

# ST MARK'S PARISH MAGAZINE



**The Holy Family  
Visiting the parish with the 'Travelling Crib'**

## DECEMBER 2018

*Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome*

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

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**Tel: 07939 388607 Email: curate@stmarksreigate.co.uk**

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*Mr Ian Archer, 01737 242842*  
*Mrs Sarah Cousins, 01737 789943*  
*Mrs Susannah Dyde, 01737 221638*

## CHURCHWARDENS

*Mr Kenneth Packer, 01737 222860*  
*Mr Paul Selvadurai, 01737 223077*

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*Mrs Jane Artis, 07831 269866*  
*Mrs Christine Ingram, 01737 217969*

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*Mr James Tanser, 01737 767355*

## PCC TREASURER

*Mr Brian Rowbotham, 01737 244860*

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*Mr Nigel Perkins, 01737 226632*

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*Mr Terrence Hancock, 01737 761178*

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*Mr Terrence Hancock, 01737 761178*

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*Mrs Alison Stagg, 01737*

*01737 243992*

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

## LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing, the Christmas adverts have started to appear on the television. In Aldi's offering we have been able to catch up with the adventures of Kevin the Carrot. This Christmas we have found him attempting to protect his family from the nefarious activities of his arch enemy, Pascal the wicked Parsnip. In contrast Sainsbury's advert concentrates on a primary school play, focusing on a very nervous looking child on stage who is just about to sing a solo. As she starts singing the song 'You Get What You Give' her face is awash with fright, her voice faltering. As she spots her mother in the audience, courage and confidence sweep through her body until she is singing without a care in the world. Boots have also followed the theme of family as their advert focuses on the influence that a parent has on a child. As we watch the interactions of a mother and daughter, we see how precious and life affirming the bond between a parent and offspring is.

A few days ago I was asked by a child 'Why is Christmas special?'. As I started to think through my answer, I found my mind filled with voices from people who, over the years I had heard lamenting the lost specialness of Christmas. Just what I wondered could I say? As I started to formulate an answer it was the Christmas adverts, I realised which help encapsulate the specialness of Christmas.

Ironically the news recently has been filled with reports concerning how Iceland's Christmas advert has been banned from the television. The advert addresses the impact of deforestation on tropical rainforests as woodland is cleared to make way for the planting of Palm Oil. Although the advert focuses specifically on the declining population of Orangutans it makes a powerful wider point about the survival of the planet more generally. Tellingly it acts as a reminder that our behaviour (most significantly displayed by what we buy) can protect and shield the environment or contribute to its decay.

There are adverts celebrating the importance of the bonds that can exist within families; adverts stripping evil of its strength, facilitating freedom and liberty instead; adverts dispelling fear and worry, filling their place with confidence and belief; adverts calling us to new patterns of behaviour, ones that protect and nurture the beauty of God's creation.

Right before our eyes, in the adverts on our televisions, there is something of the specialness of Christmas, of why the Messiah was born. If we allow him to enter the stable of our hearts, then we will not only find a new life devoid of fear, filled instead with freedom and liberty but we will be gathered into his family, held within the bond he has with his Father. This is the bond which helps us cast sin from our lives transforming us to help usher in the new reality of God's Kingdom. No gift is as priceless, no gift so special as the bestowal of a richer, deeper and freer life.

May the Christmas adverts this year help connect you back into the special meaning of Christmas.

With my best wishes



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW EDITOR

From January the Parish Magazine will have a new editor. We are delighted to give a warm welcome to Helen Starmer, who has this to say:

'It is a huge honour to take up the role of editor of your Parish Magazine. Over 2019 and beyond I look forward to sharing with you the exciting things happening at St Marks, the projects the committee are working on and generally keeping you up-to-date. I have big shoes to fill replacing Malcolm Toye and more recently Shona, but I hope with your help we can make it something special in 2019. Please send me your ideas, stories and feedback to [magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk). For now I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2019.'



Helen Starmer



## Easy Fund Raising While You Shop!

Shop Online? Help us while you do, at no extra cost to you!

Amazing but true, by simply taking the 'easy' route to your participating store and shopping as usual, a small percentage will be passed on to St Mark's. If everyone at St Mark's bought a Christmas gift or booked a holiday this way, just think how quickly we could generate much needed funds for our Church.

It's just a click away!

Link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarksreigate/>

## **SMART**

Christmas is Coming! Join us on **December 6<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate the Christmas season in song and good company. Please bring your friends.

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019**

Start the New Year with your favourite winter poem or hymn,  
bring and share with us all.

For lifts please call:

Sarah Cousins on 01737 789943 or Louise Wallis on 01737 242129



## **Community Christmas Lunch Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**



Drivers needed, and more team members are always welcome!

A brand-new fabulous kitchen! thank you to the Kitchen project team for all their hard work, which is not over yet – please help them with your support to enable the final pieces to be put in place. We are so close and with a final push could be finished this year!

Come and enjoy these new facilities by joining our team – willing hands are always welcome to set up, serve and clear. Being part of this event is very rewarding and the lunch is fun! Willing drivers please contact: Robert Cramp 01737 243765

**Thank you**

## **ST MARK'S BUFFERS**

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

We do hope that you have been dazzled by the cross on the High Altar and the glow of the Lectern, it is a great feeling to get so close to the wonderful articles that St Mark's own. So, the invitation is extended, if you would like to join our happy band please just pop along and you will be made very welcome. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 10am-12noon in the church, all materials provided just bring your own gloves!

#### **Diary dates**

December 18<sup>th</sup> – Shine for Christmas!  
January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 & February 19<sup>th</sup> 2019

Refreshments provided

# New Kitchen Opening

## St Mark's community kitchen re-opens after major refurbishment

Following a year-long campaign to raise over £100,000 and a three month re-fit, the kitchen at Reigate St Mark's is open and serving food again.

The Deputy Mayor of Reigate and Banstead Julian Ellacott officially opened the kitchen on Sunday 4 November 2018.



*Deputy Mayor Julian Ellacott officially opens the kitchen, shown with the St Mark's kitchen project team Mel Crighton, Nicci Lloyd and Barbara Perkins, with Rev'd Martin Colton*

The kitchen is used by community groups that look after the most vulnerable people locally, including Sunday lunch for elderly people once a month and the local Winter Night Shelter.

Martin Colton, Vicar of St Mark's said "We're delighted that our new kitchen is already being used by so many local groups. We're looking forward to hosting the annual Christmas Day lunch organised by Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead and for our facilities to be available for more community events."



"Lisa Irwin, of Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead said "We're so pleased that we can make use of this fabulous kitchen for our Christmas Day lunch. We hope to be able to invite even more guests this year."



*The new kitchen at St Mark's Church, Reigate*

The project received funding from Biffa Award, a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to communities and environmental projects across the UK.

Gillian French, Head of Grants, Biffa Award said: "Spaces such as this one make such a difference to communities. It's fantastic to be able to support a project that in turn will support the local area and vulnerable people."

Other generous grants were received from The Peter Harrison Foundation, Surrey County Council Members' Allocation Fund, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Gatwick Airport Community Trust, Ravenswood Housing Trust "Brighter Community Fund", Barchester's Charitable Foundation, The Rank Foundation Pebbles Grant, Aviva Community Fund, Tesco Bags of Help and Waitrose Community Matters.

The whole project was only possible thanks to these grants and the numerous donations from individuals. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

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

## Please help us to raise the final £7,000 to replace our Folding Doors

The final phase of the kitchen project is to replace the folding partition doors between the main hall and committee room. The total cost of this part of the project is around £13,000. We are nearly half way there and are looking to raise a further £7,000 from donations.



Extending our kitchen has meant that the old folding doors can no longer be pulled back and urgently need to be replaced. The new doors (example above) will be much easier to operate for everyone who uses the hall and committee room.

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

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

Alternatively, cheques made payable to St Mark's PCC can be sent to:

**Kitchen Project Fund, St Mark's Church, 8 Alma Road, Reigate, RH2 0DA**

If you are a tax payer please ask for information on how to Gift Aid, enabling us to claim a further 25% on your donation.

Many Thanks, The Kitchen Project Team

## HOME GROUP

At present there is one Home Group at St Mark's, run by Keith and Susannah Dyde and normally hosted by Nigel and Barbara Perkins. There are currently about ten members, meeting fortnightly on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm, for Prayer and Bible Study.

Meeting Dates:

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2018

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 2019



Everyone is welcome to join, and we hope we will be able to start more groups in the future. If you would like to know more, and for 2019 dates please contact: Susannah Dyde on 01737 221638.



## 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)
1.00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Community Lunch
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 (30 minutes)

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

9.30am St Mark's Toddler Group in the hall (term-time only)

#### 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 (March to November)  
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

8.00pm 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday St Mark's Social Dance

<b>A Handy Pull-Out Guide to 'What's On' at St Mark's</b>
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## CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>1st of Advent (Year C)</b>	
	3-5.00pm	Wreath Making Afternoon
	6.00pm	Healing & Wholeness Service
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	3.25pm	T Time Tales – Last of the year
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	12.45pm	Holy Communion (Iona)
	2.00pm	SMART – Christmas Party
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent</b>	
	1.00pm	Community Lunch
	6.00pm	Taizé Prayer
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	12.45pm	Holy Communion (Iona)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	6.45pm	Winter Night Shelter Starts
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent</b>	
	4.00pm	Messy Church – Christmas Season
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Parent & Toddler Christmas Party
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am-12noon	St Mark's Buffers – Christmas shine
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	12.45pm	Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	8.00pm	Social Dance Christmas Special
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Advent</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church Presentation
	6.00pm	Service of Lessons and Carols
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	4.00pm	Christingle & Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	12.45pm	Holy Communion (Iona)

<b>A Handy Pull-Out Guide to 'What's On' at St Mark's</b>
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**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> of Christmas**

8.00am Holy Communion  
 10.00am Sung Eucharist  
 6.00pm Evening Prayer

**CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2019**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)  
 2.00pm SMART

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany**

10.00am Parish Eucharist  
 6.00pm Healing and Wholeness

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am Parent & Toddler – first of the term

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 3.25pm T Time Tales – first of the term

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January Baptism of Christ**

1.00pm Community Lunch  
 6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am-12noon St Mark's Buffers – New Year shine

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Epiphany**

4.00pm Messy Church  
 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 6.45pm Winter Night Shelter (last at St Mark's)

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Epiphany**

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 8.00pm PCC

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

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

## **CHURCH FLOWER ROTA**

*Contact: Mrs Valerie Jones 01737 246538*

## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

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

## **DATA REQUESTS**

*Contact: Parish Office – 01737 210785*

## **HOME GROUP**

*Contact: Mrs Susannah Dyde – 01737 221638*

## **IONA COMMUNION – LUNCHTIME SERVICE**

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

## **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

*Contact: Louise Wallis 01737 242129*

## **PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

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

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

*Meetings on the first Thursday of the month*

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

## **ST MARK'S BUFFERS**

*Meeting in church on the third Tuesday of the month from 10am-12 noon*

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

*Contacts: Mrs Angela Daniels 01737 247162 & Mrs Alison Stagg 01737 243992*

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

*Regular Lettings Secretary: Mrs Jean Hatton 01737 765759*

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

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

*Chairman: Mrs Barbara Perkins, 01737 226632*

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

*Editor (2019): Mrs Helen Starmer, email: [magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk)*

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

## **ST MARK'S SINGERS**

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

*Contact: Toby Garrod 01737 241979*

## **VINTAGE TEA**

*First Wednesday of month - (March until November) 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*



# St Mark's Church Hall Child's Party Package!



**Saturday & some Sundays**  
**3 hours (includes 1/2 hour set up & 1/2 hour clearing)**  
**Only £90 (additional hours charged at £25ph)**  
**2019 Rates**



Hire includes exclusive use of:  
 Large main hall  
 Use of New Kitchen  
 Outside garden area  
 Ideal Dining Area next to Kitchen  
 Great Location just north of Reigate Station & Parking  
 Our facilities include disabled access



This offer applies to bookings for under 11's parties only  
 Further details on hiring the hall available from our website: [www.stmarksreigate.co.uk](http://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk)  
 or Contact the Parish Office: [office@stmarksreigate.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarksreigate.co.uk)



**Have a Happy Birthday Party with us!**



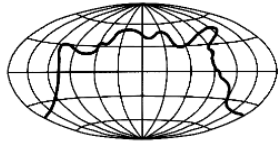
## THE DECEMBER SUDOKU CHALLENGE

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

## Solution to November's Sudoku

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





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ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST

## **CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

### **The Virtual Doctors**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Huw Jones, who launched our Christmas Appeal. Huw is the founding member of The Virtual Doctors, an organisation working in Zambia with mobile phone technology.

They use smartphone technology to connect isolated health professionals with volunteer doctors (predominantly in the UK but also elsewhere in Africa) who offer diagnostic advice for complex cases, to educate, empower and help save lives. They are the only charity doing this specifically rurally focussed work in the region. They have equipped healthcare workers in 65 clinics with App-loaded smartphones, serving as many as 1.6 million people who have no direct access to a qualified doctor. In Zambia, there is only one doctor for every 12,000 people. To put that into context, in Reigate there is one doctor for every 360 people – and we complain that it is difficult to get an appointment! Their aim is to increase the number of clinics in rural Zambia to 100 by the end of 2019.

The set-up costs for providing the clinical officers with a mobile phone and all the associated costs is £1,500 per clinic. Statistics are carefully monitored and to date there has been a 90% increase in the number of patients with improved symptoms and a 76% increase in the number of cases which have been resolved without referral to hospital – hospitals can be as far as 60 miles away, with no means of getting there.

### **IMPACT – Floating Hospital in rural Bangladesh**

Jibon Tari translates to “Life” and the Jibon Tari floating hospital is known as the Boat of Life. The population of Bangladesh is 164.7 million, with over 16 million of those people being disabled in some way. Bangladesh has a large network of rivers, running from North to South and East to West and the boat travels throughout the country, offering medical treatment and surgery to marginalised, rural communities. 80% of the Bangladeshi population live in rural communities and have little access to medical treatment.

Since its launch in 1999, more than 400,000 patients have been treated in 26 different locations in Bangladesh. The Jibon Tari is currently undertaking its 54<sup>th</sup> project in Kaligani, in the district of Gazipur, on the banks of the River Shitalakshya. It will stay here for 12 months performing various surgical procedures (cataracts, club foot, post-polio deformities, cleft lip and loss of hearing). The average cost of an operation is £40.

As you can see, both projects are health-related. They will enable people to recover from sometimes very treatable illnesses and get back to a normal life, looking after their families or going to school. In the longer term, they will enable people to lift their lives out of poverty.

Your support would be very much appreciated. To make donations please send a cheque to the Treasurer, 12 Ifield Close, Redhill, RH1 6SW.

On behalf of the SMOAT Committee, I wish you a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Barbara Perkins,  
Chair of SMOAT**



## **CHRISTINGLE & CRIB SERVICE**



On Christmas Eve we will be celebrating with a Crib and Christingle Service at 4pm. The collection will raise vital funds for the work of the Children's Society. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, there is a box at the back of the church containing Christingle collection candles. When filled, please let us have them by 24th December.

During the Christmas Eve Service children may wish to place toys around the crib (please label wrapped gifts either 'Boy' or 'Girl' and the age group). These presents are donated to the local Women's Refuge. Many Thanks

*Patricia & Tony Bird*

## **WINTER NIGHT SHELTER Volunteers Needed**

Will you help homeless rough sleepers? The East Surrey Winter Night Shelter will be operating from 12<sup>th</sup> December until 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at a number of local churches, including St Mark's. You can help at any of the venues, as frequently or infrequently as you wish.

To find out more, visit [www.rhtes.org](http://www.rhtes.org) or speak to Nigel Perkins – 07710 110584

## Marley & The Christmas Welcome

*Written by Shona Prosser and illustrated by Roger Lloyd*



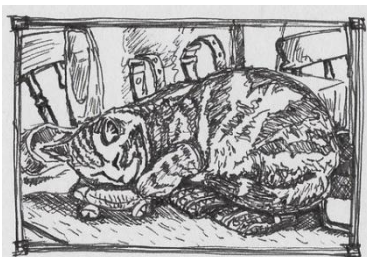
Marley is an old cat, a wise cat, a warrior, a comforter and a friend. Marley has explored the world and made and lost friends along the way, he was tired and longed for a home, a place to settle, and reflect on the life he has lived. In the Spring of 2018, Marley had met Candlemouse, a very bold and friendly mouse with kind eyes and big heart, 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.

Now Marley loves the long winter nights, there is nothing finer when the icy wind blows, and the rain drops tap dance across the roof and on the windows to curled up warm and comfortable.

Marley was a very contented cat, a lucky cat, a happy cat. Marley had, however, not always been so comfortable. Over his many years Marley had times when he had been without friends or a home; he slept under bushes, in doorways and boxes, where ever he could find shelter from the cold and wet. Often chased away by people and even crows, when searching for scraps of food put out for the birds. Marley was often hungry and became nervous of strangers. How wonderful it had been to find Candlemouse and a lovely welcome at St Mark's!

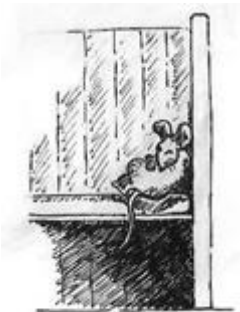
One dark, cold and icy night Marley was looking for the source of a smell, a delicious smell, a 'come and eat me' smell. Following his nose to the Church Hall he was surprised to see lots of people, hear lots of laughter and find lots of delicious hot food. 'Hello Marley', said the very tall man with a kind face, 'have you come to meet our guests?'. The man explained that churches in the area offer to open their doors, on certain evenings over winter, to provide hot meals and a warm place to stay to those who would otherwise have nowhere to go. St Mark's welcomed guests on a Friday overnight from mid-December to the end of January, as part of the 'Winter Night Shelter'. Many volunteers are needed to make this possible.

Marley is a caring and helpful cat, knowing how cold and sad it is to be outside during the long winter nights he busied himself; welcoming guests with soft purring, curling up on their laps to warm their hands with his fur and listening as they gently stroked his soft fur, sharing their stories and adventures. Marley stayed with the



guests all night, offering comfort and warmth to those who had difficulty sleeping. In the morning the sun came out and made the frosty grass sparkle, a team of smiling volunteers made a hearty breakfast in the new kitchen for all the guests, before they once again, this time warm and well fed, went out to walk the local streets and paths.

Later that day, Candlemouse was relaxing in the vicar's pew, as Marley told him of his evening and of the new friends, he had made who had no room to go to, and hearing this, Candlemouse had an idea and jumped down saying, 'Come with me. You know Marley, this happened the night that Jesus was born, there was no room for Mary and Joseph until a kindly inn keeper offered them his stable.'



Candlemouse led Marley towards the back of the Church, where a simple wooden structure in which gentle lights were shining on a thick layer of straw scattered on the floor and a manger that sat waiting. Candlemouse told Marley all about the birth of Jesus, of Mary and Joseph, the guiding star that brought the shepherds and the wise men, the gifts and the joy of that special birth. 'All over the world Christmas is celebrated every year, it is a time to give, receive and share the love of God,' explained Candlemouse, with growing excitement, 'helping others is just one way of sharing the joy, which is why at St Mark's and at many other places the doors are opened to welcome those who need shelter. We will have some wonderful special services; carols, candles, wonderful oranges and the crib will fill with statues of animals, shepherds and the holy family. On Christmas eve baby Jesus will be placed in the Crib and later the 3 Wise Men will bring gifts of gold, frankincense & myrrh.

Marley eyes sparkled with anticipation, but then he stopped and became quiet, thinking hard and then signing sadly said, 'Oh Candlemouse, I don't have anything to give, what can I do?'

Candlemouse gently explained, 'Don't worry Marley, we can all give the gift of our time, our care and our prayers. A simple act of thoughtfulness and kindness will brighten up someone's day. Remember, what Reverend Anna told us; 'it is in giving that we receive' and that 'our time is precious and grows so much richer for sharing.' So, just keep being the good friend you are, use your talents and gift of your time.'



Marley thought for a moment and then with a happy flex of his long tail, jumped into the crib and started pawing at the straw, 'What are you doing Marley?' asked Candlemouse. 'Well' said Marley, 'I'm making Jesus's bed for him, so it will be nice and soft for when he arrives!' Candlemouse chuckled softly, 'What a wonderful idea, you are a very helpful and thoughtful cat, Merry Christmas Marley!' And it was....

# DECEMBER CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

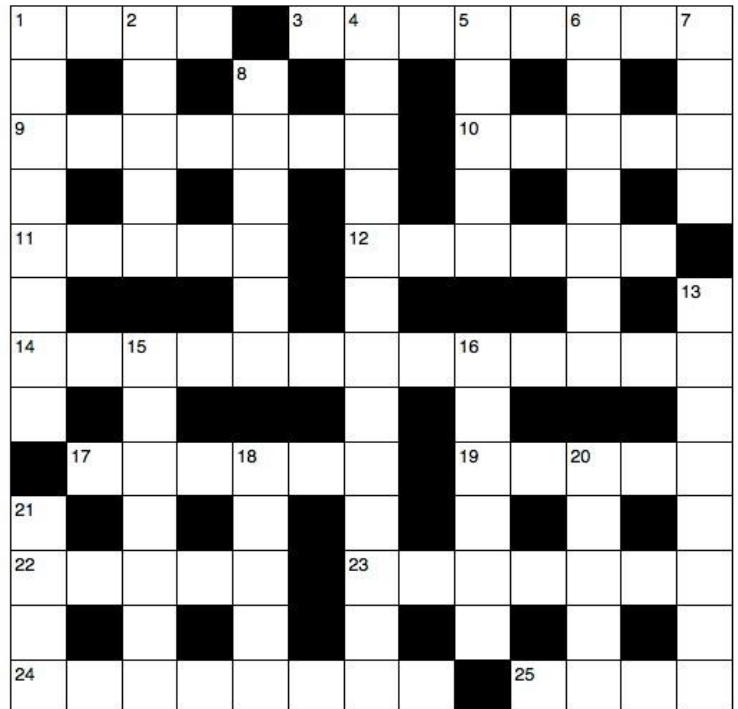
(Biblical references are from the New International Version)

## Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

## Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



## SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

**ACROSS:** 1 Hopefulness 9 Hitting 10 du Pre 11 Ere 13 Ozni 16 Wait 17 Climbs 18 Obey 20 Joni 21 Cuckoo 22 In it 23 Yaws 25 Elm 28 Alarm 29 Epistle 30 Whitsuntide

**DOWN:** 2 Often 3 Exit 4 Urge 5 Node 6 Soprano 7 Theological 8 Westminster 12 Rebuke 14 Icy 15 Ritual 19 Epitaph 20 Joy 24 Acted 25 Emit 26 Menu 27 Gift



# 2019 Parish Magazine Team

**Editor:** Helen Starmer

**Website Link:** Ben Read

**Advertising:** Jane Artis

**Calendar Update:** Parish Administrator

**Crossword & Sudoku:** Terrence Hancock

**Proof Readers:** Fr. Martin Colton & Malcolm Toye

**Specific Distribution:** Jenny Toye



## Your Views & Contributions

**Next issue will be available from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019**  
**All Contributions to the Editor by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

Apologies for the early deadline

We wish you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**Email:** [magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk)

### Magazine Subscriptions

Please hold on to your £3 subscriptions for 2019 at the moment, as this is currently under discussion. The magazine is now available online as well as paper format, and so among the questions being considered are:

- Should we simply continue to ask for a donation, enabling those who struggle to pay to enjoy the magazine & complementary copies to be made available in local retail outlets?
- Maintain or raise the cost of paper copies from 30p to 50p to cover costs?
- Increase the number of advertisements to cover costs and create a marketing budget?

**Let us know your thoughts**

### Advertising through St Mark's

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

- Parish Magazine (issued 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)
- On site internal & external notice boards
- Church Website – [www.stmarksreigate.co.uk](http://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk)
- And where appropriate, our Facebook presence

Charges may be discounted or waived at the discretion of the Editorial & Marketing Team for regular Church Hall users, for businesses that provide service to the Church and for Charity concerts and events. For further details please email: [magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk)

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