



PINNACLES

March 2022

INSIDE OUT

Lent Services with a theme of our mental health
Wednesdays (*) at 7.30pm in St Mark's Church
followed by discussion groups in The Crozier Hall

* except 24th March



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Rector's Letter.....

Dear Friends,

During the school half term we enjoyed a very welcomed break in Coleraine, Letterkenny and Armagh. With storms Dudley and Eunice blowing us about it was a refreshing week!

To conclude the week, I was off on Sunday past and we had the decision to make as to where to go to church. Now to be honest, given the extreme weather on that particular Sunday, it was very tempting to stay at home and tune into St Mark's or another church online. But we decided to go to St Mark's, Portadown, revisiting the parish where I served as a Curate Assistant from 2004-7. Walking out after the service, I was so glad that we decided to go to church! It was great to go back to the church building which has so many memories for me and to see the lovely people who worship there that we hadn't seen for a while. The service was uplifting and the sermon was inspiring.

It was a joy to be in present, worshipping together.

Some of you would love to be present in church due to health or other very valid reasons. For those of you whose desire would be to be present at in person worship, my heart goes out to you and I hope that you find the livestream or CD ministry helpful. In some way I hope that you know continued fellowship in Christ with your brothers and sisters from St Mark's.

But for those of us, who like me last Sunday, have a choice, can I encourage you to make the decision to come along and be part of our worship? The habit you may have had in the past to come to church may be replaced by a new routine. But please think about re-establishing, or creating the habit of being part of our worship as a Church family. Truly, we would love to see you and I hope that you will be blessed by being present in church.

Ash Wednesday (2nd March) marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time when we might traditionally give something up for spiritual benefit. But it can also be a time when we adopt a new habit for faith encouragement. Perhaps Lent could be the time to 'take up' coming to church! Maybe Lent could offer the incentive that we need to take time each week to be present as part of our Church family.

Continued overleaf...

In our recent Sunday morning series from Philippians we read of how Paul longed to be able to see his friends from the Church of Philippi. In the New Testament we read of the fellowship known by the early Christians, which can be known by us today. May our desire be to worship together, grow in faith together, and serve together for Kingdom of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Yours in Christ, *Malcolm*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year, Armagh's annual 'World Day of Prayer' Service will take place in St Mark's on Friday 4th March (8pm).

This international and ecumenical initiative's local service will feature members of neighbouring churches and is open for everyone to come along to and be part of.

To find out more about the World Day of Prayer' have a look at the following website :- <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

ST MARK'S CHURCH
FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH (8PM)
EVERYONE WELCOME

AMBASSADOR & CHURCH OF IRELAND GAZETTE

'The Ambassador' is our Diocesan Magazine which is published every two months. Featuring articles of interest and notes of events from parishes across our Diocese this is a magazine with local appeal. The annual Subscription for the Ambassador is £7.50 and copies are delivered to St Mark's for collection by subscribers, or if necessary to respective homes.

Ten monthly editions of the 'Church of Ireland' Gazette are published annually and includes items from all of the Dioceses of the Church of Ireland and beyond. With a wide range of contributions this is a magazine of some 40 pages offering many topical articles. The Church of Ireland Gazette can be purchased for £40 per annum and is also delivered to the Church for collection or to homes if required.

Both magazines are available to parishioners thanks to the willing facilitation offered by Parish Representatives Bertie Speers and Linda Hamilton. Thank you Bertie and Linda for your diligence in providing both resources and should anyone like to order either publication, please contact Caroline in the Parish Office.

GLOW

Our Parish Youth Club is back!! Meeting fortnightly, forthcoming nights in the Crozier Hall include March 11th and 25th (7.30pm - 9pm). All young people from school Year 6 and above are invited to come along and take part in our action packed programme.

For further details and a consent form, please visit the GLOW page on our Parish Website (under 'Organisations')



FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

After a long two year break we are hoping (Covid Permitting), to return to our meetings with a small luncheon on Thursday 3rd March at 12noon in the Crozier Hall.

As members are aware, we have to abide by present Covid restrictions and in order to do so we will be meeting in the Main Hall.

It will be lovely to meet up again as a Group! Remember, for this month only we are meeting at 12 noon.

Ann



BOWLING CLUB

Our Parish Bowling Club has reopened and meets weekly on Wednesday evenings in the Crozier Hall from 8pm. New members are always welcome to join in some friendly fun and even a little bit of lively competition!

MARKSMEN

The Marksmen will resume their weekly gatherings on Wednesday 2nd March (10am) in the Crozier Hall. As always, new members are more than welcome to join in this social gathering of men who enjoy chat about all sorts of topics accompanied by scones, tea and coffee! Speakers also feature at Marksmen, as do trips, and the occasional Breakfast Fry!

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Youth Fellowship will meet during March on Sundays 6th and 20th (5pm) and **Book Club** meets on 10th March (7.30pm via Zoom).

Organisations under consideration for reopening include Creche and Wheels and Squeals. The Parish Choir, Junior Choir and Bible Fellowship are also hopefully on the horizon! Please keep watch for future Parish updates in Pew News, Pinnacles and online.



MOTHERS' UNION

The Armagh Branch of the Mothers' Union was formed on 27th March, 1914.



Mothers' Union is more than an organisation offering social benefit. With its focus upon the support of families at home and abroad, Mothers' Union branches offer significant opportunity for parishes to practically help people in underprivileged circumstances and advocate for policy that will be of help to people from all backgrounds. The contribution that the Armagh Branch of the Mothers' Union has offered over the years is reflected by the six and half pages afforded to it in our Parish History Book written by the late Mrs Marjorie Halligan.

In recent years, ladies of our Mothers' Union branch distributed the CD recordings of Sunday Worship to members of our Parish who were physically unable to attend worship. Emphasising their passion for encouraging and supporting families, ladies from our Branch sent little Prayer Cards to children on the first anniversary of their Baptism and volunteered with the Armagh Child Contact Centre enabling children to meet with parents under court ordered supervision. Mothers' Union members volunteered with the Talking Newspaper programme and knitted for the CMS Knitting Project to benefit children who had very little clothing in Africa. They also have knitted for babies born early and under the care of the Craigavon Hospital's Neo Natal Unit, as well as for children also in need in Eastern Europe. The Mothers' Union also provided and maintained little 'Happy Bags' for children to enjoy whilst in church. I am sure that many other very worthwhile activities of the Mothers' Union could be noted with gratitude.

Sadly, membership of our Branch of the Mothers' Union has struggled in recent years and it seems that the Covid Pandemic has severely impacted upon its future viability. It is with regret that our Parish's Mothers' Union committee have therefore decided to conclude its activity. It is saddening that that the Mothers' Union will not reopen at least for the foreseeable future. Perhaps one day it may re-emerge. However, for now I would like to pay tribute to all of the Mothers' Union members who have served their Lord so faithfully in our Parish and express particular gratitude to Mrs Elaine Cardwell, the most recent Enrolling Member, for all of her long term devotion to the Mothers' Union and its members. To all who have served through the Mothers' Union, well done and thank you one and all.

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY

Each year the Mothers' Union offers the opportunity to 'make a mother's day' in the developing world. With practical gifts to especially benefit women and children, these are gifts which you can offer in the name of a loved one. To find out more, please visit this following website :- <https://makeamothersday.org/>

INSIDE OUT

During Lent 2020, the theme for our Lent services and discussion groups focused on matters concerning our mental health.

The services and corresponding discussions were very well received, but unfortunately the course was curtailed due to the Covid lockdown which began in March 2020.

With the theme of 'Inside Out', we intend to think again about our mental health with the lens of faith, by considering Biblical characters and their circumstances during Lent Services in church (Wednesdays from 2nd March) and for those who would like to attend the discussion groups, talk about the issues raised immediately following in the Crozier Hall.

We very much hope that Parishioners and friends will find our Lent Services and discussion groups helpful as we consider this very important topic. Please note that the Inside Out evening which would ordinarily take place on Wednesday 23rd March will take place on Thursday 24th March instead.



ST PATRICK'S DAY

On St Patrick's Day, a service of Holy Communion will take place in St Mark's at 9.30am. Everyone will be very welcome as we give thanks to God for the witness and ministry of St Patrick.



**MEETING
NOTICE!**

GENERAL VESTRY MEETING

The annual General or Easter Vestry Meeting is planned take place in The Crozier Hall on Tuesday, 5th April 2022 (7.30pm). Everyone is invited to join as we reflect on the year past, elect Select Vestry Members and look forward with faith together.

GRAVE YARD RECORDS

During recent months Albert Nicholl and John McCann have been diligently creating a database of our graveyard records, thereby safeguarding this information for future generations. On behalf our Parish, thank you John and Albert for this very important piece of work!

**THANK
YOU!**

COVID GUIDANCE UPDATE

During our meeting of the Select Vestry on March 1st, the latest guidance on Covid mitigation measures shall be considered.

Any changes to our current practice shall be published in Pew News which is available in church or from our website. It is likely that changes will be very gradual as we seek to proceed with great caution. Thank you for your patience and willingness to consider the vulnerabilities of others by following guidance offered.



Home of St Patrick Festival, Armagh (10th - 20th March)

During the St Patrick's Festival a wide array of events will be taking place in our city including the following which may be of interest :-

- ⇒ 'Celebrate St Patrick' choral musical evening in St Patrick's C of I Cathedral on Saturday 12th March, 8pm.
- ⇒ 'St Patrick's Symposium - Tending our Planet' in The Market Place Theatre on Tuesday 15th March, 9.30am - 1pm
- ⇒ 'Celebrating St Patrick with Armagh Cathedrals Partnership' in The Market Place Theatre on Tuesday 15th March, 7.30pm
- ⇒ 'St Patrick's Lecture' with the Archbishops in The Market Place Theatre on Wednesday 16th March (11am)
- ⇒ St Patrick's Vigil Walk from The Church of Ireland Cathedral to the Roman Catholic Cathedral on Wednesday 16th March (9pm)

For further details including booking details, please go to the 'St Patrick's Festival Events' page of : www.visitarmagh.com

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Alive

ST MARK'S WOMEN'S
MINISTRY

Thursday 31st March
7:30pm
Crozier Hall

Theme: Sarah- Hoping against Hope

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Thank you to everyone who continue to support the Armagh Food Bank through our monthly collection. Your support is deeply appreciated and on a very stormy 19th February we still collected 184.7kgs of food and essential items. We all owe a sincere thank you to John McCann and Ian Millar for their continued and willing help in collecting and transporting donations to the Food Bank each month.

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Curate's Corner...

The story is told of a man who said to his friend, "I'm really in trouble. I have a mountain of credit card debt, I lost my job, my car is being repossessed and my house is in foreclosure, but I'm not worried about it!" "How can you not be worried?" Asked his friend. "I have hired a professional worrier, and he does all my worrying for me," said the man. His friend replied, "That's fantastic! How much does a professional worrier cost?" "\$50,000 a year." "Wow, that's expensive. Where are you going to get that kind of money?" The man replied, "I don't know, but that's for him to worry about."

On Sunday past at the evening service, I preached on the well-known passage about worry from Matthew 6:25-34. In the passage Jesus opens by saying 'Do not worry about your life', easier said than done right? Whether you know worry as an occasional visitor or a constant companion, whether you find anxiety to be mildly uncomfortable or intensely painful, whether you experience worry as a slight distraction or a force that completely immobilises you, we all know we should worry less. Some people worry over the big things, some worry over the little things, but we all worry at times. Worry doesn't have to dominate and destroy our lives. A song written by Elton John for the Disney movie *The Lion King* has the same approach, the lyrics read "Hakuna Matata! What a wonderful phrase. Hakuna Matata! ain't no passing craze" It means no worries for the rest of your days. It's our problem free philosophy. Hakuna Matata! If only not worrying was as easy as singing Hakuna Matata.

Like our other emotions and feelings, God has given us the ability to feel anxious, there is a need for it in reaction to dangerous or threatening situations, but like everything it is needed in good measure.

So what is the solution? We need to remember that worry accomplishes nothing, Jesus said, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" Often we worry too much because we are focused on the wrong things. Let me ask you what will matter to you 50 or 100 years from now? Not much that is physical but everything that is spiritual will be important to you. So we need to keep all that occupies our mind in perspective and put first things first.

Often we worry about the future and things that are going to happen. In verse 34 Jesus says "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Someone once said "There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, one of these days is yesterday with all its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday is passed forever beyond our control.

Continued overleaf...

All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone forever.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with all its possible adversities, its burdens, or its large promise; Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendour or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is yet to be born.

Worry doesn't help us but prayer does. So let's commit to shaping our worries into prayer. (This is something I need to learn too!) Let it become a habit that every time we think of worrying instead we bring our concerns to the feet of Jesus, our author and sustainer.

Lord, forgive me for not trusting You with my problems and for letting my worry become a wedge in my faith. Give me the strength to put them in Your hands and avoid trying to take them back. Help me learn to trust You more and believe You are always in control of my life and the things that worry me most. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Every Blessing

Sarah

SUMMER MADNESS

It has been recently revealed that the venue of this year's Summer Madness Festival will be at Portglenone Monastery. Taking place on July 1st - 5th, Portglenone will be a new destination for the Summer Madness which originated at Castle Archdale in 1987, before moving venues to Gosford, The King's Hall, Glenarm and then to Coleraine for a day last year!

Summer Madness is such a brilliant opportunity for young people to be encouraged in their faith, to experience worship with several thousand other young people and to have a lot of fun in the great outdoors!

Booking information for our Parish group of young people attending Summer Madness will soon be available. Please keep an eye out, but in the meantime, further information is available from the Summer Madness Website and from Malcolm or Claire Kingston.



March Service Rota...

6th: The 1st Sunday in Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Morning Prayer

Reader : Tom Galbraith

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

13th : The 2nd Sunday in Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Morning Prayer

Reader : Don McKee

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

17th March (St Patrick's Day 9.30am) : Holy Communion

20th : The 3rd Sunday in Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Family Service

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

27th : The 4th Sunday in Lent

8.30am : Holy Communion

10.30am : Morning Prayer

Reader : Heather Chambers

7.00pm : Evening Prayer

INTERESTED IN FOOTBALL?

It is our hope to gather together some budding footballers in the parish to form a 5-side team!

A day/time to meet has yet to be decided.

If you would be interested please get in contact with

Daniel Parkinson 07809193141



CHURCH RECORDS

Holy Baptism

16th January : Harper Maggie Megarity

30th January : Robert Billy Dodds

6th February : Claina Anne Benson

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of

Noel Henry Alexander Kernaghan (27th January)



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Contact Details

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