



# PINNACLES

## May 2022

# CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE

Sunday 29th May 2022, 10.30am



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## Rector's Letter.....

Dear Friends,

Would you describe yourself as a decisive person? When you are presented with a choice, are you the kind of person who analyses the options quickly or likes to take your time and figure out the best approach.

Being honest, I am probably a bit of a 'ditherer'. I don't tend to move quickly when decisions have to be made. I'd like to think that taking some time helps encourage better responses!

Some of our younger members may have to soon make decisions regarding their educational progression. During this month those of us over the age of 18 years will have to decisions in polling booths. Also this month, some parishioners of St Mark's will be joining me in our role as representatives of our Diocese participating in the Church of Ireland's General Synod, where decisions concerning the Church of Ireland as a whole are made. During last month, this month, and in the months ahead, couples will stand at the front of St Mark's and respond to the question of their desire to be married with the words 'I will'. I am sure that when you think about it, there will be a number of decisions that you will have to make, some of which may have very significant outcomes.

Before Jesus died and rose again we read in John 14 how he promised the arrival of the Holy Spirit. The promise of the Holy Spirit for his followers was of course fulfilled on Pentecost which we will celebrate on June 5th. Before his Ascension (which this year is observed on 26th May), we read in Matthew 28 of his promise to be with his followers always. As followers of Jesus, we can take great comfort in knowing the assurance of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

So, when it comes to decisions, especially big ones, let us remember that we are not alone. The Spirit of God guides us and helps us, to know what is right and in accordance of the will of the God who loves and knows more than we can ever comprehend. May we pray and ask for guidance, reflect upon the Scriptures, seek advice from Christian family or friends, and know peace in the response to decisions that we must make.

Yours in Christ,

*Malcolm*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Church Missionary Society in Ireland

The Sunday School children recently watched videos

from the Church Missionary Society Ireland (CMSI)

Children's Resource 2022 entitled "Kingdom Kids".

It helped explore ideas around the Kingdom of God

and looked at things that characterise God's rule and reign. The children

learnt about children in God's kingdom. The resource introduced

Kingdom Kids in the Bible and across the global Church. The videos

showed how kids in various countries in Africa are learning about God

and spreading the good news about Jesus. We learned how we can

support the kids in these countries through prayer and financial support.

Each child in Sunday School was given a CMSI missionary box. It would

be greatly appreciated if these CMSI missionary boxes could be returned

to Sunday School or the Church Office by **Sunday (22/05/2022)**. Many

thanks for your continued support.



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## CHILDREN'S DAY



Our Children's Day service will take place on **Sunday**

**29th May at 10.30 am**. Prizes will be distributed

during this service and the children will be taking part.

We would be delighted if you could join us for this

special occasion. Sunday School will resume in

September 2022. Wishing all the children and leaders

a lovely summer break.

## HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Summer is fast approaching and so are

the plans for our Holiday Bible Club! This

year our Holiday Bible Club will be running

from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August**.

We'll be running a range of fun filled

activities in the mornings for children of

primary school age.

In order for it to be a success we need a

team of willing volunteers who would be

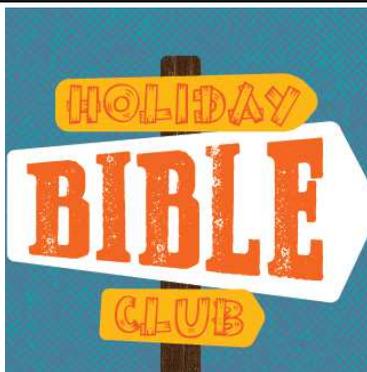
available to help. If you're available for all

or even just some of the days, we'd love to

have you on board. A planning meeting on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm** in

The Crozier Hal. Please feel free to join us for this short meeting as we

plan ahead.



## FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

For our meeting on 5th May we hope to have the singer Crawford Bell to entertain us. It should prove to be a very enjoyable and relaxing afternoon.

We meet as usual in the Crozier Hall at 2.30pm and new members are always welcome. *Ann*



## UNITED SERVICE

The Evening Service on Sunday, May 15th (7pm) will take the form of a United Service in St Mark's along with our friends Armagh Methodist and 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Presbyterian churches. On behalf of Christian Aid, our guest speaker will be Mr Stephen Trew who will especially encourage our consideration of Climate Justice.

Stephen also has a local connection as his wife, Eileen is the Principal of The Drelincourt School. As always, please know a warm invitation to join us for this special service alongside our Methodist and Presbyterian friends.

## CRECHE

Creche is reopening during Sunday 10.30am services from 1st - 22nd May. This is an opportunity for children of preschool age to come along to the Beresford Room of the Crozier Hall and have lots of fun with leaders and other children whilst services place in St Mark's. Creche runs for the full duration of the service and will reopen after the summer in conjunction with Sunday School. For more details, please contact Claire (37522970).



## 1st TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION

On the 1st Tuesday of the month (11.30am) a service of Holy Communion will take place in St Mark's. This service is provided especially for people who find it difficult to attend on Sundays at the normal service times and prefer only to travel during daylight hours. It is hoped that in time this short service will be followed by a light lunch in the hall and that it will continue during summer months. Weekly Wednesday evening services will continue as normal at 7.30pm until 22nd June when they will conclude for the summer and recommence in September. As always, everyone is invited and will be most welcome to join us in worship!

## HOLY COMMUNION ON SUNDAYS



On Easter Sunday our weekly 8.30am Holy Communion Service returned to the church from The Crozier Hall. Holy Communion at the 10.30am service also recommenced and will be offered on the customary 1st Sunday of the month. Whilst the use of the common Holy Communion Chalice is permissible again, it was felt by the Select Vestry that we should retain the use of individual glasses for the time being.

## HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Celebratory events are being planned to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In our plans at present are a Barbecue on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June (7pm), an Afternoon Tea hosted by the 1st Thursday Club on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June (2.30pm) and a special service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (7pm).



Tickets for the BBQ shall be available from the Parish Office or will be obtainable via our Parish Website. It is intended that a bus shall be available to transport local people to and from the Afternoon Tea.

We also hope to have a small display of parishioners' memorabilia associated with the Royal Family. If you have anything that you might be willing to lend to us for the display, please do telephone and leave a message at the Parish Office (37523197).

To help develop our plans a meeting for all who are interested in helping is planned for Monday 9th May (7.30pm) in the Crozier Hall. All help is very much welcomed! Please keep an eye out for further details via Pew News!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to a lovely Holy Week and Easter in St Mark's! We are very grateful to our Organists and Parish Choir for all that they offered in leading sung worship, to the team who facilitated the Maundy Thursday Service and Meal and to Christine and Dawn who prepared the Easter Sunday Breakfast in The Crozier Hall following the Diocesan Dawn Service! To everyone who contributed in every way to a very special week, thank you one and all.



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PEUGEOT

# PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 29th May from 12noon

please bring your own picnic,  
blankets and chairs

PALACE DEMESNE NEAR THE PLAY PARK

WEATHER PERMITTING!  
CHURCH SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL  
CONFIRM PROCEEDING ON 29TH MAY



## SUMMER MADNESS

We are delighted to have 19 campers booked in to attend Summer Madness thus far! There is still the opportunity for more young people from our Parish and their friends to join our group at Summer Madness (1st - 5th July).

Further details are available from our Parish Website or by contacting Malcolm (37522970). Young people of secondary school age are encouraged to come along and join several thousands of young people at this fantastic Christian Festival. A meeting for Parents of those attending is planned for Monday 16th May (7pm) in The Venue, Crozier Hall.



## COVID MITIGATION MEASURES

Thank you for your assistance in observing Covid mitigation measures. Where possible, we continue to practice 1m+ social distancing St Mark's, The Crozier Hall and Parish Office. Face coverings are optional, but appreciated. As a Select Vestry we felt it appropriate to take a very gradual easing of our Covid measures and we very much hope that parishioners will be feel as comfortable as possible as we seek an increasing sense of normality. During the weeks ahead, some further easing of measures is likely. Thank you for your understanding and should you have any queries, please feel free to contact The Rector.

# Alive AND Active

An activity to get us moving followed by  
tea, coffee & something sweet  
in The Crozier Hall

Thursday 9th June

Thursday 23rd June

Thursday 7th July

Thursday 21st July

Thursday 4th August

Thursday 25th August

*7PM MEETING @ THE CROZIER HALL*

## **ALIVE & ACTIVE**

I'm sure many of us are thinking about our plans for summer, perhaps some of us are wiping the dust off our passports and checking that they are in date. However, if you've no summer plans do not fear!

Over the summer months Alive will become Alive & Active. An opportunity for ladies belonging to the parish & friends to join us on a light activity such as a walk followed by a cuppa in The Crozier Hall.

There'll be more details in about what will be happening in pew news but if you'd like to know more please get in contact with Sarah.

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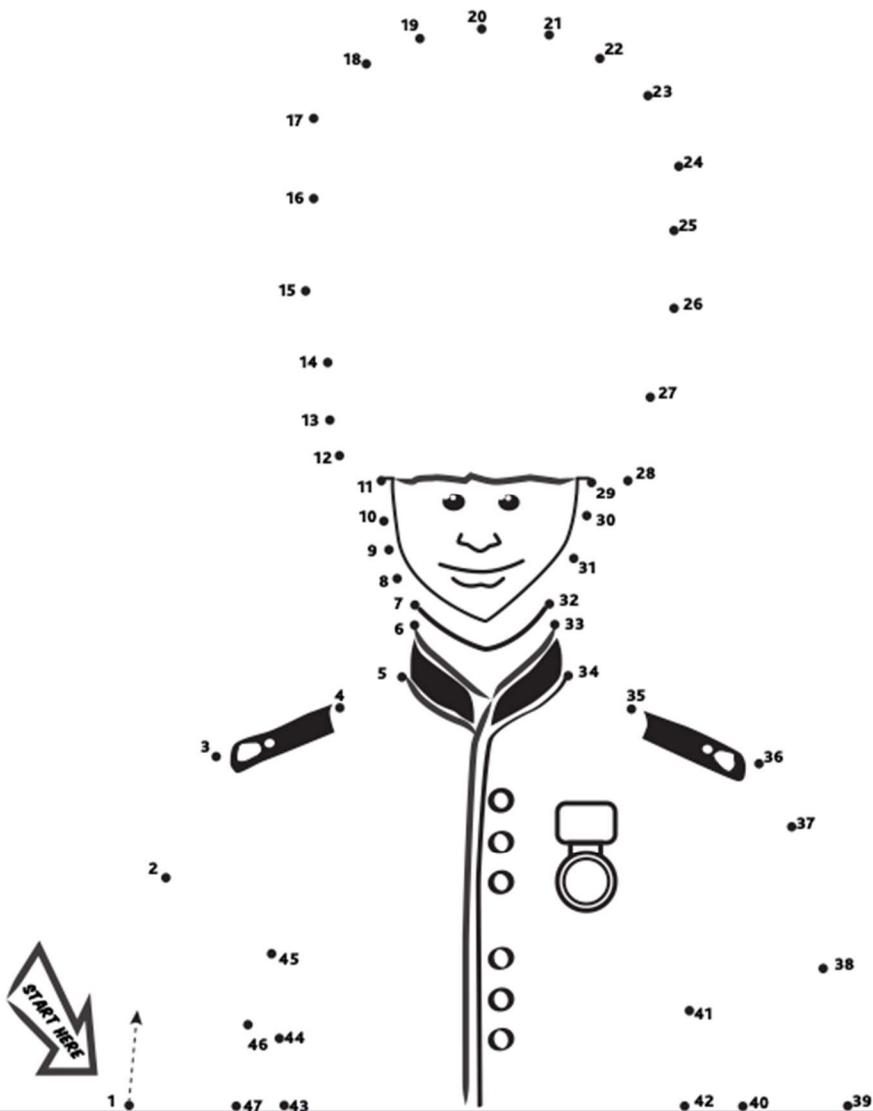
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## *Curate's Corner...*

*"Whoever said money can't buy happiness simply didn't know where to go shopping." - Bo Derek*

I'm not sure how you feel about money, whether you are good at managing your money and keep a budget or whether opening the bank balance gives you 'butterflies' in your stomach. In our news we hear of the increased cost of living. With prices rising in the grocery store and at the petrol pumps are minds are turned to money and will we have enough to us through?

But money is just a thing of our time it existed in biblical times too. Judas turned the Son of Man over all for his love of money. Judas didn't care about the poor, he cared about himself and having more money. There are more than 2300 verses in the Bible relating to money. It was a huge issue in biblical times and is a huge issue today also. Study after study shows that the world's happiest people are not the richest. The topic most newlywed couples argue over is that of money. The competitive, think of life as a game; he who has the most toys wins, or he who has the highest bank balance wins. Some Christians think God wants every believer to be poor; others think rich. What God really wants for every believer is to be content.

So what's the big idea? Better to be content than wealthy, but better yet to be content and good stewards of what God has given us.

Contentment is an attitude some people rarely experience. Some people have a bucket list, in the front not the back of their minds, of future acquisitions. I would suggest that the back is where we need that list. Most people go through life mildly discontent, always at least one step away from contentment. We need to cultivate a grateful heart.

We've all indulged in some retail therapy now and then, and it may even have made us feel happier for a few minutes at least until the credit card bill arrived. But interesting recent research by Warwick University reveals that while winning £1000 would give people a brief buzz, it would take a whopping £1 million to have a lasting effect on a person's happiness. Unfortunately, most of us won't stumble across a £1 million in the near future, so how can we be happy, or content, with what we do have?

There are lots of things that make us feel discontent. There are very real pressures, like when finances are in such a bad state that there may not be enough food on the table. However, there are also created, un-real pressures. For instance, advertisers spend millions every year trying to make us feel discontent, so that we're tempted to buy their product.

A car advertisement doesn't list the nuts and bolts of what the car offers, it shows a beautiful, happy, blissfully-in-love couple driving on a beautiful, empty stretch of mountain road and implies that our lives would be that happy if only we could afford a fancy car. But the dreams that adverts sell are empty ones.

*Continued overleaf...*

Learning to be content is a deliberate and often a difficult choice and process. It involves learning to look at life from a different perspective. We need to live a different 'dream' – the life that God offers us when we walk in Jesus' footsteps.

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world”*

*1 Timothy 6:6-7*

Paul is saying if you want true riches then seek after the godliness of being a follower of Christ, walk in the character and conduct of Jesus and do it all with being content. There is nothing that we can take beyond this world apart from our relationship with our Heavenly Father. So what is contentment? Contentment is saying, “I have enough. Whatever I have is enough. Sure, more would be fine. But I am at peace with what I have.”

Discontentment and a desire for riches will utterly RUIN your life. Paul links contentment with Godliness because for Paul contentment is not self-sufficiency as the Greeks understood it but rather it is Christ-Sufficiency. If God Blesses You with Wealth, ENJOY it, but Be a Good STEWARD of It.

Jesus says remembering that this life is temporary is a helpful way of getting perspective on what we own and what money we have. He says that the most important thing in life is something that we can take with us when we die – our relationship with Jesus. This relationship is a 'treasure' that money can't buy.

Is contentment possible? Is it realistic that we can watch someone pass us on the road driving our dream car – and be grateful for our own? Is it possible to be at peace with the fact that less qualified people have better jobs and bigger incomes than we do? Can we stop looking at the nicer homes, better furniture and more fashionable clothes of others without envy gripping our heart? Is it possible to win the war over jealousy and just enjoy what we have with a contented heart?

The answer is yes, it's a winnable war, but it's a war. And the answer is found in God's stewardship principle. The key to contentment is the fact that it's not our stuff. We are not owners. The money or possessions we use are God's property and God's business. We are stewards given the task of managing something God owns.

Stewards think different than owners.

Every Blessing,

*Sarah*

## ***May Service Rota...***

### **1st : The 3rd Sunday of Easter**

8.30am : Holy Communion 2  
10.30am : Holy Communion 2  
*Reader : Wendy Davison*  
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

### **8th : The 4th Sunday of Easter**

8.30am : Holy Communion 2  
10.30am : Morning Prayer  
*Reader : Tom Galbraith*  
7.00pm : Evening Service

### **15th : The 5th Sunday of Easter**

8.30am : Holy Communion 1  
10.30am : Family Service  
7.00pm : Evening Service

### **22nd : The 6th Sunday of Easter**

8.30am : Holy Communion 2  
10.30am : Morning Prayer  
*Reader : Heather Chambers*  
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

### **29th : The 7th Sunday of Easter**

8.30am : Holy Communion 1  
10.30am : Children's Day Service  
7.00pm : Healing Service



### ***Flower Rota for May***

1st & 8th May : Dr Bob Brown

15th & 22nd May : Mr Donald Davidson

29th May & 5th June : Mrs Anne Attwell

**FONT : VACANT**

### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Thank you to all who offer Floral arrangements in our church. If you might like to contribute a floral arrangement (over 2 weeks), please contact David and he will gladly offer any further information and if desired, add your name to the Flower Rota which is found in the church porch. David can be contacted on :07873167120



## CHURCH RECORDS

### Holy Baptism

3rd April : Danny Ian Warnock  
17th April : Zachary Joseph Nesbitt

### Holy Matrimony

19th April : James Scott Nesbitt & Rebecca Nadrina Loney

### Service of Thanksgiving for the life of

14th April : Sylvia Matson      27th April : Nigel Calvin  
28th April : Alexander (Alan) Martin



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### *Parish Administrator :*

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### *Contact Details*

**Rector :** Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston  
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**Curate :** Rev'd Sarah Parkinson  
The Curatage, 6 Ashley Avenue  
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**Hon. Senior Associate Priest :**  
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**Diocesan Reader :** Mr Paul Turton

**Pastoral Assistants :** Mrs Adele Geddis,  
Ms Barbara Wilson, Mr Alex Stinson

**Parish Readers :** Mrs Adele Geddis,  
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**Rector's Churchwarden :**  
Mr Gordon Stewart

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## CHURCH OFFICE

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Her Majesty The Queen's  
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**Wednesday 1st June (7pm) :  
BBQ at The Crozier Hall  
Tickets available from the  
Parish Office or Website**

**Saturday 4th June (2.30pm) :  
Afternoon Tea at The Crozier Hall  
hosted by The 1st Thursday Club**

**Sunday 5th June (7pm) :  
Service of Thanksgiving  
in St Mark's Church**

**For further details : [www.stmarksarmagh.org](http://www.stmarksarmagh.org)  
or telephone the Parish Office : 028 37523197**