

# ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



*'Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass,  
It's about learning to dance in the rain'*

## SEPTEMBER 2018

# **THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE**

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**Visit our website: [www.stmarksreigate.co.uk](http://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk)**

## LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

September is effectively the start of a New Year for many people. It's always a busy month with every group and committee in churches, schools and many other organizations the length and breadth of the country wanting to hold meetings so that they can make a 'good start'. If you read through this magazine you will read of all the things we are planning to do at St Mark's over the next four months – and beyond. It can make you dizzy just reading about it all. And thinking about Christmas – well that will immediately set you in a spin!

So what is it with all this 'busyness'? Why are we planning all these activities? And who are they for?

As is so often the case, simple enough questions don't lead to simple answers. Is all this for the benefit of the congregation of St Mark's? Well, yes. We will enjoy taking part in all the things that are planned for the coming months, whether it be the Vintage Tea, Harvest Festival, the Social Dances, Messy Church, Concerts, Community Lunch, SMART meetings, SMOAT events, All Souls' Service, Remembrance Sunday, or the Carol Service, or any other of the dozens of things scheduled to take place over the coming months (too many to mention!).

But we are not planning these things just for our own benefit. We are planning them for the benefit of friends and neighbours, and members of the parish of St Mark's who we don't even know – yet. We are seeking to invite people into the Church fellowship, to invite people into relationship with Jesus Christ. Why? Because having a relationship with Jesus Christ is something that we value; it is important to us and helps us in our lives, and so we want others to benefit from that relationship as we do. We want to travel with other people on a shared journey of discovery, and the sharing of that journey with other people of faith in our church fellowship is one of the most important things that we, as a church, can do.

So the question you should ask yourself as you read through all the events of the coming months is not really: 'Do I want to come to that?' It is rather: 'Who am I going to invite to come with me to this or that event?' By approaching things from this angle we start to engage in the most fundamental activity of the Church – namely MISSION. Over the coming months we, as a Church, will be considering the Five Marks of Mission that the churches worldwide have identified, and evaluating how each and every one of us can be included and play our part in the life of the mission of St Mark's.

With my best wishes



# New Kitchen Project

## A very, very busy August in the kitchen!

There has been a lot of activity on the kitchen project during August – almost too much to tell but here is a brief summary:

Stripping out of units, appliances, pipework, wiring, walls, doors, hatches, windows ...



Putting in new walls, doors, wiring, plumbing, wall cladding, ventilation equipment ...



Still to come – final electrical work, new ceiling, new flooring, electrical shutters and finally all the shiny new appliances and equipment.

We hope to be able to have the work completed and the kitchen operational by mid-September.

Nearly there ... and thanks to the coffee teams for managing with no kitchen and providing refreshments in the church over the last few weeks.

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

## **ST MARK'S BUFFERS**

### **Lavishing some love & shine!**

Following on from the weekend when we were asked to Lavish Love on St Mark's, has come the creation of the St Mark's Buffers. We had a very happy morning cleaning all the churches precious items, so we have decided to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 10am-12noon. We do hope that you have been dazzled by the cross on the High Altar and the Lectern, as well as all the other items, it is a great feeling to get so close to the wonderful articles that St Mark's own. So, the invitation is there, if you would like to join our happy band please contact one of our founder members or just pop along and you will be made very welcome.

Caryl, Janet, Sonia & Jane-Ann Paul

#### **Diary dates**

September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 16<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>

#### **Nail brushes, Toothbrushes & Cotton Cloth**

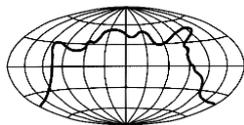
The Buffer's would be delighted to have your old nail brushes, toothbrushes and cotton tea towels/pillowcases & sheets  
They all help to make things SHINE!

## **SMART**

This month on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September – 2pm we will be meeting in the Church to hear about the new Kitchen, which is in progress.

Tea will be served at the back of the church.

For more information, please contact Louise Wallis (01737 242129)



S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October - 7.30pm**

# **HELIER DREUX QUIZ**

Helier has made a name for himself locally as being a quiz master extraordinaire!

Come along and join us for supper (vegetarian option available)

Put your brain to the test - Will you be able to top the leader board, or Will you be on the table that wins the Smarties?

Form a table of eight or just come along and join a table on the night.

Tickets available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarksreigate](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarksreigate)

# The UK's Top 100 Hymns

What are the most popular hymns in the UK? In 2013 BBC Songs of Praise conducted a nationwide survey. Tens of thousands of people voted for their favourites creating the most comprehensive list ever compiled. This is the top ranked 100 hymns:

1. How Great Thou Art \*
2. In Christ Alone \*
3. Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord \*
4. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind \*
5. Here I am, Lord (I, the Lord of sea and sky) \*
6. And can it be \*
7. Abide with me
8. Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer \*
9. Make me a channel of your peace \*
10. The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended
11. Jerusalem
12. Great is Thy faithfulness \*
13. Shine Jesus Shine \*
14. Love divine, all loves excelling \*
15. Be Thou my vision \*
16. Amazing Grace \*
17. I vow to Thee my country
18. When I survey the wondrous Cross \*
19. What a friend we have in Jesus \*
20. Thine be the Glory \*
21. To God be the Glory \*
22. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven \*
23. Be still, my soul \*
24. How deep the Father's love for us \*
25. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
26. Psalm 23 (by Stuart Townend) \*
27. O Love that wilt not let me go \*
28. Lord, for the years \*
29. Lord of all hopefulness \*
30. The Servant King \*
31. O Jesus, I have promised \*
32. Blessed assurance \*
33. All things bright and beautiful \*
34. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want \*
35. King of Kings, Majesty
36. Just as I am \*
37. Beauty for brokenness \*
38. Lord of the Dance \*
39. There is a Redeemer \*
40. My song is Love unknown \*
41. My Jesus, my Saviour
42. Eternal Father, strong to save \*
43. Here I am to worship (Light of the World)
44. Immortal, invisible, God only wise \*
45. Angel-voices ever singing \*
46. How great is our God
47. Before the throne of God \*
48. Here is Love, vast as the ocean \*
49. Morning has broken \*
50. The King of Love my Shepherd is \*
51. In heavenly Love abiding \*
52. At the name of Jesus \*
53. Tell out my soul \*
54. Nearer my God to Thee
55. Lord, Jesus Christ (Living Lord) \*
56. Give me joy in my heart \*
57. Brother, let me be your servant \*
58. I'll go in the strength of the Lord

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 59. Soul of my Saviour *                     | 81. All my hope on God is founded *             |
| 60. Christ triumphant, ever<br>reigning *    | 82. Lead us, heavenly Father *                  |
| 61. For all the saints *                     | 83. Christ be our Light *                       |
| 62. All people that on earth do<br>dwell *   | 84. For the beauty of the earth *               |
| 63. O happy day                              | 85. Christ is made the sure<br>foundation *     |
| 64. The Church's one foundation *            | 86. Hail, Redeemer, King divine                 |
| 65. He who would valiant be *                | 87. Thy hand, O God, has guided *               |
| 66. I cannot tell *                          | 88. Since Jesus came into my heart              |
| 67. O for a thousand tongues to<br>sing *    | 89. We cannot measure how you<br>heal *         |
| 68. How shall I sing that majesty *          | 90. Praise to the Lord, the almighty *          |
| 69. Crown him with many crowns *             | 91. Ye servants of God *                        |
| 70. Take my life *                           | 92. O God, our help in ages past *              |
| 71. Lead kindly light                        | 93. Praise to the Holiest in the<br>height *    |
| 72. Mine eyes have seen the glory *          | 94. O worship the King all glorious<br>above *  |
| 73. I will sing the wondrous story *         | 95. Like a mighty river flowing                 |
| 74. Now thank we all our God *               | 96. Let all the world in every corner<br>sing * |
| 75. There's a wideness in God's<br>mercy *   | 97. Lord, enthroned in heavenly<br>splendour *  |
| 76. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God<br>almighty * | 98. Sing of the Lord's goodness                 |
| 77. Come down, O Love divine *               | 99. O when the saints *                         |
| 78. Who would true valour see *              | 100. God is Love, let heaven adore<br>him *     |
| 79. All creatures of our God and<br>King *   |   |
| 80. Father, hear the prayer we<br>offer *    |   |

All those with an asterix (\*) have been used at St Mark's since January 2017, and some have been used several times. That is 84 out of the 100 most popular hymns. Of those 16 not used, 4 are evening hymns, so are not appropriate in the morning, 10 are not in our hymn books and 2 are for very specific occasions. In the recent request for hymns, all those requested had been used in the last year and most are on this list.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 we will not use the hymnbooks at 10am for the rest of the year, but we will project the words on the screen (with a few paper copies with music for those who need them). This will help our singing, allow us to use a much wider selection of hymns and also cut back on paper use.

**Father Martin**

## **Come and Sing - Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018**

Cantamus Reigate is holding another  
Come and Sing day at St Mark's.

The programme includes Vivaldi's Gloria and Rutter's ever-popular Requiem, as well as a short setting of the Gloria by Gabrieli in which the singers will be joined by a sackbut ensemble! John Hatton will be accompanying and Nick Landauer directing.

Registration is at 13.00 and there is a singing fee of £15.

Please contact Nick at [nick.landauer@live.co.uk](mailto:nick.landauer@live.co.uk) if you'd like to sing.

At 18.00, there will be an informal performance to which people are invited to Come and Listen.

Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection for the Oasis Kindergarten run by the Maisha Trust (Charity No 1119135).

## **ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL**



### **SOCIAL DANCE NIGHTS**

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month  
**2018**

22<sup>nd</sup> September  
24<sup>th</sup> November

27<sup>th</sup> October  
22<sup>nd</sup> December

8pm-11pm

Entrance £7

You are welcome to bring your own drinks

**GET ON YOUR DANCING SHOES!**

## 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 <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	Healing and Wholeness
	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 in the Lady Chapel

#### MONDAY (during school term-time)

9.30am St Mark's Toddler Group in the hall

#### TUESDAY

10.00am 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday St Mark's Buffers – in the Church

#### WEDNESDAY

10.00am 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Vintage Tea – in the Church  
3.25pm 'T' Time Tales (during school term-time)

#### THURSDAY

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) - followed by tea or coffee  
2.00pm 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday SMART

#### SATURDAY

8pm 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday St Mark's Social Dance

**A Handy Pull-Out Guide to 'What's On' at St Mark's**

**CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Trinity 14**

6.00pm Healing & Wholeness Service

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am -12noon Vintage Tea in the Church

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
2.00pm SMART

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September Trinity 15**

No Community Lunch

6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 9.30am Toddler Group (First meeting of term)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.25pm T Time Tales (First of term)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September Trinity 16**

4.00pm Messy Church

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 10am-12noon St Mark's Buffers - buffing  
8.00pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 1.00pm Come & Sing Day - Cantamus  
8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September Trinity 17**

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm St Mark's Singers in Concert (doors 6.45pm)

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September Trinity 18**

6.00pm Evening Prayer

## **CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.00am -12noon - Vintage Tea in the church
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30pm SMOAT - Helier Dreux Quiz Night
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Harvest</b> 6.00pm Healing & Wholeness Service
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Trinity 20</b> 1.00pm Community Lunch 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	10am-12noon St Mark's Buffers – buffing
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Trinity 21</b> 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Half Term – no Parent & Toddler
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term – no T Time Tales
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Simon and Jude</b> 6.00pm Evening Prayer

*We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.*

# **PARISH ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, GROUPS & CONTACTS**

## **CHURCH FLOWER ROTA**

*Contact: Mrs Valerie Jones 01737 246538*

## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

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

## **DATA REQUESTS**

*Contact: Parish Office – 01737 210785*

## **IONA COMMUNION – LUNCHTIME SERVICE**

*Every Thursday 12.45-1.15pm followed by Coffee/Tea*

## **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

*Contact: Louise Wallis 01737 242129*

## **PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

*Mrs Rosemary Absalom 01737 240351 & Mrs Kate Lovegrove 01737 226776*

## **SMART - St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team**

*Meetings on the first Thursday of the month*

*Contacts: Mrs Sarah Cousins 01737 789943 or Mrs Louise Wallis 01737 242129*

## **ST MARK'S COMMUNITY LUNCH**

*Contacts: Mrs Angela Daniels 247162 & Mrs Alison Stagg 243992*

## **ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL**

*Regular Lettings Secretary: Mrs Jean Hatton 01737 765759*

*Party Bookings & Church Bookings via Parish Office 01737 210785*

## **ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST - SMOAT**

*Chairman: Mrs Barbara Perkins, 01737 226632*

## **ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE**

*Advertising: Mrs Jane Artis, email: [janeartis@hotmail.com](mailto:janeartis@hotmail.com) 07831 269866*

*Distribution: Mrs Jenny Toye, 01737 247016*

*Editing & Collation Team: Contact via the Parish Office 01737 210785*

## **ST MARK'S SINGERS**

*Rehearsals Monday 7.30pm in the church – all welcome*

*Contact: Toby Garrod 241979*

## **VINTAGE TEA**

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

## **WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**

*Contact: Ben Read Email: [benread@hotmail.com](mailto:benread@hotmail.com)*

## **YOUTH WORK**

*Junior Church: Mrs Leonora Corden, [l.corden@btinternet.com](mailto:l.corden@btinternet.com) 01737224534*

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

*Reverend Anna 07939 388607*



## ST MARK'S SINGERS IN CONCERT

Join us for an evening of music and songs, performed by the St Mark's Singers and friends.

From popular songs to gospel, choral to swing, come and join us to celebrate the power of song.

A licensed bar will be available throughout the concert.  
Tickets available from:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarksreigate](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarksreigate)

[www.stmarksreigate.co.uk](http://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/StMarksChurchReigate](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksChurchReigate)

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>  
September  
7.30pm**

**Doors open  
6.45pm**

**Tickets**

**Adults £7.50  
Children £2.50**

**Includes a drink  
on arrival**

**St Mark's Church,  
Alma Road,  
Reigate, RH2 0DA**

All proceeds to  
St Mark's Church  
Register Charity No 1134121

### **Fond Memories**

'Taps' sung at the end of any Girl Guide Meeting or event:

Day is Done, Gone the Sun,  
From the Hills, from the Sea, from the Sky  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

I have so many happy memories from my time in the Guide Movement that this verse is very special to me.

Janet Burns

*Please share your 'fondest memory' poem, song, hymn or prose....  
Send to [office@stmarksreigate](mailto:office@stmarksreigate).*

# Why Messy Church is Church

Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church and the leader of this worldwide movement for BRF, has recently written an article with the above title. Here are the main points from that article that apply to us and all our various congregations, not just Messy Church.

“At our recent village Messy Church, I was leading the celebration and waxing lyrical (in a rambling way, as jetlag from an overseas trip was just kicking in) about Jesus when I noticed a slightly pop-eyed look on several of the adults’ faces. As many Messy Churches find, ours welcomes three sorts of people – a few folk from other churches, some familiar Messy families and quite a few there-for-the-first-timers who may never have set foot in a church before (alleluia). This session was one in which we had lots of those first-timers, and I can only think it was the mention of Jesus (okay, if I’m honest, the enthuse about Jesus) that took them aback. They’d enjoyed an hour of wonderful activities with their children and relaxed into the welcoming atmosphere and barely noticed they were being invited to pray, to explore the Bible, to talk about spiritual things. So the overt mention of the person behind it all came as a bit of a surprise. But of course, it shouldn’t, because Messy Church has that giveaway in the very name: this is no craft club; this is church. The name is on the can, what you see is what you get – and other clichés of that ilk.

“Having been challenged by a bishop not so long ago that I was being unreasonable to insist Messy Church is church and that, in his opinion, it is completely okay that ‘some people see it as “church”, some do not’, I think it’s worth ... [exploring] why I think it does matter that Messy Church is church.

“As Claire Dalpra points out in her chapter in *Messy Church Theology*, church has four aspects: being ‘one, holy, catholic and apostolic’. Claire equates these aspects with the four directions in which a church operates: ‘in’ (one), ‘up’ (holy), ‘of’ or belonging (catholic) and ‘out’ (apostolic). It is on the ‘catholic’ part I’d like to cogitate now. ‘Catholic’ is the ‘church in a circle’ idea, the notion that the members of a church are connected to each other and to other expressions of church. The Methodist Church, with its emphasis on ‘connexion’, embodies this particularly well.

“I think Messy Churches, too, find belonging easy to comprehend and put into practice. They are made up largely of friends and family who have told other friends and family about Messy Church, either in the school playground or on the adult friendship networks. Indeed, yesterday, as I prowled around chatting to people, one dad was telling me happily how he’d bumped into another dad from his workplace there, and a mum was noting all the parents she recognised beneath the layers of paint and glue from the school run. It’s very relational. There is also a growing awareness in Messy Churches of the need to take social action locally and be connected to the needs of the community.

“On a slightly wider level, Messy Churches do ‘catholic’ well because they are conscious of being just one of the congregations of a local church, not the be-all and end-all but an interdependent ecclesial community within that church family.

“And wider still, Messy Churches are usually delighted to feel connected to other Messy Churches around their own country and even around the world. There is a steady trickle of interest in twinning with another Messy Church (funnily, UK ones usually want to twin with somewhere hot). There is a huge interest in sharing ideas on Facebook or at local Messy Meet-ups. Messy Church team members find they can talk endlessly about Messy Church, even if it’s the first time they’ve met. It’s a very connected network...

“Church – what an amazing, if weird, family to belong to. As Messy Church, perhaps by our very existence, we can remind the rest of our church family just how weird and amazing a family it really is!”

We may have further articles on this subject in the future ....

**Father Martin**

### SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH’S CROSSWORD

**ACROSS:** 8, Prince of Peace. 9, INF. 10, Unmarried. 11, Gulag. 13, Treason. 16, In aid of. 19, Arena. 22, Calvinist. 24, Pad. 25, Moses and Aaron.

**DOWN:** 1, Spring. 2, Sinful. 3, Scourged. 4, Commit. 5, Spur. 6, Matins. 7, Feed on. 12, Urn. 14, Erastian, 15, Own. 16, Income. 17, At last. 18, Friend. 20, Empire. 21, Adding. 23, Inst.

### THE SEPTEMBER SUDOKU CHALLENGE

### Solution to August’s Sudoku

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

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

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## Marley & The Ribbon



Copyright: Roger Lloyd

Marley is an old cat, a wise cat, a sad cat, a warrior, a comforter, a loner, a watcher – at times Marley has been them all.. Marley has explored the world and made and lost friends along the way, he is tired and longs for a home, a place to settle, and ponder on the life he has lived. Recently Marley met Candlemouse, a very bold and friendly mouse with kind eyes, who welcomed him into St Mark's. As Marley had followed his new friend through the glass door and into our beautiful church, filled with colours as the sun danced through the stained-glass windows, he thought, 'I could be happy here', and he was.

Marley is a troubled cat. He could not settle and paced around the church as the quiet, gentle light of dawn crept through the windows. Something was different, Marley could sense the anticipation and excitement in the heady aroma of roses and freesias, rosemary and lavender.

A new arch had been put in place at the start of the pews yesterday and the church was filled with laughter, as the flower ladies had covered the arch with lush greenery and then added the fragrant flowers. Bunches of flowers had also been bound together with wire and ribbon and now sat along the pew ends down the central aisle. The church looked so beautiful filled with flowers.

Marley knew he shouldn't really play with the ribbons, but a wonderful offcut, delightfully curled piece had fallen under a pew and had provided hours of fun! It now sat under the Lady Chapel altar, slightly worn, so that Marley could show Candlemouse when he returned from his adventures.

Marley is a happy cat. A tall man with a thoughtful & wise face unlocked the great big door and called for Marley, this was the Vicar who looked after everyone at St Mark's, although not everyone had their meals delivered by him!

While Marley finished his breakfast, the Vicar was changing the altar frontals to white and Gold and explained to Marley that there would be a wedding in the church later that day, this was a time of great celebration when all the family & friends of the couple came together to support them as they made their wedding vows and started their news lives as a married couple. It sounded very exciting and Marley looked forward to the service.

The church filled with people, like flowers, they were all different colours, some wearing hats and all wearing smiles. Laughter and chatter so loud that Marley thought it sounded like the walls were joining in. Suddenly, music started to play, everyone stood and the doors from the tower opened to reveal a very proud man and a young lady with a lovely smile, in a long white dress carrying a big bouquet

of flowers, as they walked in Marley was amazed to see 4 more lovely dresses worn by 4 girls, each smaller than the one before. The last little girl was tiny and carried a basket which she swung in time to the music as she toddled down the aisle.

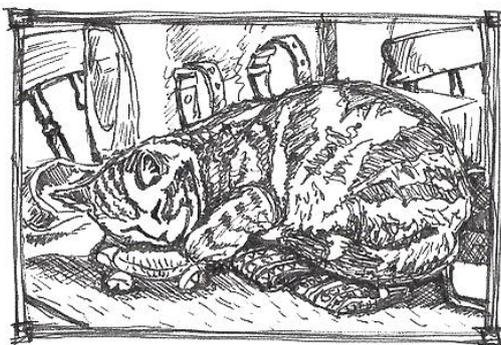
Marley is a helpful cat. As the tiny girl swung her basket Marley noticed a flutter of ribbon as something landed on the carpet, quick as a flash Marley leapt forward and picking up the ribbon, followed the tiny girl. There were big smiles and a chuckle of laughter and they all processed down the aisle.

Marley sat watching the ceremony, the lady with the beautiful dress, smiled as she took the hand of the tall man in the suit with the rose in his buttonhole. Standing in front of the Vicar they repeated their vows in a hushed church, turning to the tiny girl they took the basket and seemed to be looking for something.

Marley is sharing and caring cat. So, Marley took the ribbon that had fluttered to the ground to the couple to cheer them up. A gasp, a cheer and suddenly Marley finds himself being cuddled and stroked! Tied by the ribbon are 2 gold rings, one larger than the other. The Vicar smiles at Marley and says, 'what a clever cat, you have saved the day!' Marley watched while the rings were blessed by the Vicar and the couple placed rings onto each other's left hand. Everyone was very happy.

Later as Marley curled up on his favourite cushion, he thought about the delicate, fragrant flowers, curls of ribbon and the smiles of the happy people he had met. 'Isn't it funny' he thought, 'how sharing a simple piece of ribbon with strangers can turn them into friends'.

As Marley drifted off to sleep, he smiled as he thought of his good friend Candlemouse and looked forward to sharing stories together. 'I hope everyone has a place like St Mark's where they can find new friends... and ribbon to play with.....'



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(Marley – copyright Shona Prosser)

## **October Issue – Out Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Contributions are welcome, along with your suggestions for content and items you would like included. All items should be emailed to the Parish Office by **10am on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**. Thank you.

### **Editing & Collation Team**

We are seeking keen and IT friendly help to collate the magazine. Please speak to Reverend Anna if you would like to help shape our communications for the future!

# SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

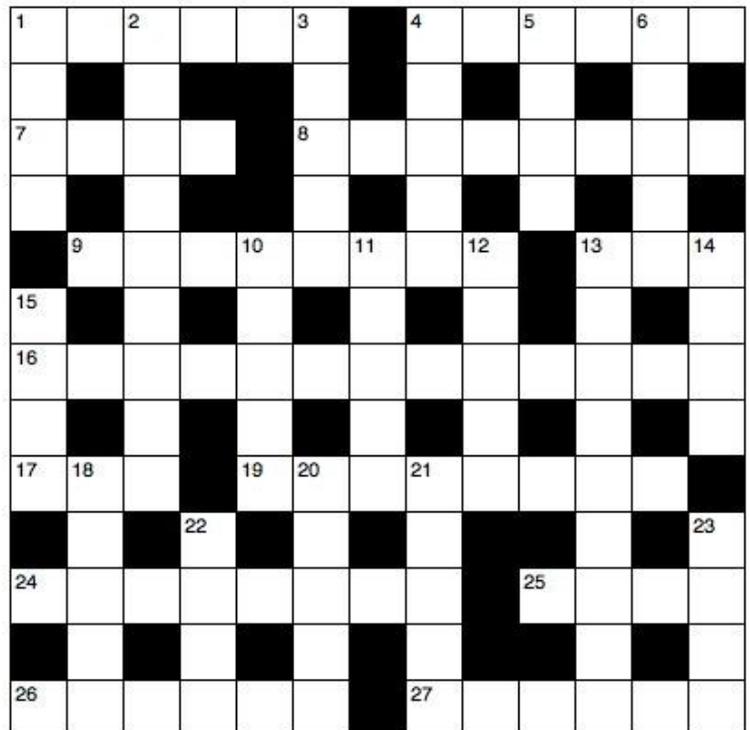
(Biblical references are from the New International Version)

## Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)  
 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)  
 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)  
 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)  
 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)  
 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)  
 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)  
 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)  
 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)  
 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)  
 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)  
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)  
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

## Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)  
 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)  
 3 O raid (anag.) (5)  
 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)  
 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)  
 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)  
 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)  
 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)  
 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)  
 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)  
 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)  
 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)  
 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)  
 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)  
 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)  
 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)  
 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)





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## Advertising through St Mark's

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