

# ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



*"Remember that you are but dust and to dust you shall return"*  
*Ash Wednesday is on 14 February*

## FEBRUARY 2018

Price 30p

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## **A LETTER FROM THE CURATE**

Dear Friends

The month of February is a turning point from the long dark nights and the dreary winter. It's a time when we look forward to the start of a change of season, namely spring, which is just around the corner. A time where signs of new life start to appear on the ground and on the trees and life seems a bit more positive.

In February the Church's season is also changing, and we are once more entering the season of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday. Ash is used as a mark of penitence. In the Old Testament there are several references to repentance in dust, ash and sack cloth; In Job 2:12 we are told how Job's comforters 'raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads'. Also, Daniel 9:3 'So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes'.

The words 'Remember you are dust and to dust you will return' which are said as the minister marks a cross of ash on our foreheads is a reminder of our sinful state as we enter into Lent. It is symbolic of the Genesis account of our beginnings, and our fallen state. On a more positive note, the words 'Repent and believe the gospel' then follow, which is a call to let go of our past failures and to start anew.

Lent is a time of discernment as we prepare for Easter, a time when often people 'give things up' like chocolate, cakes or sweets or changing of habits like watching television. The notion of giving up something is aligned to Jesus fasting in the wilderness for forty days. We generally think of Lent as forty days, but the period from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday is actually forty-six days. Within this period there are six Sundays. The early church felt these should not be included as Sunday is the day when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. So the good news is, if you are giving up something for Lent, you get a 'time out' on Sundays should you wish to, so enjoy!

Personally, I prefer not to give something up, mainly through lack of will power, but also because I like to do something positive for Lent. This could be committing to reading a spiritual book, or meditating for ten minutes extra each day on scripture, or simply taking time each day to think of three things for which I am grateful. Doing something positive that leads us closer to God could also mean going the extra mile for a

friend in need by committing to visit or call them once a week, or visit someone you wouldn't normally see. Taking this on in a thoughtful way could make a huge difference to folks who are lonely.

Alternatively, you could decide to buy Fairtrade goods whilst shopping. Fairtrade goods are increasingly available in supermarkets and by using Fairtrade products it changes people's lives and contributes towards a more just society.

These are just a handful of ideas. Whatever you decide to do or not do during Lent, I pray that it is a valuable time to help think about deepening our relationship with God and each other as we prepare for Easter.

God bless,

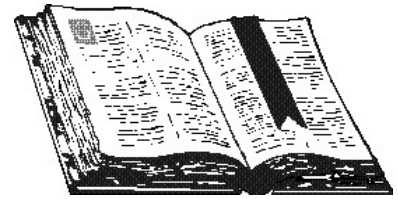
*Anna.*

*Reverend Anna*

### **SMART**

SMART will be meeting on 1 February in the Church Hall between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Susannah and Keith Dyde are coming to talk to the group about their bicycle trip from Land's End to John O'Groats which they took last year in aid of their Charity for the running of the school in Nairobi. Tea and biscuits will be served. If you would like a lift please contact Louise Wallis or Sarah Cousins, or if you live at Wraymead, Marion Wall.

## READINGS FOR FEBRUARY



|             |                        |                      |                     |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 4 February  | Presentation of Christ | Malachi 3:1-5        | Luke 2:22-40        |
| 11 February | Next before Lent       | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  | Mark 9:2-9          |
| 14 February | Ash Wednesday          | Joel 2:1-2,12-17     | Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 |
| 18 February | Lent 1                 | Genesis 9:8-17       | Mark 1:9-15         |
| 25 February | Lent 2                 | Genesis 17:1-7,15-16 | Mark 8:31-38        |

## THE CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We again had a full church for this service on Christmas Eve. The amazing sum of £907.86 was donated in the candle boxes, gift aid envelopes and collection.

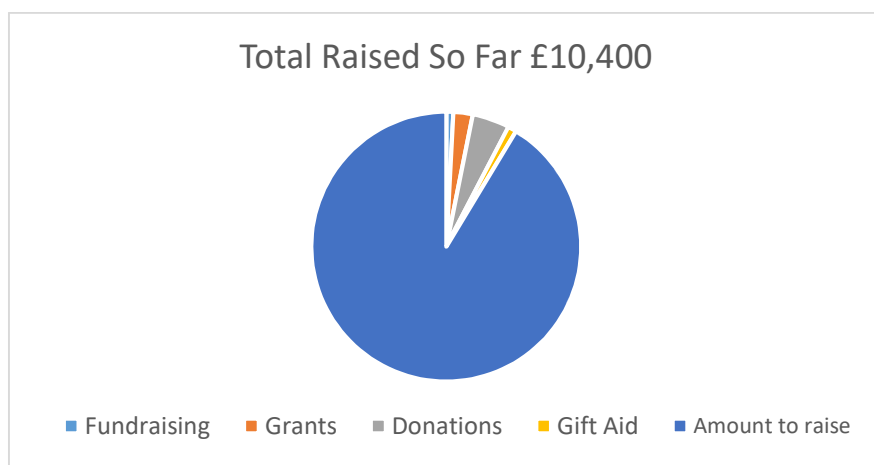


A huge thank you to everyone who decorated oranges, helped during the service and gave generously for such a good cause. Also, the local Women's Refuge are most grateful for so many presents for their children.

Tony and Patricia Bird

*Advance notice:* The annual box opening and fund-raising event will take place on Saturday afternoon 16 June 2018.

## KITCHEN PROJECT UPDATE



### ***Monies raised***

We are delighted to be able to report that the amount raised to date for the kitchen project is now over £10,000. There is still a long way to go but we thank everyone for their support. We are grateful for all donations and every pound counts towards our target.

### ***Grants***

We are regularly reviewing the numerous grants available to see if our project will qualify and are in the process of applying to The National Lottery – Awards for All and BIFFA. We are also expecting to hear shortly from Reigate and Banstead Council about the Capital Grant we applied for in August. There is a lot of competition for grant monies and many require a substantial amount to be raised before they are able to award monies so the more we can raise early the more we are likely to be offered.

### ***Events***

Our most recent event the Helier Dreux Quiz on 20 January raised £ . This brings the total raised from fundraising to £ . We are also planning a family race night and other activities throughout the year. More details to follow and any ideas for events welcome.

### ***Donations***

As you know we are looking to raise £120,000 in total to transform our church kitchen so we can continue and expand our community activities. Please see separate page on how to donate.

### ***Purchases so far***



The lockable freezer purchased with grant monies from Surrey County Council is already in use. We are also looking to buy a lockable fridge and upgrade the electricity supply to the hall shortly. We are determined to do everything we can to have the kitchen in place this year and as always are grateful for your support.

## **HOW TO DONATE TO THE ST MARK'S NEW KITCHEN PROJECT**

Please help us transform our 30-year-old church kitchen to a shiny new one to meet all food and hygiene standards so that we can continue and expand our Community activities

**We are looking to raise up to £120,000 for building work and installation.**

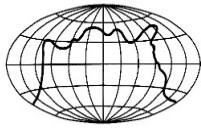
Online donations, with an option to Gift Aid, can be made by using the following link:

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

Alternatively, cheques can be made payable to St Mark's PCC and sent to St Mark's Church, 8 Alma Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0DA. Please state that monies are for the kitchen project.

If you are a tax payer and making a donation by cheque please ask for information on how to Gift Aid, enabling the church to claim a further 25% on your donation.





S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

## DOCTORS FOR NEPAL

In 2008 Kate Yarrow, a young UK doctor, was posted to western Nepal by the international aid organization Médecins Sans Frontières. The only doctor in a small hospital perched on a mountainside and several days' walk from a paved road, she experienced first-hand the desperate medical need of the isolated communities. The situation was exacerbated by the incredibly harsh mountain environment, political instability, and the poor economic status of the country.

Her medical assistant, Lalit, dreamed of becoming a doctor to serve his community, but the training fees were far beyond the reach of his impoverished family. On returning to the UK, Kate vowed that, if he could gain a place at medical school, she would raise the funds to pay for Lalit's training. In this way she could make a lasting contribution to the health needs of his community. Lalit was accepted by Nepalgunj Medical School, in Nepal.

In 2011, Doctors for Nepal was registered as a UK charity, and set out to offer at least one new scholarship per year. In 2012 Lalit graduated as Doctors for Nepal's first doctor, and continues to work in rural Nepal. He is now hoping to start his post graduate training and they are actively seeking funds to help finance him. In 2016 the charity expanded its activities to include nursing students.

Rural areas of Nepal average one doctor for every 150,000 people, compared to one doctor for every 85 people in Kathmandu valley. People often walk for several days over some of the world's most challenging terrain to reach basic healthcare. A child born in Kathmandu has an average life expectancy of 85 whereas a child born in the mountains of the mid-west averages an age of 36.

Doctors for Nepal believes that by training students from rural areas in community based medicine, there is the opportunity to raise the



standards of medical care in rural areas closer to that received by the urban population.

SMOAT first supported Doctors for Nepal in 2016 and they have just support them with funds raised at the Family Bingo. It costs £30,000 to train a doctor and with nine active students to support over the coming years, they have a lot of money to raise!



Some of the medical students supported by Doctors for Nepal

*Barbara Perkins (Chairman SMOAT)*

## **ST MARK'S PASTORAL TEAM**

St Mark's pastoral team is available to support and help those in need in our community. If you know anyone that would benefit from a visit from our team, or would like to speak confidentially about personal matters, please feel free to approach members of the team directly, by email or alternatively there are referral slips available at the front and back of the church. All referrals are treated with the strictest confidence.

### **Team members are:**

Ian and Jenny Archer, Marilyn Assender, Patricia Bird, Sarah Cousins, Stephanie Lawrence, Ken Packer, Alison Stagg, Louise Wallis, Fr Martin and Reverend Anna.

### **For more information Email:**

Reverend Martin Colton *vicar@stmarksreigate.co.uk*  
 Reverend Anna Moore *curate@stmarksreigate.co.uk*

## SUDOKU

### JANUARY SOLUTION

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

### FEBRUARY

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

### JANUARY CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**ACROSS:** 8 Bottomless pit 9 Ice 10 Decalogue 11 Limbo 13 Seconds  
 16 Crimson 19 Eager 22 Abhorrent 24 Lap 25 Alpha and Omega

**DOWN:** 1 Abdiel 2 Stream 3 Wondrous 4 Flocks 5 USCL 6 A pagan  
 7 Athens 12 IOR 14 Creation 15 Dye 16 Cravat 17 In hope 18 Need no  
 20 Galley 21 Repeat 23 Read

### THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

(Bible references are New International Version)

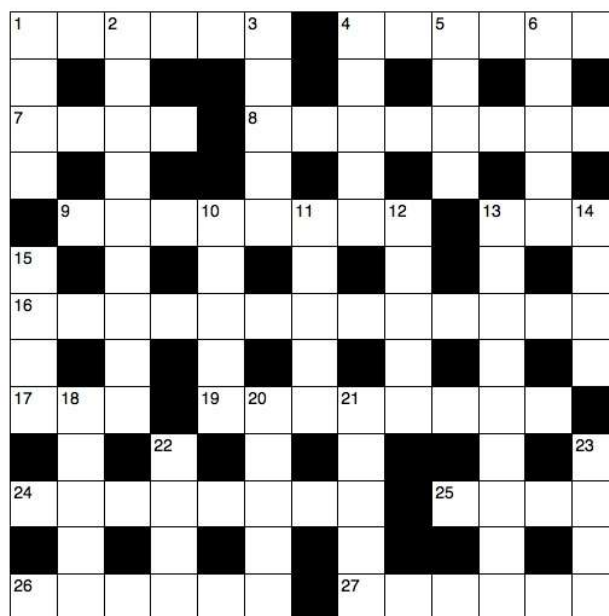
#### ACROSS

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)  
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)  
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)  
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)  
 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)  
 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)

- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)  
 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)  
 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you'  
 (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)  
 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)  
 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)  
 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven  
 times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)  
 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were  
 made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

## DOWN

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will  
 disown me three times' (Matthew  
 26:75) (4)  
 2 Relating to the books of the Bible  
 between Acts and Revelation (9)  
 3 'They have — the Lord out of the  
 tomb, and we don't know where  
 they have put him!' (John 20:2)  
 (5)  
 4 Belief (5)  
 5 'Take the following fine spices: ...  
 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)  
 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)  
 10 A seer (anag.) (5)  
 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)  
 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)  
 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people  
 (Colossians 3:11) (9)  
 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of  
 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)  
 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians  
 16:19) (4)  
 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring —  
 — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)  
 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the  
 rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)  
 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her  
 house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)  
 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of  
 these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)



23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end'  
(Daniel 5:26) (4)

## **CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY**

Thursday 1 February 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

**Sunday 4 February** **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**  
2.30pm SMOAT Bingo Event

Wednesday 7 February 10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church

Thursday 8 February 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the  
Godfrey Searle Choir

**Sunday 11 February** **Sunday before Lent**  
1.00pm Community Lunch  
6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Monday 12 February No Playgroup (Half-term)

Wednesday 14 February **Ash Wednesday**  
11.00am Holy Eucharist with Ashing  
No T-Time Tales (Half-term)  
8.00pm Sung Eucharist with Ashing

Thursday 15 February 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

**Sunday 18 February** **Lent 1**  
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 21 February 8.00pm Lent Course

Thursday 22 February 9.45am Lent Course  
12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the  
Godfrey Searle Choir

Saturday 24 February 8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance

**Sunday 25 February** **Lent 2**  
5.00pm -7.00pm ROOTS Youth Group

Wednesday 28 February 8.00pm Lent Course

## **MARCH**

Thursday 1 March St David (Wales)  
9.45am Lent Course  
12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the

Godfrey Searle Choir

**Sunday 4 March**

Wednesday 7 March

Thursday 8 March

**Sunday 11 March**

Wednesday 14 March

Thursday 15 March

Saturday 17 March

**Sunday 18 March**

Monday 19 March

Wednesday 21 March

Thursday 22 March

Saturday 24 March

**Sunday 25 March**

Monday 26 March

Tuesday 27 March

Wednesday 28 March

**Thursday 29 March**

**Friday 30 March**

**Lent 3**

10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church

8.00pm Lent Course

9.45am Lent Course

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

5.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the  
Godfrey Searle Choir

**Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)**

1.00pm Community Lunch

6.00pm Taizé Prayer

8.00pm Lent Course

9.45am Lent Course

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

St Patrick (Ireland)

**Lent 5**

4.00pm Messy Church

8.00pm PCC Meeting

8.00pm Lent Course

9.45am Lent Course

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

5.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the  
Godfrey Searle Choir

8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance

**Lent 6 (Palm Sunday)**

5.00pm -7.00pm ROOTS Youth Group

8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline

8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline

8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline

**Maundy Thursday**

8.00pm Sung Eucharist

**Good Friday**

10.00am Family Service

12.00noon Meditations

1.30pm Liturgy of Good Friday

**Saturday 31 March**

**Holy Saturday**

8.00pm Easter Vigil and  
First Eucharist of Easter

**Sunday 1 April**

**Easter Sunday**



|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Thomas Corden         | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Will Cooper           | 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Henry Page            | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Edward Tout           | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Jasmine Woods         | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Charlie Cooper        | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Isabella Tharmasingam | 28 <sup>th</sup> |

## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:**

### **Holy Baptism**

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

14 January

Tina Stowe Riley  
Edward Oscar Riley  
George Felix Riley

### **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.

29 December  
17 January

June Margaret Gentleman  
Ronald Sweetapple



## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The services will be held on Friday 2 March in the following venues: Reigate Methodist Church at 11.00am and St John's, Redhill at 7.30pm

The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname, South America.

These services are open to anyone to attend so please come along and find out about Suriname and the women who live there.

## **LETTER FROM THAILAND**

Bangkok has a certain reputation and often, not a particularly savoury one. But a city of this size can't really be summarized in a sentence or a paragraph. According to the latest census (2010) some 8.3 million people are resident in the city, with enormous numbers commuting to join them every day. Therefore, there is chaos on the roads every day except Sundays.

The vast majority of the people are Buddhist and I would say their faith is very important to them. Every personal greeting (good morning, good night or thank you) is accompanied by a prayer-like salutation. A pot of fresh flowers and a statuette of Buddha is commonplace in many streets and front gardens and many people will stand briefly in an attitude of prayer in front of them. We find it irritating that when Buddhists are on their knees in prayer to a local shrine, tourists will frequently walk between or in front of them, taking photographs. However, the Thais appear to take no offense.

Living is not expensive in Bangkok. A simple evening meal with a drink need not cost more than four pounds per person. Tourists very quickly find out where the best value eating places are, and a queue will often form outside. In our favourite restaurant there is a constant degree of chaos, with staff running from serving hatch to customers. The cashier looks permanently harassed and the cooks in full sight at the end of the room are enveloped in a faint cloud of smoke, from which a continuous fizzing and crackling of frying food is heard. Yet we have never been disappointed with the finished products. And sitting shoulder to

shoulder with Dutch, Russian, Canadian, Australian, Japanese or Scandanavian customers always adds interest.

Getting through Bangkok by car is horrendous. There are plenty of traffic lights and they are obeyed, although scooters take liberties. But the sheer volume is overwhelming. Our taxi, attempting to turn right from a dual carriageway, found its exit totally blocked by traffic, stationary in all directions. A bus waiting to move forward was wedged in place for at least 10 minutes, unable to move a single foot. The yellow 'no stopping' hatching on the crossroads was totally ignored. Alas for the poor commuters! Fortunately, some 18 years ago, the government built 'Skytrain'. The trains, comparable to London's Underground, run above the main roads, to provide a basic means of cross-city transport at a cost of one or two pounds; not entirely meeting commuters' needs but a blessing to tourists.

Fortunately, virtually all the important signs - street and station names, availability of toilets, directions to important buildings - are reproduced in English. We find the Thai script absolutely impenetrable, even to the extent of detecting where one word finishes and the next one begins.

We are disappointed that the windows in our hotel, as in most major buildings, are permanently sealed. It would certainly be welcome to breathe in fresh air rather than perpetual air conditioning. But it is true that the outside air is hardly 'fresh', given the number of vehicles on the road. Only those permanently working among traffic bother with face masks such as policemen, but a few people, particularly Japanese, decide to wear them. From where we are staying, some five buildings, having at least 40 storeys, have helicopter landing pads on the top. I must confess to a personal dislike of them on principle - it seems to us that the use of a helicopter in this city environment is a triumph of one person's wealth over everyone else's peace and quiet. Perhaps we have to look forward to electric drones.

So far, we have made two excursions accompanied by a guide. We were surprised to find that in each case the trip offered by our tour company was about 40% less than the price offered by the hotel's tour desk, whereas we would have expected one's own hotel to be cheaper. It appears this is due to the Hotel charging the tour desk a significant sum for the privilege of locating their desk there.

Our first trip has been to the Grand Palace, an ensemble of fine buildings of varying ages and great magnificence, dating from 1782

onwards. All important royal ceremonies are performed there. King Rama IX died last year aged 89. Known as King Bhumibol, he was beloved and virtually worshipped by his people. He was on the throne since age 19 and will lie in state there for a year. An essential visit for anyone in Bangkok, we would say, but the entire site will always be extremely crowded, from initial opening and throughout the day.

The second trip we made is to the famous Damnoen Saduak Floating Market. This is about 60 miles from Bangkok and is a site where farmers traditionally trade their goods using small boats, either for cash or by exchange with other farmers. The Floating Market is much publicised as a tourist attraction but if you have seen pictures, ignore them! The small traders start at 6.00am but by the time the tourists get there, the entire site is crammed with trinket and clothing sellers, food stalls, and tourist canoes jamming up the canals. Fortunately for us, visits to a farm and a culture centre were fitted into the same day.

Tomorrow, we are off for a few days by the sea for some real fresh air, some quiet and relaxation!

*Malcolm Toye*

## **HUMOUR FROM THE PARISH PUMP**

### **Curiosity**

A teacher was finishing a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. 'After all,' she declared, 'Where would we be today if no one had ever been curious?'

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. 'In the garden of Eden?'

### **Genealogy**

Where you confuse the dead, and irritate the living.

## **Hands**

A teacher saw a student entering the classroom with very dirty hands. She stopped him and said, "John, please wash your hands. My goodness, what would you say if I came into the room with hands like that?" Smiling, the boy replied, "I think I would be too polite to mention it."

## **Special needs**

After booking my 85-year-old grandmother on a flight from London to Amsterdam, I called the airline to go over her special needs. The representative listened patiently as I requested a wheelchair and an attendant for my mother because of her growing confusion, her arthritis and impaired vision to the point of near blindness. My apprehension lightened a bit when the woman again and again assured me that she understood and that everything would be taken care of. I thanked her profusely. 'Oh, you're welcome,' she replied. I was about to hang up when she cheerfully added, 'And will your grandmother want a rental car?'

## **Prayers**

My 10 year-old niece says her prayers every night, but instead of 'amen', she says 'click, send.'

## **Windows**

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning: 'Windows frozen, won't open.' He texted back: 'Gently pour some lukewarm water over' She replied five minutes later: 'Computer *really* screwed up now.'

## **Express**

I was in the express queue at the supermarket, quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman in front of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a trolley piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked

into the trolley and asked sweetly, 'Which six items would you like to buy?'

### **Christ the Hiding Place**

A prayer of Soren Kierkegaard (1813 – 1855)

The birds have their nests and the foxes their holes. But you were homeless, Lord Jesus, with nowhere to rest your head. And yet you were a hiding-place where the sinner could flee. Today you are still such a hiding-place, and I flee to you. I hide myself under your wings, and your wings cover the multitude of my sins.

### **The Ten Commandments**

This version was published by Isaac Watts in 1709.

Thou shalt have no gods but Me.  
Before no idol bow thy knee.  
Take not the name of God in vain,  
Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.  
Give both thy parents honour due,  
Take heed that thou no murder do.  
Abstain from words and deeds unclean,  
Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean.  
Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it,  
What is thy neighbour's, do not covet.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY – mourning our sins**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage

and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6).

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19) The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



## **REGULAR SERVICES AT ST MARK'S**

### **SUNDAYS**

|         |                        |  |
|---------|------------------------|--|
| 8.00am  | Each Sunday            | Holy Communion (said)<br>Book of Common Prayer |
| 10.00am | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | Parish Eucharist (with Junior Church)          |
|         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday | Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)            |
|         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)            |
|         | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)            |
|         | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)            |
| 4.00pm  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | Messy Church                                   |
| 6.00pm  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | Evening Prayer (said)                          |
|         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday | Taizé Prayer                                   |
|         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | Evening Prayer (said)                          |
|         | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | Evening Prayer (said)                          |
|         | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | Evening Prayer (said)                          |

### **MONDAY TO THURSDAY**

9.15am          Morning Prayer

### **WEDNESDAYS (during school term-time)**

3.25pm          'T' Time Tales

### **THURSDAYS**

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

Contributions for the March magazine should be sent to

Malcolm Toye at 10 Raglan Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0DP  
Tel: 01737 247016 or email mctoye@hotmail.com  
by 10 February 2018 please.

## **PARISH ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS**

DAILY BIBLE READINGS – 'NEW DAYLIGHT'  
*Parish Office 210785*

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

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA  
*Contact: Mrs Valerie Jones 246538*

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP  
*Contact: Mrs Anne Millington  
anneandash@btinternet.com*

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS  
*Mrs Rosemary Absalom 240351  
Mrs Kate Lovegrove 226776*

SMART - St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team  
*Contacts: Mrs Sarah Cousins 789943  
Mrs Louise Wallis 242129*

ST MARK'S COMMUNITY LUNCH  
*Contacts: Mrs Angela Daniels 247162  
Mrs Alison Stagg 243992*

ST MARK'S HALL  
*Letting Secretary: Mrs Jean Hatton, 139 Carlton Road, Reigate 765759  
E-mail: jean.hatton@btinternet.com*

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST - SMOAT  
*Chairman: Mrs Barbara Perkins, 6 The Mount Drive, Reigate 226632*

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YOUTH WORK  
*Junior Church Contact: Mrs Leonora Corden, l.corden@btinternet.com 224534  
'ROOTS' Youth Group (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month 5.00pm until 7.00pm)*

*Contact Reverend Anna 07939 388607*

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