

ST MARK'S PARISH CHURCH REIGATE

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Reg. Charity No. 1134121



SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER (ADVENT 2) – "GREEN SUNDAY"

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) in the Hall
- 10.00am Sung Eucharist in the Hall
- 4.00pm Family Service in the Hall

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

- 9.00am Prayer Meeting in the Lady Chapel
- 3.25pm T-Time Tales

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

- 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER (ADVENT 3)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) in Church
- 10.00am Sung Eucharist in Church and Online
- 4.00pm Messy Church

THE COLLECT FOR TODAY

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



CROYDON EPISCOPAL AREA

ARCHDEACONRY OF REIGATE

These are the readings appointed for today

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11: 1 to 11

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3 : 1 to 12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for those in particular need:
Yvonne Powell, Jacqueline McCallough,
George Hook, Lennox Hartman,
Rosemary Absalom, Jane-Ann Paul,
Sonia Pearson, Sylvia Loring, Ian Archer.

For those living in Reigate Hill

For St Paul's URC Shaws Corner Redhill

RIP: Ann Moses

For anniversaries falling at this time:

Margaret Burt, Tom Harley,
Betty Longley, Joyce Molyneux,
Beryl Forster, Lorna Stratford,
Alice (Robbie) Robbins.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

St Mark's is hosting Winter Night Shelter each Friday night from 12 December until 23 January. If you have attended a volunteer training session since the Shelter resumed in 2023, please sign up for shifts on Dutyman.

Nigel Perkins

CHRISTMAS CARD DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to everyone who has kindly volunteered to deliver our Christmas Service cards. They are now available to be collected from the front of the church. We ask that the cards are delivered **by Tuesday 9 December** so that people have them before the first service listed.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

As in previous years boxes are on the table in the tower lobby for members of the congregation to "post" personal cards. Any cards which are not collected by 31 December will be removed.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

As is our usual practice, the collections, both cash and card, at our Christmas Services will be donated to various charities. At the Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve, we will be supporting the **Children's Society**. At the other services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and at the Carol Service, we will be supporting **Renewed Hope**, who run the Winter Night Shelter, and **Sparkfish**, a local charity working in local schools. Online donations during this period will be shared with all three charities.



S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 28091

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We launched our Christmas Appeal, last Sunday 23 November. This year we are supporting one project in Tanzania with our partner Action in Africa. We are hoping to raise at least £6,300 to buy seven motorbikes to enable medical teams to get to far flung patients in the community of Nyaishozi, where the terrain makes it almost impossible to reach people. Watch the Appeal video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IleximWEEQs>. Any donations would be very gratefully received.

BINGO – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We are holding a Bingo afternoon on Sunday 25 January 2026! To avoid disappointment, pop the date in your diary now. More details will follow but, rest assured, there will be lots of homemade cakes for everyone and a tombola for the children.

Barbara Perkins

GREEN SUNDAYS

On the **1st Sundays of the month from December to March inclusive** all services will be in the Hall as we attempt to use less energy. Dates are:

Sunday 7 December

Sunday 4 January 2026

Sunday 1 February 2026

Sunday 1 March 2026

On these Sundays, the services will NOT be Livestreamed.

SABBATICAL

From 1 January 2026 until 28 March 2026 I will be on Sabbatical. It is 8 years since the last one and they are supposed to be every 7 years. All services during this time will happen as usual and Communion Services will be led by Reverend Reg and other visiting clergy. Reverend Reg and the churchwardens will be ensuring all runs smoothly during this time. All enquiries, etc should be sent to Alexia in the Parish Office and she will direct them to the appropriate person.

Fr Martin

REGULAR GIVING TO ST MARK'S

If you are able to, please consider making a regular donation to St Mark's through the Parish Giving Scheme. This is the most effective way to donate as we receive 100% of your donation and Gift Aid is automatically claimed. Please follow the link below to sign up.

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/reigate-st-mark-reigate/>

Please contact me if you need any more information. Many thanks.

Mel Crighton Treasurer,
treasurer@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Please send any notices for the news sheet to Terrence Hancock ☎ 01737 761178 or email terrence.hancock1976@gmail.com at the latest by 8.00am on a Thursday.