



# PINNACLES

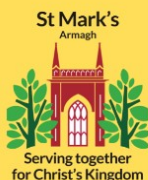
## NOVEMBER 2021



## CHURCH AVENUE

Our church avenue offers a most beautiful setting to enjoy the seasons including, of course, its present autumnal scene. According to the late Mrs Marjorie Halligan's Parish History of St Mark's, trees were first planted on our church avenue 200 years ago, during 1821, ten years following the building of our church. It seems that the original trees were replanted, therefore some further research is required to establish from when the current lime trees originate.

Interestingly Mrs Halligan's book refers to an entry of the Parish Magazine of 1942 when a parishioner took a photograph of the avenue in spring and had some prints made, which were enlarged and coloured and sent to family members serving abroad to remind them of home. Whether during war, pandemic, or any other experience of life, our church avenue's comforting seasonal display reminds us of the faithfulness of God and the privilege that we have as his people to gather in his name to worship him. Many thanks to Mr Albert Nicholl for taking the beautiful photograph of the Church Avenue, as seen on the front cover of this magazine.



# WEEKLY SERVICES

*Everyone Welcome!*

## SUNDAY

**8.30am :** Holy Communion in The Crozier Hall

**10.30am :** Morning Service in St Mark's (livestreamed)

**7pm :** Evening Service in St Mark's

## WEDNESDAY

**7.30pm :** Midweek Service in St Mark's

## FRIDAY

**9pm :** Late Evening Office online

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS**  
(INCLUDING SUNDAY SCHOOL) :-  
[www.stmarksarmagh.org](http://www.stmarksarmagh.org)



## Rector's Letter.....



Dear Friends,

On Thursday 21st October, a special service took place in St Patrick's Cathedral here in Armagh entitled a 'Service of Reflection and Hope'. If you haven't already seen it, I would encourage you to watch it on BBC iPlayer. I would like to thank some of our Parishioners who very willingly got up early to meet in the Shambles Yard to facilitate the welcoming and registering guests prior to the service. The Archbishop, Church Leaders, Dean, choir and all involved are to be commended for a service that beautifully lived up to its title.

What struck me about the service was how it involved very individual expressions of reflection and hope. It was intergenerational and it was framed in personal perspectives. There were some lovely contributions from people of all generations with children and young people participating prominently. Primary school aged children, including some from our Parish, sang a song entitled 'We are the future of tomorrow', as part of an inter schools choir. Three secondary school aged young people shared their dreams for the future, two led prayers and led an act of commitment for peace, students read lessons and four children ushered a lantern in and out of the Cathedral symbolising the pursuit of peace to be sought by all. Older participants in the service included the Church leaders who offered very personal reflections based upon their own past experiences, the realities of the present, and aspirations for the future.

As I listened to the church leaders who grew up in Northern Ireland, I was very conscious that their youth was very different to that of the young people in the Cathedral at the same time. The youth of the young people today is set in a time of imperfect, but lasting peace. This is something to thank God for. Young people in our schools and colleges today are growing up in a Northern Ireland that has its problems, but is thankfully so different to that of generations that have gone before them.

*Continued overleaf...*

This is a month when we remember lives lost in wars and in conflict here in our province. We remember those for whom the pursuit of peace and the upholding of justice came with the ultimate cost. It is right that we remember with gratitude and in sympathy for their loved ones. It is also right that we look forward with hope.

In the sermon and at various points, such as the stunningly beautiful singing of St Patrick's Breastplate by a soloist and members of the Cathedral Choir, St Patrick was referred to in the service. His was a love for his Lord and this island. His calling, at great personal cost, was to share the message of reconciliation between God and man. Peace with God and peace with one another. May we know that peace and be encouraged by the words of the Lord Jesus; "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*"

Yours in Christ,

*Malcolm*

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On Tuesday, 9th November (7.30pm), a Service of Confirmation shall take place in St Mark's. Consequent of our Confirmation Service being delayed by restrictions, our Confirmation Group is larger than usual, numbering 23 candidates.



After accommodating family and friends, there may still be a few pews available for anyone who would like to be present at the service.



Please do pray for our candidates to be confirmed; Mark, Curtis, Katie, Chloe, Rhianna, Matthew, Katie, Luke, Alexandra, Isaac, James, Joseph, Bailey, Matthew, Sam, Ben, Christopher, Jack, Thomas, Brandon, Ellie, Chloe and Thomas.

May they know God's richest blessing as they publicly affirm their Christian faith during this special service and his continued presence and guidance as they seek to follow Christ, always.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

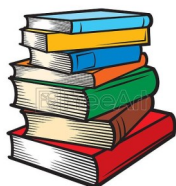
On Remembrance Sunday (14th November) there will be an act of Remembrance at Armagh's Cenotaph. A very short outdoor service shall follow the laying of wreaths before those attending disperse. Our Parish's Morning Service with an Act of Remembrance shall take place at around 11.45am. We very much hope that you will be able to join us for this special service.



The Royal British Legion have asked that we help let it be known that there will be no door to door poppy collections this year, but a Poppy Shop shall be open from Monday 1st November (10am - 3pm) until Saturday 13th November (excluding Wednesdays) in the Function Room of the Branch in Dobbin Street.

## SERVICE OF LIGHT & REMEMBRANCE

A special service will take place in St Mark's on Sunday, November 21st (7pm) as we pray for those whose loved ones have entered their eternal rest, particularly during the past year. Families who would like also to be added to those specifically prayed for are invited to telephone the Rectory where a message may be left if no one is home. Everyone will be most welcome to attend this special service as we reflect together.



## BOOK CLUB

Having just completed 'Love your church' by Tony Merida, we are now moving on to the classic book, 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan. Please feel free to obtain a copy (ISBN 978034098156) and join us via Zoom fortnightly from Thursday 18th November (7.30pm). For further details, please contact Malcolm (37522970 / [malcolm.kingston@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.kingston@btinternet.com)).



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## CHURCH SERVICES

During our October meeting, the Select Vestry approved some very minor amendments to what has become the norm for worship in St Mark's. We very much hope that everyone who participates in our services feels welcomed, reassured and know the presence of the Holy Spirit as we gather in worship of Almighty God.

Distancing has been reduced from over 2m to just under 2m. This has permitted a larger accommodation in our church building and therefore a larger proportion of worshippers to be seated downstairs in St Mark's and thereby benefitting from a better view.

Whether in the Crozier Hall or in St Mark's, worshippers are still required to wear face coverings (unless exempt) when entering and leaving the service, as well as whilst standing for hymn singing. It is recommended that face coverings are worn throughout the service to reduce the risk of Covid infection. Singers in the Choir Stalls are very well spaced and are permitted to remove face coverings to help lead us in our hymn singing.



Thank you sincerely for your understanding and cooperation.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is back! It has been a great joy to see the children filtering out of church and going to Sunday School each week. We very much hope that they are enjoying what they are doing and that the leaders are encouraged by being back in action.

New members of Sunday School are always welcome. Participating children and young people range from Primary 1 age to Year 9 of secondary school. To find out more, please go to the Sunday School page of our Parish Website, or speak to Sunday School leaders or Parish Clergy.

## YF3

Youth Fellowship (for young people of secondary school age) continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month (5pm - 6.30pm). New members are always welcome! We have been meeting outdoors of late as much as possible, but recognise that weather and light will require us to move indoors more often.

Please bring a coat and a face mask so that we can be best prepared for what is planned.



## *Curate's Corner....*

What is your favourite story? Perhaps you have a favourite book or a favourite story you've read to your children and grandchildren. As a child my favourite book was 'Guess how much I love you?' by Sam McBratney. Every evening before bedtime that was the book my mum or dad read to me and I still remember the storyline twenty seven years later! Stories have a powerful impact. As words flow, they ignite our imagination and point to the very emotions that make us all human.

Recently I've been struck by many stories, not so much fictional but rather the stories of people's lives, what they've experienced, where they've been, what they're currently going through. During my deacon year, due to the pandemic I was unable to visit people in their homes. It has been a pleasure being able to visit people again (albeit on the doorstep due to restrictions) and listen to the stories of their lives. It is an utter privilege to listen to these stories, to share in their joy and hurt, in their celebration and their grief and to reveal God's presence throughout each story.

As Christians we are drawn to the Bible as our ultimate storybook, our guide for life. Perhaps you've seen gifts, notebooks, mugs and bookmarks with the scripture verse Jeremiah 29:11 inscribed on it. A verse which has been continually debated by commentators and scholars and it can seem cliché at points but regardless of who it was initially meant for it is true that God is the author of our story.

*I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.*

*Jeremiah 29:11 (Message Translation)*

As I reflect I've been encouraged to write my own story, I've noticed that although things didn't always go the way I expected, they worked out for the better because it was according to God's plan and not my own, according to his perfect timing and not mine.

So I encourage you to think about your life story, write it down, tell somebody who is willing to listen and discover how God has written every part of your story and how he continues to write it.

Every Blessing

*Sarah*

# DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF



**SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER  
(10AM - 12NOON)  
CROZIER HALL**

## DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF

Thank you to everyone who supports our Drive Through Drop Offs. The continued support of parishioners for our local Food Bank has been amazing. The November drop off shall be on Saturday 20th November. (10am – 12noon). Church envelopes can also be dropped off if desired.

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## Harvest Ladies Breakfast

As signs of Christmas begin to appear on the shop shelves it's hard to believe that Harvest was only two weeks ago!

As part of our harvest celebrations we held our annual Ladies Harvest Breakfast in the Crozier hall on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October. The early Saturday morning start was worth it as the smell of cooked breakfast and coffee from the kitchen travelled into the hall.

As Marks and Spencer would say, this wasn't just any breakfast - this was a fry up from the Charlemont Arms Hotel!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Helen from Charlemont for all her help in cooking, planning and making the event possible and Bob Brown and Mark Speers for being our waiters for the morning.

As stomachs began to get full and the top up of coffee continued, we were delighted to welcome Beth and Kate from Reach Mentoring as our guest speakers. Beth and Kate shared how Reach are working in local schools including The Royal School, City of Armagh High School and St Catherine's College to name a few. Recently Reach have been running sessions to support year 8 pupils who have made the transition from primary to secondary school. In addition, they visit schools on a weekly basis for one to one mentoring with pupils who are facing challenging situations and need extra support or someone to talk to.

We are delighted to have received £272 in donations from our harvest breakfast. This money will go towards helping Reach in their vital work in our community.

It was great to be able to hold an event like this again, albeit with restrictions, and we look forward to doing more like this soon!



# Save The Dates...



## Alive

A NEW ST MARK'S WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY

11th Nov | 9th Dec

Crozier Hall | 7:30pm

### ALIVE

Alive: *Adjective* continuing in existence, alert and active; animated, having interest and meaning

Over the past few weeks we've noticed a dramatic change in seasons. From warmer weather (on occasion in Northern Ireland) to now leaves falling off the trees and a crisp autumn air and, in a few weeks time we'll perhaps even notice frost on the car windscreen before going to work. Tights, scarfs and woolly hats will be making their way out of the roof space too. As seasons change it brings new opportunity, it allows for new beginnings and as High School Musical once said "This could be the start of something new"

With that said I'd like to introduce to you a new St Mark's women's ministry called **Alive**. We'll be meeting once per month ideally in the Crozier Hall at 7:30pm. The plan is that one month we may have a guest speaker and look at some of the influential women in the Bible and the second month we'll do something more active like an exercise class, going for a walk, an exciting activity or simply going for coffee and cake. The idea is that Alive is a place to **exist** in community together, be **alert** and **active** to Jesus in our everyday lives looking towards the one who gives us **meaning** all the while having laughter and fun. At our first meeting we'll be discussing what we would like the group to look like and things that we would benefit from all over a cup of tea of course! (and maybe a bun or two!)

Alive isn't a replacement for anything but rather it is an additional group and something new that all women are welcome to join and be a part of. We'd love to see you there on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm** in the Crozier Hall. If you've any questions about Alive or would like some more information, please do not hesitate to get in contact. *Rev'd Sarah*

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- ⇒ I would like to be added to the Parish's Roll of Members ☐
- ⇒ I would like to receive a doorstep visit from a member of the Parish Clergy ☐
- ⇒ I would like to receive Parish Giving Envelopes ☐
- ⇒ I would like to receive a Gift Aid Declaration Form ☐

*At present we only hold the Names and Addresses of Parishioners. Consent is required for our Parish to store your telephone number and email address. If you would be willing for us to hold this information, please complete and return via the Church Collection Plate or to the Church Office at your convenience.*

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## ***November Service Rota...***

### **7th: The 4th Sunday before Advent**

8.30am : Holy Communion 1

10.30am : Morning Prayer

*Reader : Wendy Davison*

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

### **14th : The 3rd Sunday before Advent**

#### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

8.30am : Holy Communion 2

**11.45am :** Morning Prayer

*Reader : Tom Galbraith*

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

### **21st : The 2nd Sunday before Advent**

8.30am : Holy Communion 1

10.30am : Family Service

7.00pm : Service of Light & Remembrance

### **28th : The Sunday before Advent**

8.30am : Holy Communion 2

10.30am : Morning Prayer

*Reader : Heather Chambers*

7.00pm : Holy Communion 2

### **NOVEMBER FLOWER ROTA :**

7th : Ray Donald

14th & 21st : Gregory & Denise McCarten

28th : Vacant

FONT : Vacant

If you would like to be added to the Flower Rota,  
Please contact David on  
Tel : 07873167120.

### **HOSPICE COLLECTION**

The annual Diocesan Hospice Collection envelopes shall be available during services and from the Parish Office from Sunday 7th to Sunday 21st November. Contributions forwarded from our Parish benefits the Southern Area Hospice in Newry which faithfully offers gracious care to people from our area and region. Thank you to everyone who support this very worthy collection, and indeed all of Parish Appeals.

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## CHURCH RECORDS

### HOLY BAPTISM

24th October : Samuel Peter Brian Beattie

*"We receive and welcome you as members of the body of Christ"*



### St Mark's Armagh

*'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom'*



**Parish Office :**

The Gate Lodge  
44 Victoria Street  
Armagh  
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**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**  
The Curatage, 6 Ashley Avenue  
Tel : 07974252013

**Hon. Senior Associate Priest :**  
**Very Revd Robert Townley**

**Diocesan Reader : Mr Paul Turton**

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

**Parish Readers :** Mrs Adele Geddis,  
Ms Barbara Wilson

**Rector's Churchwarden :**  
Mrs Sarah Peilow

**People's Churchwarden :**  
Mr Robert Johnston

### CHURCH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

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

Outside of these times, a  
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### Safeguarding Trust Panel



**Freddie McCann 37524427**

**Shirley Wells 37515123**

**Malcolm Kingston  
37522970**

**We implement good practice  
for child protection in  
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## **Safeguarding Trust Training**

All leaders of Parish Children's and Youth Ministry are invited to attend our annual Safeguarding Trust Training which will take place on **Wednesday 10th November (8pm) in The Crozier Hall.**

Thank you to all of our volunteers who faithfully serve children and young people in our Parish Organisations.

It would be very much appreciated if

**CMSI & Leprosy**

**Mission Boxes**

could be returned to the Church Office as soon as possible please.

**Smartie Tubes** may also be returned at your convenience.

Many thanks in advance.



## **CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISER**

Congratulations to Danielle Kennedy who correctly guessed the number of hours (49) it took Mrs Betty McCann to make this beautiful blanket. Amount raised for Christian Aid was £250. Well done to Danielle and many thanks to Betty also.



## **HARVEST WEEKEND**

During the weekend of Friday 15th - Sunday 17th October, we very much enjoyed our Harvest Thanksgiving Services in St Mark's, as well as a Ladies Breakfast in the Crozier Hall.

Our guest preachers all offered inspiring sermons during our services and the ladies attending the breakfast were very well informed of the work of Reach Mentoring in our local schools. Thank you to Sarah who organised the breakfast, to those who lead us in sung worship during our services, to our decorators of the church and to David for all of his hard work getting the church and hall ready for the Harvest Weekend.

Thank you also to everyone who contributed to October's Drive Through Drop Off which helped decorate the church and totalled a very substantial 224kgs in Food Bank donations.



# HARVEST DECORATIONS



*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever!*

*Psalms 107 v 1*