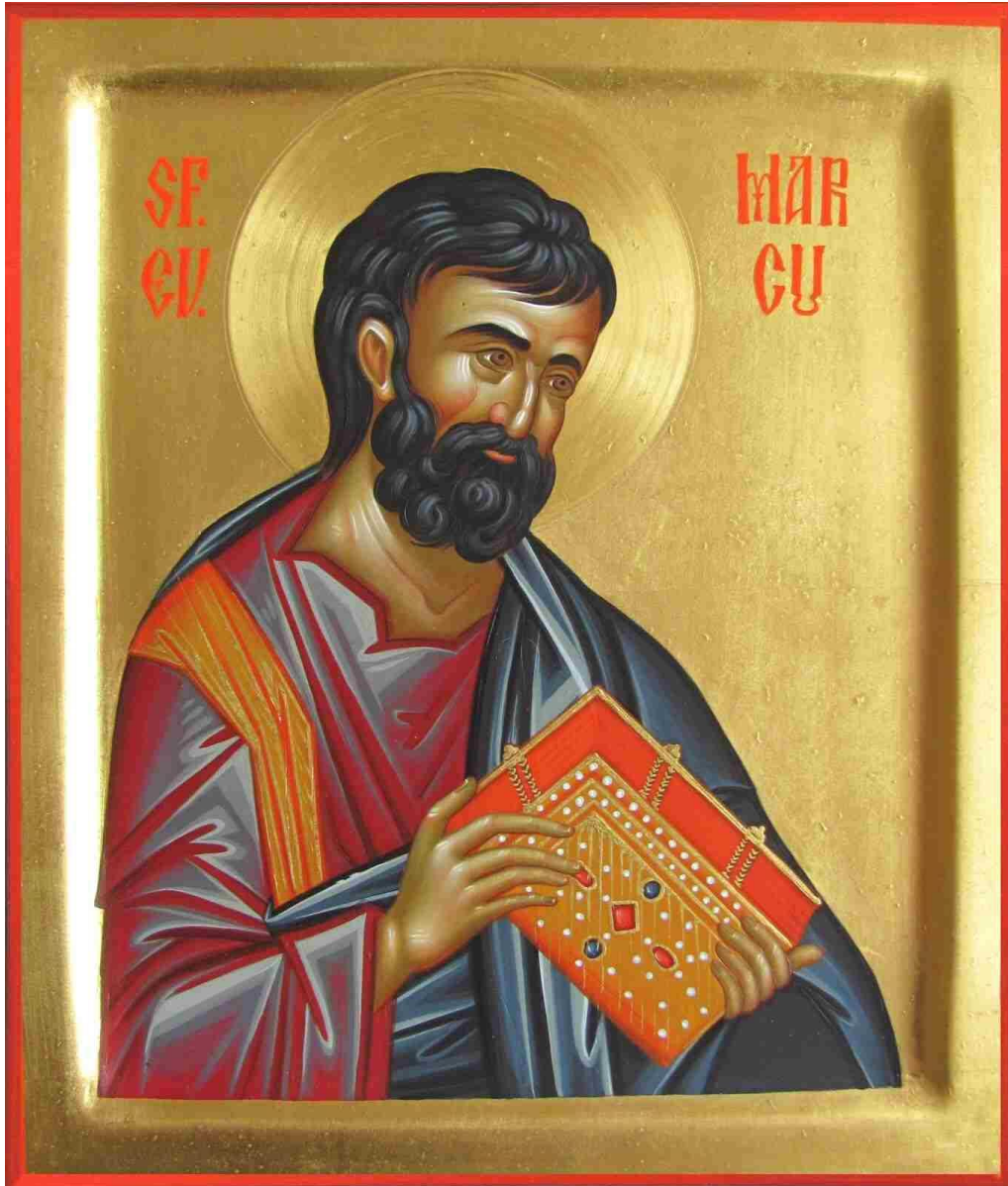


ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



Saint Mark the Evangelist

22nd April

APRIL 2018

Price 30p

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Do not be afraid

Some years ago we visited the aftermath of a forest fire in California. Some months earlier the blaze had caused extensive damage to the once beautiful landscape and at first glance it looked like everything had been destroyed forever. However, the person who acted as our guide was able to show us some extraordinary signs that all was not lost. On closer inspection we noticed new shoots springing up and I was fascinated to learn about the process of renewal that comes after such a fire. After the heat and devastation and amidst the charred remains, new life almost miraculously appears. The landscape, though different, becomes once again something that is lush, life-giving and beautiful to behold.

My mind returns to that scene as I think about what confronted Christ's disciples during the period between the last supper, the betrayal, arrest and the horrors of Calvary. Their beloved friend and teacher had been betrayed and handed over to the Roman authorities. He suffered a mockery of a trial, was beaten and flogged and finally executed in one of the most brutal and cruel ways ever invented. The desolation must have been total, not to mention the fear that something similar would then happen to them. It seemed to be the end of things with so much wasted potential. Surely, they thought, he was only just getting started? But of course, that death and what followed was really just the beginning, with the destruction and violence of Good Friday giving way to the scene at the empty garden tomb.

In Mark's gospel it is some women who first discover the joyous news. The stone is rolled away and an angel tells them "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here." We then read that they were indeed afraid as they walked away, and who can blame them? However, something extraordinary then began to happen. As the disciples and others encountered the risen Jesus, new signs of life began to appear. They begin to spread the good news, to speak of all they had seen and shared with Jesus and the church was born. This new life spread to all the areas of the known world through the bold and unashamed proclamation of the disciples, who themselves had been transformed from a pathetic group of terrified and deserting former followers into the founders of Christendom.

The words "Do not be afraid" appear many, many times in the Bible, in varied contexts. I think all Christians should take them to heart because I believe there is growing hostility to our faith in sections of the media, the public sector, the judiciary and on social media. All too often we fail to speak up and make a stand for the teachings of Christ because we are indeed afraid.

The life changing message of Christ took hold because his friends and followers spoke up, in the face of harsh persecution. Many lost their lives but, undeterred, more and more came to faith and the Jesus revolution began. That revolution is still changing lives today and there are areas of the world where the church is growing at an extraordinary rate. Perhaps we have become too cautious in the West, but there are nonetheless hopeful signs.

A good starting point would be to remember the angel's words at the tomb; "Do not be afraid." The message of Easter is one of new life after desolation. It is a message which is unchanged through history. The God who reached out to that eclectic group of first followers in the person of Jesus, is still calling out to us, willing us to stop struggling against Him and to come home. Far from an offensive message, the teachings of Christ are about love, forgiveness, tolerance and peace. There is nothing to be ashamed of and everyone who calls themselves Christians should speak up and pass on the good news. Christ is risen! What is there to be afraid of in light of that?

Happy Easter!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin".

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:

Holy Baptism

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

25th February

Oscar Grayson Smith

Admission to Communion

God of life, you invite us all to eat at your table; may we know your love as we share this heavenly food, and shine with your light all the days of our life.

11th March

Elsie Arabella Bowers
Winnifred Violet Bowers
Charlie Delahunty
Tia Delahunty
Cerys Grace Moore
Darcy Louise Moore
Edward Donal Howard Read
Jonathan Kenneth Frederick Read

Holy Matrimony

Lord, strengthen these your servants with your grace, that they may keep the promises they have made in your presence.

16th March

Anton Remel Manley Patrick with
Paris Aliyah Nembhard

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.

2nd March

Barrie Malcolm Atkins

13th March

Annie Gwendoline Strudwick

READINGS FOR APRIL

1st April	Easter Day	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18
8th April	2 nd of Easter	Acts 4.32-35	John 20.19-31
15th April	3 rd of Easter	Acts 3.12-19	Luke 24.36-48
22nd April	St Mark the Evangelist	Acts 15.35-41	Mark 13.5-13
29th April	5 th of Easter	Acts 8.26-40	John 15.1-8

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sunday 1 April

Wednesday 4 April

Thursday 5 April

Friday 6 April

Saturday 7 April

Sunday 8 April

Thursday 12 April

Friday 13 April

Sunday 15 April

Thursday 19 April

Saturday 21 April

Sunday 22 April

Wednesday 25 April

Thursday 26 April

Saturday 28 April

Sunday 29 April

MAY

Wednesday 2 May

Easter Sunday

10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
2.00pm SMART

9am-6pm Church Hall - CLOSED

2.00pm Wedding
6.00pm Concert – Lizzie Searle (soprano)

Easter 2

10.00am Sung Eucharist & APCM
1.00pm Community Lunch
6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Easter Holiday Club
12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

Easter Holiday Club

Easter 3

4.00pm Messy Church

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

GIFT DAY

10.00am Revd. Anna receiving donations

St Mark the Evangelist

5.00pm -7.00pm ROOTS Youth Group

3.25pm T Time Tales (First of new term)

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance

Easter 5

10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church

Thursday 3 May	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 5.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the Godfrey Searle Choir
Sunday 6 May	Easter 6 (Rogation Sunday) 2.00pm Rogation Walk & tea 6.00pm Healing & Wholeness Service
Thursday 10 May	Ascension Day 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 6.30pm Deanery Celebration on Reigate Hill with Bishop Jonathan
Sunday 13 May	Easter 7 1.00pm Community Lunch 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Tuesday 15 May	8.00pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 17 May	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 19 May	Christian Aid Coffee & Cake 10am-12 noon in the Church Hall
Sunday 20 May	Pentecost – with Archdeacon Moira 4.00pm Messy Church
Wednesday 23 May	3.25pm T Time Tales (Last before half term)
Thursday 24 May	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 26 May	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 27 May	Trinity Sunday 5.00pm -7.00pm ROOTS Youth Group
Thursday 31 May	Corpus Christi 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 8.00pm Sung Eucharist – hosting members of St Matthew's

SUSANNAH DYDE - My Role as a Reader

From the age of 21 I have always done youth work, mainly Sunday School/Junior Church, first at St Mary's, Reigate, then at the Heath Church. I had been involved in St Mark's Junior Church since about 1993 and the Youth Group, Chums, for a good many years, but after a while I began to feel the Lord nudging me into developing my ministry further. This started with a desire to work more with adults, but the idea of youth work never left me. So I started to explore my calling.

First I did a Leadership Course put on by the diocese at Holy Trinity Church Redhill. Then, at the instigation of a friend, I did a whole year of weekly one-to-one sessions on 'St Ignatius Meditation' with a retired nun who lived locally. This changed my way of listening to God and revolutionised my whole attitude to walking with God. From a child I had always had a very strong faith, but listening to God is something that all Christians find difficult. As a result of spending much more time with God I felt Him calling me into a different sort of ministry.

I still wasn't sure exactly what, so I attended a day at Southwark Cathedral where you can go round all the stalls advertising different types of ministry and can talk to people about them. It gradually became clear, as a widow with three children, and a job of harp teaching which I loved, that ordained ministry was not going to be right for me, so I explored the idea of being a Reader. Fr Martin Wright gave me his full backing and I was accepted onto the Reader Course.

I have never regretted this decision. I loved the course and I love everything that I am allowed to do as a Reader without the responsibility of leading a Parish. I have to admit that I often wondered, during my training, whether I should have gone for full time ministry, but God definitely knew that I would not be able to cope with running a church!

As a Reader I didn't have to give up any of the youth work that I was already doing, but I was able to add preaching and leading a Home Group to my list. Gradually God has been changing my role within the church but I feel it is completely led by Him and I look forward to what exciting things He has in store for me to do next.

Susannah Dyde

REGULAR SERVICES 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	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

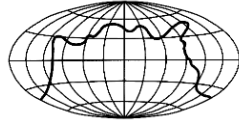
9.15am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAYS (during school term-time)

3.25pm 'T' Time Tales

THURSDAYS

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



S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

BRINOS (Britain Nepal Otology Service)
A charity dedicated to the prevention and cure of Ear Disease in Nepal

BRINOS was founded in 1988 by Neil Weir, a Consultant ENT Surgeon to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, UK.

It came about largely as a result of a meeting with the late Dr L.N.Prasad, who at that time was Senior ENT Surgeon to the Bir Hospital in Kathmandu and Royal Ear Surgeon to the King and Queen of Nepal.

Dr Prasad, at one time the only ENT and Eye surgeon in the country, was keenly aware of the urgent need to tackle the prevalence of ear disease in Nepal, as a survey of disability conducted in 1981 (the year of the disabled) found deafness to be the largest single disability. Dr.Prasad was urged by His Majesty's Government to plan future provision of ear care throughout the country.

His aim was to reach out to those people living far away from Kathmandu. As there was only a single modern ear surgeon and no funds for equipment, it was difficult for him to realise his goal.

The twice yearly ear surgery camps were established as a direct response to Dr Prasad's vision and have been run in Nepal, twice-yearly since 1989 and three times a year since 2008. Staff from the UK include at least two ENT surgeons along with an anaesthetist and sponsored nurses. Staff from Nepal, as full team members, enhance their surgical skills and assist in the delivery of primary ear care.

In the early years of BRINOS, ear camps were held both in the eastern and western ends of Nepal. For some time in the early 1990s, camps were held in Dharan, where the British Military Hospital had been established. In more recent years BRINOS has concentrated its work in the town of Nepalgunj in the south western Terai, working initially with the Fateh-Bal Eye Hospital, then with the Nepalgunj Medical College (2001-March 2007), and since November 2007, back at the Fateh-Bal Eye Hospital until 2013.

Patients for each ear camp are pre-selected through the Primary Ear Care programme. A team of two or three British surgeons, two theatre nurses and an anaesthetist join forces with Nepalese surgeons and local

theatre staff. Well over 100 major ear operations are performed over a nine day period, using three operating tables running simultaneously. Most operations are performed under local anaesthetic with the patients awake.

Surgery involves repair of ear drum perforations (myringoplasty), eradication of potentially serious middle ear disease (mastoidectomy) and restoration of the hearing for those suffering with a condition known as otosclerosis (stapedectomy). Patients stay in hospital for two days and aftercare is undertaken by the primary ear care team.

It became clear that a permanent clinic would be the way forward and in 2013 the land was purchased and planning began in earnest. The foundation stone was laid in March that year and in November 2016, after much hard work and fund raising, the Centre was opened for business.

The Centre is in Nepalgunj which is a remote region, far from the existing facilities in Kathmandu, beyond the southern part of the Himalaya mountain range. It will provide a base for the BEHCS (BRINOS Ear Health Community Service) in servicing ear-health-care needs both in house and in the outlying villages and towns. It will also provide modern facilities for ear surgery, both for the visiting BRINOS teams and for the Nepalese ear surgeons who work with BRINOS.

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 Anna - curate@stmarksreigate.co.uk

SARAH COUSINS, Reader licensed in 2008

When I went to see what becoming a Reader was all about, I wasn't even aiming to be a reader. My work for the NHS as a lay chaplain in mental health seemed to fit me more as a SPA and, more to the point, I had a phobia of speaking in public of which my 4 years as a teacher hadn't cured me! So no one was more surprised than I when I found myself being interviewed by a reader panel and starting the Reader training course in September 2005.

I spent the first term feeling overwhelmed by the Old Testament, even though I had a degree in Theology! A ten day trip to India with my mother, although life affirming, meant another gap in Old Testament but somehow I got through the assignments and passed the probationary period which was the structure then. This has now been changed to more emphasis on the selection period.

With much encouragement and more than a little help from God, I was able to speak out the sermons prepared over many hours. Typically preparation then took me about twenty hours. Nowadays it usually takes about 5-6 hours to be sure that the material prepared is what I should be sharing with the congregation.

Yes, it was a time of taking on more responsibility but this grew from what I was already doing in the church. What I wasn't prepared for was the joy and the sense of God's presence through the most testing of times. We moved house twice as a family during my training and it was also during GCSE and A level study and exams for our children. So if God is calling you to serve him in some way, don't be afraid to explore that. If you're not afraid of hard work, have a strong sense of your faith and like meeting new people it's an unforgettable adventure!

Sarah Cousins

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Awaken 4 Quench 8 Hit me 9 Sadness 10 Semitic
11 Ridge 12 Testimony 17 Psalm 19 Indulge 21 Deserve 22 Ariel
23 Rose as 24 Beggar

DOWN: 1 Aghast 2 Attempt 3 Eject 5 Undergo 6 No end
7 Hasten 9 Sacrifice 13 Samaria 14 Yelling 15 Spider 16 Dealer
18 Asses 20 Drake

KNITTING & SPIRITUALITY

Calling all knitters and homecrafts people! Did you know that a small group of us have started meeting once a month in each other's homes?

We knit / crochet / sew - it must be something that can be done in your lap. If you find knitting relaxes you and helps you think about good things, please come and join us. We open and close with a short prayer and then get down to knitting and getting to know one another.

We shall meet next on Thursday April 19th from 7.30 to - 9pm.

If you would like to know more, then please talk to Cherith Baldry (telephone 01737 221955 or myself (01737 789943).

Sarah Cousins

SMART

This month we shall be meeting on 5th April
in the Church Hall from 2pm.

We shall be sharing some of our favourite poems,
so please bring that special verse or poem learned at school,
to read or ask someone else to read for you.

As always, please ask for a lift if you need one.
We can be contacted via Sarah Cousins (789943)
or Louise Wallis (242129).



A very Happy Birthday to

Eva Mosley	4th
Gracie Lam	10th
Joshua Woods	22nd
Chloe Espin	26th
Lauren Crighton	30th

ARCH'S WAY

"What do you mean, 'Stop'?" demanded my father, always the tactful one. "I mean", I replied, "if there isn't a magazine, then Roman Arch will retire gracefully. And if there is, well, we'll have to see what it looks like, first." "Hmm. I suppose that's true. Well, you've been churning them out for a few years. Do you think the world is any different from when you started?" "Yes", I said, "In some ways, enormously different, it seems to me." "Alright, I'll buy it. Tell me - I know you're going to, anyway."

When I started, it was nearly a year before I wrote about technology. Now, it seems, the topic is continuous. It's almost impossible to pick up a newspaper or watch a news broadcast without hearing of some amazing new facility that may revolutionise our lives, or some unexpected technical or criminal event that will cause problems for thousands or millions of people.

During the last decade, the use and sophistication of mobile phones has grown out of all recognition. Doctors and teachers have reported that some children have not developed the finger strength and flexibility to hold and use pencils correctly, due to their constant use of touch-screens. University lecturers have found that some students are not able to take written notes in a session longer than an hour due to finger and wrist pain, while the students report that their own notes turn out to be illegible.

Norman interrupted me: "And while we're on mobile phones, I'll tell you one thing that upsets me: when I walk down town, I'll often pass young mums (or dads) wheeling their little ones towards the shops. I assumed they're chatting to their babies, as one would, but no; they're chatting to their phones via the two leads clamped into their ears. Baby is just sitting in the buggy with no one to talk to. It seems to me that we need to re-learn things that we knew perfectly well years ago."

I think Norman's got a valid point. We are all in danger of being permanently hooked up to our friends, our social networks, our banks and indeed, our government with very little real knowledge of how and when this 'information network' might backfire on us. I guess everyone is aware of the problem that has recently come to light, regarding personal details for 50 million people which are recorded in Facebook and were passed by an employee, to a company who probably sold them for marketing or possibly political purposes. As I write, we await the lawsuits.

It's becoming increasingly clear that we have to learn how to live in this new environment. It is not only our youngsters who can be entrapped into putting indiscrete information into the Internet. Adults are regularly

deceived by internet contacts who offer goods, services or accommodation which simply do not exist. And it has to be said, it is almost impossible to detect the difference between the genuine article and the fraud.

Do you always read the pages of Terms and Conditions in small type, when answering a tempting offer? If you're like me, of course not! A security company recently highlighted the problem by setting up a wi-fi hotspot in a London café. Several customers quickly logged on, to make use of the free Internet access. To do so, they had clicked on 'Accept the Terms and Conditions', unaware that one of the conditions read, "In using this service, you agree to relinquish your first born child to F-Secure, as and when the company requires it. In the event that no children are produced, your most beloved pet will be taken instead. The terms of this agreement stand for eternity." While the problem is clear, the solution is not.

"I think the whole area of new technology is fraught with risks and pitfalls which the majority of us don't and may never understand," said Norman, "Particularly the young and the old, and yes, I am speaking for myself. I was looking in a shop in the village of Battle the other month, and a notice in the window said they accepted payment in Bitcoins. Now, I think most people know that a physical Bitcoin doesn't really exist. It's lines of code in a computer. Some people say they've made loads of money by trading in them. Others say their value could possibly halve from one month to the next. There have been some multi-million pound thefts by computer hackers. What kind of trading is that? How is the man in the street - i.e. me - supposed to deal with this kind of so-called 'progress'?"

My dad is right, of course. As we sit in our recliner armchairs while our computer in the corner listens to our every word in case we want it to draw our curtains for us, or order 10 cans of sardines, and a drone delivers a hot meal on to our lawn; is this the brave new world? I don't think so! Happily, I continue to have faith in human nature and, for example, admiration for our church communities. As I've said before, we look out for each other and care for each other. I think we generally understand what constitutes a good lifestyle and how to keep as active and healthy as we can. Old fashioned values, maybe, but good ones.

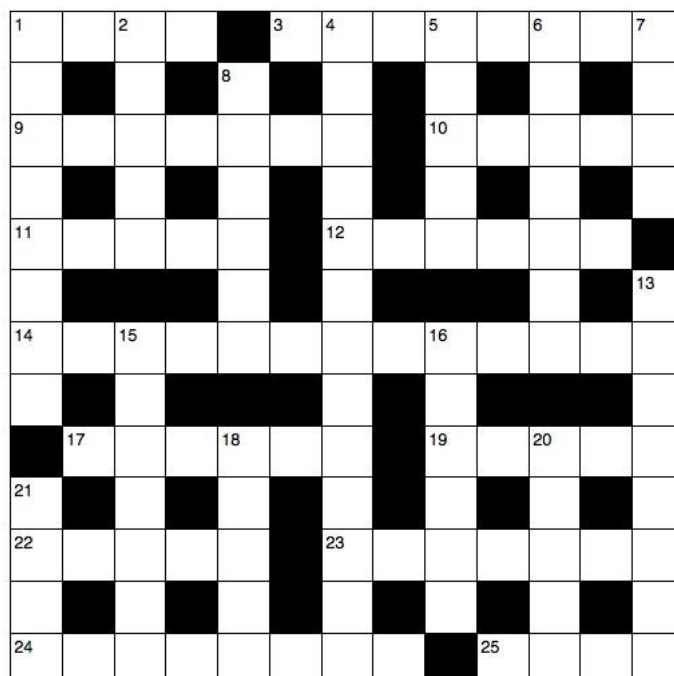
My dad cut me short; "You're pontificating again, Roman. That's enough!"
"Yes, Dad. You're right."
Time to go!

Roman Arch

CROSSWORD FOR APRIL

Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4)
- 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
- 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
- 23 For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)



Down

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
- 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)
- 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
- 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
- 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
- 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)

Note: Due to the amount of material, there is no Sudoku puzzle this month. If a magazine is not published in May, the Crossword solution can be obtained from Malcolm Toye (247016 or mctoye@hotmail.com).

NEXT MAGAZINE?

It was last August when I first advised in this magazine that, after 11 years in the job, I would be retiring as Editor with effect from the APCM this year. We have now reached that date and I am sorry to say that no one has yet offered to take the job on. So, with considerable regret, I cannot invite contributions for a May Magazine.

If anyone is interested in finding out what is involved in putting our magazine (or any similar publication) together, please contact Father Martin or myself and we shall be pleased to discuss possibilities. I am most grateful to those who have contributed in the past, and for the generous comments readers have made about the quality of St Mark's Magazine.

Malcolm Toye (Editor)

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

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Mrs Louise Wallis 242129

ST MARK'S COMMUNITY LUNCH

Contacts: Mrs Angela Daniels 247162

Mrs Alison Stagg 243992

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E-mail: jean.hatton@btinternet.com

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YOUTH WORK

Junior Church Contact: Mrs Leonora Corden, l.corden@btinternet.com 224534

'ROOTS' Youth Group (4th Sunday of each month 5.00pm until 7.00pm)

Contact Reverend Anna 07939 388607

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