

PINNACLES MARCH/APRIL 2024



St Mark's, Armagh HOLY WEEK & EASTER



Palm Sunday (24th March) 8.30am, 10.30am & 7pm

Monday - Wednesday 8am & 8pm

Maundy Thursday 8am & 7pm

Good Friday 8am, 12noon - 3pm & 8pm

Easter Sunday (31st March) 8.30am, 10.30am & 7pm

for more info.:

www.stmarksarmagh.org





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CAFE HOPE



Wednesdays from 3pm - 7pm in The Venue, Crozier Hall (with well being walk at 6.30pm)

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Everyone welcome!

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

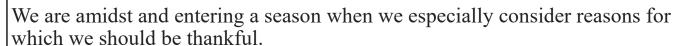


Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

Without taking to time to consider, think of three people or things that you can immediately say 'thank you' to God for.

Were you surprised by your thoughts? Thinking more about it, would you revise your list?



On the fourth Sunday in Lent, we traditionally give thanks for our mothers or those who have been like mothers to us. It is fitting that we remember and celebrate those who bless us with motherly love. Their's is a self sacrifice that is be responded to with thankfulness. Praise God for such special people who are or have been such a blessing to us.

The season of Lent is a special time when we remember how Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, fasting and alone. Despite his weakness he possessed the strength required to resist temptation, as enticing as it was. For this we can be immensely thankful. In the wilderness Jesus has shown that he was the worthy person to be the sinless Saviour, one who would die not for his sins, but yours and mine.

In the approach to and during Holy Week there are many incredibly precious teachings of Jesus that give us immense hope and reason to be thankful. On the Thursday of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday), Jesus gave his followers a method of remembering what would happen during the following days with thankful hearts. As you will see in the Book of Common Prayer, there are three names associated with this special ordinance of Jesus; Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper and The Eucharist. Originating from a Greek word found in the New Testament, eucharistia, this special word has always been associated with Jesus' meal of thankful remembrance and is an opportunity to be spiritually blessed as we are intentionally thankful.

Good Friday is an incredibly solemn day. As the hymn writer Charles Wesley put it in his hymn 'And can it be'; '*Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:*' That Jesus suffered unimaginable anguish and died for our sins is an absolute reason to be thankful. And yet, his death alone does not give us reason to be thankful. Knowing that he is risen gives us a certain hope. Easter shows us how Jesus is the fulfiller of promises. He died, he lives, he paid the price for sin, he assures his followers of the resurrection to come and we are never alone.

We might find it hard to be thankful at times. But this is a season to be especially mindful of reasons for thankfulness. Let us grasp the opportunity and celebrate the one who loves us, who died for us and lives that we might be with him.

Yours in Christ, *Maleolm*



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 16. 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. We would love for you to join us in worship on any occasion!

Creche

On Sundays when Sunday School meets, during 10.30am Services, a Creche facility is offered in the Beresford Room of the Crozier Hall. All children of preschool age are invited to come along and enjoy the fun!



Sunday School

During the school term we meet during the 10.30am Services and we have lots of fun learning about God and his love for us! Children in School Year 1 to 10 are invited to join us at any time. A programme for when Sunday School meets is available from our Website.



GLOW

Our Parish Youth Club meets fortnightly on Fridays (7.30pm) in The Crozier Hall. Intended for young people of School Year 6 and above, we have a range of regular and special activities and trips.

YF3

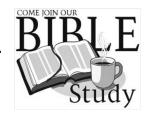
Youth Fellowship meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 5pm - 6.30pm. It is intended for young people of secondary school age and as well as learning from the Bible we enjoy crazy games and some time just to chat together.

Home Group

This is an informal gathering of people who meet in a house every three weeks on Tuesday evenings (7.30pm) to think about a Biblical passage and talk about it together. Sweet treats and a time to chat also feature!

Bible Fellowship

Bible Fellowship will take place in the context of our mid week services on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Church. We have group discussion and everyone is always welcome to join us.



Prayer Ministry Partnership

The Prayer Ministry Partnership is a prayer group within our parish who pray for those who would appreciate prayerful support for healing or for any need. A monthly prayer list (Christian names only) is compiled and circulated to those who have committed to be involved in this ministry of prayer. If you would like to join this group please feel free to get in touch. If you would like your name added to the prayer list, please feel free to contact us, or use the response form on our Parish Website (Page entitled Prayer and Worship).

Parish Choir

Our 10.30am Services, as well as occasional evening services, are greatly enriched by the contribution of our Parish Choir. People of all ages and who enjoy singing are warmly invited to come along and be part of this very



important ministry of leading the sung worship of Almighty God. Our choir are a very friendly group and will offer much assistance as new members get settled in. Choir practices generally take place in the approach to important festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Alive

Alive is a group for ladies of all ages! Meeting monthly on Thursday evenings (7.30pm). Alive features either a focus on a Biblical person or involve an activity. There is also plenty of time for refreshments and a catch up!

Marksmen

Each Wednesday morning (10.30am) a group of men gather to chat about anything and everything! With tea, coffee and scones, this always a very enjoyable time of friendship together. Occasional speakers and trips are organised.



1st Thursday Club

Meeting on the 1st Thursday each month (2.30pm) this group of ladies enjoy topical speakers, activities and occasional trips. Each meeting offers something of great interest and provides an opportunity to catch up with friends of old and create friendships that are new.

Ladies Walking Group

Meeting outside of the Crozier Hall on Thursdays at 10am, a group of ladies undertake local walks and conclude with a treat in a local coffee shop. Occasional trips to other locations also feature.

Drive Through Drop Off

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, the opportunity to drop off groceries for our local Food Bank is available from the front of the Crozier Hall. From 10am-12noon please feel free to drop off and have a chat!



Please know a very warm invitation to our services and activities. To find our more about any of the above, or any opportunity within our Parish and beyond, please feel free to contact Malcolm (37522970), Sarah (07974252013) or Caroline (37523197). Further information, including weekly Pew News Sheets, is available from our Parish Website. (www.stmarksarmagh.org)

THE FIRST THURSDAY CLUB

For our meeting on 7th March the speakers will be students from the Royal School Armagh who travelled to India as part of the ASHA programme. This is a very worthy cause and it will be interesting to hear their story.

Following Easter, our next meeting will take place on 4th April. Our Speaker will be Annette of "OL Flowers" and she will be showing us how to do some flower arranging which I'm sure we'll all enjoy!

We shall meet on both occasions at the usual time of 2.30pm in the Venue, Crozier Hall and new members are always welcome.

Ann

1ST TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

Holy Communion Services will take place in St Mark's on Tuesday 5th March and Tuesday 9th April at 11.30am. Please note the date of the April Service due to Easter. It is hoped that lunches in the hall will be available again in due course, but for the meantime it is our intention to go to the Charlemont Hotel for



a light lunch following these services. As always, everyone is welcome to join us at any time. If anyone would like to transport, please feel free to contact Malcolm or Sarah.



GLOW

We have had an action packed February at Glow including the usual games and activities, pancakes and a Murder Mystery night.

Glow nights for March and April include :- 8th March, 22nd March, 12th April and 26th April. On 8th March we are walking to a local ice cream shop (please bring money and a coat) and on 26th April we look forward to Snow Tubing at Craigavon Ski Slope. Please keep an eye out in Pew News for further details. All young people of P6+ and secondary school age are very welcome to join us at any time.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Our usual Wednesday evening services which include a short Bible Study will resume on Wednesday 17th April (7.30pm) in St Mark's. Before Lent we had been thinking about the life of Moses and we shall continue to do so when we resume. As always, please know a warm invitation to join us.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

This year, as St Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, we hope to offer a St Patrick's themed Family Service at 10.30am. Holy Communion services will take place at 8.30am and 7pm. Everyone will be welcome as we give thanks to God and commemorate the ministry of St Patrick together.



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The Well Café Church is for all ages and all stages of faith, it takes place on the second Sunday evening of each month at 7pm in The Venue (The Crozier Hall). We gather together for a time of contemporary worship, teaching and fellowship with one another all around tea, coffee and treats.

We recently had a sermon series on the Ten Commandments and discovered how to apply them to our lives today. In March we'll be starting a new series entitled 'Simple Words', looking at forgiveness and finding peace when life hurts.

If you've never been why not give it a try! If you'd like any more information please speak to Sarah.





MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

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

Curate's Corner....

Hi Everyone,

We've all heard the story of an apprentice builder, joiner, or electrician on their first day who has been sent to the warehouse to look for a long wait, only to realise it's a joke, a test of character by fellow peers and employees. A cruel joke and yet it brings to mind the discipline of waiting. How good



are you at waiting? Would you say you're patient? In traffic? In the queue at the till? What about waiting on God to answer a prayer?

I've recently been reading a book on the future of the Christian Church post-Covid. Overall the book says the solution isn't more programs and events, but to wait on God. We live in a world where busyness is glorified, society says the busier we are the better, but that's so far from the truth. Root and Bertrand say "Busyness dominates us, acceleration causes fatigue, filling our lives till there is no room left, even if the thing we want to add could be valuable".

It might be surprising to know that in Acts I:4 the first command Jesus gives to the disciples is "Do not to leave Jerusalem". We might have expected him to command them to go out, to witness, start a program, to preach and do anything that would make the church bigger. But he instructed them to wait. We like to think that the Church began with revival and growth that we read of in Acts 2, but actually it began in Acts I with waiting on God. Waiting meets none of our criteria for success, perhaps our greatest fear is that we will wait but God will not show up. But this is faith; what God promised God will do. This is hope; that the God who began good work will see it to completion. Waiting as practised by the disciples is not inactive, it's not lazy, but it is responsive. God acts and we respond.

So if we're currently in a season of life that involves waiting let us hold firm that is not unproductive, but rather it is true discipleship to wait on the Lord's direction and plans and when that' is revealed we act in responsive obedience.

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint"

Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

Every Blessing, Sarah

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

In the approach to Holy Week, Sarah and Malcolm will be visiting homes of Parishioners who may be unable to attend church due to health reasons. If you, or someone that you know would like to be visited, please do feel free to get in touch via The Rectory (37522970). Holy Communion will also be available in homes of people unable to attend services. Again, if you or someone you know, would value Holy Communion at home, please do feel free to let us know.

CRECHE

Creche is available on Sundays when Sunday School meets. All children of preschool age are very welcome! Creche meets in the Beresford Room of the Crozier Hall from 10.15am. For further details about Creche contact Claire (37522970).

GENERAL OR EASTER VESTRY

Our Parish's General or Easter Vestry meeting will take place in The Venue, Crozier Hall on Tuesday 19th March (7.30pm). At this annual meeting, those present will hear reports delivered by the Treasurer, Curate Assistant and the Rector. Incoming Church



Wardens will then be appointed, as will Glebe Wardens, and Select Vestry members. This is an important meeting in the life of our Parish to which everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

PARISH FUNDRAISING GROUP

Last year we had some fantastic events that were very much enjoyed by all who came, and we very much hope to offer some more fun filled and interesting initiatives during the year ahead. To this end a meeting a Parish Fundraising Group meeting will take place in the Church Choir Vestry on Wednesday 6th March at 8.15pm (after the Lent Service). If you might be willing to help and have any ideas as to what events we might offer, please do come along and join us!

MEN'S GROUP

Something that we are keen to establish in St Mark's is a Men's Group to meet monthly and offer an opportunity for men of all ages to come together, build friendships and enjoy activities of interest. The existing Marksmen is a super group of men who meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10.30am and enjoy various chats, speakers and outings together. New members to Marksmen are always welcome. However, this new group, if established will seek to offer a opportunity for men who are studying, working or retired to enjoy a similar level of fellowship together on one evening per month. To develop ideas and take this concept forward, a meeting shall take place in The Venue of the Crozier Hall on Wednesday 13th March (8.15pm – after the Lent Service). Everyone is invited to come along to this preliminary meeting to create a few ideas to get us started!



HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or a member of your family or a friend from our Parish are in hospital, please do let Malcolm or Sarah know at your earliest convenience.

We are always very glad to visit and pray with our parishioners in hospital and value the phone calls to let us know.

FAMILY SERVICE READERS

During Family Services we would love to have children and young people reading the Bible passage in Church. Please pass on contact details for parents / guardians of any willing volunteers to the

Parish Office (Tel.: 028 37523197

Email: sec.stmarks@gmail.com).



Thank you!

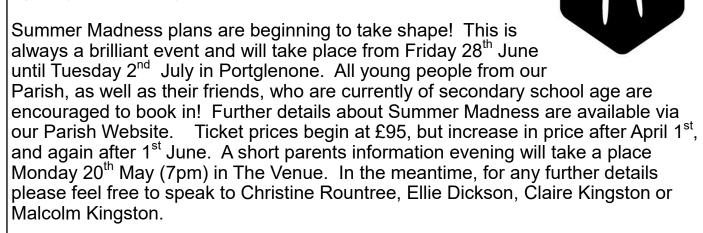
CHOOSE JOY (EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN)

Just wanted to say a big thank you to all who supported the book launch at the end of August 2023 and bought copies of the book to support Friends of the Cancer Centre and the Alzheimer's Society. A fabulous total of £4,620 has been raised so far and cheques have been issued to both Charities. This amount far exceeded anything I could have ever imagined. Books are still being purchased so there will be more money to go to Charity. There are still books available and you can get them in the Church Office, The Gazette Office or directly from me (Mobile: 07801737089). Thank you again for your invaluable support for the wee book.

With very best wishes

YF & SUMMER MADNESS

Youth Fellowship usually meets in The Venue on the first and third Sunday afternoons of the month at 5pm. However, due to St Patrick's Day and Easter Holidays, there will only be two meetings during March and April – 3rd March and 21st April. As always, we would love for young people of secondary school age to join us on any occasion.



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FLOWER ROTA

3rd, 10th & 17th March:

No flowers in Lent

24th March (Palm Sunday) : Palms 31st March (Easter Day) & 7th April :

Hazel Acheson

14th & 21st April:

Daphne Galbraith & Judith Chapman

28th April & 5th May :

Vacant

FONT : March & April

Vacant



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LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

During Lent, Holy Week and Easter we have a range of additional services to which everyone will be most welcome to join us for.

On Wednesday evenings (6th, 13th & 20th March) our 7.30pm Lent Services will continue to feature short sermons based upon the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus from John's Gospel. Please do feel free to join us at any time.



On Palm Sunday morning (24th March) a special service will take place at 10.30am, followed by an evening service featuring hymns, anthems sung by the Parish Choir, and readings which are appropriate for the week ahead.



During Holy Week from Monday 25th, 8am Services will take place in St Mark's. These will be very short devotional services especially intended for those going to work at 9am. Holy Week Evening Services will take place from Monday to Friday at 8pm, except for on Maundy Thursday.

The evening service on Maundy Thursday (28th) will take place at 7pm and include a meal and Holy Communion. This annual service will feature the Archbishop of Armagh and sign up sheets for catering purposes will be available in the Church porch.

The Good Friday, '3 Hours Service' will take place from 12noon to 3pm. Conducting this Service will be Bishop Harold Miller who is the former Bishop of Down and Dromore Dioceses. This is always a very moving service as we focus upon the final hours of the Lord's life on the cross. Please feel free attend at any stage, and for as long as you are able.

Easter Sunday Services begin at The Argory with the Diocesan Dawn Service at 6.30am. This is always a very joyful service and will feature the St Mark's Portadown Worship Band, and the Archbishop of Armagh. If attending this service, please dress for outdoor weather and be mindful that the clocks 'spring forward' during the night! After The Dawn



Service breakfast will be served in The Crozier Hall to which everyone is invited. Any donations received will contribute to Summer Madness costs.

Easter Sunday Services in St Mark's will begin with Holy Communion at 8.30am, a Family Communion Service at 10.30am and a special celebratory evening service including Easter hymns, anthems and readings.

Holy Week and Easter are a highlight of our Church year. As we commemorate and celebrate, we would love for you to join us at any time.

DRIVE THROUGH DROP OFF

(FOR ARMAGH FOODBANK)

SATURDAYS 16TH MARCH & 20TH APRIL (10AM - 12NOON) CROZIER HALL



KEEPING IN TOUCH

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\Rightarrow I would to receive Parish Information via occasional email :	
⇒ I would like to receive Parish Giving Envelopes :	
\Rightarrow I would like to receive a Gift Aid Declaration Form :	

At present we only hold the Names and Addresses of Parishioners. Consent is required for our Parish to store your telephone number and email address.

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

March & April Service Rota...

3rd: The 3rd Sunday in Lent

8.30am: Holy Communion
10.30am: Holy Communion
Reader: Heather Chambers
7.00pm: Evening Prayer

17th: The 5th Sunday in Lent St. Patrick's Day

8.30am : Holy Communion 10.30am : Family Service 7.00pm : Holy Communion 10th : The 4th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday

8.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Prayer Reader: Maureen Watt 7.00pm: Evening Prayer

7.00pm: The Well

24th : The 6th Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday

8.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Palm Sunday Service Reader: Mervyn Adamson

7.00pm: Hymns and Reading for Passion

31st: Easter Day - The 1st Sunday of Easter

8.30am : Holy Communion 10.30am : Family Communion Reader : Christine Somerville

7.00pm: Easter Hymns and Readings



7th: The Second Sunday of Easter

8.30am : Holy Communion 10.30am : Family Communion Reader : Michael Dickson

7.00pm: Easter Hymns and Readings

14th: The 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Service Reader: Wendy Davison 7.00pm: Evening Prayer 7.00pm: The Well

21st: The 4th Sunday of Easter

8.30am : Holy Communion 10.30am : Family Service

7.00pm: Holy Communion (St Mark)

28th: The 5th Sunday of Easter

8.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Prayer Reader: Wendy Geary 7.00pm: Evening Prayer

Safeguarding Trust Panel

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General or Easter Vestry Meeting

Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in The Venue, Crozier Hall

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend, although only those listed in the General Register of Vestry Members may vote in elections.

SAVE THE DATE

18

05 MONTH

24

DOWNPATRICK TO ARMAGH RELAY

WALK, CYCLE OR RUN
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

ALIVE

Alive is our Ladies ministry at St Mark's Armagh, we meet on a Thursday evening (once per month) at 7:30pm.

In March we will be having a special visit from SD Bell who will be giving us an informative talk on the history of tea, how it was discovered, how it's made and all about the different flavours. Even if you're not a tea lover it's a talk not to be missed! In April we will be continuing our Bible Study series on 'Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World' and discovering how we can live for Jesus among all the demands that life brings our way.

Alive is for all ladies whether members of the parish, friends or family so please feel free to invite others along. For any more information on what we do at Alive please get in touch with Sarah!



Thursday 21st March | The Crozier Hall | 7:30pm

Visiting Speaker: SD Bell on The History of Tea

Suggested donation of £3 each





GOOD FRIDAY 3 HOURS SERVICE

'Words from the Cross' with Bishop Harold Miller 12noon - 3pm in St Mark's, Armagh



The Case of the Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

John 20:1 (NIV)

Based on John 20:1-18 (NIV)



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CRYING	STRIPS	HEAD	DEAD	STONE
WEEK	ANGELS	FIRST	BURIAL	LORD
RISE	REMOVED	TOMB	FOLDED	MARY
BELIEVED	LINEN	DAY	DARK	CLOTH



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Mrs Caroline Nesbitt

Tel: 02837 523197

Email: sec.stmarks@gmail.com Website: www.stmarksarmagh.org

Registered Charity: NIC103959

Sexton:

Mr David Mansbridge (Tel: 07873167120)



Contact Details

Rector : Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston

St Mark's Rectory, 14 Portadown Road

Tel: 02837 522970

Curate: Rev'd Sarah Parkinson The Curatage, 6 Ashley Avenue

Tel: 07974252013

Hon. Senior Associate Priest:

Very Revd Robert Townley

Parish Nurse: Dr Bob Brown 07514129195

Pastoral Assistants: Mrs Adele Geddis,

Ms Barbara Wilson **Parish Reader :** Ms Barbara Wilson

Rector's Churchwarden:

Mr Gareth Liggett

People's Churchwarden:

Mrs Valerie McCann

Church Office Opening Hours



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-1pm

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

Pinnacles notes for May are due in the Church Office no later than

Monday 22nd April

Thank you.

TEA/COFFEE ROTA

We are very much enjoying having a quick cuppa and some fellowship together in the Crozier Hall after our monthly family services.

However, in order for this to continue, volunteers are needed for our 2024 rota! All it takes is 3-4 people each month to have the tea/coffee ready for after the service and David is always on hand to assist!

Perhaps you and your family or some Church friends might like to sign up to a month of your choice? If so, please sign the rota in the Church Porch or contact Caroline at the Church Office (37523197).



CHURCH RECORDS

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of :

3rd February : John Leeman Allen 19th February : Norma Leathem

20th February: Mary Rainey



DIOCESE OF ARMAGH EASTER DAWN SERVICE 2024 SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2024



THE ARGORY, MOY. CO. TYRONE | 6.30AM

For families, youth groups and all ages seeking to worship the Risen Christ!

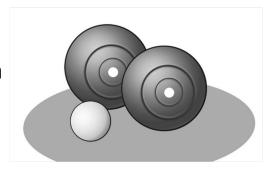
Praise led by St. Mark's Parish (Portadown) worship band and our speaker will be **Archbishop John McDowell.**



THE BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club season is drawing to a close with just a few games left to play.

By the time of reading these notes, we will have play Mountnorris/Tullyallen on 28th February. We are hopeful of a win!



Throughout March and April we will play both Aghavilly C of I and Corkley. The results will be reported in the next issue of Pinnacles along with the results of the tournament which is still ongoing.

Anne



