

St Mark's
Armagh



Serving together
for Christ's Kingdom

PINNACLES

November 2020

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand. Isaiah 41:10



Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I would love to get on a plane and go somewhere! How about you? Do you feel like escaping?



If you didn't have to worry about expense or Covid, where would you go? Let's dream for a moment!

What about a Canary Island for some autumn sunshine? Or maybe a trip to Australia or New Zealand to sight see or meet up with family or friends?

Perhaps, in a month or two you might like to travel to the Alps for some skiing?

Or what about going somewhere like New York for some (dare I say it) Christmas shopping?

Even if Covid wasn't a current reality, most of us would probably not be going anywhere at present. However, there can be no doubt in knowing that options are more removed from us makes it even more appealing to dream!

For some of us, the frustrations of restrictions is much more than prevention from a holiday. Distance from loved ones, concerns for livelihoods, our health or that of those we care for, strains upon healthcare providers, the worry of children and grandchildren studying away from home and the mental well being of many in our community and beyond, all combine with debilitating effect.

But followers of Jesus always have hope. We know that the Holy Spirit does not have to be socially distant. In Christ we are not alone and that He is the giver of hope which encourages us to persevere and press on. We can wish that things were different, but we don't have to go into a future that is completely unknown. Our hope can be in the one who is Sovereign, who reigns and yet dwells in the heart of all of faith. Despite our reality, we can know that hope prevails and ultimately, that hope is realised by trusting in the One who is the source of hope.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Yours in Christ, *Malcolm*

Services

At present Services take place in St Mark's on Sundays at 10.30am and 7pm. Mid week services (including monthly Holy Communion Services) continue on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Depending on whether onsite Sunday School shall resume, there is a possibility of having an 8.30am Service in the Crozier Hall. If this shall be the case, notice shall be available via Pew News and online. We wish to thank you for your patience as we do try to offer the range of services that we customarily have offered.



During Harvest Weekend, some of our Choir members returned to the Choir stalls. With extra spacing required for those singing without masks, we can now accommodate 4 or 5 singers at the front of church who shall from henceforth lead us in singing softly during 10.30am services. As a Parish we are indebted to Clare and Mark Speers, as well as Adam and Gillian Reaney, who very faithfully recorded hymns week by week to assist us with our sung worship since March of this year.

Le Mall 24

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the 'Le Mall 24' initiative in September. The total raised was £5670.00.



This was a fantastic response with money used to help pay for the church avenue's resurfacing, the purchase of equipment for livestreaming and tree maintenance.

Church Avenue



The church avenue has very recently been resurfaced. This was a project that the Select Vestry were keep to progress as in some parts it had deteriorated significantly and responding now will be much more cost effective than acting at a later date. We very much hope that the finished product is pleasing to us all.

Online Holiday Bible Club

During the last week of October, we were very pleased to have been able to offer an online Holiday Bible Club. We are very grateful to Erin Topley and all who helped her in creating something that we hope was of enjoyment and encouragement to children and their families from our Parish and beyond! Sunday School shall continue to be offered online until the opportunity arises for it to return to the Crozier Hall. Thanks again to Erin, and to Jill Hamilton and anyone who helps make Sunday School possible and available via the 'Sunday Morning' Page of our Website.



Harvest 2020

This year our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were somewhat different, but we hope no less meaningful. With a service on the Friday 16th October and three services on Sunday 18th October, as well as all but one being livestreamed, we hope that our Parishioners felt enabled to be as part of our worshipping community as we could possibly offer.

Thank you to all who contributed to our Food Bank Collection, as well as to our Harvest Appeal and in offering flowers to decorate the church. Despite the 'cut backs', the church appeared very festive. The Harvest Food Collection was probably our biggest ever monthly collection and presented a very welcomed challenge for transportation to the Elim Church!



St Mark's, Armagh
AUTUMN PROGRAMME

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Sundays

10.30am in St Mark's & Online

7pm in the Crozier Hall

Wednesdays

7.30pm in St Mark's

Fridays

9pm Online

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Tuesdays

7.30pm House Groups Online

Thursdays

7.30pm Alpha Online

for up to date info. please visit www.stmarksarmagh.org

CMSI & LEPROSY MISSION BOXES

It would be greatly appreciated if all CMSI & Leprosy Mission Boxes could be returned to the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks!



Remembrance Sunday

Due to current restrictions, only invited guests are requested to attend the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the Cenotaph at 11am. Whilst the Royal British Legion would very much have preferred a greater presence at the Cenotaph, they are very mindful of current restrictions and wish to respect the need for small gatherings and social distancing.



With this in mind, the morning service in St Mark's shall commence at 10.45am on Remembrance Sunday (8th November). With the full support of the Armagh Branch of the Royal British Legion, an Act of Remembrance shall take place in church at 11am. Please know that you will be very welcome to join us as we worship, remember, pray and learn together on this, or indeed on any Sunday, whether in church or online.

Service of Light and Remembrance

A special service will take place in St Mark's on Sunday, November 22nd (7pm) as we pray for those whose loved ones have entered their eternal rest particularly during the past year. Families who would like also to be added to those specifically prayed for are invited to telephone the Rectory where a message may be left if no one is home. Everyone will be most welcome to attend this special service as we reflect together.



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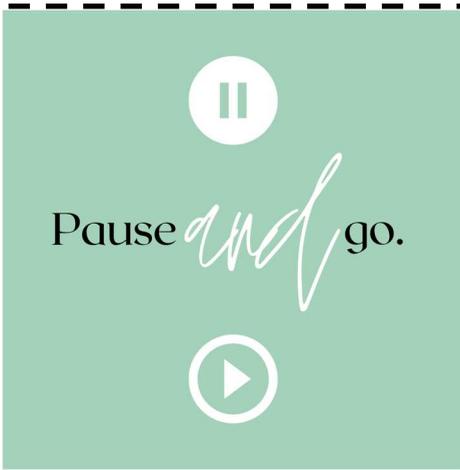
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'Pause and go' is a weekly post shared on our Parish Instagram account especially for young people. The post comprises of a few verses, a thought and a personal response.

The posts are shared on Mondays and for anyone who doesn't have an Instagram account,



'Pause and go' can be accessed on the 'Recent Posts' page of our website.



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Curate's Corner...

Psalm 112:1

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the person who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in God's commandments!

In our present circumstances numerous people are nervous as they wonder what their employment options will look like in the coming months. Others feel the stress of juggling unfamiliar routines. For some the challenges of the past several months have left them anxious. Many people are emotionally, physically, and spiritually drained which can lead to an uneasiness or fear of the future.

Our familiar ways of controlling and manipulating have been stripped away, we are forced to let go from relying on our self-sufficiency. Let's share with God our hopes, longings, dreams, worries and fears. Psalm 112:1 reminds us not only to praise God, but also to fear God. We normally think of fear in very negative terms, but this is a completely different kind of fear. It isn't manipulative, instead it's life affirming, since it describes a profound reverence for God. Therefore, fear of God doesn't mean we are to be afraid; rather a healthy fear of God encourages us to open our everyday lives to God in reverence and praise. Let's surrender our illusions of control, and experience God's stability in this time of uncertainty.

God Bless

Geoff

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'A Ministry of the Elim Pentecostal Church'

CD DISTRIBUTION

Audio CD recordings of Sunday Services are available for Parishioners who are unable to view services online. At present CDs are posted as soon as possible. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a weekly CD, please contact the Parish Office and we shall be very glad to accommodate this. If you currently receive a CD, and no longer require this service, please do get in touch and your delivery can be concluded.



CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Parish Funds. We are truly grateful for your support. Here are available opportunities which you might like to consider for contributions. For any queries, or to obtain any necessary details please feel free to contact The Parish Administrator, Mrs Caroline Nesbitt (028 37523197 / sec.stmarks@gmail.com).

- ⇒ Church Offering Envelopes may be received at Sunday services or at the 'Drive Through' on **Saturday 14th November (10.30am – 12pm)**. Please access the church grounds via Victoria Street.
- ⇒ Cheques Payable to 'St Mark's, Armagh' may be delivered to our Parish Office at your convenience. If you have Offering Envelopes, please write your envelope number on the reverse side.
- ⇒ Standing Orders may be initiated via your Bank's online facilities or by use of a form obtainable from Caroline.
- ⇒ Donations by debit / credit card can be made via our Parish Website (Parish Donations page).
- ⇒ Gift Aid. If you are a UK Tax Payer, St Mark's can benefit from an additional 25% on top of your contributions, at no extra cost to you. If you would like to enable this to happen, a form is included for this purpose. If your circumstances change meaning that you are no longer a Tax Payer, please contact Caroline, so that your Gift Aid declaration can be concluded.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Food donations for the Food Bank may be delivered to the Elim Church on Tuesday and Saturday Mornings (10.30am – 12.30pm). Food may also be delivered at our Parish 'Drive Through' on **Saturday 14th November (10.30am – 12pm)**.

Cheques payable to 'Armagh Food Bank' can also be posted to the Parish office. Thank you to all who support the work of Armagh Food Bank.



BAPTISMS

Baptism Services may take place during our 10.30am services. Anyone who would like to make an arrangement is invited to speak to Malcolm or Geoff at their convenience



WEDDINGS

Weddings may take place in Church but are limited at present to 25 guests. Should you like to know more about, please speak to Malcolm or Geoff.

FUNERALS

Funeral Services may also take place in Church but again are limited to 25 people. Funeral Directors and Parish clergy will offer any necessary guidance to bereaved families.

PRAYER MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

The Prayer Ministry Partnership continues to pray for all who would welcome prayer for healing. At the beginning of each month a prayer list is circulated to group members which offers the Christian names of those whom we are praying for.



Names are added during the month by email circulation until a new list is drafted. If you, or someone that you know would like to be prayed for, please feel free to mention this to a member of the clergy or someone who you know is a member of the Parish Prayer Group. Alternatively, you can let us know via the response form on the 'Prayer and Worship' page of our Parish Website. If you would like to join the actual prayer group, please again feel free to mention this to a member of the Clergy or a member of the Prayer Group.

BIBLE STUDIES

The Archbishop of Armagh has recorded some short Bible Studies based upon 1 Thessalonians. These are available on the Diocesan Website (www.armagh.anglican.org). Please feel free to have a listen at times that are suitable to you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is available each week online on the 'Sunday Morning' page of our Website. Using the 'All Aboard' material in a bitesized format, each week there will be videos and an activity sheet for children and families. We hope that children from our Parish enjoy being part of Sunday School online until the opportunity arises for us to be together again in the Crozier Hall.



PASTORAL CARE

Due to current requirements, pastoral visits have been largely suspended to hospitals, nursing and residential homes. A socially distant outdoor visit may be arranged if this would be appreciated by parishioners. Please also know that if you would ever like to speak to Malcolm or Geoff, they would be more than happy to speak on the telephone. Telephone calls are very much welcomed! Contact details are found at the back of this booklet.

PRACTICAL HELP

We have a list of willing volunteers who will gladly offer assistance to anyone who is self isolating. If you know of anyone who would value help with shopping and collecting prescriptions please feel free to call 37 522970. Chats are also very welcome!



As you know with regular hand washing our hands get very dry! As a further 'thank you' to staff in Craigavon hospital, we wondered if you might be willing to make a small donation for Tropic Hand Creams? Our previous donation back in March was very much welcomed!

If you could contact Caroline or a member of the Clergy by Monday 16th November to let us know how much you would like to donate, we can order the hand cream and deliver. Cheques payable to 'St Mark's Armagh' can be posted to: St Mark's Church Office, 44 Victoria Street, Armagh BT61 9DT

Please note on the back of your cheque that this is a 'Hand Cream Donation', so that it can be separated from cheques for general parish funds.



QUIZ TIME

- ? The name November means ninth month in Latin.
True or false?
- ? For whom did the Roman senate want to name the eleventh month?
Nero, Gaius, Claudius or Tiberius
- ? What is the gemstone for November?
Ruby, Topaz, Garnet or Opal
- ? What is the flower for November?
Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, Aster or Michaelmas Daisy
- ? November the fifth is a special day in England. What day is it?
Guy Fawkes Day, Shakespeare Day, Fireworks Day or Robert Bruce Day
- ? What event is commemorated on November 11 in Australia, UK, Canada, and the USA?
The end of World War II. Signing of the Armistice to end World War I. The beginning of World War I or The end of the Korean War
- ? Which British poet wrote a poem "No" about November?
John Keats, Lord Tennyson, Percy Bysshe Shelley or Thomas Hood
- ? What is the missing word in this quote from a Sir Walter Scott poem? "November sky is chill and _____, November leaf is red and sear"?

Answers on page 14.

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November Service Rota...

1st : All Saints' Day

10.30am : Morning Worship
Reader : Heather Chambers
7.00pm : Holy Communion

8th : The Third Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday

10.45am : Remembrance
Sunday Service
Reader : Wendy Davison
7.00pm : Evening Prayer



15th : The Second Sunday before Advent

10.30am : Family Service
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

22nd : The Kingship of Christ

10.30am : Morning Worship
Reader : Don McKee
7.00pm : Service of Light & Remembrance

29th : The First Sunday of Advent

10.30am : Morning Worship
Reader : Tom Galbraith
7.00pm : Evening Prayer

From the Registers...

Holy Baptism

Noah Robert Oliver Johnston
(4th October)

Ada Jayne McCormack
(25th October)



Service of Thanksgiving for the life of

John Francis Partridge
(1st October)

Eva Branion
(6th October)

Ian Mitchell
(22nd October)

Stanley Loane
(24th October)

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. True
2. Tiberius
3. Topaz
4. Chrysanthemum
5. Guy Fawkes Day
6. Signing of the Armistice to end World War I.
7. Thomas Hood
8. Drear

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St Mark's Armagh

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Parish Administrator :

Mrs Caroline Nesbitt
Tel: 02837 523197
Email : sec.stmarks@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarksarmagh.org
Registered Charity : NIC103959

Sexton :

Mr David Mansbridge
(Tel : 07873167120)



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Outside of these times, a message can be on the answerphone (37 523197) or alternatively, please send an email to

sec.stmarks@gmail.com

Contact Details

Rector : Rev. Malcolm Kingston

St Mark's Rectory, 14, Portadown Rd, Armagh
Tel : 02837 522970

Curate : Rev. Geoff Hamilton

6 Ashley Avenue, Armagh Tel : 02837 528403

Deacon Intern : Rev. Matthew Topley

Hon. Senior Associate Priest :

Very Revd Robert Townley

Pastoral Assistants : Ms Barbara Wilson,
Mr Alex Stinson

Diocesan Reader : Mr Paul Turton

Parish Readers :

Mrs Adele Geddis, Mrs Barbara Campbell,
Ms Barbara Wilson

Rector's Churchwarden : Mr Mark Speers

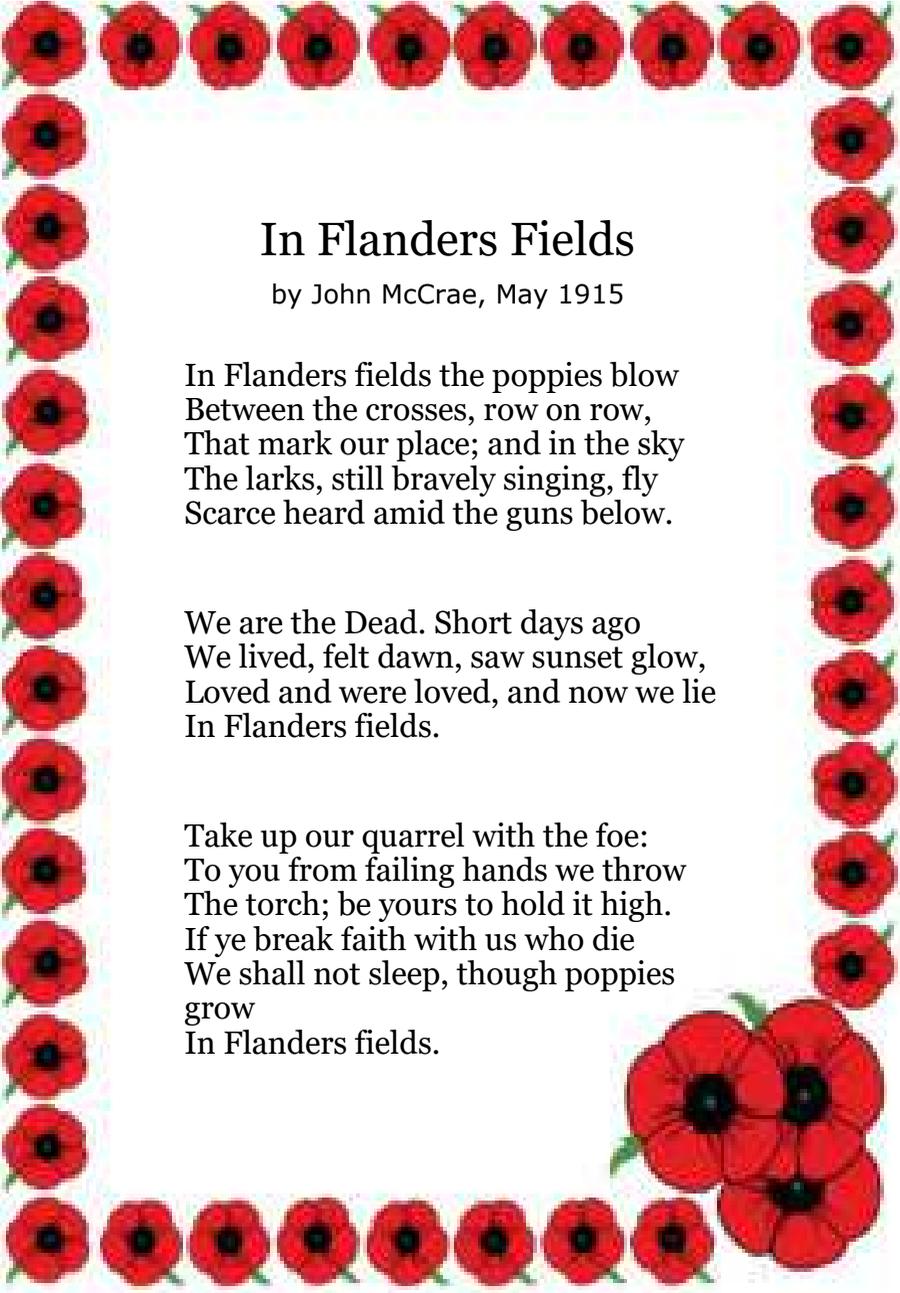
People's Churchwarden : Mrs Elaine Woods

Safeguarding Trust Panel

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In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
In Flanders fields.