some acts taking part include : Killeen Pipers, Farmer John, Highland Dancers, RSA music and dance groups, St Mark's Church Choir & more! Tickets are priced at £10 for Adults and £5 for children (under 12's) and can be obtained from any of those named above or from the Church Office.

Gary Dickson FCCA DipPFS

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Safeguarding Trust Mrs Shirley Wells 37 515123 Mrs Avril Irwin 07908698761 Rev'd Malcolm Kingston 37 522970 For any Safeguarding concerns or enquiries, please feel free to contact us

ST MARK'S ARMAGH SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING 10:30AM SERVICE

P1-YEAR 10

For more information see stmarksarmagh.org

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Name :	
Address :	
Tel Number :	
Email Address :	
\Rightarrow I would like to be added to the Parish Membership List:	
⇒ I would like to receive a visit from a member of the Parish Clergy /Pastoral Visiting Team :	
\Rightarrow I would to receive Parish Information via occasional email :	
\Rightarrow I would like to receive Parish Giving Envelopes :	
\Rightarrow I would like to receive a Gift Aid Declaration Form :	
At present we only hold the Names and Addresses of Parishioners. Consent is requir Parish to store your telephone number and email address. Please complete above if y	

be willing for us to hold this information.

St Mark's Armagh 'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom' Parish Office : Parish Administrator : Sexton : The Gate Lodge Mrs Caroline Nesbitt Mr David Mansbridge 44 Victoria Street Tel: 02837 523197 (Tel: 07873167120) Armagh Email : sec.stmarks@gmail.com BT61 9DT Website: www.stmarksarmagh.org Registered Charity: NIC103959 Contact Details **Church Office** OPEN Rector : Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston **Opening Hours** CLOSED St Mark's Rectory, 14 Portadown Road Tel: 02837 522970 Monday, Tuesday, Curate : Rev'd Sarah Parkinson Thursday & Friday 9-1pm 6 Ashley Avenue, Armagh Tel: 07974252013 Outside of these times, a message can be left on the Hon. Senior Associate Priest : answerphone (37 523197) or Very Revd Robert Townley alternatively an email may be sent to : Parish Nurse : Dr Bob Brown 07514129195 sec.stmarks@gmail.com Parish Visitor : Mrs Maureen Watt **Rector's Churchwarden :** April Flower Rota Mr Ivan Hamilton People's Churchwarden : Mr Gregory McCarten 6th April : No flowers in Lent 13th April (Palm Sunday) : Palms **CHURCH RECORDS** 20th & 27th April : Kathryn & Caroline Service of thanksgiving for the life of : FONT : Vacant The flower rotas for 2025 are on display in the Church Porch. Marion Elizabeth Beatty (7th March) If you might like to contribute Muriel Winifred Neville (8th March) a floral arrangement (over 2 Matthew Andre Dawson Beatty weeks), please sign the rota or speak to David who will gladly (19th March) offer any further information. Thank you to all who offer floral

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4)

ted" arrangements to enhance the beauty of

our Church!

April Service Rota

6TH : THE 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

8.30am : Holy Communion10.30am : Holy CommunionReader : Wendy Davison7.00pm : Evening Prayer7.00pm : The Well

13TH : THE 6TH SUNDAY IN LENT (PALM SUNDAY)

8.30am : Holy Communion10.30am : Palm Sunday ServiceReader : Uel Megarity7.00pm : Hymns & Readings for the Passion

20TH : EASTER DAY (THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER)

8.30am : Holy Communion

- 10.30am : Easter Sunday Family Service
- 7.00pm : Hymns & Readings for Easter

27TH : THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 8.30am : Holy Communion 2 10.30am : Morning Prayer Reader : Tom Galbraith
- 7.00pm : Holy Communion (St. Mark)

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.





A time to gather together with Tea, Coffee & treats to chat about anything & everything

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 May are due in the Church Office no later than **Friday 25th April** Thank You!



Everyone

Welome





Tel: Nigel: 07771 654 538

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EQUIPMENT



