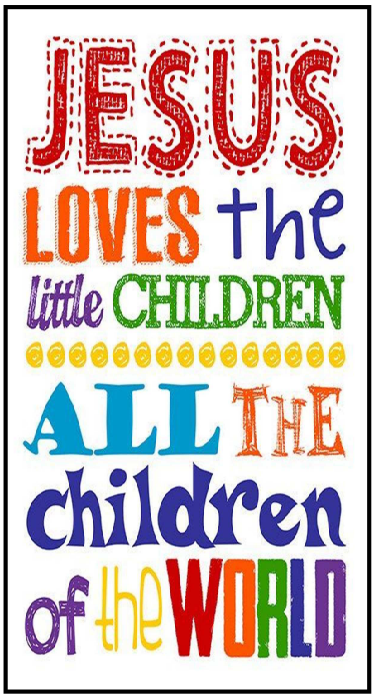
St Mark's
Armagh
Serving together
for Christ's Kingdom

PINNACLES ~ JUNE 2021



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Name : _____

Address : _____

Telephone Number : _____

Email Address : _____

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 /Pastoral Visiting Team : ☐

I would to receive Parish Information via occasional email communications : ☐

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, where relevant, and return via the Church Collection Plate or to the Church Office at your convenience.

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Rector's Letter.....

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have been in a situation lately when something that you use regularly has let you down, just when you needed it? Perhaps your car wouldn't start, or your mobile phone's battery ran flat? Maybe your pen ran out of ink, or the lace in your shoe snapped? Such events can be quite frustrating, can't they?

As I write this letter to you, on the day after Pentecost Sunday, I am mindful of how yesterday morning's livestream didn't work for some inexplicable reason. The last time that the livestream failed was due to the Wifi signal dropping, but this time we have yet to discover what happened. Thankfully the service was recorded on the church's laptop and it was made it available to those whose wished to be part of it soon following the service's ending. All was not lost!

We can become so reliant on the things we use, when they fail it can cause notable disruption and stress. However, life can involve much greater personal unexpected disappointments, which are of much greater magnitude of intensity. Sometimes the events of our day can cause what seemed annoying to pale into absolute insignificance. Perhaps you have experienced this reality very personally in recent times.

In John 14, Jesus sought to encourage his followers to know that whatever happened, they could know that they can trust in him. He sought to give them clarity and hope, despite the enormity of what would come that very night and especially during the days following. Amongst a number of reassurances, Jesus promised his followers these words which we can hold onto as believers today; "… *I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth*." Pentecost shows us that Jesus' promise of Holy Spirit was realised. The coming of the Holy Spirit in power upon the believers in Acts 2 is demonstrative of the trustworthiness of Jesus' teachings. Despite the hardships which Jesus knew his followers would and will face, in John 14 he assured, and assures, that he is with us and that we can know peace in him.

Just recently I came across a benediction offered by Paul in Romans 15v13. I was blessed as I read and pondered upon it, and I share it as I pray for you; "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Yours in Christ,

Malcolm

TEAM MEETINGS

During June and summer months, it is my intention to meet with as many organisations' leaders as I can, just to catch up and begin thinking about what might be possible during the autumn and beyond. Communications have recently been received to help parishes begin to think about resuming activities and the restrictions and guidelines to be mindful of. To begin, a Sunday School Leaders Meeting is planned to take place on Tuesday June 15th (7.30pm) at The Crozier Hall (outside if possible). If you might be willing to join any of our organisations' leaders, we would love to hear from you!

As a Parish we seek to be a church who are 'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom'. The willing help of our parishioners is vital if we are to fulfil this aspiration. To find out more, please feel free to get in touch (37522970 / malcolm.kingston@btinternet.com). Thank you one and all who serve in the collective ministry of our Parish.

LIVESTREAM

Each Sunday the 10.30am Service is live streamed via YouTube. Other occasional services are also shared online. To help us offer this most valued opportunity we would like to build our team for live streaming. If you would like to find out more, please do get in touch via Caroline in the Parish Office (sec.stmarks@gmail.com / 028 37523197)

PASTORAL VISITING

As restrictions are easing and the weather is getting warmer, door step visiting has resumed!
If you would like a visit, please do contact The Rectory and an arrangement can very happily be made. If standing near your door, or being outside is difficult for you and you would like to speak on the telephone and/or be prayed for, again, please feel free to get in touch

CONFIRMATION

It is hoped that a Service of Confirmation will take place during the autumn of this year. Preparation classes will commence early in September and young people of Year 10 (Sept 21) and above will be invited to take part. Please do keep an eye out in Pew News for further details during the late summer. A preliminary meeting for candidates and parents is planned to take place after the 10.30am Service on Sunday 5th September to agree a day and time for classes. In the past classes took place from 4pm to 5pm on a weekday that suited as many candidates as possible. Please do help spread the word about confirmation to candidates from our Parish who might be interested.

SUMMER MADNESS 2021

Summer Madness have announced plans to hold a non residential event during the weekend of July 2nd - 4th.
If conditions prevent this weekend being possible, Plan B is 30th July - 1st August. If interested, please save the dates!!
This year, SM will be of a day event format and will take place at the University of Ulster, Coleraine. Young people of 16 years and older can attend independently. Families may also book in and attend as they wish.
Further details are available via Summer Madness' Website, Social Media accounts and App. Our plan is to attend, probably on Saturday 3rd July. If you would like to be part of some sort of St Mark's Group (practicalities yet to be considered), please do get in touch and we can make some arrangements! (37522970 / malcolm.kingston@btinternet.com)

UPDATE

As you know, restrictions eased on May 24th permitting some in person activities to resume, with careful procedures in place. During this month, it is hoped that some meetings will take place in person, with careful application of legal requirements and guidelines of best practice. Activities which may meet in person this month include YF3 (youth fellowship), Select Vestry, House Group and Book Club. Please do keep an eye on Pew News (available during Services and from our Website) to determine what is happening in person or online!

SELECT VESTRY :

During recent weeks the external floodlights and the internal light fittings of the church's nave have been upgraded to allow for LED lights. The intention of this conversion is to reduce energy consumption which is good for the Parish funds and for the environment.

We have also purchased a new photocopier for the Parish Office. The previous photocopier had more than exceeded its expected lifespan and was in urgent need of replacement, especially given our current copying requirements. Again, with technological advancement, running costs ought to be noticeably reduced!

Matthew's Musings....

Psalm 42:2
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

Are you thirsty? In a spell of recent good weather, I spent all afternoon doing the gardening, pulling out weeds—very thirsty work under the sun. I was thirsty. In the verse above, the Psalmist is thirsty. But he's not thirsty for water, he's thirsty for God. He longs to meet with the living God. As human beings, we need to know God, we need God's presence and love, as much as we need water. Sometimes we can be in difficult situations in life, we can be in situations where we really need God's presence and love. We can be thirsty, and we need our thirst quenched. I wonder are you thirsty? Are you thirsty for God today?

What's the Psalmist's response to this? To remind himself that thirstiness won't last. In the garden when I was thirsty, do you know what I needed to do to quench my thirst? I went back into the house, filled a glass with water from the tap, I drank it, and I wasn't thirsty anymore. And it's like this for the Psalmist. He reminds himself that thirsting after God won't last forever.
He can keep hoping in God, keep trusting in him, even in the dry and thirsty spiritual wilderness, because he knows he will again praise him. And our greatest hope, if we trust Jesus as our Saviour, is that we will one day praise him in heaven!

This isn't just the Psalmist predicting that everything will be ok, but he's actually doing something about it. How often do we worry? I worry all the time. Maybe sometimes we worry about our health, or about our loved ones. And these are all legitimate and important things for us to worry about! But what does the Psalmist do in the face of worry? Instead of worrying about the bad things that might happen, the Psalmist reminds himself of the loving things that God has already done for him (vv.6-8). Maybe you can think of times where God has been good to you. Each of us woke up this morning, with life and health to live another day on earth. God has been good to us with these, and many more, things.

So, friends:
Are you thirsty?
God can quench your thirst.
Are you worried?
Remember how good God has been to you.

So, the question is - will you trust in God today?

Matthew

DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF

19TH JUNE 10AM-12NOON CROZIER HALL

DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF

Our monthly 'Drive Through Drop Off' will take place on
Saturday 19th June (10am-12noon).
As always your donations for the Food Bank are deeply appreciated.

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MATTHEW & ERIN

It has been our immense pleasure to have Rev'd Matthew and Mrs Erin Topley sharing with us in our Parish during the past ten months.

Matthew and Erin have been serving amongst us since Matthew's Ordination in St Mark's on September 8th last year. Both Matthew and Erin have offered so much of their gifts and willing participation during their time with us and for all that they have contributed, we are incredibly grateful.

Matthew leads worship and preaches with immense ability. His love of the Lord, the Scriptures and exercising the gift of teaching has been richly evident. Of late he has been able to participate in doorstep visiting, something that he has obviously enjoyed. Covid restrictions have undoubtedly impacted on what Matthew has been able to do during his Internship in Armagh, however, he has demonstrated sincere patience, creativity and a willingness to participate as fully as possible. He has even been working on a Parish App. More details to follow!

Erin's contribution to our children's ministry last autumn and early winter was also deeply appreciated. Stand out initiatives which Erin led included last October's online Holiday Bible Club which was very well received, as was the Digital Nativity Service, complete with Christingles just before Christmas. Erin also produced online Sunday School opportunities for our parish, which Matthew also shared on a separate website offered for parishes to benefit from in our Rural Deanery.

Matthew and Erin's time with us in St Mark's will be remembered for all sorts of reasons, most of all for them with the birth of Lilly! It has been a delight to see Lilly grow so quickly and she is immensely blessed in her Mum and Dad.

Erin has very kindly agreed to be our special speaker for our Children's Day Service on June 6th. Matthew's final sermons for his internship will take place on Sunday 13th June. We have been abundantly encouraged by the presence of the Topley Family amidst us and on behalf of us all, I would like to wish them every happiness and blessing as they proceed to the next stage of their ministry, as Matthew becomes a Curate Assistant in a Parish of the Church of Ireland. We await with interest to see what God will do through these willing servants as they continue to serve in the ministry of his Church.

Malcolm

CD Recordings of Sunday Services are delivered to a number of parishioners. Should you know of any parishioners who do not have internet access and would appreciate a CD being delivered to their home, please contact Caroline . Also, if you not longer require CD deliveries, please also let us know.

Led by the youth and Children's Development Officer one further 'stand alone' zoom session, supporting parent and carers, will take place on the date below.

10th June : 'Nurturing your child's faith at home. Ideas, support and resources for parents and carers'.

Simply email David Brown doycarmagh@gmail.com to book in for the one hour session. Please note, the session begins at 7.30pm.

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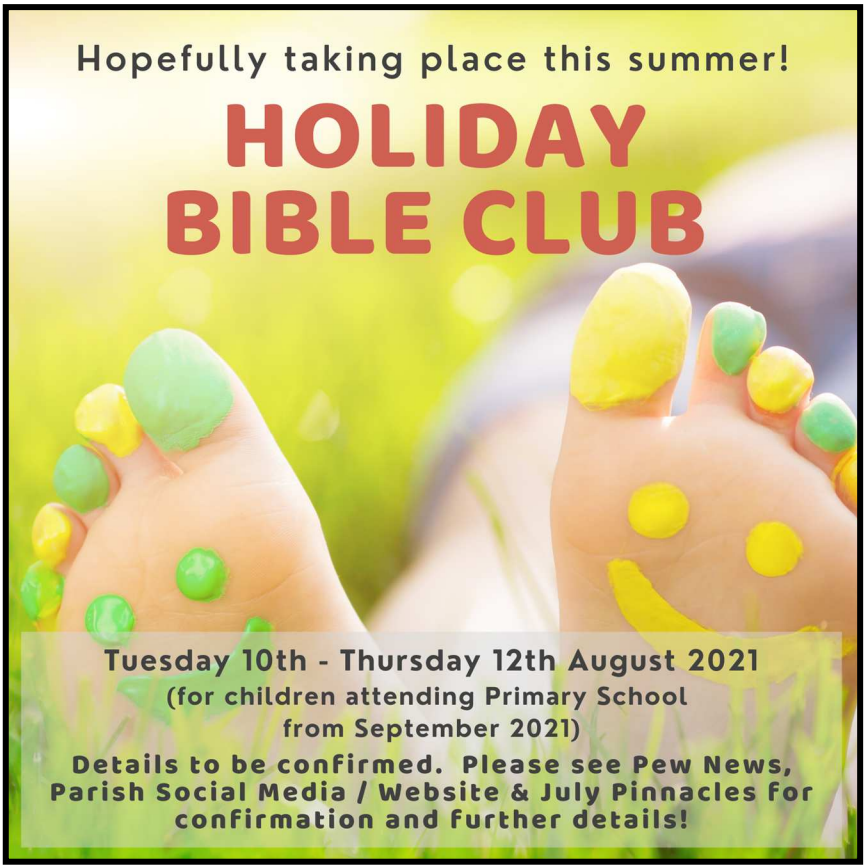
SHYOGWE UPDATE

Whilst Covid has impacted greatly on our Parish life, necessary restrictions have perhaps been even more challenging for the Rwandan Church. Schools, vocational training and health care provision are all offered by the Rwandan Church, with significant adjustments to services and programme required.

Restrictions have also meant that churches have be unable to open for in person services, which is even more problematic in a land without the level of technological provision that we are accustomed to. Our brothers and sisters in Rwanda have much to cope with at present, and it is fitting that we continue in our commitment to support them as a Parish in prayer and practical assistance. To update us on the current situation in Shyogwe, and also to encourage our partnership in the Gospel, Rev'd Roger Thompson (CMSI) will speak during our Sunday morning services on 20th June. We very much hope that as many as possible will be able to join us in worship and in our focus upon the Church in the Diocese of Shyogwe.



WEEKLY SERVICES

Sundays
8.30am : The Crozier Hall
(Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the Month)
10.30am : St Mark's (livestreamed)
7pm : St Mark's

Wednesdays
7.30pm : St Marks (Holy Communion on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month)

Fridays
9pm : Online

Online Sunday School is available from the 'Sunday Morning' Page of our Website. Online Services are available from our Parish YouTube Channel & Website

Please be mindful of the need to wear face coverings indoors (unless exempt), observe 2m distancing, as well as current advice relating to self isolating if experiencing Covid symptoms, close contacts or recent travelling.

PRAYER MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

The Prayer Ministry Partnership continues to pray for all who would welcome prayer for healing. At the beginning of each month a prayer list is circulated to group members which offers the Christian names of those whom we are praying for. Names are added during the month by email circulation until a new list is drafted.

If you, or someone that you know would like to be prayed for, please feel free to mention this to a member of the clergy or someone who you know is a member of the Parish Ministry Partnership. Alternatively, you can let us know via the response form on the 'Prayer and Worship' page of our Parish Website.

If you would like to join the actual prayer group, please again feel free to mention this to a member of the Clergy or a member of the Prayer Ministry Partnership.

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June Rotas...

6th : The 1st Sunday after Trinity

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

13th : The 2nd Sunday after Trinity

8.30am : Morning Service
10.30am : Morning Service
Reader : Don McKee
7.00pm : Evening Service

20th : The 3rd Sunday after Trinity

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

27th : The 4th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am : Morning Service
10.30am : Morning Service
7.00pm : Evening Service

Flower Rota

6th June : Florence Magwood

13th & 20th June : Sarah Peilow

27th June & 4th July : Ann & Roy Williamson

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

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2nd May : Penny Lois Weir

16th May : Grace Daly

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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

Sexton :

Mr David Mansbridge
(Tel : 07873167120)

Church Office Opening Hours

Monday 9-1pm

Tuesday 9-1 pm

Wednesday - CLOSED

Thursday 9-1pm

Friday 9-1 pm

Outside of these times, a message can be left on the answerphone (37 523197) or alternatively send an email to sec.stmarks@gmail.com

Contact Details

Rector : Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston
St Mark's Rectory, 14, Portadown Rd, Armagh
Tel : 02837 522970

Deacon Intern : Rev. Matthew Topley

Hon. Senior Associate Priest :
Very Revd Robert Townley

Diocesan Reader : Mr Paul Turton

Pastoral Assistants : 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

With this copy of Pinnacles you will have received a tube of smarties to enjoy!

Perhaps after eating the smarties you might consider taking part a fundraiser for Parish Funds?

Each tube will either hold £23 in £1 coins or £12 in 20p pieces— it's entirely up to you which you intend to save in your empty tube!

Tubes will be collected in during September & further tubes will be available from the Church Office and Porch should you wish to fill another!

As always, your support towards the life and work of our Parish is greatly appreciated!

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- Add backing material
- Add binding

To enter, simply contact Caroline

sec.stmarks@gmail.com