

ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

February 2019

Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

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Visit our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

We are already a month into 2019 and so much seems to have happened. As we journey through the year I'm sure we all have our own hopes and plans, and possibly some fears over what lies ahead. At the time of writing there is utter confusion over BREXIT and what this means, when it might happen, and so many other questions. I guess that as you read this nothing will have been resolved, engendering anxiety and fear for the future.



Some of our hopes and fears for the future, whether personal or for the whole community, may be realised, others may not. The unexpected may happen and bring us sorrow or joy. The expected may happen in ways we do not anticipate. The truth and joy of the Christian faith is the knowledge that in the midst of everything God is with us.

Questions we should often ask ourselves include: where is our focus? What will we value the most? Where will we spend our time and energy? What will we forget? And what will we remember? What will motivate us this year? Our family... our personal ambitions... our relationship with God... our desire for social justice... growth in God's kingdom...?

Church historian and theologian, Jaroslav Pelikan says, "Tradition is the living faith of dead people to which we must add our chapter while we have the gift of life... Traditionalism is the dead faith of living people who fear that if anything changes then the whole enterprise will crumble."

We can all be guilty of sometimes being too interested in maintaining the status quo, of following traditionalism, which eventually leads to a joyless faith, an empty church, a hopeless world. We see changes in the way we do things in church from using new media in worship, to new services such as the new Family Service on the First Sunday at 4pm. Some changes we may embrace enthusiastically, but other changes we may grumble about. But in all this at St Mark's we are following our tradition and not traditionalism.

Since its foundation in 1860, St Mark's has constantly changed and evolved and is stronger for this. My research into the history of the church bears that out – if you haven't read my book, copies are still available from the office at £7.50 a copy. We can all learn from our tradition and history, but we must guard against sliding into traditionalism.

As we travel through this year may we seek after God's own heart. The tradition of Anglicanism means we are called to add our chapter to the history of our faith as we look at all times and in all places to share the Good News of Jesus Christ who declared "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin".

With love - the possibilities are endless

February is synonymous with love, retailers will have you believe it is all about a card and a box of chocolates for your sweetheart. But love is so much more than this, it is multi-faceted and complex. The Japanese have at least three words for love covering deep romantic love, love of inanimate objects and a more casual light-hearted love. Even this is insufficient to understand the breadth and power of this four-letter word. So in the month of hearts and flowers, it is a great time to reflect on the people and things we love, how best to show our love and the responsibility it gives us.

Love is such an important part of the human race, with it we can flourish, without it we can wither. Every one of us will have people and things which we hold close to our hearts; our children, significant other, our wider family and friends. But how do we express our love? Acts of service, words of affection, giving our time and attention, most likely all of the above. Do we express it enough?

Mother Teresa's wisdom inspires us; ***'In this life we cannot always do great things but we can do small things with great love.'***

What if we did everything with love, not just for our family and friends but in every aspect of our lives? What if even the most basic everyday tasks were performed with complete love and adoration?

My mother used to tell me she stirred her love into every single cup of tea she ever made me. To this day no one makes a better cup of tea than her, it is even better than I make for myself.

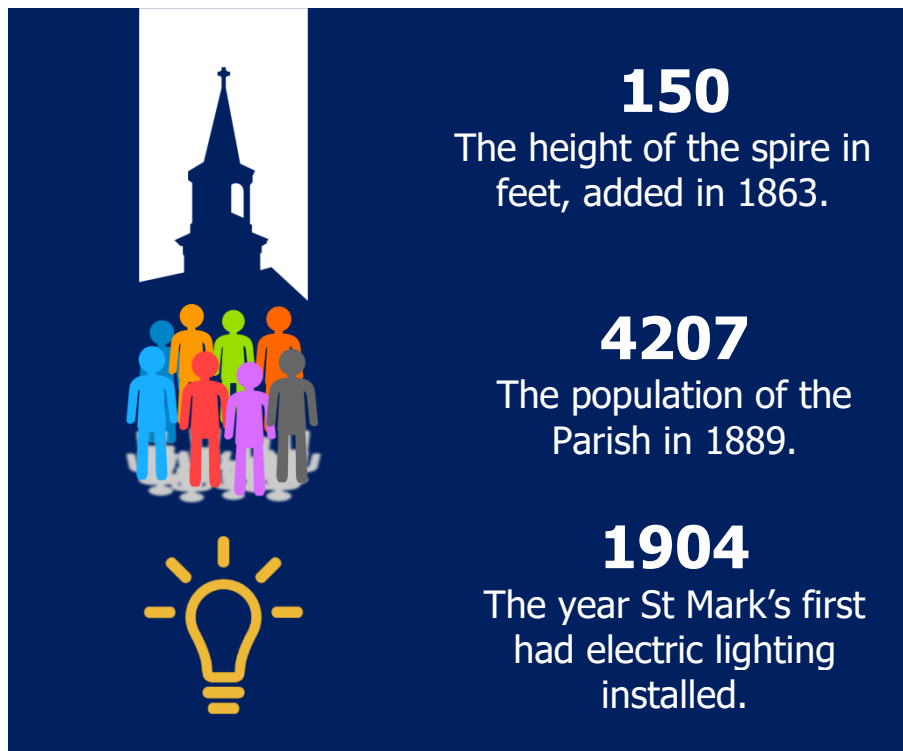
The bible tells us; ***'God has poured out his love into our hearts'***, Romans 5:5. Doesn't this give us a responsibility to share it?

In one of my favourite Ed Sheeran songs he sings; ***'Love could change the world in a moment - But what do I know?'***

Imagine if we all put God's love into everything we do, what could be achieved? With love the possibilities are endless ... but what do I know?



The history of St Mark's in numbers



If you'd like to know more about the history of St Mark's Church you can now buy Rev'd Martin Colton's book: *The Church of St Mark Reigate – A Celebration of the years 1860-2018*, for just £7.50 from the Parish Office.

The Parish Office is now able to take card payments – in person.

The Children's Society

The Crib and Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was again very well attended and enjoyed by adults and children alike.

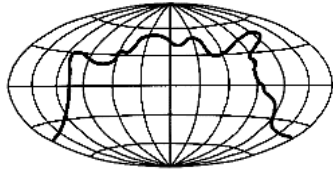
The collection amounted to £746 and for the first time an electronic payment system was used, the results of which are not known at this time.

A huge thank you to everyone who decorated oranges, helped during the service and gave generously.

The local woman's refuge are also most grateful for the toys for their children.

Tony and Patricia Bird





S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

SMOAT Beetle Drive – 10 February 2019, 3pm to 5pm



Come and join us on Sunday 10 February for a fun family game for all ages from 5 to 105. There will be lots of homemade cake (including some honey cake, I'm sure!), tea and coffee and there will also be a tombola! We are raising money for a Bees for Development project in Ethiopia, where they will be aiming to teach beekeeping skills to landless families.

In 2017, Bees for Development started working with 100 landless people (aged 20-30). With no land of their own, these people were in desperate need of diversifying their sources of income, to raise money to buy food. Landlessness is an underlying cause of food insecurity. Last year, Bees for Development Ethiopia delivered Phase 1 of the Project, basic training in beekeeping, and provided a small package of inputs:

- 100 landless youth have basic skills in beekeeping and know how to make top-bar hives, at low cost, using locally available materials
- New beekeepers have made on average 3 hives each
- Each new beekeeper received one bee colony
- Each new beekeeper received one set of top-bars (enough for one top-bar hive)



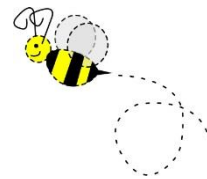
With the help of SMOAT, they are now hoping to deliver Phase 2 of the project. The one year of beekeeping training and experience is not sufficient for everyone to become fully proficient in beekeeping. Plus, all new beekeepers want to make more hives and procure more bees. The hardest

part of making top-bar hives is making the bars themselves, which need to be of the correct dimension (32mm in width) to work well.

They now plan to identify ten of the most enterprising and dedicated new beekeepers and give them Phase 2 training. This will include:

- How to make and use bait hives to catch wild swarms
- How to make their own top-bars, to reduce need to buy or order from a carpenter
- How to grade and handle honey when harvesting, to secure the best prices

Those who receive Phase 2 training will be asked to pass on their learning to other new beekeepers who live near them. This way we reach more people and achieve greater change.

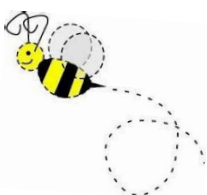


The overall aim is to enable landless youth to increase their household income and build more resilient livelihoods, through beekeeping. Target: 20% increase in household income.

This project is targeting women and men, all from households which do not own their own land. Women in Ethiopia suffer from marginalisation and experience the worse consequences of poverty. Assets and income within the home tend to be controlled by men. In this project Bees for Development are purposely facilitating women to own their own bees and harvest and sell their own honey, and so earn some financial independence. This gives them a greater chance to decide how income can be used, for their own benefit and for that of their children.

"I am excited to be learning beekeeping. This is an easy job for women because it does not take a lot of time, yet honey fetches high prices in the market" Siranesh Gedamu, Ligaba.

So, come along and join us. It will be a lovely afternoon of family fun and together we will be helping many women and men in Ligaba to make a sustainable income for themselves and their families. If you would like tickets, please contact me on barbara@barbaraperkins.co.uk.



**Barbara Perkins,
Chair of SMOAT**

Getting Involved at St Mark's

Community Lunches

On the second Sunday of the month we provide a Community Lunch at St Mark's...



A lovely Sunday roast with all the trimmings followed by a traditional dessert provided by our wonderful team of volunteers for the senior members of the community, who would otherwise be on their own.

Members should RSVP by the 26 February to join us on the 10 March, this will enable us to reallocate any spaces.

We need more volunteers to enable us to host more guests!

For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:
Robert Cramp on: **07887 600 190** or Alison Stagg on: **01737 243992**

'T' Time Tales

Wednesday's during term time 3.25pm – 3.55pm

Come along and enjoy a sing-song, bible story and biscuit.

'T' Time Tales welcomes 0-7 year olds along with parents, siblings and carers.

Squash, tea and coffees provided.

There will be no 'T' Time Tales on 20 February during half-term.



St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team – SMART

On the first Thursday of the month – 2pm - 4pm



This month, taking place in St Mark's Church Hall:

Seated meditation and movement with Nicky Day. Come in comfortable loose clothing.

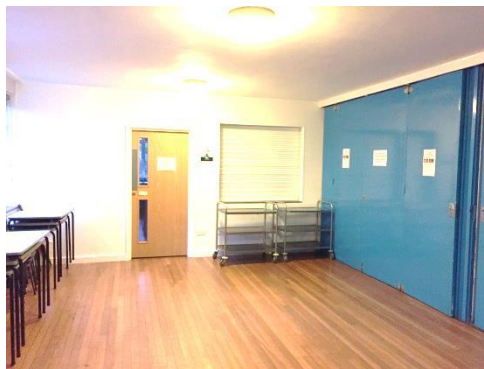
New members are always welcome. Contact Sarah Cousins - **01737 789943** or Louise Wallis - **01737 242129** for more details.

Are you looking for a place to party? St Mark's Church Hall - Children's Party Package!

Hire includes exclusive use of:
Large main hall – with tables and chairs



Use of new kitchen with serving hatch - ideal dining area next to kitchen



Outside garden area



Great location; minutes from Reigate train station & parking
The facilities include disabled access

Available Saturdays and some Sundays
3 hours (includes ½ hour set up & ½ hour clearing)
Only £90 (additional hours charged at £25ph)

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
For bookings please contact: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Have a HAPPY BIRTHDAY Party with us!

Our Community Kitchen

Our new kitchen has been really busy over the last couple of months and the facilities have been appreciated by all. Some new equipment was purchased including glasses, a cutlery trolley and pots and pans for the new ovens.

Events in December included wreath making which raised over £450, Christmas events for the Parent and Toddler group and the Social Dance and mulled wine served after the Junior Church production and carol service.

A traditional Christmas dinner was served to around 60 guests at Community Lunch and 'pigs in blankets' were the favourite part with the children at Messy Church the following week. On Christmas Day itself Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead hosted their Festive Feast for those who would otherwise be on their own, feeding around 130 people including volunteers.

In January St Mark's hosted the Deanery Chapter meeting combined with the Commissioning of the Area Dean by Bishop Jonathan. Lunch was provided to a group of nearly 70 people who were all very impressed by the food and the facilities. Well done Shona for all your cooking!

On the fundraising side we were delighted to be awarded £2,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and with other generous donations we are very close to being able to replace the partition doors to the committee room as these are no longer able to be pulled back due to the extension of the kitchen.

Once again we just want to say how very grateful we are to EVERYONE who has donated to and supported the project in every way. We received a substantial amount in grants but this wouldn't have been possible without the support of the congregation and the amount of community work that goes on in our church centre.

We are still working hard to try to make the kitchen as user friendly as possible with instructions everywhere on how to use appliances and how to leave everything for the next user afterwards. Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope everyone continues to enjoy the facilities for many years to come.



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

*That old tea urn had served the
church well*

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	1 st Sunday	Family Service
	3 rd Sunday	Messy Church
6.00pm	1 st Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	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 (Apr - Nov)
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 FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday 3rd February	Presentation of Christ 10.00am Parish Eucharist 4.00pm Family Service (New) 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 7 th February	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART
Sunday 10th February	4th Sunday before Lent 1.00pm Community Lunch 3.00pm SMOAT Beetle Drive 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Thursday 14 th February	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Sunday 17th February	3rd Sunday before Lent 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 19 th February	10.00am-12noon St Mark's Buffers – 'buffing the silver'
Thursday 21 st February	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 23 rd February	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 24th February	2nd Sunday before Lent 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 28 th February	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

*"The most desired gift of love is not diamonds or roses or chocolate.
It is focused attention."*

– Richard Warren

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2019

Saturday 2 nd March	7.30pm SMOAT Jazz Evening
Sunday 3rd March	Sunday before Lent 10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by 11.30am Rev'd Anna's Farewell in Church Hall 4.00pm Family Service 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 6 th March	Ash Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion with Ashing 8.00pm Sung Eucharist with Ashing
Thursday 7 th March	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Saturday 9 th March	7.30pm CANTAMUS Concert
Sunday 10th March	1st Sunday of Lent 1.00pm Community Lunch 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Thursday 14 th March	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Sunday 17th March	2nd Sunday of Lent 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 19 th March	10.00am-12noon St Mark's Buffers – 'buffing the silver'
Thursday 21 st March	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Saturday 23 rd March	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 24th March	3rd Sunday of Lent 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 27 th March	8.00pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 28 th March	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Sunday 31st March	4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday) 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

HOME GROUP

Contact : Mrs Susannah Dyde – 01737 221638

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

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

Editor (2019): Mrs Helen Starmar, email: magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

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

ST MARK'S SINGERS

Rehearsals Monday 7.30pm in the church – all welcome

Contact: Toby Garrod 01737 241979

VINTAGE TEA

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

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Contact: Ben Read Email: benread@hotmail.com

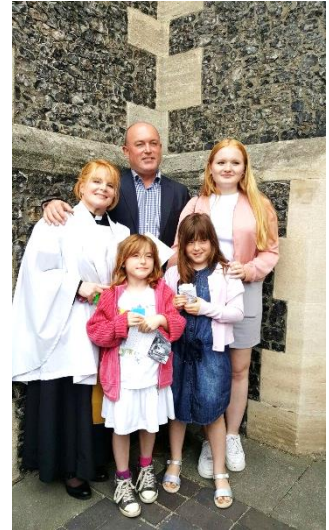
YOUTH WORK

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

Farewell to Reverend Anna – Sunday 3 March

Rev'd Anna's final service at St Mark's will be at 10am on the 3 March as she leaves to take up her new position as Rector of St Michael's Betchworth and St Mary's Buckland. We plan to send her off in true St Mark's style – with cake! To make the event extra special we invite everyone to bring a plate of 'picnic style food' to share, following the service.

Collection - We are holding a collection to provide a gift from us all, contributions can be made via card, cheque or cash and should be dropped in at the Parish Office – marked 'Rev'd Anna Collection'. All contributions must be made by Monday 25 February to give us time to purchase the gift in time for the service on the 3 March.



Memories and Messages Book - A card with a difference; you are invited to fill one side of an A4 page with your photo's, memories and messages, these pages will be made into a book for Reverend Anna. Paper is available from the back of church and there will be an opportunity to sign the book on the day.

Many thanks
Parish Office

THE FEBRUARY SUDOKU CHALLENGE

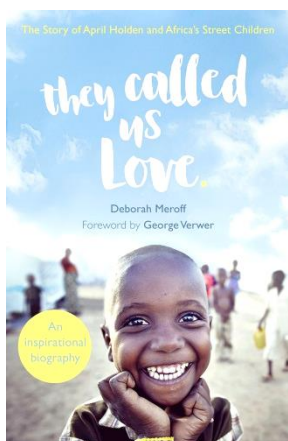
			7			4	6	2
9	6	7		4				
	4	2		6	1	9		3
	7			3		2		9
2		4		7			5	
7		1	4	8		3	9	
				1		7	8	5
8	9	3			7			

Solution to January's Sudoku

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

Book Review

This month we review: They called us Love



Written by Deborah Meroff, this book is the biography of April Holden and her work with the street children of Africa. April – a pen name, was called to missionary work at a young age and in spite of health problems, which doctors told her would lead to her death if she went to Africa, April successfully set up 'the Centre for Love'. A place of refuge and respite for young African boys who lived on the streets and had suffered abuse and addiction, the centres of which April founded more than one, became home for many of the boys and helped them to grow and strive, with new skills, health care, an education and most importantly love.

The book which starts with 'Fear not...I have called you by name, you are mine.' (Isaiah 43.1), details the journey April takes, how she came to missionary work, the troubles which faced her and how God's love and guidance helped her on her journey. The book does not say which country April worked in but the political situation described suggests it was Sudan, detailing, from April's perspective, the atrocities in Darfur and the splitting of the country to create South Sudan.

The author, Deborah Meroff, a journalist and photographer for 27 years who travelled to 215 countries, the book documents the key events of April's mission work. It misses the more emotional side of her struggles, particularly around her health troubles. But it really opens one's eyes to the struggles faced in North Africa, not just in Sudan but touches on Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. Overall, April's ability to persevere to overcome the most difficult obstacles is inspirational and may have you questioning how you can fulfil God's purpose for you.

If you would like to read '*They called us Love*', then email magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk with a suggestion for next month's book review. The first person to do so will receive a copy of the book.

Keep up –to-date with St Mark's



Don't want to miss a thing? Keep your finger on the pulse and follow St Mark's on Facebook. You can find out about upcoming events, get the latest news and find out what the Church of England has to say. Just head over to Facebook and search @StMarksChurchReigate

St Mark's is pleased to present...

For one night only...

Cantamus Reigate, directed by Nick Landauer

Saturday 9 March at 7pm

Come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music and song including; Haydn's Nelson Mass, Williamson's Procession of Palms and Love Divine set by Howard Goodall.

We will be welcoming some young artistes to grace the platform and provide a change in tonal texture.

Admission is by programme at £12 on the door (£10 concessions; U18s and students are free).

Proceeds from the event and retiring collection will be donated to the charity Doctors for Nepal.

Come along and enjoy some uplifting music performed by enthusiastic and entertaining musicians!

Find out more about Cantamus Reigate at: <http://cantamusreigate.org/>



Alternative Valentine ideas – from around the world

On the 14 February lovers around the globe and here in Reigate will be celebrating Valentine's Day, an age old tradition which originated in ancient Rome. It is believed that Emperor Claudius II executed two men by the name of Valentine on the 14 February in the 3rd century. The Roman Catholic Church celebrated their martyrdom and this is how the celebrations began, it has taken centuries to become the romantic event we recognise today.

Valentine's Day has been adopted all over the world but it's not always acknowledged with hearts, chocolates and flowers. Here are 5 alternatives from around the globe.

In Denmark

The Danish men like to send their valentine's a joking letter, known as 'gaekkebrew' which includes a funny poem and is usually cut into a pretty pattern. The sender remains anonymous and if the lucky receiver can guess the person who sent it, they will receive an Easter Egg, as a reward, later in the year.

In Japan and South Korea

On the 14 February it is the women who have to woo the men with a small gift, usually chocolates. However, ladies are rewarded one month later when men return the favour three fold, on the 14 March, known as White Day.

In Norfolk, England

Children receive gifts such as chocolates and small toys from 'Jack Valentine'. The Santa of Valentine's Day leaves presents at the front door or bottom of the bed and like the Tooth Fairy and his Christmas counterpart, he has never been seen.

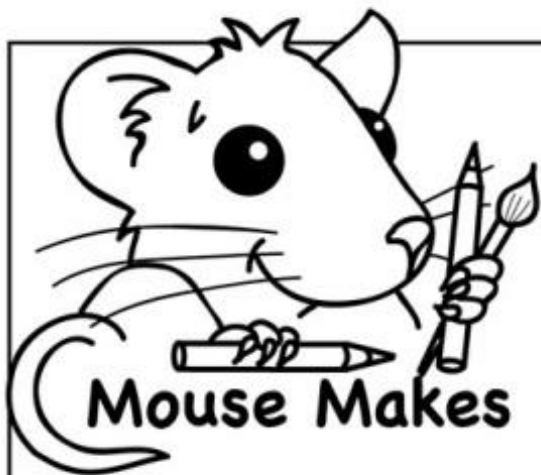
In South Africa

On Valentine's Day women literally wear their hearts on their sleeve. The ladies pin or sew the name of their beloved on the sleeve of their tops. This tradition originates from an ancient Roman festival known as Lupercalia.

In Bulgaria

14 February is St Trifon Zarezan Day known as 'Winemakers' Day'. St Trifon Zarezan is the guardian of vines in Bulgaria. The day is one of celebration where local villagers dance and party together. Couples celebrate with a glass (or three) of fine wine.

However you plan to celebrate, Happy Valentine's Day to you.



Mouse Makes

WHAT IS LOVE?

Cross out every other letter to find the Bible verse, then look it up.

OHNKEWJLOSHCNP
CGHUADPBTFEKRA
FJOMUORD
VWEURDSKEV
TOEGNP

God's love is...

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet.

"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsme tp nvdi
uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp
uibu fwfszpf xip cfmjfwft
jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu
ibwf fufsobm mjgf."
Kpio 3:16



How does God show he loves us?

Look at this in a mirror!

su rot evol siH bewozs boD
God showed His love for us
by sending his only Son into
the world, so that we
might have life
through Him
John 4:9

HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?

Cross out all the xxx to find out!

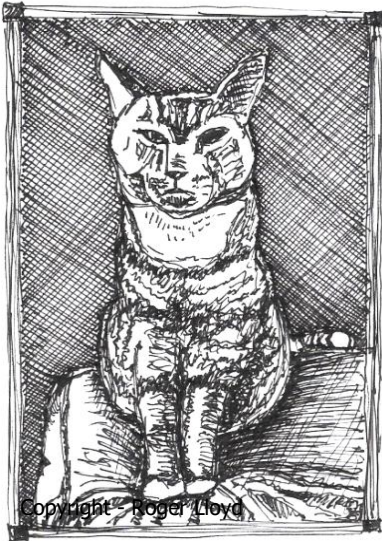
xxGxixvxexxtxhxaxnxkxsxxtxoxxtxhx
exxLxoxrxdx,xfxoxrxxHxexxiixxsxg
xoxxoxdx,xxHxixsxsxxtxeaxxdx
fxaxsxtxxlxoxvxeexnxdxu
rxxexsxfxoxrxxexvxxexr.
xpxsxaxxlxmxx
1x3x6:1

"The steadfast love of
the Lord *never* ceases"
Lamentations 3:22



Marley & the Big Heart

Written by Shona Prosser and illustrated by Roger Lloyd



Marley is an old cat, a wise cat, a thoughtful cat, a comforter and a friend. Marley has travelled many miles, explored the world and made many friends along the way, he was tired and longed for a home, a place to settle, and reflect on the life he has lived. It was in the summer of last year, while resting on the church wall, that Marley had met Candlemouse, a very bold and friendly mouse with kind eyes and big smile, who welcomed him into St Mark's. As Marley had followed his new friend through the glass door and into our beautiful church, he thought, 'I could be happy here', and he was.

Marley was a sleepy cat, a warm cat, a very comfortable cat. Marley did not want to wake up as his friend, Candlemouse shook him gently. It is always wise to take great care when waking a sleeping animal, even one as gentle as Marley, a large ginger and white cat, his coat fluffy and thick, his long white whiskers and pink nose twitching as he slowly opened his big green eyes. 'Good morning Candlemouse,' said Marley as he uncurled, stretched himself and then sat looking at his friend. 'Good morning Marley, come and see the strange gift in the vestry for you and me.'

Marley is a curious cat and so jumped down quickly to follow Candlemouse to the vestry where, beside his bowls filled with cat biscuits and water, was a large card and a piece of cheese. Looking closely the friends could see a big red heart, decorated with sparking gems around the outside and a wonderful picture of Marley & Candlemouse in the centre. Written on the front of the card, in bold letters was: 'To Marley & Candlemouse – Happy Valentine's Day' and inside the card it said...

*Thank you for being such kind and wonderful **Friends**
Your hearts are so **big** and your fur so soft to **snuggle**
You are always ready to have a **cuddle**
Especially when we are sad or in a **muddle**
We **love you** both and hope your adventure never ends*

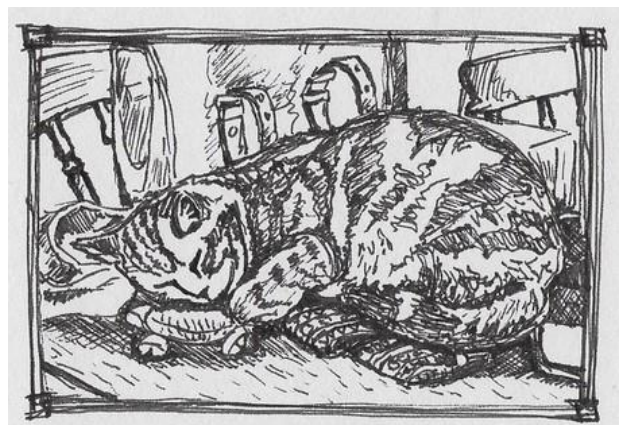
The card was signed, 'From all your 'T' Time Tales friends x'. 'Oh how very kind to make us such a lovely card,' said Candlemouse, 'I so enjoy Wednesday afternoons when all the children come into church for a drink and biscuit, there are always a few crumbs for me. The songs and puppets are great fun but my favourite time is when we sit down for a story.'

Marley smiled as he remembered the story of Mother Theresa and the street children of Calcutta in India, the very poorest of the poor and how this very tiny nun poured out her love, unconditionally and made such a difference to so many lives. 'Love really is amazing and comes to us in so many forms', he said, 'it makes me feel warm and happy inside when I think of all the good that comes from sharing our love of life with each other.'

Candlemouse looked thoughtful for a moment and then said, 'We must remember to tell those we care about how much they mean to us. I was in such a hurry to leave my home in the windmill on Wray Common when I was old enough, that I didn't take the time to tell my 25 brothers and sisters how much I love them. I don't see many of them now as we have all moved away,' he sighed. 'Now our Curate is leaving us soon to look after her own 2 parishes and I want to let her know how much I have enjoyed getting to know her....I'm just not sure how.'

'Cheer up Candlemouse, I have an idea!' said Marley excitedly. 'Let's re-use this lovely heart and put it on a sheet of paper. I have a piece of ribbon to remind her of the first wedding she performed, we can add our paw prints and ask the kind lady in the office to help with glue and to write our names. She can then add it to the book of memories and messages.' Candlemouse squeaked with joy, 'I know just the thing that I can give!' and scurried off to his nest, returning with a small glittery star: 'this will be a perfect reminder of all the nativity plays and crib services. They were such fun'

The two friends set to work on their gift, laughing and sharing stories of the happy times at St Mark's with their friend, Rev'd Anna, the curate. Later that evening as Marley was settling on his favorite cushion, he asked Candlemouse, 'Do you think Rev'd Anna will remember us?' Candlemouse smiled, 'Of course, every time she opens her book of memories and messages, some of our love will shine out and she will smile and laugh with joy knowing she has many friends.' Reassured Marley curled up and went sound asleep, dreaming of happy hearts, dancing ribbons and bright stars.



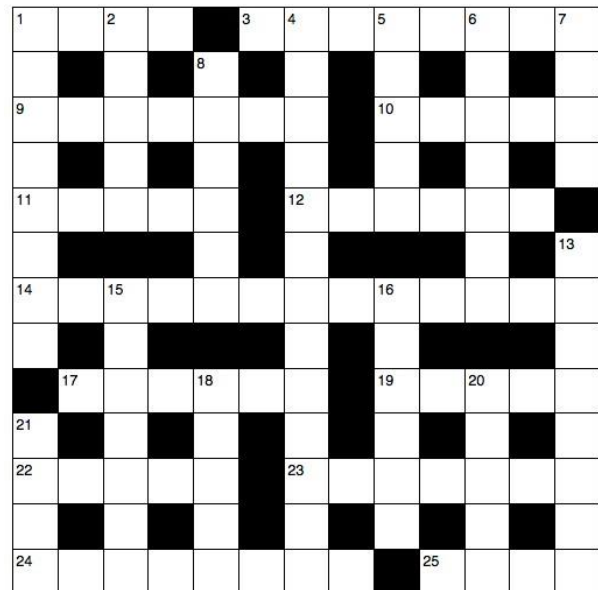
*"I have studied many philosophers and many cats.
The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior."
- Hippolyte Taine (critic)*

FEBRUARY'S CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

(Bible references are from the New International version)

Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)



Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
- 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
- 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
- 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)
13. This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
14. Or noise (anag.) (7)
15. 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
16. ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
18. Saver (anag.) (5)
20. 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Wage 3 Cleansed 9 Plateau 10 Ready 11 Did so 12 Hollow 14 Unregenerated 17 Offers 19 Islam 22 Is not 23 Overran 24 Barracks 25 Legs

DOWN: 1 Wiped out 2 Guard 4 Laughing-stock 5 April 6 Seaport 7 Days 8 Belong 13 Oddments 15 Refiner 16 Raided 18 Extra 20 Large 21 Limb

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Advertising: Jane Artis

Calendar Update: Parish Administrator

Crossword & Sudoku: Terrence Hancock

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British Library Distribution: Jenny Toye



Your Views & Contributions

Next Issue will be available from Sunday 3 March 2019
All Contributions to the Editor by Friday 15 February 2019

Email: magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Parish Magazine Subscriptions

To simplify the distribution process from 2019 we will no longer be seeking subscriptions for the magazine or adding 'names' to copies. Instead there will be a suggested voluntary donation of 50p and those who take copies of the magazine for others are very welcome to take as many as they need. The magazine will continue to be available from the Bell tower, at front of the church as well as online via our website.

Advertising through St Marks

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

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- On site internal and external notice boards
- Church website – www.stmarksreigate.co.uk
- And where appropriate, our Facebook presence.



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

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

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