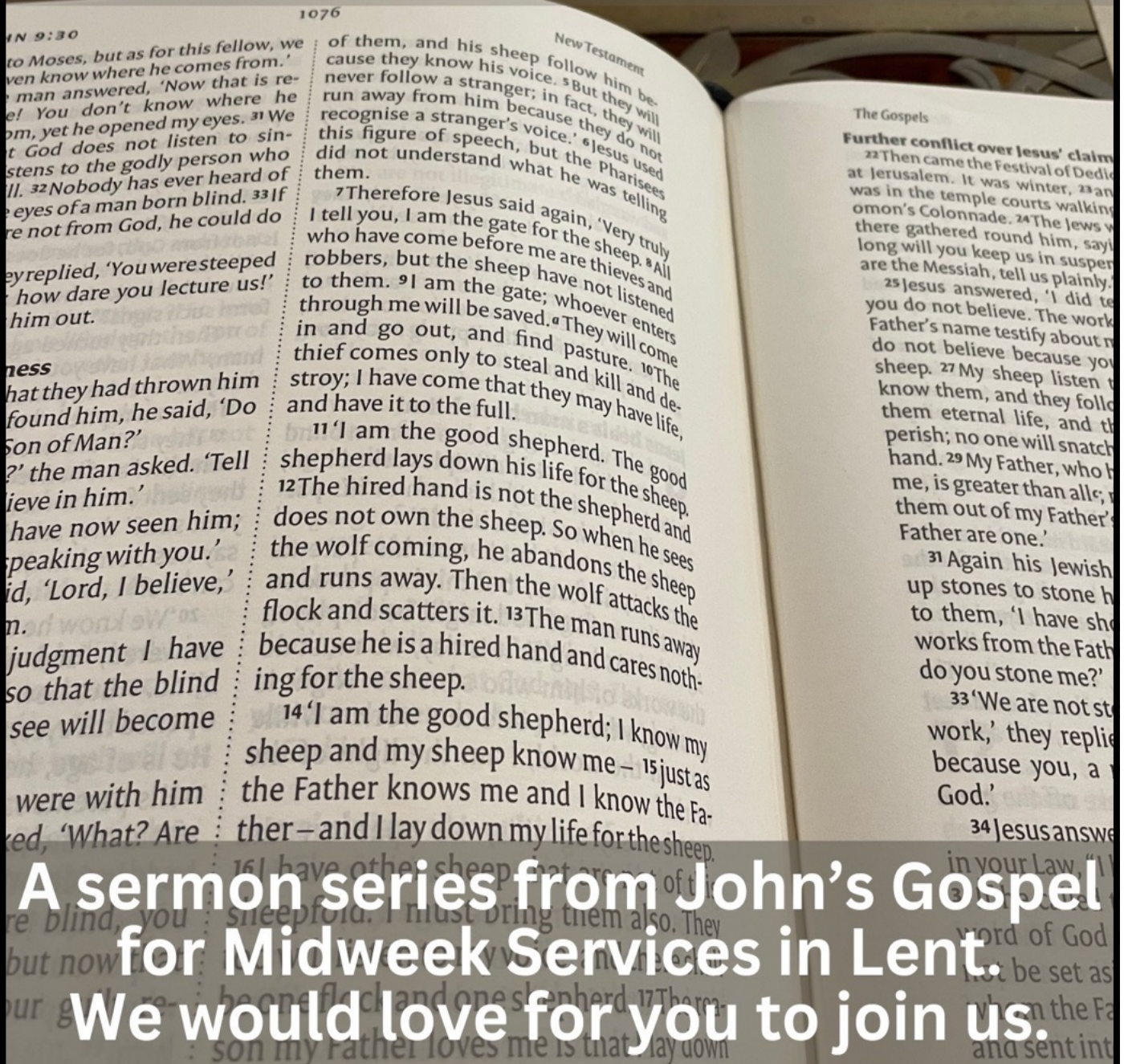




PINNACLES

FEBRUARY 2024

The 'I am' sayings of Jesus



A sermon series from John's Gospel for Midweek Services in Lent. We would love for you to join us.

LENT SERIES

In John's Gospel, there are seven famous 'I am' sayings of Jesus which consist of :

I am the bread of life

I am the light of the world

I am the door of the sheep

I am the good shepherd

I am the resurrection and the life

I am the way, the truth and the life

I am the true vine



During our mid week Lent Service, it is intended that we shall focus on a 'I am' saying and learn more of the identity and character of Jesus and how each statement is of great significance to us as Christians today. Lent Services begin on Ash Wednesday (14th February) at 7.30pm. As there are 7 sayings and 6 Lent Services, the fourth 'I am' saying will be considered at our Tuesday morning Holy Communion Service on 5th March (11.30am).

The Well

• Cafe Church •

Sunday 11th February

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

Rector's Letter.....



Dear Friends,

What is the most frequently used App on your phone? One of my favourites is the Met Office App. Apart from at breakfast time, I don't often see the weather forecast on television, therefore having an App on my phone to see what the day's weather might involve is very convenient.

Knowing what the weather will involve during the hours, or even days, ahead is not only useful practically, but is also beneficial for the inevitable conversation point of the weather which will arise with the people that I meet!

Having the forecast for the arrival of Storm Isha was certainly advantageous. With the benefit of knowing that it was coming, we could be prepared. Perhaps for you, plans had to change and like us, you searched out the torches and filled a flask of hot water in case the electricity went out. With the frequency of named storms we can become quite ambivalent to their warnings. However, Storm Isha certainly packed the kind of punch that was anticipated and for PowerNI staff, as well as many of their customers, it created quite a challenge.

The benefit of a weather forecast gives some insight as to what is coming. However, life often includes the unanticipated. The experience of pastoral ministry is being with people often in times of unanticipated challenge.

Life's storms come, often without warning, and we are presented with changed realities and responses to make.

Whilst we cannot explain why life's circumstances change in the way that they do, we can be reassured from the Scriptures that we are not alone.

I love the story of Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14. His disciples were in a boat, terrified amidst a storm, and Jesus, whom the disciples left on the shore came to them walking on the lake. Terrified that he was a ghost, Jesus called out to the disciples; *"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* Whilst this was a specific reassurance for his fearful disciples on the lake, we too can take great comfort in knowing that we can call out to one who came to his disciples amidst the storm and enabled Peter, by faith to do the impossible. As Peter walked on water, he saw the wind and waves, his faith was overwhelmed and he sank. But hearing Peter's cry for help, Jesus rescued him and together in the boat they continued on their journey together. Amidst life's storms, our faith may wobble, but let us not abandon hope. Let us cry out to the Lord of mercy, who as we often say in our prayers of intercession in church, hears our prayer.

Please know that we are always willing to speak and pray with you, especially when in life's storms. May our faith in Jesus give us courage, strength and peace.

Yours in Christ, *Malcolm*

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 15. 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 in the Crozier Hall. 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 Tuesday 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 will still 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 out more about any of the above, or any opportunity within our Parish and beyond, please feel free to contact Malcolm (37522970), Sarah (07974252013) or Caroline (37523197). Further information, including weekly Pew News Sheets, is available from our Parish website.

www.stmarksarmagh.org

THE FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

Welcome back everyone, hopefully you all had a good Christmas break and are looking forward to 2024. For our February meeting our speaker will be, Mr Gordon Adair, BBC Reporter/Journalist. I'm sure he will give us an interesting insight into what that entails and possibly some stories about people he has interviewed. We meet as usual in the Venue in the Crozier Hall on Thursday 1st February at 2.30pm. New members are always welcome.

Ann

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. The next service will take place on Tuesday 6th February followed by a light lunch in the Crozier Hall.



GLOW



Our Parish youth club is for young people from P6+. We will meet on Friday 9th February when we will be making crepes and on Friday 23rd Feb we will be having a murder mystery night!

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun from 7.30-9pm in the Crozier Hall.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Fellowship meets in the Crozier Hall on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month from 5pm - 6.15pm. All young people of secondary school age are more than welcome. At present our thoughts relate to the theme of a Christian Lifestyle. Soon we hope to commence making plans for Summer Madness (28th June – 2nd July) at Portglenone.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

On Monday nights (5th, 12th, 19th and 26th February at 7.30pm) it is hoped that a Marriage Preparation Course will take place in the Crozier Hall. This is a very relaxed opportunity where couples can talk about aspects of marriage which they have perhaps never discussed together before. It is hoped that the course will involve learning, laughter and no pressure. For any further information, please feel free to speak to Malcolm or Sarah.



MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Each Monday night (8.15pm) a group from our Parish, as well as friends from other churches, meet in the Sports Hall of the Orchard Leisure Centre for indoor football. New players are always welcome to find out more, please speak to Mark Speers who is contactable via the Parish Office.

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St Mark's Armagh invites you to join us for a

STEW LUNCH



SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2024
12 NOON IN THE CROZIER HALL

Suggested donation : Adult £7 / Children £4
Proceeds in aid of CMSI

Please indicate attendance via Sign Up Sheets
in the Church Porch or by telephoning the Church Office
by Monday 12th February

DAY OF PRAYER

On Saturday, 13th January, St Mark's was open all day for our annual Day of Prayer. It was lovely to see a steady flow of people taking time to move around the displays as we gave thanks to God for his goodness and presence, and pray for needs personal, local and global.

CHURCH FLOOR

In recent weeks a survey for underneath the flooring below the pews in the nave of St Mark's has been undertaken and a recommendation has been received that we require additional ventilation to the void below the flooring surface. Final details are being received and the Select Vestry will act upon this recommendation at our earliest opportunity.

FAMILY SERVICE READERS

During Family Services we would love to have children and young people reading the Bible passage in Church. Please pass on contact details for parents / guardians of any willing volunteers to the Parish Office (Tel. : 028 37523197 / email : sec.stmarks@gmail.com). Thank you!

Curate's Corner....

Hi Everyone,

They say honesty is the best policy, right? It was just like any normal day I attended a morning meeting in Portadown and on the drive back to Armagh I thought I had 30 minutes to spare before my next engagement. Going through my to do list in my head I remembered it was my turn this week to get the groceries and considering we had no bread left in the cupboard, today would have to be the day. Weighing up my options I thought '30 minutes is enough for a grocery shop right?' I was up for the challenge. With list in hand and shopping bags at the ready, I parked the car and headed to get a small trolley, as the wind was blowing a gale and the sky was lashing down with rain. I aimed to get inside quickly. As I approached the trolley park there was a lady standing with shopping bags asking passers by for £1 coin for her trolley in exchange for change. My brain went into autopilot on one hand I knew I had an extra £1 in my purse, however on the other hand I was in a rush, soaking wet and wanted to get the job done. so I did what In hindsight I shouldn't have done, and a walked passed her. As I entered the shop I didn't give it another thought until I saw her walking round the shop with a trolley and the guilt washed over me. I got my groceries, headed to the car and began to drive back to Armagh. As I was driving back I began playing the events over in my mind. I felt guilty. It would've only taken be a maximum of 20 seconds to help the lady and yet I felt like the Levite in the story of the Good Samaritan who walked by on the other side. I started praying as I drove for forgiveness and more awareness and action to help those in need.



Do you live with regrets? I have occasionally heard people say that they don't regret anything in their lives. In the 1969 song 'My Way' Frank Sinatra sings "Regrets, I've had a few. But then again, too few to mention" I'm not sure what he was getting at but I do know that regrets are a part of life. Some people say that they wouldn't be the people they are today without all the choices they've made and circumstances they've endured. But whilst I believe that it is true, that I wouldn't be who I am without my past, I also cannot bring myself to say that I have no regrets. Regret is synonymous with the recognition that God always has something better for our lives. When I look back on my past sins (the grocery store incident included), I look back with the understanding that God's way would have been the best way; I just didn't take heed of it at the time, and instead I choose my own way. Everyone has regrets of one kind or another. It usually involves feeling bad about something you wish you had done differently.

Scripture paints a two-sided picture of regret. Firstly, we read from the beginning to the end of the Bible of people who made mistakes, rebelled against God, sinned deliberately, leaving a legacy behind them, chose their own way instead of God's way. Secondly, we read the story of the amazing love which flows from the heart of God and His passionate desire to restore and forgive. These things are written for us, so that we will have endurance, hope and encouragement to press on and not give up.

In the book of Jeremiah there is a story of a man going down a narrow street to visit a pottery shop. There he saw a potter making clay pots on his pottery wheel. Jeremiah watched him casting the clay on the wheel, shaping it as he went. Then the clay split, and he stopped the wheel. But he doesn't throw the clay away in the bin as no good. He used it again, made it into a new lump, and started the wheel revolving once again, and another vessel took shape. No doubt many of the vessels on the shelf had been treated the same way—they probably all were made with spoiled clay. That day, Jeremiah saw spoiled clay being remade into beautiful vessels, and he got the picture. It tells us that God never throws us away when we make a mess of our lives. God just picks up the pieces and shapes them again on the wheel of life. And that includes our regrets. We are clay in the potter's hand, and in a marvellous way, God takes our brokenness, and moulds us into a worthwhile individual who can make a contribution to life as a child of God.

Are you living with a mountain of regret? Do you rehearse mistakes over and over? Pause today and repent over what is plaguing you with guilt and then let it go, receiving forgiveness!

Every Blessing,

Sarah

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

THANK YOU

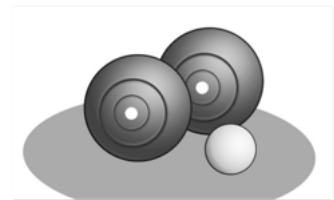
Thank you to all who have been so generous in supporting a number of appeals in recent months. The Harvest Appeal was soon followed by the Diocesan Hospice Appeal, annual Advent Bishops' Appeal contributions, the Christmas Toy Appeal and the monthly Food Bank collection. Along with Carol Singing outside local homes, it was lovely to witness participation in all of these initiatives, reaching out with the love of God in a practical manner. Thank you to all who gave and assisted in any way.



BOWLING CLUB

The Club has been in full swing since September and results of matches played up to Christmas are as follows :

Richhill Presbyterian - Lost
1st Armagh Presbyterian - Win
Redrock Presbyterian - Lost
The Mall Presbyterian - Lost
Knappagh Presbyterian - Lost



Even though we lost a few matches, the craic and the friendship was good. However, we started the new year strong with a win against Kildarton C of I which lifted our spirits!

Our first home game - a 'Knock Out' with 3 bowls was won by Jonny Howe with Jeremy Scott as runner up.

There are 4 remaining games to be played before the season ends with another home tournament being organized.

New bowlers are always welcome to join us, please contact the Church Office for more information.



REGISTER OF VESTRY MEMBERS

During the month of February, the Parish's General Register of Vestry Members is annually opened to allow for revision.

You may wonder what this is and why you might consider allowing your name to be included in this register?!

The General Register of Vestry Members includes a list of members of our Parish who have signed the necessary declaration and are therefore entitled to be nominated to serve, if they wish, on our Parish's Select Vestry. The Select Vestry is a committee of appointed representatives of our Parish who are responsible for managing our Parish Finances and maintaining or improving Parish properties.

Nominations to the Select Vestry are received at our General Vestry Meeting (or Easter Vestry Meeting) which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19th March (7.30pm) in the Crozier Hall. The General or Easter Vestry meeting is effectively an AGM and is therefore a public meeting which anyone can attend. However, if a vote is required at that meeting, only people who are listed in the General Register of Vestry Members can participate.

To be eligible to add your name in the General Register of Vestry Members, you must be 18 years or over, and have paid into our Parish Funds during 2023 in an identifiable way (eg. Parish Envelopes or Bank Transfer).

If you might be interested in becoming more involved in Parish Life during the year or years ahead, why not fill in a declaration? If you have registered in the past, you should not be required to be register again as you ought already to be listed in the Register. If you would like to enquire if you are already on the Register, please feel free to contact The Rector (37522970) who will gladly check for you. Declaration forms can be obtained from Church Wardens after services and completed forms ought to be returned to Caroline or to Church Wardens by Sunday, 25th February (11.45am) when a meeting of the Rector and Church Wardens will take place in the Church Vestry to revise the Register.



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FLOWER ROTA

4th & 11th February :

Elizabeth McKee

18th & 25th February :

No Flowers in Lent

Font : Vacant



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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

HOME GROUP



Tuesday 30th January
Tuesday 20th February

Everyone Welcome

For more information
please contact Sarah

Alive

St Mark's Women's Ministry

Thursday 15th February | The Crozier Hall | 7:30pm

*Bible Study: Having a Mary Heart in a
Martha World*

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE 2024

ROOTED: STANDING FIRM,
SPREADING HOPE

 2ND FEBRUARY 2024

 7.30PM

 ANNAGHMORE
PARISH CHURCH

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IRELAND
South American Mission Society

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⇒ 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 :

⇒ I would to receive Parish Information via occasional email :

⇒ 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. Please complete above if you would be willing for us to hold this information.

February Service Rota...

4th : The 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion
10.30am : Holy Communion
Reader : Tom Galbraith
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

11th : The Sunday before Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
10.30am : Morning Prayer
Reader : Graham Lavery
7.00pm : Evening Prayer
7.00pm : The Well

Ash Wednesday —14th February (7.30pm) :

18th : The 1st Sunday in Lent

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

25th : The 2nd Sunday in Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion
10.30am : Morning Prayer
Reader : Linda Pierson
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF (FOR ARMAGH FOODBANK)



**SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
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Mrs Shirley Wells 37 515123
Mrs Avril Irwin 07908698761
Rev'd Malcolm Kingston 37 522970

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'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom'



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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

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
(37 523197) or alternatively send an
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Pinnacles notes for March are due
in the Church Office no later than

Monday 26th February

Thank you.

CHURCH RECORDS



Holy Baptism :

17th December : Emily Molly Nesbitt



Holy Matrimony :

27th January : Alice Hutton & Adam Ferguson

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of :

Jacqueline Stinson (27th December)

Edith Davidson (3rd January)

Eileen Branion (6th January)



*Alice Hutton
&
Adam Ferguson
pictured after their
marriage in St Mark's on
Saturday 28th January*

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

ST MARK'S ARMAGH
SUNDAY SCHOOL
P1-YEAR 10
DURING 10:30AM SERVICE

This Mothering Sunday could you give the **Gift of Dignity?**

Through your support more women could grow their independence, take on leadership roles, and build a better future for their children.



By choosing a **Gift of Dignity** you'll be making a difference for mothers and their families through the ground-breaking work Mothers' Union does around the world.

You might want to buy directly for your Mother, choose to dedicate your gift in memory of a loved one, or help the grandchildren to surprise mum with these alternative and very special gifts.

To purchase a gift please visit :

<https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

Mothers' UNION



Marksmen



Wednesdays 10:30am
The Venue (Crozier Hall)

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

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

In recent months a review has taken place regarding our Mission Partnerships and we are very happy to share that our Parish has entered into two new opportunities facilitated by Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) and South American Mission Society Ireland (SAMS).

We are very thankful for our historic partnership with Shyogwe Diocese, Rwanda, during which we have supported numerous projects, hosted visitors from Rwanda and been involved in visits there also. Shyogwe is a vibrant Diocese and ours has been an established friendship. However, recent years has encouraged much reconsideration to take place and as an outcome of a recent public review meeting it was recommended to the Select Vestry that we grasp new opportunities for mission partnership going forward.

Rev'd Andrew and Mrs Joanne Quill will soon leave Northern Ireland to serve in the Diocese of Ibba, South Sudan. The vision of Ibba Diocese is to facilitate peace building and reconciliation, engage in evangelism and prayer, as well as promoting sustainable community development – a vision which the Quills share. Using their skills in pastoral ministry and counselling, Joanne and Andrew will support CMSI's partners in Ibba Diocese as God's kingdom work continues in South Sudan.

We very much look forward to Andrew and Joanne telling us more of their work to come during morning services on Sunday 18th February. After the service a Stew Lunch will take place in The Crozier Hall which we very much hope that you will join us for. Sign Up Sheets shall be found in the Church Porch up until Sunday 11th February and funds received after costs will be donated to CMSI.

With SAMS Ireland, we are also entering into a new Partnership with Dioceses in Chile which are involved in church planting projects. This is an exciting opportunity to support new churches in Chile. As well as this, we will also be supporting church based initiatives in Santiago which seek to assist young mothers and families who are in need of practical help. To find out more of how we will partner with the Church in Chile, please do make an extra effort to come to our morning services on Sunday 14th April when SAMS Mission Director, Rev'd Stephen McElhinney will share with us.

Please pray for **Andrew and Joanne**

...as they join us once again as CMSI Mission Partners. Their experience of serving in Kenya and Uganda for 11 years, as well as their work in parish ministry and counselling here, in Ireland, will equip them well for life and ministry in South Sudan.



Andrew and Joanne will be partnering with Bishop Wilson Kamani and his staff team in holistic discipleship and ministry in Ibba, South Sudan. The vision of Ibba Diocese is to facilitate peace building and reconciliation, engage in evangelism and prayer, as well as promoting sustainable community development – a vision which the Quills share. Using their skills in pastoral ministry and counselling, Joanne and Andrew will support CMSI's partners in Ibba Diocese as God's kingdom work continues in South Sudan.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. [Philippians 1:4-6]

To find out more about CMSI or the Quills, contact

info@cmsireland.org

01 4970931 (Dublin)

028 90775020 (Belfast)

To email Andrew and Joanne:

quills@cmsireland.org

To get the Quills' latest news, visit their blog at:

www.cmsireland.org