

Useful Contact Numbers

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St Mark's website		
Assistant Priest University Chaplain Churchwardens	Revd Diana Newman Mrs Marion Marks Mrs Janet Lee	745136 520840 710533
Deputy Church Wardens	Mr David Humphreys Mr David Way Mr John Gray Mr David Kellard Mr Trevor Adamson	527136 768410 511745 382349 511588
Verger	Mr Bob Tait	512409
Safeguarding Officer	Mr Kieran Marshall	570863
St Mark's Organist	Mr Paul Simkin	
Choir Master	Mrs Valerie Cox	746480
Mothers Union	Mrs Janet Moyse	527717
PCC Secretary	Mr Jeremy Turrell	553523
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Planned Giving	Miss Alex Morris	07947842400
Youth & Children's Minister	Mrs Lyndsey Wilson	517648
Church Cleaning	Mrs Celia Hurn	01202 027031
Church Flowers		
Parent and Toddlers Group		
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Uniformed Groups:	(see inside magazine)	
Visitors Group		
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mr Trevor Adamson	518737

St Mark's Church

Talbot Village



with St. Saviour's, Scott Road



Parish Magazine 60p

December 2020

January 2021

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

SERVICES AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

At the present time during the pandemic services at St. Mark's are temporarily changed to:

Sundays 9 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Service followed by shortened communion

Week Day Prayers in Church – The church is open on a Wednesday morning from 11am-12pm for prayer

SATURDAY PRAYERS IN CHURCH

Saturday prayers (the first Saturday of each month) will resume from Saturday 3rd October at 10am in church. All are welcome to share in this informal time of prayer for our church, community and other world issues that we feel we need to bring before God.

Parish Office:

Open weekdays Tues. 9 -12.30pm, Wed. 10 -12.30 pm

Thu. 11-12.30 pm, Friday Closed. Tele: 01202 529349

When the Secretary is working from home: Telephone 01202 679841

Post: St Mark's Church, Wallisdown Road, Bournemouth.
BH10 4HY

E-mail: stmarks_talbotvillage@btconnect.com

Website: www.churchofstmark-talbotvillage.org.uk

HALL BOOKINGS

Bookings for the new hall complex are taken in the Parish Office between 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

REGISTERS



HOLY BAPTISMS

No baptisms

MARRIAGES

No weddings

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

We offer our sincere sympathy to friends and relatives of:

Joyce Christian Dean

Ian Messom

Jean Cook

***A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD WISHES FOR THE
NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS.***

Uniformed Groups:

St Mark's Brownies	Mrs Eileen Ferbrache	579637
St Mark's Guide	Mrs Eileen Ferbrache	579637
St Mark's Beavers	Elizabeth Kimber	07507422197
St Mark's Cubs	Elizabeth Kimber	07507422197
St Mark's Scouts	Elizabeth Kimber	07507422197
St Saviours's Rainbows	Mrs Teresa Wray-Cook	731753
St. Saviour's Guides	Mrs Teresa Wray-Cook	731753



GARDEN NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Hi there. Still lots to keep you busy.

1. Dig over empty beds, compost and mulch.
2. Prune Japanese maples, roses and wistaria.
(Resist pruning hydrangeas till the spring.)
3. Look after birds. Fat balls and water?
4. Lift and store dahlias. Small ones may be left in situ.
5. Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot.
6. Make a compost area.
7. Clean out the green house and tools.
8. Apply wood preservative on wooden fences or furniture.
9. Rest, relax and dream of summer.

Happy Christmas. Joanna

Some 'funnies':

"Creativity is intelligence having fun" — Albert Einstein

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

People say it's the thought that counts, not the gift, but couldn't people think a little bigger?

Christmas is the season when your neighbour keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.

You might as well do your Christmas hinting early this year.

Some of these new toys are so creative and inventive. This year they have a Neurotic Doll. It's wound up already.



A note from the Editor

This edition of the magazine covers two months December and January so the next one will be produced for February. There is no specific subject but if you have news or a story to tell, please send your articles in to me by email to diananewman36@gmail.com. The closing date will be January 12th 2021. I do hope to receive more input from as many people as possible. If you do not have a computer please send your items in good time to the parish office and I will collect them when it is open. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and hopefully a better New Year for 2021.

Diana Newman

A Prayer for Christmas and the New Year

Jesus—who is the expression of what God is and what God does, help us to think deeply about Christmas. May we see it not as a fairy tale from the past but as possessing great truths for our world today.

Jesus—born in a stable, may we honour you by serving those who are homeless now.

Jesus—as a refugee in Egypt, may our concern for today's refugees be part of our worship to you.

Jesus—bringer of peace, may our striving for peace in the world be part of our Christmas offering to you.

Jesus—who received gifts from men, help us to give ourselves to you; that you may make us the kind of people you want us to be; that you may show us the kind of life you want us to lead.

Jesus—who gave all for us, accept our lives and set them on fire with love for you and for all mankind.

We ask this in your name and for your sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Gordon Bates

Clergy Letter

In my magazine letter exactly a year ago I wrote the following:

“Our world seems more fragile than ever. Many of the norms that we have trusted and relied on are becoming more and more shaky and uncertain. It is increasingly difficult for people to know from where they can get their moorings and stability for their lives.”

Those words were written in the context of the Brexit turmoil and how people were treating each other in a cruel way from both sides of the argument. Well, who would have thought that within just a few months this fragility would be laid bare even more in such an extreme way? Humanity has always been fragile but from time to time something comes along that screams it louder and clearer. And now this pandemic is doing just that on a global scale.

Human life was no less fragile in Jesus time. In many ways, it was more so. The wonderful truth about the first Christmas is that God came into this fragility himself and allowed himself to be vulnerable. He isn't just a spectator. In the end of course, Jesus was vulnerable even to sinful human decision and was sent to the cross. Jesus not only shows us what God is like, but he also came to pay for the world's and our sin – the effects of which we see all around us. God has fully been a part of our wayward, fragile world.

This is what Christmas is about and, in a troubled world which struggles to find peace and make sense of itself, we still have much to celebrate even in this difficult year.

*With my love,
Rupert.*

Church of England launches resources on God's generosity

The Church of England's Giving Team has produced a new series of week-long resources (Sunday to Sunday) to encourage people to live generously. It hoped that parishes will use them to organise their own Generosity Week, at a time suitable for them.

The material includes eight daily podcast reflections based on generosity in the Bible. A verse of scripture is followed by a reflection by a range of contributors that include Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin and Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani.

Bishop Francis-Dehqani says: “The best generosity comes not from those who live a miserly existence, but from those whose enjoyment of the good things of life brims over into a desire to share their blessings with others.”

Friction at Christmas

This Christmas, when your family gets together, remember: a certain friction between the generations is inevitable. After all, the young and the old have all the answers and those in between are stuck with all the questions.

"I am looking for a Christmas Card that contains inclusive language, and yet retains the richness of 16th century English and is overtly Christian whilst being sensitive to the multi-faith patterns of our day ... any suggestions?"



3rd December: Francis Xavier - the seasick missionary

Ignatius Loyala sent his friend and follower Francis Xavier (born 1506) to the Orient as a missionary. What a missionary! Imagine David Livingstone, Billy Graham and the Alpha Courses rolled into one. His mass conversions became legendary – he baptised 10,000 people in one month and in just ten years of work was credited with 700,000 conversions.

Xavier became the most famous Jesuit missionary of all time, working so hard that he had only a few hours' sleep each night. He was known as 'the Apostle of the Indies' and 'the Apostle of Japan'. He began by reforming Goa, which contained numerous Portuguese Catholics, notorious for cruelty to their slaves, open concubinage, and neglect of the poor. For three years, by example, preaching and writing verses on Christian truths set to popular tunes, Francis did much to offset this betrayal of Christ by bad Christians.

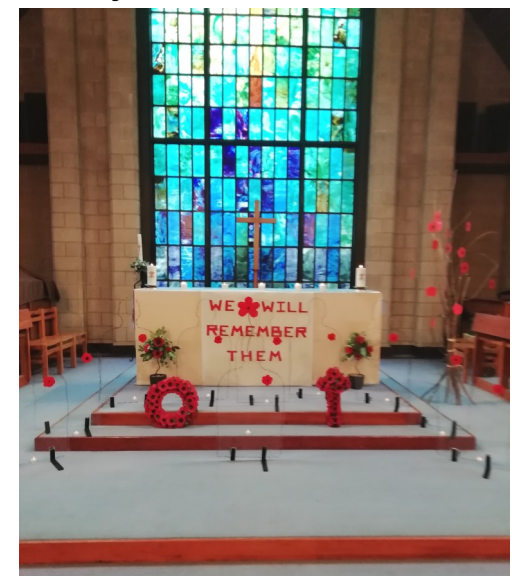
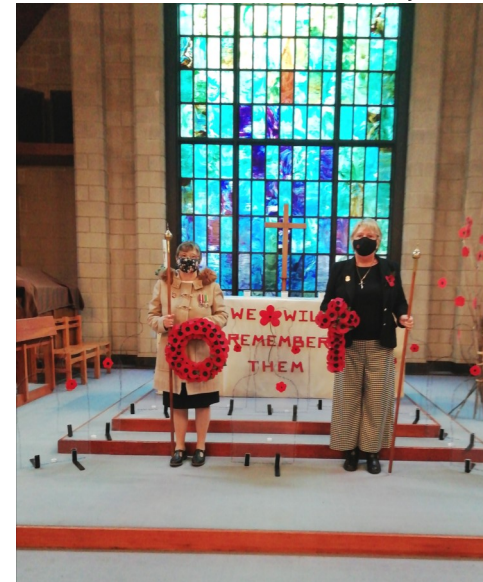
For the next seven years he worked among the Paravas in southern India, in Ceylon, Malacca, the Molucca islands, and the Malay peninsula. He met with immense success among the low-caste, but with almost none among the Brahmins.

In 1549 he ventured on to Japan, translated an abridged statement of Christian belief, and made a hundred converts in one year at Kagoshima alone. When he left Japan, the total number of Japanese Christians was about 2,000; within 60 years they were resisting fierce persecution, even to death.

Wherever Xavier sailed, he left after him numerous organised Christian communities. Not bad for a man who suffered seasickness and had trouble in learning foreign languages!

Xavier died in 1551, on his way to China. His body was preserved and enshrined for many years. His right arm was detached in 1615 and is still preserved in the church of the Gesu at Rome. He was canonised by Gregory XV in 1622, and declared Patron of the Foreign Missions by Pius XI in 1927.

Parish News



Remembrance Sunday this year was so different without the special service and large congregation we usually have for that service. A few people came for private prayer and our churchwardens placed the wreaths at the altar and outside at the war memorial. Here they are inside the church complete with their masks.

Our remembrance altar is always striking and we still had it out for the Sunday even though there was no service.

A prayer for all those affected by corona virus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.



Parish News



Christmas Services this year are likely to be different from normal—that is, if we are allowed to have them at all.

The thinking so far is that on **Dec 20th at St. Mark's** we will have the usual **9am** and then **two more services**

(10.30am and 4.30pm Christingle Service.)

Also Dec 24th 4.30 pm a Christingle Service,

People would have to **book in.**

On **Christmas morning** we would have **9am and 10.30am. We won't do a 11.30pm Midnight this year.**

We have to limit numbers and the hygiene restrictions mean someone has to clean the church afterwards. That would be difficult to do after the Midnight Service as people want to get home to bed. It is a shame we cannot have a normal Christmas Midnight Service—often visitors come to that service—some after a visit to the pub, so for safety sake it seemed better to keep only the services Christmas morning—but please remember to **book before you come** so that we can keep numbers to the permitted limits.

St. Saviour's plan to have a **Crib and Carol Service on 20th December** but no Christmas Day Service. They are invited to join with St. Mark's on Christmas Day.



Holly Trees have been kindly donated by a loving family in memory of their Father. It was so wonderful as we had to replace these trees owing to a couple of trees being full of disease! Some of the Holly trees in St Marks Graveyard are over a hundred years old.

If anyone would like to donate and support all we do in the Graveyard and grounds it would be greatly appreciated. Have a word with Marion if you are interested.

God's love all around
Marion - St. Mark's Church Warden

12 ways to avoid stress this Christmas

Change your expectations this Christmas. Don't waste time lamenting what should have been. Instead, try and enjoy whatever is possible this year.

Make a list. Include sending cards, buying presents and organising food for the big day. Having a lists helps keep you in control of your life.

Set a reduced budget this year. With a pandemic raging, this no time to take on Christmas debt. If you can't pay for it this month, probably best not to buy it.

Exercise each day - it releases happiness-inducing serotonin. That will help you to keep calm and positive over the festive period.

Don't overindulge. Too much alcohol and rich food won't improve your life.

Keep calm and keep kind – urge your family members to try and avoid any flare up of family tensions. If you need to cry, cry, but then, keep on keeping on.

Remember those everyday essentials: batteries for new toys, toilet paper, milk, paper towel. Those things you never think about – until they are gone.

Entertain the kids: plan ahead various films, games and whatever it takes to give them a memorable Christmas.

Make the most of Zoom this year with far-flung relatives and friends.

Most of all, include God in your Christmas! This is His Son's birthday - include Bible readings and carols in your family routine over the festive period.

which Christians seek to hear God and how it is that they draw different conclusions.

The book closes with an appeal from the Bishops to join them in discerning a way forward for the church that is open to new vistas on our disagreements and new perspectives on our differences.

Many churches will be having discussion groups—perhaps by zoom at the moment, to think particularly about homosexual relationships. If one is not scheduled for St. Mark's why not order a book for yourselves if you are interested in the subject.

HELP NEEDED FOR ROUTES TO ROOTS Charity for the Homeless

Last month the Churches Together in Poole passed on the information that financial help will be needed to complete the refurbishment of the old Hill Street Baptist Church in Poole for the future use of Routes to Roots. The homeless are still around needing help and they don't have the funds, but perhaps we have. The shortfall in August was £70,000 but knowing the generosity of churches and organisations in our area it may be much less by now. Further details on www.routesoroots.org.



CHRISTMAS

**“Let not our hearts be busy inns that
have no room for Thee but stables for
the living Lord and his Nativity.”**

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
Usually 6th January but we shall
mark it this year on Sunday
3rd January 2021



Christmas Goose



My early childhood was spent in an old country farmhouse in Cambridgeshire with my mother and sister Brenda. My father was in the army and mostly abroad, so we did not see him very often.

When the bombing in London got very bad, my grandfather came to live with us. I have many memories of his stay, some very amusing when I look back on them. One in particular which was around Christmas time, was not very amusing at the time.

For a change, my mother had ordered a goose for the festive dinner from the local farmer.

On the day it was delivered my mother was out, Brenda and I were playing indoors as it was bad weather and grandfather, who had been ill recently, was recovering in his armchair by the fire.

The farmer opened the scullery door and deposited a sack on the floor with a “Here’s ye goose missus” and left. Grandfather, who wanted to see what was in store for us, tottered into the scullery and opened the sack, expecting to see the goose dressed for the oven.

However the cunning farmer would get a higher price for a live goose !!

As soon as the sack was opened the goose, who had been still and silent in the dark, came rushing out. With wings spread, neck thrust forward, beak open and hissing ferociously it rushed around the room ready to attack anything in its path. If you have never seen a rampent furious goose you can have no idea how terrifying it is. My sister and I, frightened to death, hid behind the sofa. After a battle, Grandfather somehow managed to get hold of it’s neck and, having no idea how to kill it, swung it round and round his head until the poor thing died.

When my mother returned a disaster scene greeted her - Brenda and I bawling our eyes out, grandfather on the verge of a heart attack slumped in his chair, the furniture all over the place, hardly a piece of china on the dresser and the room full of feathers ! In the middle of all this mess the poor dead goose.

I’m afraid I can’t remember if we enjoyed our Christmas dinner, all a know is we never had another goose !

Lorna Doubleday

Parish News

We have received a December 1945 copy of one of St. Mark's old parish magazines. This was sent in by Bob Miller whose family is researching their history. This is what he has said:

"It was fascinating to find Mum and Dad's names on page 4. Mum lived for some time in Bryant Road, quite near to St Mark's. Her mother's maiden name was Fryer (Frier?) and her father, James Hopgood,, spent his entire career in the docks having joined British Railways there on his 14th birthday.

It would be interesting to know if any of the folk, or more likely their descendants, named in the magazine still have any connection with St Mark's."

If you can help him his email address is:
bob.miller.48@googlemail.com

Here are one or two entries from the St. Mark's 1945 December magazine which may be of interest to some of you.:

"Grateful Thanks We shall all wish to thank most sincerely our People's Church Warden Mr. C. G. Purchase who has most generously given St. Mark's seventy two new A & M hymn books, a most acceptable gift. This means that we now have an ample supply of both Hymn books and Prayer Books for the church and are now very well equipped in this respect.

Shortage of hymn books will now no longer be a difficulty when the church is full. We are most grateful to Mr. Purchase for this fine gift."

(It is interesting to note from the old magazine that St. Mark's and St. Thomas's Ensbury Park were linked together at that time.)

Here is an extract from the Vicar A.J. Caton's Advent message:

"Christmas will soon be here. Christmas for most folk is a pagan festival. But for those who love God it is a memorial of God sending His sending His only Son into the world to save the world. Once again the ancient

via audio, smart speaker, as well as via app and email formats with accompanying prayer activities for children and families. Working with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust and the Evangelism & Discipleship team, we will also produce a series of youth reflections in December.

Online services and events

In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, we will produce nine online services throughout Advent and Christmas. This will include an online service for each Sunday of Advent, a Christingle with the Children's Society, nine lessons and carols and midnight services. Charities involved include Christian Aid, Church Army, Embrace and Marie Curie.

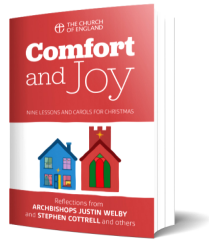
The [online weekly services](#) have been very well received on social media and continue to attract a diverse audience including regular churchgoers, people exploring faith and a wide age demographic.

The Living in Love and Faith book The Living in Love and Faith book sets out to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change.

Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, it has involved many people across the Church and beyond. They bring a great diversity and depth of expertise, conviction and experience to exploring these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say.

The book takes readers on a journey that begins with reflections on God's gifts of life, relationships, marriage and learning. A survey of what is happening in the world with regard to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage is followed by an exploration of how Christians are to understand and respond to these trends in the light of the good news of Jesus Christ. The book then examines the ways in





Comfort and Joy produced by The Church of England holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church’s role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep’. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place – but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so. We hope that **Comfort and Joy** will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God’s consoling love in the present.

What are the key elements of Comfort and Joy? As in previous years, the national Church will work with dioceses and churches to make a range of digital and print content available, branded with the Comfort and Joy theme:

Reflections There will be weekly reflections published on social media and available by email and app for each Sunday of Advent. We have partnered with a number of public figures to produce short reflections exploring the theme. *Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas* mirrors the structure of a traditional carol service, exploring both biblical texts and the words of much-loved Christmas carols. The reflections for each day from Christmas Day to 2 January feature contributions from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcott, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby. The booklet is introduced by the Archbishops and has been edited by the Ven John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth. They will also be made available

Carols, the songs of Christmas, will remind us that God came in a way that we can all understand—as a little child taking upon himself our human flesh. If at the season we hail a saviour which is Christ the Lord, our Christmas will be truly happy. At the same time we shall remember the urgent charge it lays upon us to be up and doing, telling others of that Coming, and of its redeeming power; telling them of that second and final Coming, urging them to choose between judgement and the rapture of the saints.

Let us who are of the day, be urgent in our witness and our service. Christ’s call today asks all we can give. Christian work? Helpers are desperately needed in His Church. Christian Worship? “Be ye as men that wait for the Lord.” Christian endeavour? “Is anything too hard for the Lord”? If the Lord tarry, churches must be built for his witness. God claims the silver and the gold. The Devil today speaks in terms of millions of thousands of pounds, urging men down the steep place. Surely a few thousands can be found for the furnishing of God’s work.

Let our Advent be urgent—urgent with the glad hope of His coming ; urgent with the charge to witness to that Coming. And may your Christmas be truly happy— happy with the knowledge of a Saviour born “Emmanuel God with us.” God bless you all. Your sincere friend and servant in Christ. **A.J. CATON**

More snippets from the December 1945 magazine:

Sideswoman : For the first time in the thousand years life of the Saxon Church of St. Nicholas, Old Shoreham, Sussex, women serve as “Sidesmen”. This bit of local church history was made at the 1945 parochial meeting. The sideswomen are Mrs. Dawson, Mrs Weaver, and Mrs. Young, - Mrs F. Burr.

Infant Mortality: In the churchyard of the village of Netherbury near Beaminster, Dorset, is a row of eleven miniature graves, in which lie the bodies of children, to whom a headstone bearing the following inscription is erected: “ In loving memory of the 11 children of William T. Studley, and Mary Ann his wife, who died in their infancy July 1874 to March 1895”. Is this a record of Infant mortality? Mrs A. B. Morris.

Bats in the Church

As many of you will be aware, we have a maternity roost of Brown Long-Eared bats at St. Mark's. Bats play an essential part in pollinating our trees and flowers, as well as keeping mosquito and other insect populations under control. While they have a very important role in the local ecosystems, running a church with a sizeable bat roost is not without its challenges. It's because of these challenges that St Mark's has begun working with the Bats in Churches Project. On the 5th October, Honor and Rachel came to St Mark's in order to assess the impact of the roost on church life and to discover what assistance they're able to provide. As part of this day, we were able to discuss a plan of action with the project about how we can work together to overcome some of the challenges presented by the bat population.



Given current world events, it would be remiss of me to not talk about bats and their relation to the current COVID-19 pandemic. While there have been reports from various news outlets about bats being a carrier of COVID-19, research and testing has not been able to trace the source back to any of the world's 1400+ species of bat.

The confusion from news outlets is likely to be due to bats carrying several non-zoonotic (unable to affect/be transmitted to humans) pathogens from the Coronavirus family. The closest relation to COVID-19 found in a bat was found in a single species in China. This coronavirus shared 96% of its genome with COVID-19 – making them as similar to each other as we are to chimpanzees!

The currently accepted theory from virologists/epidemiologists is that COVID-19 may have had its ancestral origins from a strain found in bats; but mutated to affect humans through an intermediary species. There is currently no evidence of COVID-19 transmission from bats to humans. Further information on this can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: <https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/covid19>

While there is no risk of COVID-19 transmission from bats to humans, it is possible to develop symptoms of a gastrointestinal tract infection if you don't wash your hands before eating/drinking after handling bat droppings. In much rarer cases, it is possible to contract Leptospirosis

, from the urine of an infected bat if you do not wash/sanitise hands prior to eating/drinking, however this is extremely unlikely.

Given the current precautions that are being taken, including a thorough clean of the church before use, to prevent transmission of COVID-19 through the church community, the risk to any members of the congregation is minimal. This in combination with the use of common sense around handling animal droppings should see any risk drop to near zero.

It's my sincere hope that this article, in combination with the efforts of the Bats in Churches Project and our fabulous volunteers, has managed to allay some of the concerns you may have around the bat population at St. Mark's. If you have any further concerns, or simply want to ask me anything about bats, please feel free to email me at group@17thbournemouth.co.uk! Please bear in mind that it may take a couple of weeks for me to respond as I have a 3 month old baby demanding all my time!

Liz Kimber

A Dogs Dinner

We have a very elderly Golden Labrador at home who has become rather lame (and fussy about his food which is unusual for the breed.) He is 15 years and 4 months, which is good for that type of dog. His only walks now are a trip in the car to the Chine and a quick wander in the grass, then back in the car while his other doggie friend goes for a longer walk. About a year ago we made the mistake of putting some veterinary pills in his meal because he didn't like taking them by hand. Since then, he has become rather senile, rather blind and a bit deaf, but remembers what we used to do - although no pills are in the food any more. Now he has become suspicious and refuses his dog food. The only way we can get him to eat is to pretend we are giving him leftovers from our dinner. He (Flint as he is called), has meat, potatoes and two veg each lunch time, but he won't eat it from a dog's dish, it has to be on an old dinner plate! He is rather like royalty who years ago— (and sometimes now perhaps on foreign tours!) have someone test their food before they eat it in case it is poisoned or unpalatable. Flint sniffs the air when he smells dinner cooking as if to say “I wonder what's on the menu today?” No doubt he is looking forward to his Christmas Dinner—but no pudding for him afterwards as its bad for dogs!



Diana