

St Mark's
Armagh



PINNACLES

DECEMBER/JANUARY



O Holy
Night

BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS APPEAL

With this edition of Pinnacles you will have received a Bishops' Appeal envelope. This year, Bishops' Appeal is focused on supporting those who are in great need in the Middle East. The Advent and Christmas Appeal asks that, if you can, give something to those most affected including people fleeing Gaza as refugees, those needing emergency medical care, temporary accommodation, practical help, food, medicines, support and care. As we move towards Advent and Christmas, it is appropriate to focus on those in great need in the Holy Lands region through our generosity and continued prayer.



Please support Belfast Central Mission's Christmas Toy Appeal *New Toys and gifts such as*



BISHOPS' APPEAL Educational Toys
from ages birth - 3 years
Clothes for
from ages birth - 5 years
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small books are better
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Gifts for children
aged 8 - 12
Toiletries & Vouchers
for aged 16-18

Collection on Sunday 10th December in St Mark's
Please do not gift wrap and no soft toys. Thank you!

DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF

(FOR ARMAGH FOODBANK)

**SATURDAY
16TH DECEMBER
& 20TH JANUARY
(10AM - 12NOON)
CROZIER HALL**



Rector's Letter.....

Dear Friends,

As I write our Christmas tree has just arrived into The Rectory. Having chopped a piece off the bottom of the tree, it is now the perfect size for the living room window.

It really is a lovely tree, I am really pleased with it and I hope that its decorating will do it justice!



Decorating a tree is a tradition which most of us will undertake in the preparation for Christmas. Other customary practices will also feature during the weeks ahead such as writing and sending cards, arranging visits to family and friends, wearing a Christmas jumper and setting out a Christmas Eve night treat for Santa. Hopefully our Parish's Christmas services will also feature in your plans! Truly, it would be a joy to see everyone from our church family in St Mark's this Christmas.

Showing people whom we care for how they matter to us is a great feature of this time of year. As we celebrate God's greatest gift to humankind, we desire to bless one another with gifts. The only other normal time to give someone a gift is their birthday. As we celebrate the Lord's birthday and how God has given mankind the greatest gift of all, we give to demonstrate our love for one another.

Of all of the gifts that we might offer one another, the greatest is our time. To spend time with cherished people is precious and to be appreciated and enjoyed. Recognising the importance of time spent together, let us be mindful of those for whom being with loved ones is less possible. Loneliness is a particular reality for some people especially at this time of year. Mindful of this reality, perhaps you might consider a new Christmas tradition? If it is possible for you, why not pay a visit to someone who might not have much company on Christmas Day? For even just a few minutes, why not knock on their door to simply say 'hello' and wish them a Happy Christmas?

One of the Old Testament descriptions of the prophesied Messiah was that he would be 'Immanuel' which means God with us (Is. 7v14). That we are not alone is a wonderful promise that is demonstrated in the Christ child of Bethlehem. As we celebrate his birth, may we, and our loved ones know God's promise of his company and love. Mindful of the blessing of presence, may we be grasp opportunities to spend time with one another.

Wishing you all whom you love a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Malcolm

THE FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

Our meeting on 7th December will be held in the Windsor room at the earlier time of 12.30pm and we hope to provide a Light Luncheon followed by some entertainment. There will be a cover charge of £10 per person and a very special guest may also be calling to see us!

There will be no meeting in January therefore our next meeting will be on Thursday, 1st February 2024, and we hope everyone has a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

MONTHLY MID WEEK SERVICE

On the first Tuesday of each month (11.30am) a Service of Holy Communion takes place in St Mark's. This is intentionally offered for people who find it difficult to attend services on Sundays.

If you would like to join us you will be very welcome. Services will take place on Tuesday 5th December and on Tuesday 2nd January and a light lunch is then offered in the Crozier Hall.



GLOW

An action packed term of GLOW Youth Club will conclude on Friday 8th December with a trip to the Pantomime in the Market Place Theatre. We shall reopen on January 12th (7.30pm - 9pm) in the Crozier Hall. Glow is intended for young people from School Year 6 and into secondary school. Everyone is invited to join in!



MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Some dates for the diaries of future Brides and Grooms! During February, on four Mondays (5th, 12th, 19th & 26th) a Marriage Preparation Course is planned to take place in The Venue, Crozier Hall. This is a very relaxed opportunity which we very much hope that you will enjoy. Invitations to those whose weddings will take place in St Mark's from the Spring of 2023 to 2024 will be sent out in due course. To indicate your intention to attend, and for further information, please contact Malcolm or Sarah.

YF3

Intended for young people of secondary school age, Youth Fellowship (YF3) meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month (5pm - 6.30pm) in The Venue. Our dates for December are the 3rd and we finish up with a Christmas Special on 17th. As always, new members are more than welcome!

UNITED SERVICE

On Sunday 28th January (7pm) we look forward to joining with Methodist and Presbyterian friends in 1st Armagh Presbyterian Church for a United Service. If you are able, please do come along and join us and note that there will not be an evening service in St Mark's on the same evening.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING EVERYONE WELCOME!

MONDAY 18TH,
WEDNESDAY 20TH
& THURSDAY 21ST
FROM 7PM

PLEASE SEE PEW NEWS
FOR MORE DETAILS :-
www.stmarksarmagh.org



CHOIR PRACTICES

A great highlight of any Christmas is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and our Parish's Carol Service will take place on Sunday 17th December (7pm). To prepare, Choir Practices are underway on Wednesday evenings (6.30pm) and new members are always more than welcome!



For further information, please feel free to speak to any of our musicians and choir members. We are grateful to Mrs Edna Mullan for her continued help as she leads our Choir Practices.

SCHOOL SERVICES

On Wednesday 20th December (10am) we shall host The Armstrong Primary School's Annual Carol Service. This is an incredibly joyful service focused upon the great wonder and meaning of Christmas. Everyone will be very welcome!

On Sunday 7th January (6.30pm) The Royal School Armagh Scripture Union's 'Celebrate' Service will again take place in St Mark's. This is always a most encouraging service which is led by pupils and staff and the speaker on this occasion will be Rev'd John Graham. Again, everyone will be most welcome!

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who have been involved in Sunday School this term. To children and young people, parents and grand parents, teachers and leaders - thank you one and all! Sunday School is such a vital activity of any church and for all who make it possible, we are very grateful. With Christmas approaching we have two very special events to look forward to.

A **CHRISTMAS PARTY** is planned to take place in the Crozier Hall on Tuesday 12th December (6.30pm - 8pm). All children and young people from Sunday School are invited to come along and join in the fun!



The Sunday School **NATIVITY SERVICE** is always a highlight and we very much look forward to the children and young people's participation in our Service on Sunday 24th December (10.30am). Sunday School will return in the new year on Sunday 7th January. At any time, new members are more than welcome to join us.

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

During the week beginning 18th December, Malcolm and Sarah will be calling with Parishioners who would like to receive Holy Communion at home before Christmas. If for health reasons you, or a member of your family, is unable to attend church and would like to receive Holy Communion, please do get in touch with the Rector (37522970). Those who have received Holy Communion at home previously will automatically be contacted to make arrangements.

DAY OF PRAYER

Our annual Day of Prayer will take place in St Mark's on Saturday 13th January (9am - 4pm).

In place will be a number of exhibits to help guide us as we personally pray for needs global, local and personal. Please feel free to drop in, for even just a few minutes. This is an opportunity for people of all ages to take part in and further details will be available in Pew News in the approach to the Day of Prayer.



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).



Curate's Corner...

Dear Friends,

How good are you at waiting? Are you a patient person? As a child, one of the things I loved most at this time of year was when my Granny bought me an Advent Calendar. There was something exciting about opening a small cardboard door and eating the chocolate before heading out the door to school. The only thing better than that chocolate each day was when, by some miracle, I'd missed the day before and I got a double portion! In the spirit of honesty, I have to admit that there was one particular day when things hadn't gone so well at school, I came home made a cup of tea and couldn't wait any longer - so I opened the rest of the advent calendar!



Advent means waiting, but for many it's simply the run up to the big day - Christmas. We live in an instant society where we want things and we want them right away; instant coffee, same day delivery, 30 minute wash cycles and so much more all point to the fact that we're not very good at waiting. But the Jewish community knew all too well what it meant to wait, they had been waiting for the Messiah for centuries. They had lost everything in previous years and once again they found themselves under foreign rule. Isaiah's words would have been a renewed comfort for their longing for a King:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting-Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end"

Isaiah 9:2-3a, 9:6-7a

You can imagine that they took great comfort in Isaiah's assurance that their captivity would not last forever and their new King would be everything they dreamed of and more. I don't know about you but I tend to think of Jesus in Advent as a baby, far from the strong and powerful image that Isaiah paints. But Isaiah's words remind us of just what Jesus gave up to be Mary's son. He traded the throne of heaven for a smelly manger and scratchy straw. Jesus was not just going to be someone who could say 'I know how you feel'. Isaiah's words tell us that we can cry out to our Saviour, not just because he understands our weaknesses, but because he can conquer them with his strength and power.

Advent proves the point that God's people are a waiting people. From Abraham and Sarai waiting for a child to Joseph waiting in his prison cell to be remembered by those he sought to help. Times of waiting like Advent are a reminder that God works in our waiting, they are not wasted times, but refining and hope-filled.

Every Blessing,

Sarah

ADORO CONCERT

On Tuesday, 19th December (7.45pm), St Mark's Armagh will be the venue for a truly memorable Christmas event. On this occasion the critically acclaimed **Adoro Choir** will visit for their first concert in Armagh.



Having performed in Stormont Parliament Buildings, Grand Opera House, Ulster Hall, Belfast Cathedral and many other prestigious venues in Northern Ireland, Adoro come with very high recommendations.

Directed by Mr Ashley Fulton (Vocal Coach & Musical Director and has been awarded the Fellowship of London College of Music for his contribution to the Arts in Northern Ireland) this concert will predominately feature sacred Christmas music including 'O Holy Night', 'Love Shone Down', various carols by John Rutter, as well as other traditional favourites. With around 30 highly accomplished singers, this will be a most inspirational evening to which everyone will be very welcome to attend and enjoy. This concert, which is entitled 'Silent Night' will be sure to get you in festive spirit!

ADORO

Silent Night

"... ALL IS CALM ... ALL IS BRIGHT ..."

DIRECTOR ASHLEY FULTON

TUES 19TH DEC 2023 - 7.45PM

ST MARK'S PARISH CHURCH, ARMAGH

Tickets : £15 (in aid of Parish Funds)

from www.stmarksarmagh.org

or The Parish Office,

44 Victoria Street, Armagh.

Tel : 02837523197

ST MARK'S ARMAGH
**CHRISTMAS
MARKET**

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St Mark's Armagh Crozier Hall
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THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

We are planning to facilitate our second 'Bereavement Journey' programme to begin on Thursday 18th January 2024, running each week for 6 consecutive weeks between 7.30pm and 9.30pm in The Venue, Crozier Hall.

Our first programme last year was very positively evaluated by participants, who continue to meet regularly to avail of each others friendship and support, therefore we very much look forward to running another programme.

The 'Bereavement Journey' programme is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. By means of a series of films and discussion groups, the programme gently guides those participating through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to better understand their experiences while coping with loss and to discern ways of building resilience in response to the grief experience. While we anticipate that participants will build a strong connection within the group, no one at any time should feel under pressure to share more of their experience than they are willing. We trust that the opportunity to listen will be a support in itself for those taking part.

Everyone will be more than welcome to participate, and anyone who might be interested, or would like further information, should contact St Mark's Parish Office (Tel: 37523197) or email sec.stmarks@gmail.com

The Bereavement
Journey

SERMON SERIES

During our Advent and Christmas services, we plan to offer a sermon series entitled 'Behind the scenes'. During our morning and evening services, we hope that each sermon will offer insights into the messages of Advent and Christmas which we hope that you will find interesting and enjoy!



Behind the scenes

a sermon series with insights from the message
of Advent & Christmas

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FLOWER ROTAS

The flower rotas for
2024 are now on
display in the
Church Porch.



If you might like to contribute a
floral arrangement (over 2 weeks),
please sign the rota or speak to
David who will gladly offer any
further information.

Thank you to all who offer floral
arrangements to enhance the
beauty of our Church!

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AYAC RESIDENTIAL

A Diocesan Mini Residential for young people of secondary school age is planned to take place from Saturday 20th January (afternoon) to Sunday 21st (afternoon).

This event was a big hit last year and was fully booked with participants from St Mark's, as well as other churches of our Diocese.

Our speaker this year is Mr Simon Henry who some of the young people will know from Summer Madness Main Stage.

Last year during the Saturday we enjoyed a climbing wall, paint ball, archery, a night line and a camp fire.

It is likely that the same or similar shall feature again.

All young people from our parish and their friends are welcome and further details are available from Malcolm or Sarah.



Armagh Diocesan
Youth & Children's Ministry Board

Saturday
20
January

AYAC Mini Residential

@ Kilbroney Centre, Rostrevor

Sunday
21
January

Young people of secondary school age from Parishes in our Diocese and their friends are invited to join us!

Further details are available by contacting Malcolm, Sarah or The Parish Office

The Well

• Cafe Church •

**Sunday 10th December &
Sunday 14th January**

The Venue | The Crozier Hall | 7pm

Everyone Welcome

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



December/January Service Rota



DECEMBER :

3RD : THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Holy Communion 2
 Reader : Maureen Watt
 7.00pm : Evening Prayer

10TH : THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Morning Prayer
 Reader : Mervyn Adamson
 7.00pm : Evening Prayer
 7.00pm : The Well

17TH : THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am : Holy Communion 1
 10.30am : Morning Prayer
 Reader : Wendy Davison
 7.00pm : Nine Lessons & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE - 24TH DECEMBER

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Nativity Service
 11.00pm : Holy Communion 2

CHRISTMAS DAY - 25TH DECEMBER

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Christmas Family Service

31ST : THE 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Covenant Service
 Reader : Christine Somerville

NO EVENING SERVICE

JANUARY :

7TH : THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Holy Communion 2
 Reader : Wendy Geary
6.30pm : RSA Celebrate Service

14TH : THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Morning Prayer
 Reader : Jonny Howe
 7.00pm : Evening Prayer

21ST : THE 3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Family Service
 7.00pm : Evening Prayer

28TH : THE 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
 10.30am : Morning Prayer
 Reader : Uel Megarity
 7.00pm : United Service in 1st Armagh
 Presbyterian Church



Flower Rota

3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th & 31st December : Christmas Decorations

December Font : Mrs Muriel Scott

7th & 14th January : The Kingston Family

21st & 28th January : Vacant

January Font : Vacant



PET CORNER

WINNER



Hannah Towers with Ollie

Harley



BELONGS TO BARBARA
WILSON

Hazel & Penny



BELONGS TO CHRISTINE
MORROW

Hugo



BELONGS TO KIETH &
GILLIAN RUDDY

Thank you for all your entries



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
The Curatage, 6 Ashley Avenue
Tel : 07974252013

Hon. Senior Associate Priest :
Very Revd Robert Townley

Parish Nurse : Dr Bob Brown 07514129195

Pastoral Assistants : Mrs Adele Geddis,
Ms Barbara Wilson

Parish Readers : Mrs Adele Geddis,
Ms Barbara Wilson

Rector's Churchwarden :
Mr Gareth Liggett

People's Churchwarden :
Mrs Valerie McCann

Church Office Opening Hours



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

Outside of these times, a message
can be left on the answerphone
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Pinnacles notes for February are
due in the Church Office no later
than **Monday 22nd January**
Thank you.



CHURCH RECORDS

HOLY BAPTISM

19th November : James Riley Warnock



Safeguarding Trust Panel



Mrs Shirley Wells 37 515123

Mrs Avril Irwin 07908698761

Rev'd Malcolm Kingston 37 522970

We implement good practice for child protection
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CHI-ME & PILATES

We've been running a light exercise class for 6 weeks and due to keen interest we are hoping to continue the class in January. We meet on Thursday evenings in The Crozier hall with a certified instructor in Chi-me and Pilates. At 7pm we begin a 30 minute Chi-me class (light exercises for the joints), then at 7:30pm we begin a 30 minute class in Pilates. You'd be more than welcome to come for one of the classes or stay for both. Each evening the suggested donation is £5. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to Mr Arnold Courtney



Marksmeat



Wednesdays 10:30am
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*A time to gather together with Tea, Coffee & treats
to chat about anything & everything*

St Mark's Armagh

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

HOMEGROUP



9th January 7:30pm

Location: The Curatage

Everyone Welcome

For more information
please contact Sarah

St Matthew's Christmas Craft & Gift Fair

Saturday 9th December 2023

10.00am — 4.00pm

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Christmas Joy



DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword grid with the provided words.

4 LETTER WORDS

BELL
SNOW

5 LETTER WORDS

ANGEL
COCOA
ELVES
HOLLY

6 LETTER WORDS

LIGHTS
SLEIGH
TINSEL
WINTER
WREATH

7 LETTER WORDS

CHIMNEY
GARLAND
PAGEANT
RUDOLPH
SNOWMAN

8 LETTER WORDS

CAROLING
DECEMBER
EXCHANGE
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
REINDEER
WRAPPING

9 LETTER WORDS

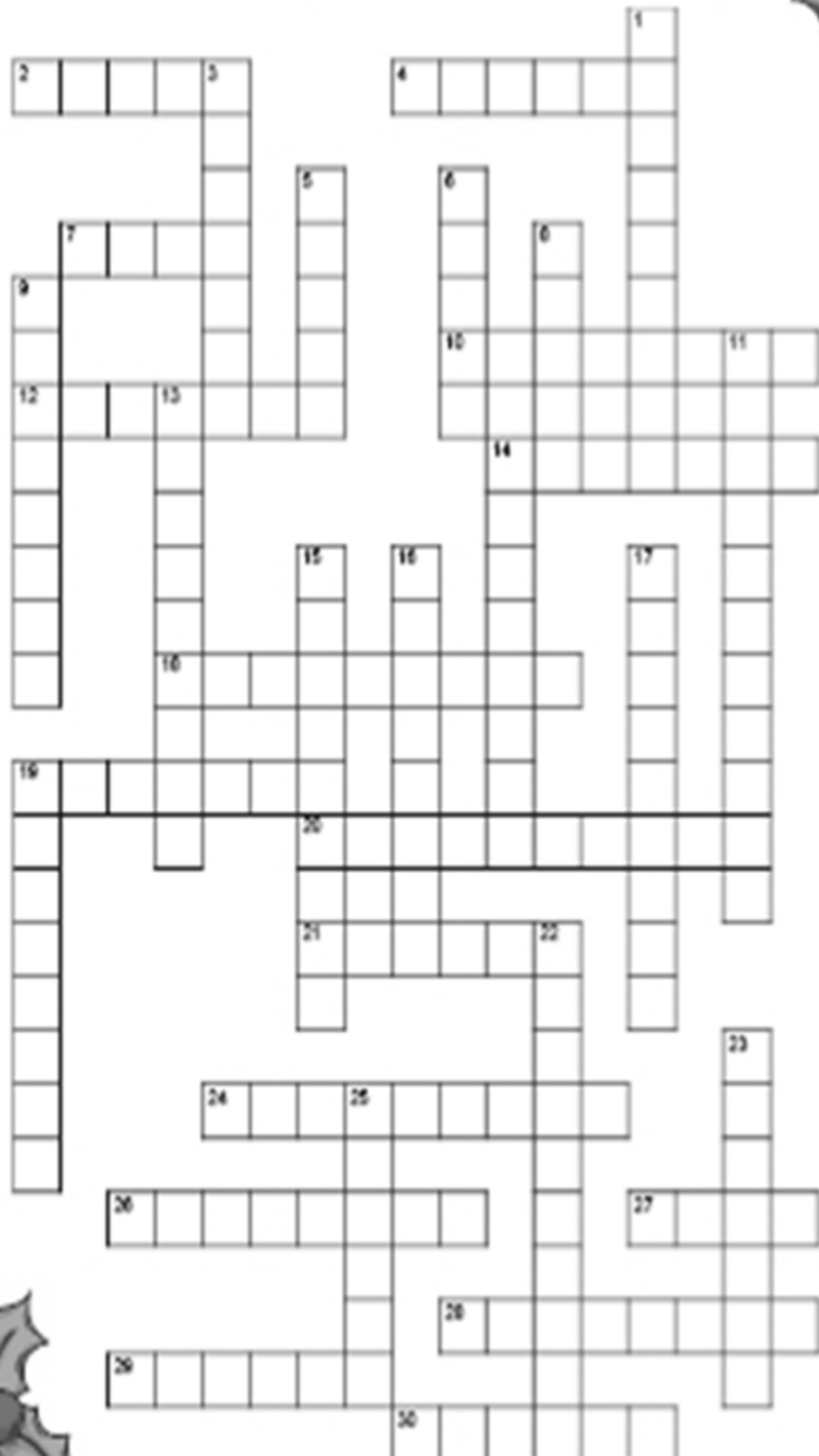
CHESTNUTS
CHRISTMAS
EVERGREEN
FRUITCAKE
MISTLETOE
NORTHPOLE

10 LETTER WORDS

POINSETTIA
SANTA CLAUS

11 LETTER WORD

GINGERBREAD



ST MARK'S ARMAGH
**CHRISTMAS
SERVICES**

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER
7pm : Nine Lessons & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

8.30am : Holy Communion
10.30am : Nativity Service
11pm : Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am : Holy Communion
10.30am : Family Service

SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

8.30am : Holy Communion
10.30am : Covenant Service

EVERYONE WELCOME
www.stmarksarmagh.org