

ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



'HARVEST – SEASON OF BOUNTY'

OCTOBER 2018

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

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Mrs Alison Stagg, 01737

01737 243992

Visit our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

The School of Life

At the time of writing, the summer holidays have ended and the weather is changing. People of all ages, pupils and teachers, are embarking on a new school year - some for the first time; others returning after the summer holidays or perhaps moving on to different schools or colleges. They may be happy and excited, perhaps uncertain and apprehensive, but for each of them it will be a time of new experiences and new opportunities, and through teaching and hard work, new skills will be developed and existing abilities improved.

But education and training are not simply about academic achievement or career development. Each one of us is part of a wider society, family and neighbourhood, schools and the places where we work or spend our spare time. Here we learn social interaction and develop inter-personal skills such as conversation and listening, patience and tolerance. We grow in relationship with those around us; working together and growing in mutual understanding. Each person has their individual personality and brings their own abilities to a shared enterprise which will benefit the community as a whole.

Years ago, many adults went to school, often on Sundays, the only work-free day, where they were able to develop basic skills in reading, writing and arithmetic as well as receive Christian teaching. Today's equivalent to Sunday Schools no longer teaches fundamental literacy skills and can happen on any day of the week, but these too are places of learning. Through short courses and one-off presentations, in discussion groups and house groups, over a cup of coffee in church or at home, we can find opportunities to talk about our faith, and to deepen our understanding by sharing our stories and listening to one another.

Training and education are not quite the same thing. Training develops the skills we need for specific tasks, but education equips us for life, a life that we live in relationship with one another and with God. Through the teaching and example of Jesus we learn how to become fully human and to discern God's purpose for our lives. Each individual is enabled by God's grace to use their own particular abilities for the benefit of all, so that we can live in love and harmony with one another and grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. Education is for the benefit of all, not what we get from it ourselves – we all learn together and from each other.

As the new school year gets underway, we pray for God's blessing on all who teach and learn, and we rejoice that God will never take a holiday or a half-term break. He promises to be with us at all times and in all places until our school of life is over, and he brings us to share with him in the life and light of his eternal kingdom.

So why not try going to a home group this term, and/or coming to the 'Discipleship Explored' sessions on Wednesday evenings and repeated on Thursday mornings. These groups and courses are simply what the Church has always offered and are there for our benefit and the building up of our faith in this community.

With my best wishes



From the Parish Registers:

Holy Baptism

The Community of God's People welcome you with love.

23 September 2018 Evelyn Dorothy Starmer

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.

11 September 2018 Anne MacDonald

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:

October 4th and 18th

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).

Oberammergau and Austria Ecumenical Pilgrimages to Passion Play 2020

Every ten years, the people of the Bavarian village of Oberammergau fulfil their vow to God made in 1634 in thanksgiving for deliverance from the plague that was ravaging Europe by performing a Passion Play. Two 'pilgrimages' have been organised to Oberammergau in 2020 and booking is open now. A visit to Oberammergau is combined with time among the sparkling lakes and majestic mountains of Austria and a visit to Salzburg, giving you the opportunity of fellowship together with the common purpose of attending the Passion Play.

The first pilgrimage, from 29 May – 5 June 2020, will be led by The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon and The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith.

The second pilgrimage, from 14 - 21 August 2020, will be Led by The Revd Andrew Letby and Deacon Belinda Letby. The pilgrimages are open to all, however book quickly as spaces are limited, to find out more, please contact Mrs Toni Suffolk on 0208 654 9035, 07786 935 554, or by email at toni.suffolk@btinternet.com

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, as well as all the other items, 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 contact one of our founder members or just pop along and you will be made very welcome. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month 10am-12noon.

Diary dates

October 16th, November 20th, December 18th

Nail brushes, Toothbrushes & Cotton Cloth

The Buffer's would be delighted to have your old nail brushes, toothbrushes and cotton tea towels/pillowcases & sheets
They all help to make things SHINE!



SMART

This month on Thursday 4th October – 2pm

We will be meeting & having tea in the Church Hall

For more information, please contact Sarah Cousins 01737 789943

New Kitchen Project

We are absolutely delighted that the new kitchen is now in use. It was completed mid-September, cleaned thoroughly and all the equipment moved back in. The larger space now includes a range cooker, a convection oven, a run through dishwasher, sinks for hand wash, food preparation & pot wash, a full height fridge, a freezer, two water boilers, a hot cupboard, electric shutters, ventilation system, a central island for preparation and racks for storing everything. Crockery and cutlery and all food stuffs from the hall cupboards are now in the kitchen so that the food preparation equipment and food itself are all in one place.



The kitchen was first in use on Sunday 16th September when over 50 people were served with a meal of chilli and bread with cake for afterwards. The following Sunday coffee was served directly from the hatches and the next events are the SMOAT quiz, Harvest Lunch and Community Lunch. Parent and Toddler group and the early morning breakfast club are also enjoying the new facilities.

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.

Our thanks to the St Mark's Singers and Friends for holding a fundraising concert on the 29th September and to all who came to enjoy the evening. If you would like to make a donation cheques should be made payable to St Mark's PCC or donations can be made online using the following link:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/newkitchenstmarks>

We are also currently included in the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and you can vote for our kitchen project to receive funds until the end of October. The stores featuring our project are Redhill Tesco Express (73 Canalside, Redhill, RH1 2NH), Caterham Superstore (Guards Avenue, Coulsdon Rd, Caterham CR3 5QX) and Edenbridge Tesco Express (High St, Edenbridge, TN8 5AD)

Save the Date

The Official Opening will take place on Sunday 4 November. Starting at 10am with the Sunday service, followed by a blessing of the kitchen with drinks and cake afterwards. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that day.

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

DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED

New Course Starting Wednesday 10th/Thursday 11th October

I will be leading a new 8 week course based on St Paul's Letter to the Phillipians, it will run on Wednesday evenings at 8pm and repeated on Thursday mornings from 9.45am starting on the 10th October. The course book costs £2.50 – Please sign up at the rear of the church. This course is suitable for everyone, whatever age. Try the first session with no obligation to continue!

Fr. Martin

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.

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL



SOCIAL DANCE NIGHTS

Every 4th Saturday of the Month

2018

27th October, 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 the 1st Wednesday of the
month - 10am until Noon**

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...

October 3rd, November 7th

And December 5th

We look forward to seeing you

HARVEST FESTIVAL & PET SERVICE

Sunday 7th October – 10am



This year we are celebrating Harvest Festival with a slight difference. Harvest is a time when we thank God for creation, for all that the earth provides and also for those who labour for our benefit. Those who support us are not just human, there are many animals that work hard for us, not just on the farm but as companions and service animals.

On the 4th October, we celebrate the life of St Francis of Assisi who believed that everything created has a place within this world. It felt right therefore to give thanks and praise for our beloved pets who bring us so much joy. We welcome you to

bring your pets to this service to receive a blessing, as we also offer our gifts of food to those in need at this time.

This year we will be passing your gifts of tinned food, toiletries, household and packet goods to the Foodbank and fresh food items to Wayside. Please see the Foodbank list by the donation bin at the back of the church for suggestions and please ensure all gifts are within date, thank you.



We look forward to seeing you all; humans, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and more, although horses maybe a bit of a squeeze! Please be mindful of your animal's needs & wellbeing by sitting somewhere where your pet won't be stressed. It promises to be a fabulous service and we look forward to welcoming you all.

Reverend Anna

Harvest Lunch

Sunday 7th October 12.30pm

Please join us for lunch, prepared and served from our new kitchen. Everyone is welcome – Adults £6/Children £4. Please book your place in advance and pay on the door. Names and numbers to Mel Crighton asap please 01737 241100



Community Lunch Sunday 14th October



Drivers 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. Being part of this eveny is very rewarding and the lunch is fun! Willing drivers please contact: Robert Cramp 01737 243765

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)
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
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

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Wednesday 3 rd October	10.00am -12noon - Vintage Tea in the church
Thursday 4 th October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART
Saturday 6 th October	7.30pm SMOAT - Helier Dreux Quiz Night
Sunday 7th October	Harvest 10.00am Harvest & Pet Blessing Service 12.30pm Harvest Lunch (Adults £6/Child £4) 6.00pm Healing & Wholeness Service
Thursday 11 th October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Sunday 14th October	Trinity 20 1.00pm Community Lunch 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Tuesday 16 th October	10.00am-12noon St Mark's Buffers – buffing
Thursday 18 th October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Sunday 21st October	Trinity 21 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Monday 22 nd October	Half Term – no Parent & Toddler
Wednesday 24 th October	Half Term – no T Time Tales
Thursday 25 th October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 27 th October	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 28th October	Simon and Jude 6.00pm Evening Prayer

'Happiness held is the seed; Happiness shared is the flower.'
John Harrigan

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**
6.00pm All Souls Service
- Wednesday 7th November 10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church
- 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)
- 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
8.00pm PCC Meeting
- Thursday 22nd November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
5.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mark's
- Saturday 24th November 8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
- Sunday 25th November Christ the King**
6.00pm Evening Prayer
- Thursday 29th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance

Francis of Assisi

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 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 241979

VINTAGE TEA

First Wednesday of month, 10am-12noon in St Mark's Church

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

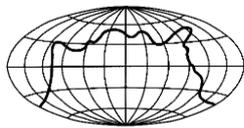
Contact: Ben Read Email: benread@hotmail.com

YOUTH WORK

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

'ROOTS' Youth Group (from Sept in Kingswood):

Reverend Anna 07939 388607



HELIER DREUX QUIZ

Saturday 6th October - 7.30pm

On 6th October we are holding our annual Helier Dreux quiz, which is always great fun. You can still buy tickets until Wednesday 3rd October. We will be serving chilli and rice, with a vegetarian option available. Tickets are £12 and a cash bar is available, please do not bring your own drinks.

This year SMOAT are supporting a Project Uganda in the Rukungiri district. Solid Rock Nursery and Primary School was due to have a rain water harvesting system installed during the annual project visit in 2018. However, plans were forced to change following severe flooding, with flood water rushing through the school site, causing the walls of two classrooms and an office block to collapse. Luckily all children and teachers escaped unharmed although very cold and wet.

As a result it was decided to reallocate the rain water harvesting funds to rebuilding the offices and classrooms, and concrete culverts were installed to direct the water under the floor of the buildings and out the other side of the site, to prevent further flood damage. The walls and roof were reconstructed allowing the school to reopen and resume normal lessons.

There remains a severe shortage of accessible water on site or within an acceptable distance of the school. This severe lack of water leads to dehydration, malnourishment and general ill health due to poor hygiene and sanitation. Project Uganda plans to install a comprehensive rain water harvesting and storage system, comprising of guttering to all existing buildings with suitable roofing, and downpipes leading into two 6,000lt ferro-cement water tanks to enable enough water to be stored for the duration of the prolonged dry seasons.

The expected outcome will mean:

- Higher lesson attendance and concentration levels due to improved hydration.
- Reduced rates of infection and illness associated with poor hygiene and sanitation.
- Students no longer need to be out in the dark, when it is not safe, collecting water.
- Students will have more time in the day to study.
- Large water storage tanks should provide access to water throughout the year.
- Graduating vocational students and local labour gain both employment and learn new building skills.
- Materials for the project will be sourced locally improving the local economy.

I'm sure you will agree that this is a wonderful project, full of opportunity for the future of the children of Solid Rock school.

Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/reigate/st-marks-church-hall/smoat-quiz or contact Barbara on 01737 226632. Donations are always welcome, with Gift Aid where possible.

**Barbara Perkins,
Chair of SMOAT**

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR October Order



The Real Advent calendar was created in 2013 following surveys showing that 36% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas. The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to reverse this tipping point and put Christ back into the hearts of those who no longer know the full Christmas story. To help with this the Real Advent Calendar comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book.

Since 2013, supported by schools and churches of all denominations, they have sold more than 500,000 calendars and at least £80,000 has been raised for charitable causes from sales of the Calendar. Money raised this year will help The Funzi and Bodo Trust provide more than 600,000 eggs a year to feed children in Kenya, buy books for schools and supply medicines.

Also on offer this year subject to meeting case numbers:

Host of Angels, give your tree a meaningful makeover. These Meaningful Chocolate tree decorations are a great way to share the Christmas story. Each box contains six solid chocolate angel decorations, an all new Christmas story activity poster and a Christmas story sticker set. A fun way for parents, grandparents and godparents to share the Christmas story.



Meaningful Christmas Crackers



These 6 fabulously festive Fairtrade crackers are the perfect way to get into the festive spirit around the Christmas meal. These are the UK's first Fairtrade certificated crackers and will look magnificent on the table. Each cracker contains: A Fun Christmas table quiz question, a joke, full colour print crown and bag of High-Quality Swiss Fairtrade Milk Chocolate Chunky Buttons (25g) plus an Eco friendly 'snap' (The dynamite free design uses a clever card mechanism to add fun to the pulling of each cracker).

The Real Advent Calendar and the Host of Angels cost £3.99 each and come in cases of 18, the Meaningful Christmas Crackers cost £9.99 and come in a case of 6. Churches, schools and groups can buy direct and take advantage of a free delivery offer for all orders received before the 1st November. For this reason, we are once again offering to take orders during October, please look out at coffee after the 10am service for the ordering point or pop into the office between 9am-1pm Monday-Thursday to place your order. We will need to make up orders by case so be sure to get your order in quickly.

Advent Calendar Team

OCTOBER CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

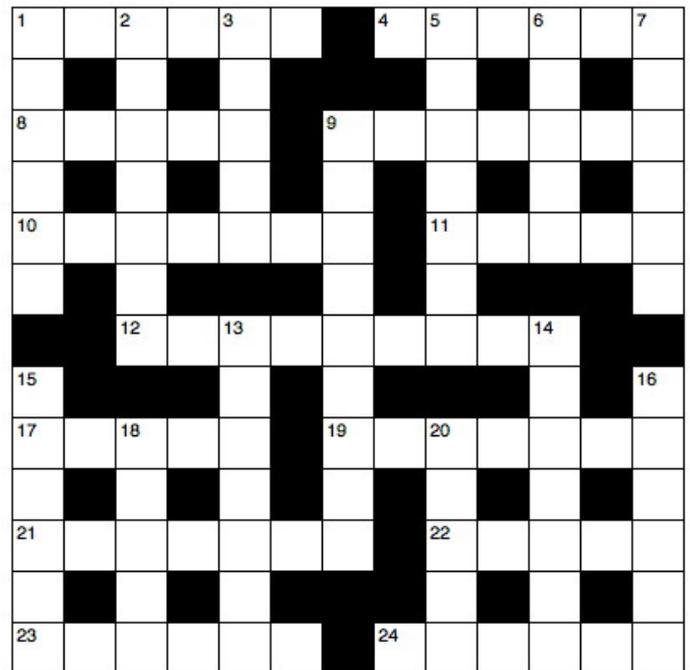
(Biblical references are from the New International Version)

Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den (anag.) (7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is — so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark 9:43) (6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job 41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)



SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS:** 8, Prince of Peace. 9, INF. 10, Unmarried. 11, Gulag. 13, Treason. 16, In aid of. 19, Arena. 22, Calvinist. 24, Pad. 25, Moses and Aaron.
- DOWN:** 1, Spring. 2, Sinful. 3, Scourged. 4, Commit. 5, Spur. 6, Matins. 7, Feed on. 12, Urn. 14, Erastian. 15, Own. 16, Income. 17, At last. 18, Friend. 20, Empire. 21, Adding. 23, Inst.

Marley & The Harvest Gathering



Copyright: Roger Lloyd

Marley is an old cat, a wise cat, a warrior, a comforter, a watcher and a mystery. 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 is a curious cat. He could not resist exploring the strange and interesting shapes that had appeared at the base of the font. Marley found a big round orange pumpkin, long green marrows and small red, yellow and green apples, strange golden stalks tied up with string and piles of hard brown chestnuts. Why are they here? Just then the door from the tower burst open and a group of children tumbled in laughing. 'Hello Marley, have you come to help with the Harvest decorations?' said a cheerful voice, Marley looked around to see the Curate, almost hidden by the very large pumpkin she was carrying. The Curate was a very kind lady, who always had a big smile and often allowed Marley to keep her company in the inner vestry when she was working on her computer.

What fun they all had, putting piles of fruit, vegetables and pots of herbs all over the church; on the window ledges, around the Font and in front of the altar. Marley chased apples and chestnuts from under the pews and watched carefully as the flower ladies hung swags of lush greenery dotted with apples and berries under the stain glass windows, they looked beautiful and smelt wonderful, rich with the scent of rosemary and lavender. Marley wished that Candlemouse had returned from his adventures to enjoy the festivities.

Later as the church filled with people carrying more baskets and boxes, Marley was surprised to see a handsome black dog stroll down the aisle, followed by another 5 dogs, 6 cats, 2 brightly feathered birds and even a vivid green lizard. Just then he heard the bidding bell and made his way to his favourite spot under the big shiny brass lectern. Marley introduced himself to the dogs; Archie, Remus, Mattie, Poppy and Cashew, the cats; Ginger, Spice, Monty, Binx, Tansy, Bramble and also to Torville and Dean the parrots, and Lenny the lizard and welcomed them all to St Mark's. As they were all visitors Marley wanted to make them feel welcome. They all stood as the music began and the Curate processed around the church with her friends carrying the cross and candles, followed by the choir, all smart in their robes.

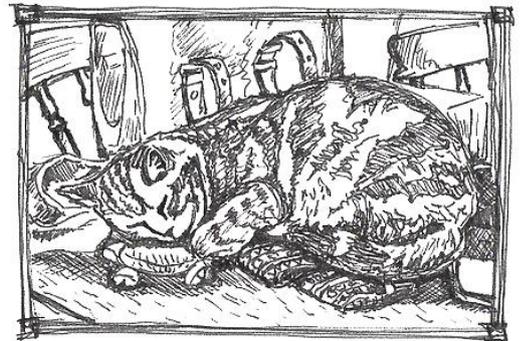
It was a wonderful service, after communion, all the animals were asked to come forward to the altar rail, the Curate explained that we were not only thanking God for the Harvest but celebrating the life of St Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of animals and ecology. He loved, honoured and cared for all of creation.

As the Curate laid her hand gently on each bowed head, she bent down and softly whispered a blessing to each in turn, thanking them for their companionship, love and loyalty. Just then Marley heard a noise, not a loud noise, a soft tapping, scratching noise, to his delight he saw Candlemouse and 3 of his friends at the step before the rail, as they were very small Marley was worried that the Curate might not see them, but Archie and Remus had an idea and invited the mice to climb up on their heads. The Curate laughed as she saw the 4 mice balancing on the heads of the 2 largest dogs, she blessed each one, all God's creatures were welcome.

Later as Marley curled up on his favourite cushion, breathing in the wonderful aromas of fresh herbs, tangy fruit and earthy potatoes and pumpkins, he thought about the new friends he had made and the blessing they had received. 'Isn't it funny' he said to Candlemouse, who was sitting with his friends, Faith, Hope and Charity, enjoying some of the Harvest bread, 'how when we share, or show we care by helping or making a friend, it makes us feel happy too'.

Candlemouse thought for a moment and smiling said, 'For it is in giving that we receive'. He explained that this was part of the teachings of St Francis, who was a very wise man. As Marley drifted off to sleep, purring gently, he said, 'I'm so glad you are home Candlemouse, I shall look forward to sharing stories and learning more about St Francis of Assisi. I really enjoyed Harvest and being blessed, what a very busy day it has been'.

Candlemouse smiled and said, 'I am glad to be back with you old friend, God bless and keep you, Sleep well'. Marley snored softly in reply.....



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(Marley – copyright Shona Prosser)



"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."

Francis of Assisi

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Have a Happy Birthday Party with us!



THE OCTOBER SUDOKU CHALLENGE

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

Solution to September's Sudoku

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

November Parish Magazine Available from 4th November 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 October 2018.

Recruiting Editing and Collation Team Members

We are seeking a proof reader and collator to help us assemble the various aspects of the monthly magazine. If this is something you are interested in discussing, 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
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For further details please email: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk

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