

ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



**They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, age
shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We Shall Remember Them**

NOVEMBER 2018

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

Vicar: The Reverend Martin Colton

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Assistant Curate: The Reverend Anna Moore

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Mr Nigel Perkins, 01737 226632

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ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Mr Terrence Hancock, 01737 761178

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mrs Alison Stagg, 01737

01737 243992

Visit our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

November begins with the twin festivals of All Saints (1st November) and All Souls (2nd November). Though many saints have their individual festival days, All Saints is an opportunity to remember and give thanks for all the saints and martyrs, known and unknown. It is a day that encourages us to be conscious of our heritage, the vast number of ordinary men and women who, through the centuries have given their time, energy, skills and, often, their lives, to pass on the gospel message, and to ensure that future generations would hear it, understand it and discover its truth. It is thanks to them that we are now able to call ourselves Christians.

Included in that number are the people whose influence and example encouraged us to explore what it means to be a Christian, and to set out on the journey of faith for ourselves. They may be (or have been) very ordinary people, but God worked in and through them to touch us and speak to us of his reality. For me, a major person was Barbara, whose late husband had been Vicar of St George's Brandon Hill in Bristol where I became organist aged just 14. She, along with others, kept the church open, alive and vibrant after the death of her husband as no new vicar was to be appointed as the diocese wished to close the church. But what touched me was her warmth, her cheerfulness and the way she was always willing to stop and talk to me and made me feel that I mattered. She also looked after the dozen or so boys from school who attended the 8am Holy Communion there before our school service at 9.30. In between she fed us with a hearty breakfast that she prepared, even though she was in her 80s.

She once spoke to us boys about saints, and she pointed to the stained-glass windows around the church with pictures of the saints in them and said that saints are people whom the light shines through. I've always loved that description. I believe that we are all called to be saints, people whom the light shines through. We are called to let Christ's light shine in our lives, to be willing to pass on the message of love and grace that we have been entrusted with in whatever way we can, in word and action, in simple and ordinary acts of love.

Barbara died many years ago, and has now, I believe, joined that "great cloud of witnesses" spoken of in Hebrews 12, those people of faith who have set the example for us. And that brings us, in a sense, to All Souls. It originated as a time to pray for the souls of people in purgatory – a rather dubious Catholic doctrine - but in more recent years, in Catholic and Anglican churches, it has been regenerated as an opportunity to remember those who have died, giving thanks for them and the way in which their lives have touched and blessed ours. Here, as in other churches, we hold a special service, particularly for those recently bereaved, in which those who have died are remembered by name – this year on Sunday 4th November at 6pm.

As we embark on a month during which we are very conscious of encroaching darkness and cold, it is good to take time to remember the warmth and love and light that so many special people have brought to our lives. It is good to take time to be thankful and these dates offer us that opportunity. I invite you to call to mind those people who have inspired you and thank God for the gift of them in your life. If the "saints" that you are conscious of in your life are still alive, you may, if you haven't already, like to take the time to thank them, to let them know what a difference they have made. Otherwise, you may consider doing something to express your appreciation of them – a card, email or flowers to a family member; a gift to an appropriate charity. I only suggest this because sometimes, it can be a real help to do something practical.

With my best wishes



From the Parish Registers:

Funerals

Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven; to enter into that gate and dwell in that house where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but an equal light; no noise nor silence, but an equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

2 November Joan Wallis

COMMUNION CLASSES

We will be holding classes this autumn for any children aged 7 or over who wish to receive Holy Communion. If you would like your child/children included, please speak with Fr. Martin or Reverend Anna.

HOME GROUP

At present there is one Home Group at St Mark's, run by Keith and Susannah Dyde and normally hosted by Nigel and Barbara Perkins. There are currently about ten members, meeting fortnightly on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm, for Prayer and Bible Study.

The dates for this year are:
November 1st, 15th and 29th
December 13th



Everyone is welcome to join, and we hope we will be able to start more groups in the future. If you would like to know more, please ask Susannah (01737 221638).

ST MARK'S BUFFERS

Lavishing some love, & shine!

We do hope that you have been dazzled by the cross on the High Altar and the glow of the Lectern, it is a great feeling to get so close to the wonderful articles that St Mark's own. So, the invitation is extended, if you would like to join our happy band please just pop along and you will be made very welcome. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month 10am-12noon, all materials provide just bring your own gloves!

Diary dates

November 20th – Brass Buffing
December 18th – Silver Shine – ready for Christmas!

Refreshments provided



'**On Golden Pond**', a play by Ernest Thompson. This performance by St Mark's Players will take place on the evenings of **22nd and 23rd November** starting at 8:00 pm (doors open 7:30 pm). Tickets are priced at £10 each. Refreshments are not included, but the audience are invited to bring their own. This amateur production by St Mark's Players is being presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd. Further details, including where to apply for tickets, can be found on: website: www.stmarksplayers.co.uk

SMART

Christmas is Coming!

Join us for Carols and a special tea

As we celebrate the Christmas season in song and good company.

For lifts please call:

Sarah Cousins on 01737 789943 or Louise Wallis on 01737 242129

Lighter Side of Life

If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years. It seems, even in Biblical times men avoided asking the way.



The Reigate War Memorial



Below is an extract from my forthcoming book on the History of St Mark's. The Reverend Arthur Simmonds retired as Vicar in 1917 and the new Vicar was the Reverend R M Faithfull Davies. The Memorial outside St Mark's is officially named the Reigate War Memorial and is the oldest such memorial in this area. In 2015 it was granted Grade II Listed status.

The new Vicar arrived during a time of war. There was already a feeling in the Parish that some sort of memorial should be made for the many that had already given their lives for their country. At the Easter Vestry in 1917, the last that Mr Simmonds chaired, approval was given "for the Erection of a Calvary on the circular piece of land to the North East of the Church in memory of those in or connected with St Mark's Parish who had died for their country in the present war." By the time of Mr Faithfull Davies' arrival, the building of the Memorial had already begun.

The Memorial, in the form of a Calvary which stands on three octagonal steps and constructed of Hopton Wood Stone, initially had 56 inscribed names, including that of Capt. Hugh Mott MC whose father Alfred had been a Churchwarden at St Mark's and who was appointed honorary treasurer to the Memorial fundraising committee in 1917. The Mott family lived locally at The Holt in Wray Park Road. Hugh was educated at Hillside School on Reigate Hill, then Reigate Grammar School, and was in the middle of his studies at Oxford when war broke out. He enlisted at the age of 20 into the Queen's Westminster Rifles. He was killed in action at Gommecourt on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916, aged 22 years.



The Memorial was dedicated on 24th November 1917. Although it was always intended that it should be surrounded by a low wall, originally it was surrounded by railings. Both Mr Faithfull Davies and Mr Simmonds took part in the service where the preacher was the Reverend H G Hills, the Vicar of St Thomas', Portman Square. Other local clergy were present as well as the Mayor, local councilors and members of the armed forces. At the base of the Memorial was laid a laurel wreath and two vases of white flowers.

At the Easter Vestry on 6th April 1918, Mr Faithfull Davies reported that the Memorial Calvary "has been approved of by the Parishioners generally [which] is evidenced by the flowers placed from time to time by relatives and friends of the deceased soldiers commemorated thereon upon the steps of the shrine." The tradition of laying poppy wreaths began in 1921.

Once hostilities had ceased in November 1918, plans were made to add a further 43 names to the Memorial, the last one being Private Horace Plowman who died (perhaps of wounds) on 7th November 1919, almost exactly a year after the Armistice. Two of those named are lady nurses, Staff Nurse Lottie Stevens and Army Probationer Frances Bates, unusual at this time to be included. It was also thought, that in common with many churches at the time, a Memorial Chapel should be provided inside the Church, and at the Vestry Meeting in 1918 this intention was recorded. However, it took several years for plans to be made. At a Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting on 25th May 1925, this resolution was proposed by Mr Mott and seconded by Miss Sharpe:

This meeting of St Mark's Parochial Church Council heartily approve of the scheme for making the South Transept of the Church into a Chapel in which the daily service can be held, by the erection of a screen separating it from the nave of the Church; such screen to be a memorial to those who gave their lives for their country during the war, and a thanksgiving for those who served and returned in safety; and requests the Vicar and Churchwardens to take steps immediately to obtain the necessary faculty.

This resolution was carried unanimously, and by the time of the PCC Meeting on 25th January 1926 it was reported that the works to remove some pews at the eastern end of the South Aisle and to erect the screen were virtually complete. The Church also received the gift of a Processional Cross in memory of Captain H F Mott, MC, and Lieut. W C Carbonell.

This processional Cross is still in use, and the Buffers have recently very carefully cleaned this, now fragile, cross.

May I urge you all to come to our Remembrance Sunday Service at 9.45am on 11th November which concludes at the Reigate War Memorial, now 101 years old, with our Act of Remembrance at 11am.

Fr Martin



Community Lunch Sunday 11th November & 9th December

Drivers urgently needed and more team members are welcome!



We are so excited to have a brand-new fabulous kitchen, thank you to the Kitchen project team for all their hard work, which is not over yet – please help them with your support to enable the final pieces to be put in place.

Come and enjoy these new facilities by joining our team – willing hands are always welcome to set up, serve and clear. Being part of this event is very rewarding and the lunch is fun! Willing drivers please contact: Robert Cramp 01737 243765

Thank you

New Kitchen Project

The Official Opening will take place on Sunday 4 November, and we are delighted that so many of those who helped provide the support and funding needed are able to join us. Starting at 10am with the Sunday service, followed by the official opening and a blessing of the kitchen with drinks and cake afterwards. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that day.

For those of you who haven't seen the kitchen – here are a few pictures.



We are busy writing instructions for the appliances and introducing the various users to the kitchen. A significant amount of community grants and personal donations have been given to enable the kitchen to be transformed for which we are extremely grateful. We still need to raise funds to purchase additional equipment and to replace the doors between the committee room and main hall as these are no longer able to be pulled back due to the extension of the kitchen. All donations are welcome. Thank you.

Mel Crighton, Nicci Lloyd, Barbara Perkins
The Kitchen Project Team

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY 2019

A new directory is being assembled based exclusively on the consent forms returned as part of our compliance with the new General Data protection Regulations (GDPR). To ensure accuracy it is necessary to check each entry against the information given, sadly many forms were hand written and details are not always clear. Where there is doubt, and an email address has been given, an email will be sent to check the address and phone numbers, if the email is incorrect or not provided we will try to telephone to check details and if that is not possible will try via post. As you can imagine this will take time, so to assist the process - if you would like to be in the directory and consented to do so, please contact the office via email with your details and put 'Directory Entry & (Your Surname)' in the subject line. My hope is to have the directory available to be collected & signed for, before the end of the year. Thank you.

Shona Prosser
Parish Administrator

St Mark's Pull-Out Guide

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST MARK'S

SUNDAYS

8.00am	Each Sunday	Holy Communion (said) Book of Common Prayer
10.00am	1 st Sunday	Parish Eucharist (with Junior Church)
	2 nd Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)
	3 rd Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)
	4 th Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)
	5 th Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)
1.00pm	2 nd Sunday	Community Lunch
4.00pm	3 rd Sunday	Messy Church
6.00pm	1 st Sunday	Healing and Wholeness
	2 nd Sunday	Taizé Prayer
	3 rd Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	4 th Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	5 th Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)

MONDAY TO THURSDAY

9.15am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel (30 minutes)

MONDAY (during school term-time)

9.30am St Mark's Toddler Group in the hall (term-time only)

TUESDAY

10.00am 3rd Tuesday St Mark's Buffers – in the Church

WEDNESDAY

10.00am 1st Wednesday Vintage Tea – in the Church (March to November)
3.25pm 'T' Time Tales (during school term-time)

THURSDAY

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) - followed by tea or coffee

2.00pm 1st Thursday SMART

SATURDAY

8.00pm 4th Saturday St Mark's Social Dance

A Handy Pull-Out Guide to 'What's On' at St Mark's

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

- Thursday 1st November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
- Sunday 4th November All Saints**
10.00am Sung Eucharist & Official Opening of Kitchen
6.00pm All Souls Service
- Wednesday 7th November 10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church – Last of the Year
- Thursday 8th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
2.00pm SMART
5.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mark's
- Sunday 11th November Remembrance Sunday**
9.45am Service starts earlier and concludes around the War Memorial for the Last Post and Act of Remembrance at 11.00am
1.00pm Community Lunch
6.00pm Taizé Prayer
- Thursday 15th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
8.00pm Reigate & District Family History Group talk 'Surrey in the Great War- a County Remembers'
- Sunday 18th November 2nd before Advent**
4.00pm Messy Church
6.00pm Evening Prayer
- Tuesday 20th November 10.00am-12noon St Mark's Buffers - buffing
- Thursday 22nd November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
5.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mark's
7.30pm St Mark's Players 'On Golden Pond'
- Friday 23rd November 7.30pm St Mark's Players 'On Golden Pond'
- Saturday 24th November 8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
- Sunday 25th November Christ the King**
6.00pm Evening Prayer
- Tuesday 27th November 8.00pm PCC
- Thursday 29th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd December	1st of Advent (Year C)	3-5.00pm Wreath Making Afternoon 6.00pm Healing & Wholeness Service
Thursday 6 th December		12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART
Sunday 9th December	2nd of Advent	1.00pm Community Lunch 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Thursday 13 th December		12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Friday 14 th December		6.45pm Winter Night Shelter Starts
Sunday 16th December	3rd of Advent	4-6.00pm Messy Church
Thursday 20 th December		12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 22 nd December		8.00pm Social Dance Christmas Special
Sunday 23rd December	4th of Advent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church Presentation 6.00pm Carol service
Monday 24th December	Christmas Eve	4.00pm Christingle & Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Tuesday 25th December	Christmas Day	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Eucharist
Thursday 27 th December		12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Sunday 30th December	1st of Christmas	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Evening Prayer

PARISH ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, GROUPS & CONTACTS

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Contact: Mrs Valerie Jones 01737 246538

CHOIR PRACTICE

Each Thursday in Church - all parts at 7.00pm - other practices as notified

DATA REQUESTS

Contact: Parish Office – 01737 210785

IONA COMMUNION – LUNCHTIME SERVICE

Every Thursday 12.45-1.15pm followed by Coffee/Tea

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: Louise Wallis 01737 242129

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mrs Rosemary Absalom 01737 240351 & Mrs Kate Lovegrove 01737 226776

SMART - St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team

Meetings on the first Thursday of the month

Contacts: Mrs Sarah Cousins 01737 789943 or Mrs Louise Wallis 01737 242129

ST MARK'S BUFFERS

Meeting in church on the third Tuesday of the month from 10am-12 noon

All materials & refreshment supplied

ST MARK'S COMMUNITY LUNCH

Contacts: Mrs Angela Daniels 01737 247162 & Mrs Alison Stagg 01737 243992

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL

Regular Lettings Secretary: Mrs Jean Hatton 01737 765759

Party Bookings & Church Bookings via Parish Office 01737 210785

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST - SMOAT

Chairman: Mrs Barbara Perkins, 01737 226632

ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE

Advertising: Mrs Jane Artis, email: janeartis@hotmail.com 07831 269866

Distribution: Mrs Jenny Toye, 01737 247016

Editing & Collation Team: Contact via the Parish Office 01737 210785

ST MARK'S SINGERS

Rehearsals Monday 7.30pm in the church – all welcome

Contact: Toby Garrod 01737 241979

VINTAGE TEA

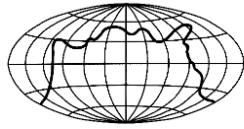
First Wednesday of month - (March until November) 10am-12noon in St Mark's Church

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Contact: Ben Read Email: benread@hotmail.com

YOUTH WORK

Junior Church: Mrs Leonora Corden, l.corden@btinternet.com 01737224534



S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Thank you!

The October Quiz Night raised over an amazing £1,900, enabling us to support Project Uganda fund the Solid Rock Nursery and Primary School rain water harvesting system and put a substantial amount towards the next one. Thank you!

Diary Dates

The next planned SMOAT events will be:

3 February 2019 Beetle Drive

2 March 2019 Jazz Evening

Put these dates in your diary to keep the date free, look out for further details and posters in the new year. If you would like to help support the vital work of the charities SMOAT is helping, donations are always welcome, with Gift Aid where possible. To find out more please contact Barbara on 01737 226632. Thank you.

**Barbara Perkins,
Chair of SMOAT**



Reigate and District Family History Group

15th November – 8pm

'Surrey in the Great War - a County Remembers '

We are delighted to announce the talk at our meeting on November 15th on 'Surrey in the Great War – a County Remembers' will be given by Imogen Middleton of the Surrey History Centre.

The meeting, in St Mark's Hall, starts at 8pm and costs £3 for visitors.

You are most welcome to join us.

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL



SOCIAL DANCE NIGHTS

Every 4th Saturday of the Month

2018

24th November & 22nd December

8pm-11pm Entrance £7

You are welcome to bring your own drinks

GET ON YOUR DANCING SHOES!

St Mark's Vintage Tea

Come Join Us in St Mark's Church

**On Wednesday 7th November
For the final tea of the year**

A pot of Tea/Coffee together with a selection of handmade cakes, served inside the church, complete with music and vintage surroundings

**£3.50 per person or why not
bring a friend £5 for two!**

Tea is served...

1st Wednesday of the month from
March to November



Christmas Wreath Making Afternoon Sunday 2nd December 3-5pm

Make a wreath for your front door or a beautiful table display for Christmas. All materials will be included but bring anything you specifically want to include.

Please don't forget a pair of kitchen scissors.

Cost: £25 to include all materials and decorations plus refreshments

Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarksreigate

or from the Parish Office

The Travelling Crib 2018



The travelling crib provides an enjoyable way for many of our families who would like to celebrate the Advent period up to Christmas Eve. The story originates from a legend of St Francis who brought an ox, an ass and a young couple dressed as Mary and Joseph to teach the villagers about the Christmas Story. The modern custom is to use child friendly woollen crib figures which are passed on from one home to another each day in Advent so that, by Christmas Eve, Mary, Joseph and the donkey will have visited many families in the parish. The first family collect the figures at the 10.00am service on the 2nd December and then each family in turn receive and then pass on the visitors until the last family return them to the Crib Service at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve. I hope those that sign up will really enjoy participating in this wonderful tradition and might like to share a photo of their visitors on our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarksChurchReigate/>

Christmas Crackers....

*How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus weighed 4.2 kg?
Because they had a 'weigh' in the manger.*



NOVEMBER CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

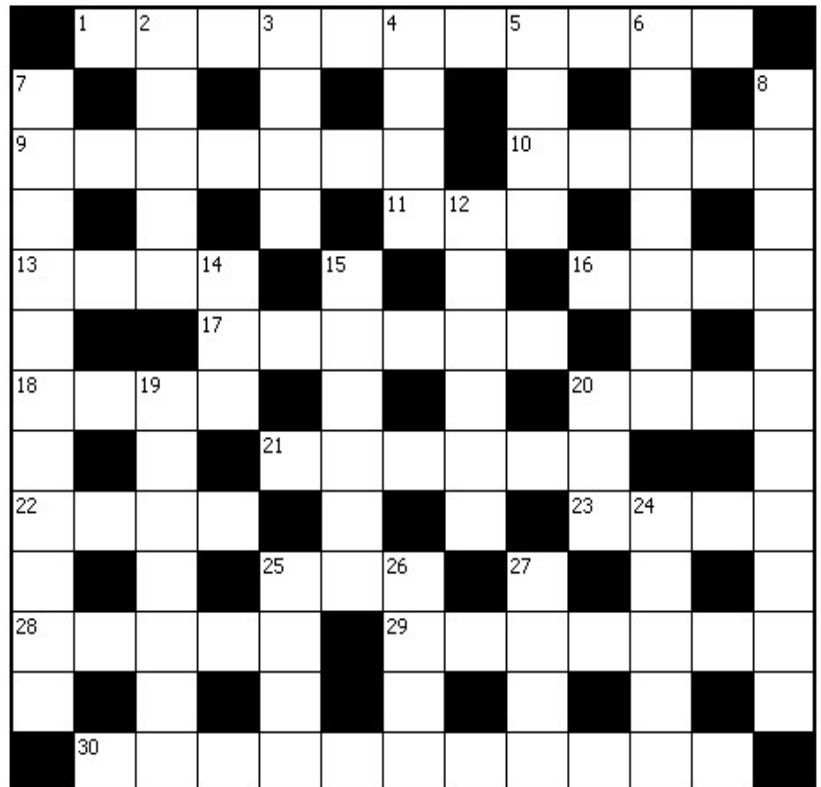
(Biblical references are from the New International Version)

Across

- 1 and 20 Down Lord of all ..., Lord of all..., whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy (11,3)
 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: Why are you ... your fellow Hebrew? (Exodus 2:13) (7)
 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline ... (2,3)
 11 At even ... the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay (3)
 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
 16 Do not leave Jerusalem, but ... for the gift my Father promised (Acts 1:4) (4)
 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: We must ... God rather than men! (Acts 5:29) (4)
 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, ... Eareckson Tada (4)
 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
 22 Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat ... (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 No fear of me should ... you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you (Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 O Jerusalem, how ... I have longed to gather your children together (Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 For the wages of sin is death, but the ... of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23) (4)



SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Lawyer 4 Balsam 8 Caleb 9 Jehoram 10 Sparrow 11 Exile 12 Excellent 17 Act in 19 Endemic 21 Slavery 22 Galal 23 Silent 24 Tarsu

DOWN: 1 Locust 2 Welfare 3 Ember 5 Athlete 6 Sarai 7 Member 9 Jewellery 13 Condemn 14 Temples 15 Causes 16 Scales 18 Trail 20 Dogma

Marley & The Poppies



Copyright: Roger Lloyd

Marley is an old cat, a wise cat, a warrior, a comforter, a watcher and a friend. Marley has explored the world and made and lost friends along the way, he is tired and longs for a home, a place to settle, and reflect on the life he has lived. Recently, Marley met Candlemouse, a very bold and friendly mouse with kind eyes and big heart, who welcomed him into St Mark's. As Marley had followed his new friend through the glass door and into our beautiful church, filled with colours as the sun danced through the stained-glass windows, he thought, 'I could be happy here', and he was.

Marley loves the colour red, it is a warm colour, a cheerful colour, a 'bright, notice me' colour. There were lots of reds, oranges and yellows outside the church, swirling and whirling around as the wind gently pushed them under the glass door to the church. They crept and tiptoed in until there was a small carpet of bright crispy leaves, purrfect for playing with, rolling in and chasing!

As Marley chased the leaves outside, he noticed 2 ladies on their knees, with big smiles, bright gloves and secateurs clipping away at the shrubs & flowers by the low wall, 'Hello Marley, have you come to help us prepare the War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday?' said the lady with the bright green gloves.

Now Marley was a helpful cat, so he did his best, he chased the leaves away and jumped into the bags of clippings to make more room. After a while they all took a break, sitting on the steps of the memorial, as the vicar arrived with a tray of drinks and of course, a treat for Marley, 'Did you know Marley, this is a very special memorial it is now 101 years old,' explained the vicar, 'It was built in 1917, a year before World War 1 ended.'

Marley looked up at the memorial, he had not really looked at it closely before, it was made of bright stone and had a carving of Christ on the Cross and a little roof. The vicar explained, 'this year is the anniversary of the end of World War 1, one hundred years ago, it was hoped to be the war to end all wars, but sadly it was not, and World War 2 followed 21 years later. Since the end of World War 2, there have been many people involved in conflicts, even at this very moment battles are raging. So, it is very important that we take time to remember those who have lost their lives, do you see all the names on our memorial Marley?'

Now Marley is a clever cat and so he looked carefully at the names and dates etched into the stone. He was sad to see so many names. Marley thought of all the other names he had seen in his life, on church walls, memorials and on special screens like the one in the Lady Chapel and realised each one was someone loved and missed. Marley felt very sad.

'Come with me Marley,' said the vicar, walking towards the vestry, 'let me show you our poppies'. Such a beautiful array of bright red flowers and green leaves, clustered together, one was in the shape of a large cross, the other was a circle, there was also a box filled with crispy red poppies with a leaf and bright green. Marley jumped up to take a closer look.

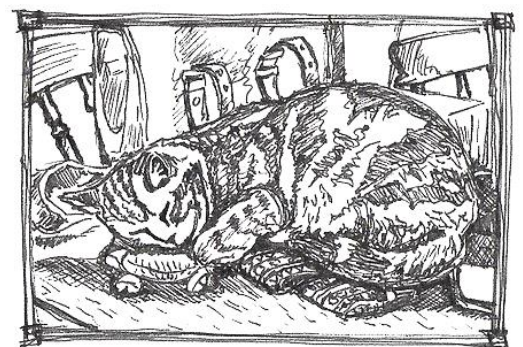
'Careful Marley', said the curate with a smile, as she scooped Marley up and put him up on her shoulder, 'Those are not real poppies, but made by The Royal British Legion, for Remembrance Sunday, we will put them on the memorial. Red is the colour of the poppies that grew on the land that had seen the most awful battles, they have come to represent the fallen, those that died or were injured but poppies are not sad, they also keep alive the memory of those loved and the promise of the future they gave us. So, people wear poppies to show they remember the sacrifices made,' putting Marley carefully on the chair and reaching into her large black bag, the curate said, 'look I have something for you,' holding up a red collar with a small poppy tag, it was a special cat collar so had some elastic to make it safe to wear, in case Marley caught it on anything, it would slip off and not hurt him, Marley was delighted, purring to show how pleased he was as the curate fitted it carefully around his neck.

'Every year,' said the vicar, 'at memorials, cemeteries and war graves all over the world, wreaths of poppies will be placed & trumpets will sound 'the last post', at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month and we will remember them, with 2 minutes silence. It is a very special service, so we shall start early at 9.45am'. Marley was very proud to be wearing a poppy and looked forward to the service on Sunday 11th November.

Later as Marley curled up on his favourite cushion, he told Candlemouse about the war memorial and his friends that had served in conflicts all over the world and spoke for the first time about those who did not come back. He would remember them with a special prayer at the remembrance service, knowing that millions of others would be silent at the same time, remembering.

Marley sighed, 'Isn't it strange how we can often sort out our differences by talking and reaching a compromise yet, people representing and running their countries can still go to war with each other?'

Candlemouse thought for a moment and said, 'As long as there is evil in the world there will be conflict, it will take many forms. It is up to each of us to search our hearts and ask for guidance on what should be fought, and which can be resolved. Remembering helps us keep in mind the terrible price to be paid by fighting.'



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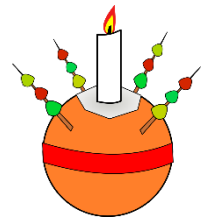
'Let us pray that by remembering war, peace will come to everyone. We could do so much good by working together instead of fighting', said Marley, finding his mind full of thoughts and fields of poppies.

(Marley – copyright Shona Prosser)





CHRISTINGLE & CRIB SERVICE



On Christmas Eve we will be celebrating with a Crib and Christingle Service at 4pm. The collection will raise vital funds for the work of the Children's Society.

If you are unable to attend the Service but would like to contribute, there is a box at the back of the church containing Christingle collection candles. When filled, please let us have them by 24th December, or any Sunday beforehand.

During the Christmas Eve Service children may wish to place toys around the crib (please label wrapped gifts either 'Boy' or 'Girl' and the age group). These presents are donated to the local Women's Refuge.

Patricia & Tony Bird



St Mark's Church Hall Child's Party Package!



Saturday & some Sundays

3 hours (includes 1/2 hour set up & 1/2 hour clearing)

Only £85 (additional hours charged at £20ph)



Hire includes exclusive use of:

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Our facilities include disabled access



This offer applies to bookings for under 11's parties only

Further details on hiring the hall available from our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

or Contact the Parish Office: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Have a Happy Birthday Party with us!



THE NOVEMBER SUDOKU CHALLENGE

6	2		8		9	5		
	7					8		1
		4			6	7	9	
					7		5	3
4		7	1		3	2		6
8	3		4					
	9	6	7			3		
5		8					4	
		3	6		1		2	8

Solution to October's Sudoku

1	2	5	3	7	4	6	8	9
6	8	3	9	5	1	7	4	2
9	7	4	8	6	2	3	1	5
3	9	2	6	1	8	4	5	7
7	6	8	4	3	5	2	9	1
4	5	1	2	9	7	8	6	3
2	1	6	5	8	3	9	7	4
8	3	7	1	4	9	5	2	6
5	4	9	7	2	6	1	3	8

December Parish Magazine

Available from 2nd December 2018

Contributions are welcome, along with your suggestions for content and items you would like included. All items should be emailed to the Parish Office by 10am on the 24th November 2018.

Co-Ordinator and Collation Team

We are seeking a co-ordinator, proof reader and collator to assemble the various aspects of the monthly magazine from January 2019.

If this is something you are interested in becoming involved with, please contact Shona in the Parish Office to learn more.



Advertising through St Mark's

We are delighted to be able to offer multi-media advertising through St Mark's via our:

- Parish Magazine (issued once a month)
- On site internal & external notice boards
- Church Website – www.stmarksreigate.co.uk
- And where appropriate, our Facebook presence

Charges may be discounted or waived at the discretion of the Editorial & Marketing Team for regular Church Hall users, for businesses that provide service to the Church and for Charity concerts and events.

For further details please email: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk

To place an advertisement in this magazine, please contact:
Mrs Jane Artis email: janeartis@hotmail.com

Stoneman Funeral Service

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Abbeyfield
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Abbeyfield House at 34 Somers Road, Reigate is a friendly, happy place. In our affordable family style house we provide a careful combination of independence with support, privacy with companionship.

Residents have their own rooms, furnished by themselves, with meals provided by our House Manager. We are part of the nationwide Abbeyfield movement but the Reigate House is managed independently by local volunteers to provide sheltered accommodation for active independent senior citizens at very reasonable all-inclusive rates.

Please call the House Manager (01737 247928) for more information