



PINNACLES

OCTOBER 2023

St Mark's, Armagh

Harvest Services

Friday 13th October
8pm

Sunday 15th October
8.30am, 10.30am
& 7pm

Everyone welcome

For more details :-

www.stmarksarmagh.org



FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL

Indoor football continues in the Orchard Leisure Centre on
Monday nights (8.15pm).

This is intended for anyone of 18 years of age and older,
and it is a great way to develop friendships, have fun and
get some exercise!

If you would like to be added to the Monday Night Football WhatsApp group
through which players book in, please contact the Parish Office
(37523197 / sec.stmarks@gmail.com). Everyone is very welcome!



christmas shopping at KILDARE VILLAGE

Saturday, 18th November 2023

to book a place on the bus, please see
the sign up sheet in the Church Porch.

Cost : £20pp

Rector's Letter.....

Dear Friends,



During the month ahead we shall celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving Services. I wonder if they are services you are looking forward to? I ask this question because people have differing views about Harvest Services. Just recently I was speaking to a man from a city Parish here in Northern Ireland and he told me how he feels quite apathetic towards Harvest Thanksgiving because there are no farmers in his church or immediate community. He therefore feels quite disconnected from a sense of affinity towards Harvest Services. In honesty, I felt disappointed for him!

In contrast, I look forward to Harvest Services. I take great delight in seeing the church decorated with tangible produce from God's sustaining of the world. I find it comforting to sing the traditional Harvest Hymns that remind us of God's blessings to us. I enjoy preparing a Harvest Sermon to take with me to churches and nursing homes in which I am invited to preach, and I love to welcoming friends to our church to share a Harvest message with us. I think that this is a precious time of year, because it is a reminder that God is good and more than worthy of our Thanks and Praise.

As we can so easily take one another for granted, we can also overlook God as the giver of good things. I wonder when is the last time that we prayed the simple words of 'Thank You' to God. The Psalms in particular encourage us to express praise filled gratitude to God. Psalm 65 is one of many such praise inspiring passages in which we are encouraged to thank God for his mercy, thank God for his creation and thank God for his sustaining life and imparting his blessings. Why not take just a few minutes to read this Psalm and praise God with thanksgivings.

I very much hope that our Harvest Services will be special service that you will look forward to. Please know a very warm invitation and if at all possible, I look forward to seeing you then, if not before.

Every blessing,

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

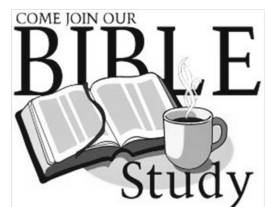
Youth Fellowship meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 5pm - 6.30pm. It is intended for young people of secondary school age and as well as learning from the Bible we enjoy crazy games and some time just to chat together.

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 midweek 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!

Marksman

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. Please keep an eye out on Pew News for a date in September on which Marksman will resume.



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.

1ST TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

The monthly Holy Communion Service, which is followed by a light lunch in the Crozier Hall, will take place in St Mark's on Tuesday 3rd October (11.30am). Next month's service will take place on Tuesday 7th November, also at 11.30am. As always, everyone will be very welcome.



FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

For our meeting on 5th October our speaker will be Mr Sean Barden of the Armagh County Museum, and his talk will be entitled "Looking back on Old Armagh". This is a change of programme since our last meeting due to circumstances beyond our control. Please note we will meet as usual in the Venue at 2.30pm on the first Thursday, and new members will be always welcome.

Ann

YF3 (Youth Fellowship)

Youth Fellowship returns to The Venue on Sunday 1st October (5pm - 6.30pm).

We meet on the first and third Sunday of the month and all young people of secondary school age are invited to come along. Typically each evening includes some games, an interactive Bible Study, food and time to enjoy with friends. Young people from our Parish, and their friends, are more than welcome. To find out more, please feel free to speak to Malcolm, Christine Rountree or Adele Geddis.



LADIES WALKING GROUP

The ladies walking group continue to meet every Thursday leaving the Crozier Hall at 10am. We usually walk different routes around Armagh and sometimes venture further afield! And, of course, always finishing with Coffee and scones. New walkers are always welcome!

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Alive

St Mark's Women's Ministry

Thursday 26th October

The Crozier Hall | 7:30pm

St Mark's Armagh

HOMEGROUP



Tuesday's 7:30pm
(See Pew News for exact dates)

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

For more information
please contact Sarah

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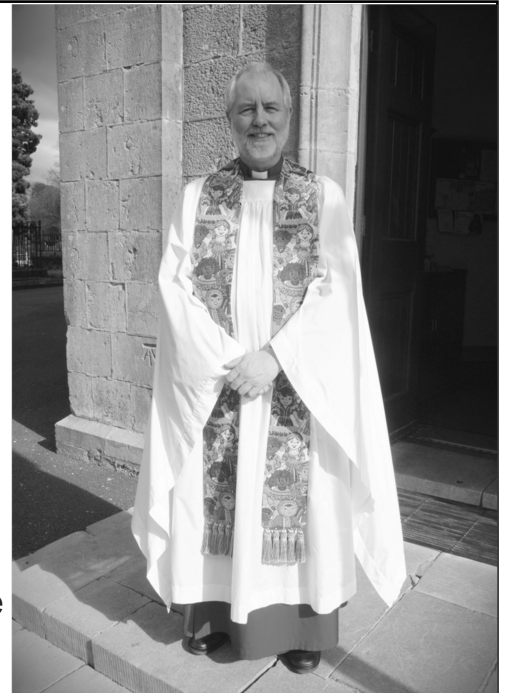
REV'D CANON JOHN MCKEGNEY

It is with great sadness that on Friday 22nd September we learned of the death of our former Rector, Rev'd Canon John McKegney. John served faithfully in St Mark's for 23 years and is remembered with immense affection by our parishioners. Since his passing many personal stories have been told of the pastoral support that John offered in times of difficulty. John was someone who understood the suffering that many faced and responded with compassion and empathy.

As well as being a Rector, John also served the Church as a Rural Dean and in several Diocesan responsibilities. John was a significant member of the Armagh community and was the Chairman of The Armstrong Primary School Board of Governors for over 20 years, as well as holding prominent positions in the Southern Education and Library Board. He enjoyed a very active retirement in Portrush, assisting with church services in his local area, making friends through the groups that he was associated with and exercising his interest in railways as a Chairman of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland. In illness John demonstrated remarkable strength. He was very open about what he faced and amidst his struggles, he often spoke of the peace that he knew through his faith in Christ.

The Funeral Service for Canon McKegney took place in St Mark's on Tuesday 26th September. Participants in the service included The Archbishop of Armagh, The Rt. Rev'd The Lord Eames O.M., Rev'd Canon Peter McDowell, Venerable Robin Bantry White, Mrs Hilary McKegney, Venerable Peter Thompson (Organist) and The Rector.

As a Church family may we continue to remember John's loved ones in prayer, especially his partner Karen, his son and daughter, Patrick and Ruth, daughter in law and son in law Ashleigh and Stuart, his sister in law Hilary, as well as John's grandchildren Finnian, Joshua, Erin and Gabriel. May all who know sorrow also know comfort and peace.



BOWLING CLUB

The new bowling season is now underway and our first night back was well attended and most enjoyable. Our Secretary has arranged 8 matches commencing on Thursday 28th September in an away match against Richhill Presbyterian.

Please note that we are very interested in welcoming new members and with this in mind, we are holding C.A.T.I (come and try it) nights on 11th, 18th and 25th October at 8pm. On these nights separate mats will be available and coaching provided.



Curate's Corner...

Thank-you | Grazie | Merci | Danke | 你好 | Mahalo | Diolch

It's hard to believe that in a matter of days we'll soon be entering October. Perhaps that's a scary thought, or maybe like me, it brings back great memories of a favourite season kicking leaves around Lady Dixon park in Belfast as a young child. Whatever way you feel about Autumn, it's a reminder that Harvest services will soon be in full swing. The term "harvest" originates from the old English word 'hærf-est' meaning 'Autumn'. Harvest Festival is a celebration of the food grown on the land. Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are both worldwide and very ancient. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival', usually during the month of September or October.



What does harvest mean for you? For many people they associate harvest with saying "thank you" and giving thanks to God for all that he has provided. Thank-you, an eight letter word and yet it holds so much meaning. In the Old Testament, we find an interesting story of how King Jehoshaphat took an uncommon approach when his enemies waged war against him. Instead of sending in his army first, he sent in the choir and musicians. For a moment imagine the scene, there is an army heading towards you that is armed to the teeth with weapons. Instead of asking you to charge ahead with likewise armour, the King instructs you to head towards your opponent signing and playing music. You'd be wondering if the King liked your music. But God had directed Jehoshaphat in this unusual battle tactic. Scripture says that Jehoshaphat appointed people to sing to the Lord, praise the beauty of holiness, and go out in front of the army saying, "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever" (2 Chronicles 20:21).

So that is exactly what they did and when they began to sing and praise, God sent an ambush against the enemy, and they were destroyed. God's people were able to go into this situation giving thanks, because He was in control.

Harvest is remembered as a time to give thanks to God. How many times have we stopped to thank God about the previous prayers he's answered, the blessings he has given us and what he has provided us before asking him for something else? Just like there are many languages to say 'thank you', there are many ways that we can say thanks to God, we can simply come to him in prayer or we can sing praises to name but a few. May each of us be encouraged in whatever season we are currently in, whether one of joy or sorrow, may we recount his blessings and simply say 'Thank you God'.

Every Blessing, *Sarah*

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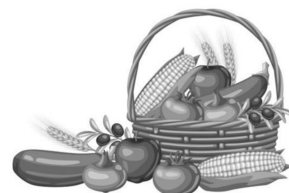
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HARVEST



HARVEST THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving Services will take place during the weekend of Friday 13th to Sunday 15th October.

We would love for you and your friends to come along and join us for what are always very joyful services. Assisting us in our praise during our Harvest Services will be our Parish Choir who are currently practicing on Wednesday nights before mid week services. New members to our Choir are always welcome at any time!

Items received at the Food Bank collection on 7th October will be used to help decorate the church prior to delivering them to the Food Bank. As well as these, we would really value donations of flowers, vegetables and fruit to enhance our displays and help us to be inspired for praise and thanksgiving to God for all of his blessings to us. Decorating of the church shall take place from Thursday 12th (10am) and all help will be very much appreciated! Windows and the church porch are customarily decorated by parish organisations and individual families, and for their contributions we are always very grateful.

This year our preachers for each service will be as follows :-

Friday 13th (8pm) : Very Rev'd Sam Wright (Lisburn Cathedral)

Sunday 15th (8.30am) : Rev'd Sarah Parkinson

Sunday 15th (10.30am) : Bishop Ian Ellis (Clogher Diocese)

Sunday 15th (7pm) : Rev'd Paul Lyons (Camus-Juxta-Bann Parish, Macosquin)

We very much hope that you will join us for our Harvest Services. Please also feel free to invite family and friends to come alone too!

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



**SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER
(10AM - 12NOON)
CROZIER HALL**

HARVEST ENVELOPES

This year the two selected recipients for our Harvest Envelopes are the Bishops' Appeal Libya Fund and Home for Good. Following is some information gleaned from the Bishops' Appeal and Home for Good Websites to help us better understand how donations received will be of great benefit.

Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development has launched a disaster appeal in response to the catastrophic flooding in Libya. The floods, which were triggered by a Mediterranean storm, were focused on the city of Derna where almost 4,000 people are known to have died and over 9,000 are missing after torrents of rain and debris swept away entire districts.



Some 37,000 people in flood-affected areas have been displaced by the storm. The huge number displaced highlights the immediate humanitarian need for survivors now (facing needs of clean water, food, shelter, utensils and clothing), and into the coming months and years (rebuilding, reuniting, finding a safe place to call home).

The Bishops' Appeal will be channeling all funds through Christian Aid who are working with Dan Church Aid (DCA), its ACT Alliance partner, who have had an established presence in Libya since 2011, providing a confidence that those on the ground have a clear understanding of the situation and how money raised can be used most effectively.



On the Sunday following our Harvest Weekend (22nd October) the speaker at our 10.30am Service will be Mr Roger Cooke from Home for Good. Home for Good believes that we all have a part to play to ensure that every child and young person has the home they need. Home for Good works to mobilise the Church in the UK

to respond to the needs of children in care through families stepping forward to foster, adopt or provide supported lodgings for teenagers and churches wrapping around families with support, and to influence wider society through advocacy and engagement to create systemic change.

SELECT VESTRY UPDATE

In the last edition of Pinnacles, it was reported that it is believed that there is the presence of dry rot in central area of the flooring in St Mark's. To this end, investigations are continuing and it is hoped that with an inspection during the near future we will have a more accurate understanding of whether a significant problem exists and if so, to what extent. As stated in the last issue, the Select Vestry will endeavour to keep Parishioners informed of developments.



St Mark's Armagh

'Serving together for Christ's Kingdom'



Parish Office :

The Gate Lodge
44 Victoria Street
Armagh BT61 9DT

Parish Administrator :

Mrs Caroline Nesbitt
Tel: 02837 523197
sec.stmarks@gmail.com

Sexton :

Mr David Mansbridge
(Tel : 07873167120)



Website: www.stmarksarmagh.org
Registered Charity : NIC103959



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 an email may be sent to : sec.stmarks@gmail.com

Pinnacles notes for NOVEMBER are due in the Church Office no later than Monday 23rd October.
Thank you in advance.



CHURCH RECORDS

HOLY BAPTISM

24th September : Alfie Cooke

HOLY MATRIMONY

31st August : Janet Irwin & Mark O'Callaghan

7th September : Alison Geary & Steven Allen

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF :

7th September : Edward (Ted) Ferguson

8th September : Joseph Kenneth (Ken) Orr

14th September : Muriel Mitchell

27th September : Rev'd Canon John Wade McKegey



*Janet Irwin
&
Mark O'Callaghan
who were married on
31st August*



*Alison Geary
&
Steven Allen
who were married on
7th September*



October Flower Rota

1st October : Janice Nicholl

8th October : Vacant

15th October : Harvest Decorations

22nd & 29th October : Vacant



FONT :

Hazel Acheson

COFFEE ROTA

The Coffee rota for the remainder of the year can be found on the noticeboard in the Church porch.

Volunteers are always appreciated to serve tea/coffee in the Crozier Hall after our monthly family services. For any help you can offer -

THANK YOU!



October Service Rota...

1st : The 17th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
10.30am : Holy Communion 2
Reader : Wendy Davison
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

8th : The 18th Sunday after Trinity

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

Friday 13th October : Harvest Service

15th : The 19th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am : Holy Communion 1
10.30am : Family Harvest Service
7.00pm : Harvest Service
7.00pm : Holy Communion 2

22nd : The 20th Sunday after Trinity

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

29th : The 5th Sunday before Advent

8.30am : Holy Communion 2
10.30am : Morning Prayer
Reader : Tom Galbraith
7.00pm : Healing Service



THE AMBASSADOR

Sadly, during the summer we received news that our Diocesan Magazine, 'The Ambassador' will no longer be printed. Unfortunately due to difficulties in maintaining its financial viability, the decision had to be made to conclude its printing.

The Diocese has an online presence through Facebook and the Website which will now be the main method of communication for items of Diocesan interest.

Everyone is invited to join us
on Thursday 12th October
from 10am to decorate the
Church for Harvest

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It was lovely to welcome all the children back after the summer break. We hope that they are enjoying the new term at Sunday School.

A gentle reminder to parents to return Sunday School consent forms if you have not already done so. These are required to comply with Safeguarding Regulations.

If your child would like to be part of Sunday School, they would be so welcome! Please speak to Christine Somerville or contact the Church Office for further details



Armagh Diocesan

BIG DAY OUT SURFING

(THE BOARDWALK
COLLECTIVE, PORTRUSH)

Saturday 7th October

to book & for more info, please see Parish Website



SAVE THE DATE

On Tuesday 19th December (7.30pm) a very special Christmas Concert shall take place in St Mark's.

We very much look forward to welcoming the acclaimed '**Adoro**' Choir to St Mark's for a concert entitled '**Silent night**'.

This will be an event with beautifully performed Christmas music that we know you will love, so please, please plan to come along. This will be an event not to be missed! Tickets shall soon be available via the Parish Office and Select Vestry members at the cost of £15. Concessions £13.

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 like to receive Parish Information via occasional email communications :

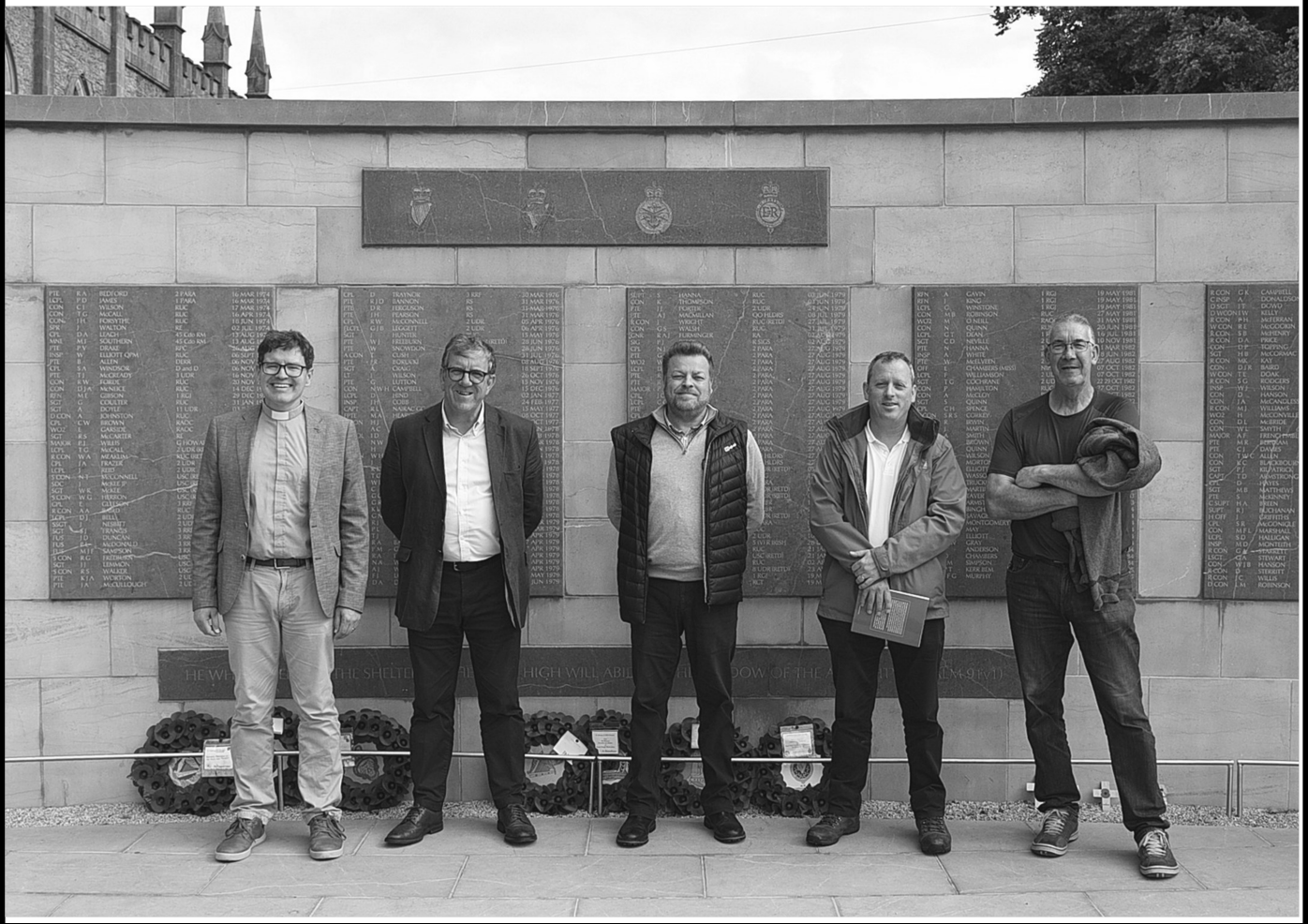
⇒ I would like to receive Parish Giving Envelopes :

⇒ 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.

On Wednesday 30th August, it was a delight to meet the Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission upon his visit to St Mark's. As part of Vice Admiral Peter Hudson's tour of Northern Ireland, alongside his local colleague, Malcolm Ross, he visited a graveyard in each county and one in Belfast. St Mark's was Co. Armagh graveyard for his tour. In his letter of thanks, the Vice Admirable expressed his appreciation for the stories told of the service men which was facilitated by our Sexton, Mr David Mansbridge.

In addition to the Commonwealth Grave, our visitors took great interest in seeing the Co. Armagh Memorial Wall.



ARCHBISHOP GREGG MEMORIAL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

This Scheme is open to anyone who may be interested in playing the organ or those wishing to increase their skills. Applicants should be able to play approximately to grade 5 piano standard.

Scholarships are awarded annually up to a maximum of three years with tuition will be given on a variety of organs throughout the Diocese.

For anyone who may be interested, please contact the Diocesan Office on 02837 522858



THE WELL - CAFÉ CHURCH

Café church is church but with a difference! Instead of a traditional service seated in pews, café church is more of an informal style of meeting together to worship God seated around tables. When you enter you'll be greeted with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and treats. We will begin with some worship and then proceed into Bible readings and a short reflection. Café Church is suitable for all ages and we'd love to see you come along!

The Well

• Cafe Church •

Sunday 8th October

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

'THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN'

BOOK LAUNCH

Saturday 21st October 10.30am

St James' Parish Church, Moy



Join us as we celebrate the rich, unique & compelling history of Moy Parish.

This is the *Day*
that the Lord has made,
let us *Rejoice*
and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24



CAFE HOPE



**Wednesdays from 3pm - 7pm
in The Venue, Crozier Hall**

A place just to drop in for a
chat and for fellowship.

Everyone welcome!

for more details, please contact
Bob Brown (Parish Nurse) : 07514129195



FASHION FOR FALL

We are really looking forward to our 'Fashion for Fall' Fashion show on 12th October in the Crozier Hall. We are absolutely overwhelmed that 150 tickets sold out in just 2 weeks!

Just a gentle reminder to keep your ticket in a safe place as you will need it for entry on the evening.

Finally, If you would be willing to provide traybakes for supper on the evening, please contact the Church Office or sign the sheet in the Porch. Many thanks in advance.

It's going to be a great night!



Harvest Festival

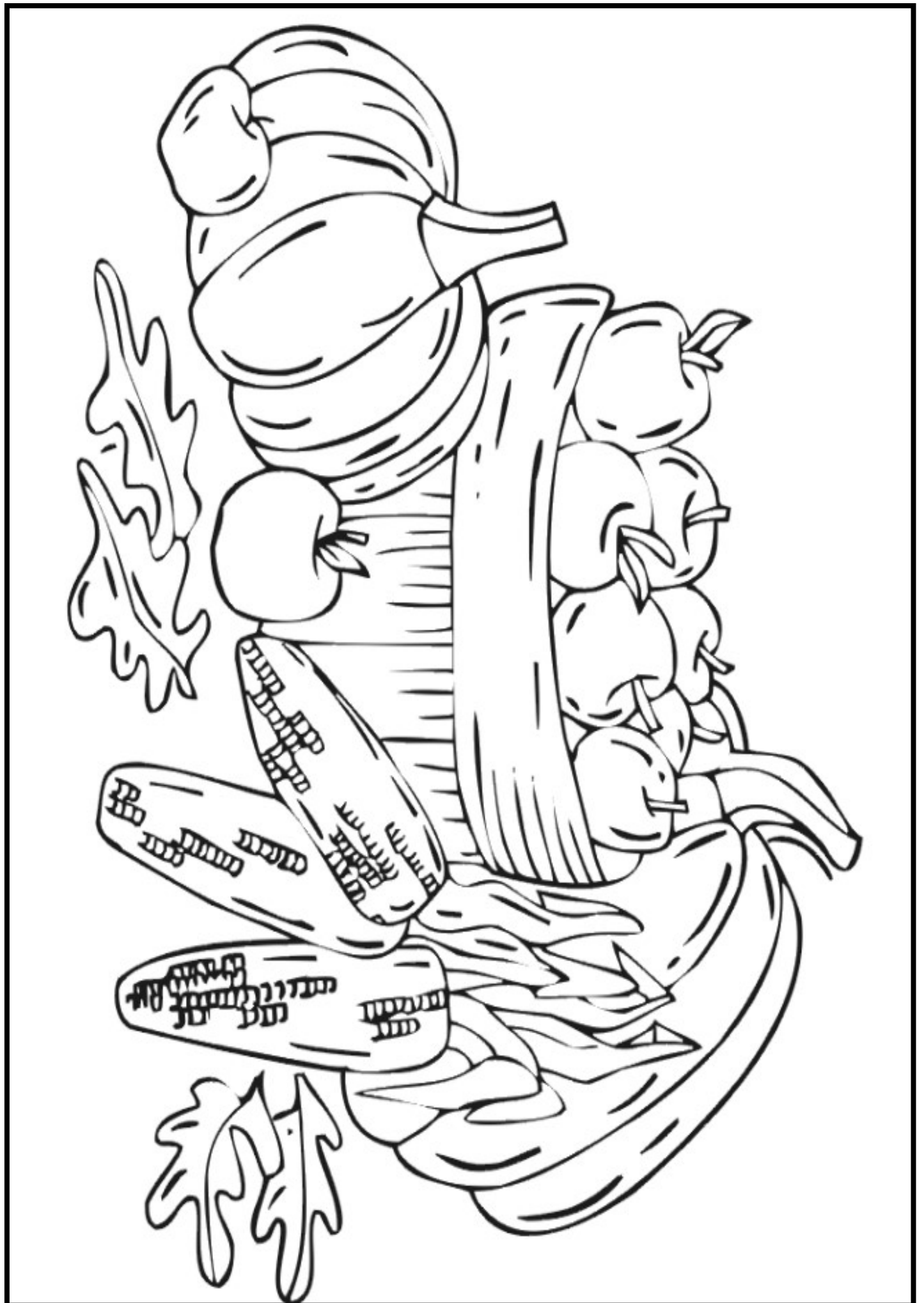
Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

ANNUAL
APPLES
AUTUMN
CELEBRATION
CONTESTS
CORN
CORNUCOPIA
CROPS
FARMER
FEASTING
FESTIVAL
FIELDS
GAMES
HARVEST



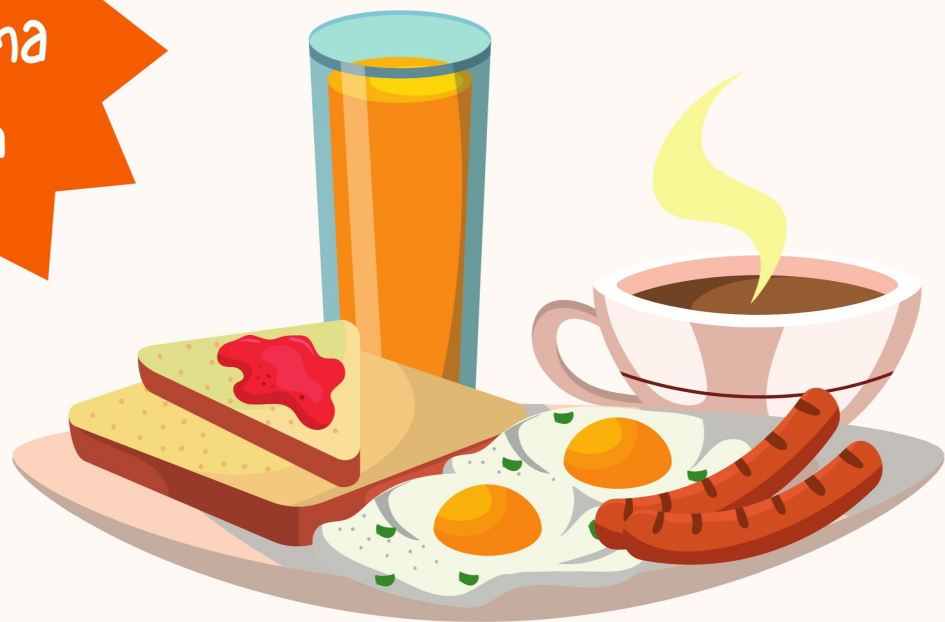
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MERRIMENT
MUSIC
OCTOBER
PUMPKINS
REGIONAL
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SQUASH



St Mark's Armagh

Ladies Harvest Breakfast

Speaker:
Rev Emma
Gibson



Saturday 14th October ● 9:30am ● The Crozier Hall

TO SIGN UP TELEPHONE THE PARISH OFFICE ON: 02837523197
OR VISIT WWW.STMARKSARMAGH.ORG