

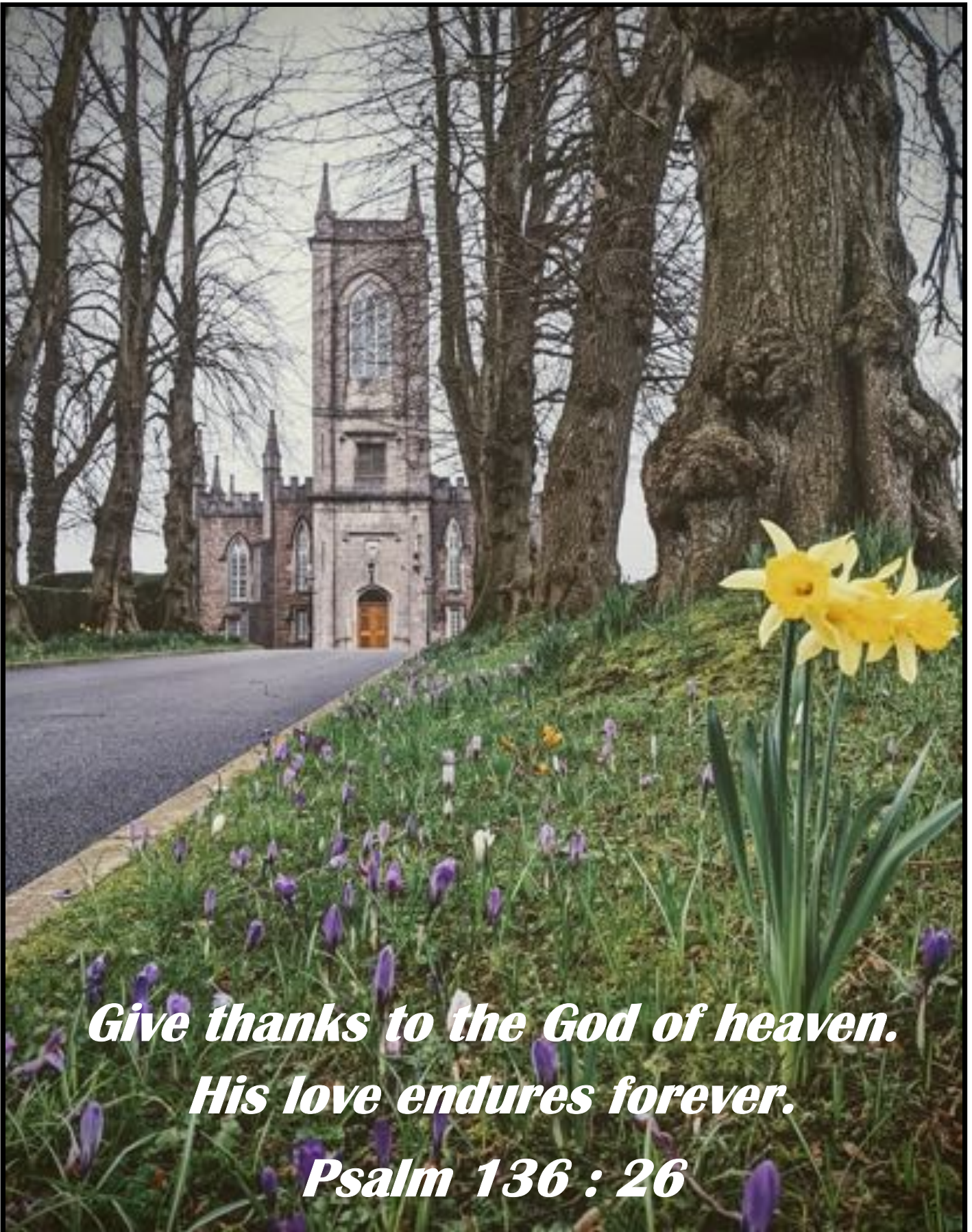
St Mark's  
Armagh



Serving together  
for Christ's Kingdom

# PINNACLES

## MARCH 2023



*Give thanks to the God of heaven.  
His love endures forever.*

*Psalm 136 : 26*

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year, Armagh's annual 'World Day of Prayer' Service will take place in First Armagh Presbyterian Church on Friday 3rd 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/>



## Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place 27th February – 12th March 2023.

This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

### Did you know?

Coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be much more difficult to buy. Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

But here's the good news. More people choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power and support for those communities.

By making the small switch to Fairtrade, we can all support producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.



## Rector's Letter.....

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I do so following our Ash Wednesday Service in St Mark's. Beginning our series from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) we considered the Beatitudes and what they might mean for us today. One particular Beatitude was especially thought provoking for me personally. <sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* For those affected by persecution due to being a follower of Jesus, this Beatitude is surely comforting. It is hard for us to imagine being persecuted for our faith, but the Open Doors Website claims that over 360 million Christians suffer persecution and discrimination. Those who suffer for their faith need to be prayed for and supported. As Christians we are to be mindful of the experiences and needs of our brothers and sisters in the Lord.



Whilst reflecting upon this Beatitude I was challenged by an argument that suggests that it is unfortunate that many more churches are not, in some way, opposed or persecuted. Why would this be we might ask? Surely, peace and harmony are to be thankful for! The suggestion is that churches that aren't opposed or persecuted can be so because they are simply blending in amongst the community that they are part of. Instead of standing out amidst a society that isn't focused upon God, they are saying the same things, offering little by the way of 'salt' and 'light' which Jesus encouraged his listeners to be in the verses following the Beatitudes.

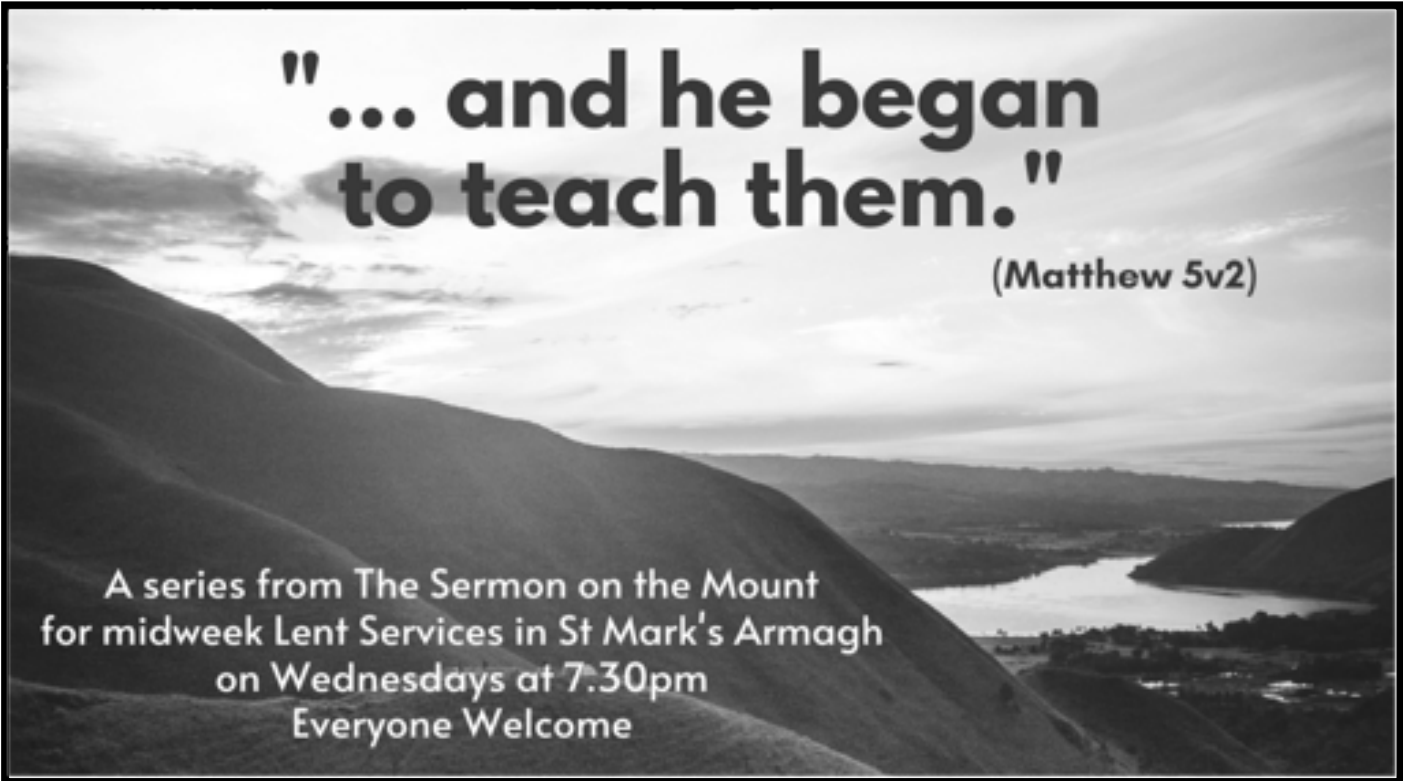
The thought of standing out as a follower of Jesus can frighten us. That we might be ridiculed, opposed and even persecuted for our faith and its claims is discomfoting. It is important that we listen to the views of others. However, if we are faithful to the teachings of Scriptures and the Christian tradition that we have received, we will be odds with some opinions and values that we encounter in our society, community and even within the Church. We shouldn't fear opposition. Instead, inspired by Jesus, we should graciously seek to offer distinctive lives that seek to honour the Lord who offered the truth despite resistance.

May opposition because of our faith not cause us to fear. Salt and Light are what we are encouraged to be. Graciously, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we shine as a people of faith in Jesus and may what we say and do inspire thought and encourage those around us to consider becoming and being known as a follower of Christ too.

Yours in faith,

*Malcolm*





**"... and he began  
to teach them."**

**(Matthew 5v2)**

A series from The Sermon on the Mount  
for midweek Lent Services in St Mark's Armagh  
on Wednesdays at 7.30pm  
Everyone Welcome

**During Lent and Easter we have a range of additional services which everyone will be most welcome to.**

On Wednesday evenings up until Holy Week, our Wednesday evenings services will feature short sermons based upon The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Whilst Holy Week and Easter will feature more in the next edition of Pinnacles, please do feel free to add these special services to your diary now and plan to come along! The Palm Sunday evening Service will include hymns and readings which are appropriate for the week ahead. The 8am Services during Holy Week are very short devotional services especially intended for those going to work at 9am. The evening service on Maundy Thursday will include a meal and Holy Communion. The '3 hours service' on Good Friday can be attended at any stage for as long as you would like to stay. And on Easter Sunday as we will celebrate at each of our usual service times, and in addition there is the opportunity to attend the Diocesan Dawn Service at The Argory (6.30am), as well as a breakfast in the Crozier Hall immediately following.



## **Holy Week & Easter**

**Palm Sunday (2nd April) : 8.30am, 10.30am & 7pm**

**Monday - Wednesday :- 8am & 8pm**

**Maundy Thursday : 8am & 7pm**

**Good Friday : 8am, 12noon - 3pm, 8pm**

**Easter Sunday (9th April) : 8.30am, 10.30am & 7pm**

## **THE FIRST THURSDAY CLUB**

The Speaker for our meeting on 2nd of March will be a Representative from the Sports & Development Department of ABC Borough Council. She will be showing us some light chair exercises and maybe a game or two to keep us moving and staying fit. We will meet as usual in the Venue in the Crozier Hall at 2.30 pm and 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. Transport can be arranged by contacting the Parish office.



If you would like to join us you will be very welcome.

The next Service will take place on Tuesday 7th March and a light lunch is then offered in the Crozier Hall.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Over the coming weeks, the children in Sunday School will be using the Church Missionary Society in Ireland (CMSI) Children's Resource for 2023 entitled "Switched on" which explores the theme of climate justice. There will be Bible teaching on God's love for the whole world. We will look at videos from Nepal and the climate crisis.

All children from our parish from Primary 1 age upwards are warmly invited to join us in Sunday School as part of the 10.30am service. We do fun activities and enjoy learning from the Bible and a treat or two is always available!

So why not come along to Sunday School and see what we do - we would be delighted to have you join us!

*Christine*

## **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.



## **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

**DRIVE THROUGH  
DROP OFF  
(FOR ARMAGH FOODBANK)**



**SATURDAY  
18TH MARCH  
(10AM - 12NOON)  
CROZIER HALL**

**THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY**

Beginning on January 12th, a six week programme took place on Thursday evenings entitled 'The Bereavement Journey'. Involving 15 people from our Parish, wider community and beyond, the theme of each evening included :- the pain of grief - how it feels and how to deal with it, coping with change, moving forward and faith questions. Comments received from participants were very positive and as leaders we felt very affirmed in the value of its offering.

Mindful of how beneficial the programme seemed to be and how we were unable to accommodate all who would have liked to participate, we are considering running the programme again during May and early June. To this end, we would love to know if you, or someone that you know of might be interested in participating? If so, please do feel free to get in touch with Bob Brown (Parish Nurse) on :- 07514129195. We will confirm finer details by contacting all who have been in touch nearer the time of commencement.

## *Curate's Corner...*



Dear Friends,

Are you listening? One thing that really used to annoy me when I was younger was having to repeat stuff time and time again because adults weren't listening properly to me. In my undergraduate degree as part of our pastoral care course, we had classes on how to actively listen to someone. Listening is something many of us struggle with, and in fact as our pre-marriage course gets underway this month we'll be looking at how listening is two way. We must talk with one another but we must also carefully listen to each other.

So as humans living in a chaotic and ever changing world, it's no wonder we find it difficult to listen. But what about listening to God? How often do we listen to our creator? Do we know what his voice sounds like?

In homegroup over the past few months we've been discussing big questions of faith. As I write this, I'm preparing for our time together this week which will be focused on how to hear God. As I was preparing I was promoted to reflect on how long I spend listening to God. So often I come to God in prayer with a shopping list of what I want to see happen, what I want him to do and after I say 'Amen', I go about my day to day. But in that I've forgot to listen, I'm so busy with and preoccupied with what's happening next that I haven't taken the time to hear God. Perhaps many of you do the same? God calls us to listen, listen in scripture for his voice, listen to him speaking through others, listen to him leading us through the spirit.

When I get a phone call from my parents or from Daniel (my husband), from the very first syllable that they speak I know who it is because I know their voice. As Christians we should strive to know Gods voice so deeply that we recognise it as soon as we hear it.

This lent, I encourage you to be intentional about listening to God, listen for prompting, directing and leading you. If you're interested to know more about hearing God please get in touch, we can go for a coffee or else come along to homegroup as we go deeper with questions such as this.

Every Blessing,

**Sarah**

## Opportunities in our Parish for faith encouragement and for friendship ....

### Worship

Worshipping and serving God together is the essence of being 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 are available on page 12. 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. With a break for exams, our year's activities conclude with an annual trip to Summer Madness.

### 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

Currently Bible Fellowship is taking a break during Lent due to Lent Services. After Easter, Bible Fellowship will meet weekly and take place along with our Wednesday midweek service (7.30pm). We conclude with a cup of tea, coffee and treats!



### 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](http://www.stmarksarmagh.org))

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**FOR ALL YOUR SPORTS  
EQUIPMENT**

## THE WELL

The Well cafe church began on Sunday 12th February at 7pm. As we gathered we enjoyed tea, coffee, hot chocolate and plenty of treats. We began our time of worship led by the praise band and then heard a reading from the Woman at the Well (John 4). The talk was focused on how we can truly be spiritually nourished and our thirst quenched from a well that never runs dry. We ended our worship together with prayers and some new worship songs. There was a great little buzz in the Venue as many stayed afterwards to catch-up over more coffee, tea and treats.

Everyone is welcome at cafe church from the young to the young at heart - you'll be made most welcome as we come to worship and grow together in our relationship with Jesus.

The Well will next be meeting on Sunday 12th March at 7pm in the Venue at the Crozier Hall - we'd love to see you there!

# The Well

-Cafe Church-

Sunday 12th March

7pm | The Venue

*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](http://www.stmarksarmagh.org)



# March Service Rota

## 5TH : THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

8.30am : Holy Communion  
10.30am : Holy Communion  
Reader : *Mervyn Adamson*  
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

## 12TH : THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8.30am : Holy Communion  
10.30am : Morning Prayer  
Reader : *Wendy Davison*  
7.00pm : Evening Prayer  
7.00pm : THE WELL (The Venue)

## 17TH MARCH - St Patrick's Day (9.30am) : Holy Communion

## 19TH : THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

## 26TH : THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8.30am : Holy Communion  
10.30am : Morning Prayer  
Reader : *Winston Montgomery*  
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

### GENERAL VESTRY MEETING

The annual General or Easter Vestry Meeting is planned to take place in The Crozier Hall on **Tuesday, 28th March 2023 (7.30pm)**.

Everyone is invited to join as we reflect on the year past, elect Select Vestry Members and look forward with faith together.



### FUNDRAISING GROUP

This year as a parish, we will have to do some fundraising to help us balance our income and expenditure.

Some initiatives are being developed by a newly established fundraising group. If you would like to be part of this group, you are very welcome! Please feel free to get in to touch with Malcolm, Sarah or the Parish Office for details.

We hope that the ideas we develop will be attractive to you and members of the community for your participation and support.



### 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 in St. Mark's

## WHERE THERE'S A WILL

On Friday 24th March the Killylea Players will perform 'Where there's a will' in the Crozier Hall. This is a fundraising event to assist a Parishioner, Ms Katie Hassard, travelling to Kenya this summer to serve with the Christian Charity 'Jengana'.

The play is a comedy and features unforeseen circumstances for a bachelor who receives word that he has been left money by an old school friend, but is persuaded to claim for a wife and child also.

Tickets for the play are available from the Parish Office.



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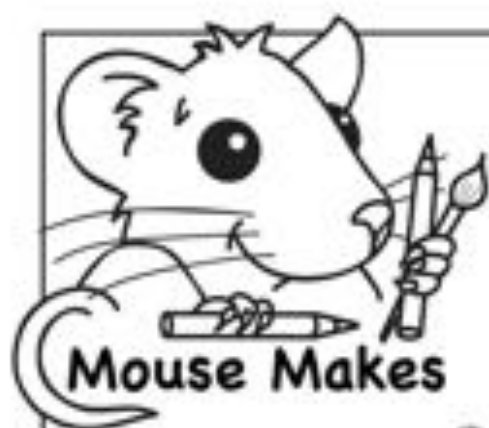
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### BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

— — —  
Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

— — — — —  
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

— — — — —  
1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

— — — — —  
Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

— — — — —  
2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

— — — — —  
Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.

M — — — — —  
Matt 1:16

O — — — — —  
2 Tim 1:5

T — — — — —  
1 Kings 1:11

H — — — — —  
1 Sam 1:20

E — — — — —  
Gen 34:1

R — — — — —  
Gen 30:22

### WHO IS MY MOTHER?



- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| CAIN    | ELIZABETH |
| ISAAC   | HANNAH    |
| JESUS   | RACHEL    |
| JACOB   | REBEKAH   |
| TIMOTHY | EVE       |
| JOSEPH  | MARY      |
| SAMUEL  | SARAH     |
| JOHN    | EUNICE    |

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search

- REBEKAH
- ELIZABETH
- EUNICE
- RUTH
- MARY
- RACHEL
- LEAH
- ZIPLAH
- MOTHER
- MUM



E E L O I S Z I L A M J H  
 U V N Z M A R Y Z U O Z R  
 N E A U U R U T H L T I A  
 I J O C H A B E D E H L C  
 C I M B J H M U M A E P H  
 E L I Z A B E T H H R A E  
 R E B E K A H A N N A H L

How many other words can you make from:  
**MOTHERING SUNDAY**



## SUMMER MADNESS 30TH JUNE - 4TH JULY @ PORTGLENONE



for more info :  
[www.stmarksarmagh.org](http://www.stmarksarmagh.org)

## SUMMER MADNESS

Coinciding with the end of the school for the summer holidays, Summer Madness takes place at Portglenone. We would love for young people of secondary school age, as well as their friends, to come along and be part of our group. Under canvas for four nights, this Christian Festival for young people includes vibrant worship and teaching, a wide range of activities, late night and lots of fun with friends. For more information, to buy tickets and for consent forms, please visit our Parish Website.



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# St Mark's Armagh

*'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom'*



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**Parish Administrator :**

Mrs Caroline Nesbitt  
Tel: 02837 523197  
Email : [sec.stmarks@gmail.com](mailto:sec.stmarks@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stmarksarmagh.org](http://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 Gordon Stewart

**People's Churchwarden :**

Mr Uel Megarity

## 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 email to : [sec.stmarks@gmail.com](mailto:sec.stmarks@gmail.com)

Pinnacles notes for April are due in the Church Office no later than Monday 20th March.  
Thank you in advance.

## CHURCH RECORDS

### Holy Baptism

19th February : Finley James Gillespie-Miller

### Service of Thanksgiving for the life of

Yvonne Myrtle Haire (27th January)

Iris Buckley (1st February)

Thomas William (Ronnie) Watt (15th February)

Desmond John Scroggie (18th February)



*"Blessed Are Those Who Mourn, for They Will be Comforted" (Matthew 5:4)*

## HOMEGROUP

The idea of a homegroup is not a new one. In fact this is how the early church originally met. The word *church* is a translation from the Greek word *ekklesia*, it was the common word for a meeting or gathering of people. So, in the New Testament, a church was a gathering of Christians and did not mean a particular type of building or a denomination. Homegroup is therefore a wider expression of church. God never intended for us to live the Christian life alone.

As homegroup we meet every 3 weeks in someone's house for fellowship together and learning. At the moment we are discussing big faith questions, for example we've be looking at where is God in suffering, why does he allow it? and once you give your life to Christ are you always a Christian? The topics may seem deep but we take time to listen to scripture, one another and learn more about living out our faith.

Homegroup is always open for others to come along see what it's all about. If you need any further information please get in contact with Sarah.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ 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 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.*

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On Sunday 26th March (10.30am), a Service of Confirmation shall take place in St Mark's.

Please do pray for our candidates to be confirmed;



Harry, Alfie, Benjamin, Stacey, Isabella, Ellen, Emily, Lilli, Phoebe, Emily, Katie, Rachel, Patrick, Alex, Harry, Robyn, Charlotte

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.

## CHURCH GIVING

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Parish Funds. We are truly grateful for your support. Here are available opportunities which you might like to consider for contributions.



For any queries, or to obtain any necessary details please feel free to contact The Parish Administrator, Mrs Caroline Nesbitt (028 37523197 / [sec.stmarks@gmail.com](mailto:sec.stmarks@gmail.com)).

- ⇒ Church Offering Envelopes may be received at Sunday services or at the 'Drive Through'. (Please access the church grounds via Victoria Street)
- ⇒ Standing Orders may be initiated via your Bank's online facilities (**Sort Code : 980190 A/c No: 02481185**) or by using a form obtainable from Caroline.
- ⇒ Donations by debit / credit card can be made via our Parish Website (Parish Donations page).
- ⇒ Gift Aid. If you are a UK Tax Payer, St Mark's can benefit from an additional 25% on top of your contributions, at no extra cost to you. If you would like to enable this to happen, please contact Caroline who will provide you with the relevant form to complete. If your circumstances change meaning that you are no longer a Tax Payer, please also contact Caroline, so that your Gift Aid declaration can be concluded.





# Alive

ST MARK'S WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY



~~19TH JANUARY~~

~~Zumba Class~~

~~8.15pm~~

~~£2 each~~

~~23RD FEBRUARY~~

~~Bible Study :  
Martha & Mary  
Working &  
Worshipping~~

16TH MARCH

Bible  
Illustration  
workshop with  
City & Shore

20TH APRIL

Bible Study  
The Samaritan  
Woman-  
*water of life*

11TH MAY

Bible Study  
Anna  
*The  
Faithful Witness*

15TH JUNE

Summer  
Special  
Event

**THE CROZIER HALL  
7:30PM**

*For more updates see Pinnacles & Pew News*





24 MARCH 2023  
- 7:30 PM

St Mark's Hall,  
Armagh

**KILLYEA PLAYERS  
PRESENT**

**£10  
ENTRY**

**WHERE  
THERE'S A  
WILL.**

All proceeds for Jengana -  
a Christian charity seeking to support  
people who are living in extreme poverty,  
mostly in urban areas of Kenya.

Tickets  
available from  
the Church  
Office!