

### Useful Contact Numbers

Vicar	Revd. Rupert Higgins 20 Alton Road, Bournemouth.BH10 4AE	939799
Parish Secretary Parish Office	Mandy Williams 9am to 11.30am. e-mail <a href="mailto:stmarkschurch-talbotvillage@btinternet.com">stmarkschurch-talbotvillage@btinternet.com</a> <a href="http://www.stmarkschurch-talbotvillage.org.uk">www.stmarkschurch-talbotvillage.org.uk</a>	529349
St Mark's website		
Assistant Priest University Chaplain	Revd Diana Newman	745136
Churchwardens	Mrs Marion Marks Mrs Janet Lee	520840 710533
Deputy Church Wardens	Mr David Humphreys Mr David Way Mr John Gray Mr David Kellard	527136 768410 511745 382349
Verger	Mr Trevor Adamson	511588
Safeguarding Officer	Mr Bob Tait	512409
St Mark's Organist	Mr Kieran Marshall	570863
Choir Master	Mr Paul Simkin	
Mothers Union	Mrs Valerie Cox	746480
PCC Secretary	Mrs Janet Moyse	527717
PCC Treasurer	Mr Jeremy Turrell	553523
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Planned Giving	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Youth & Children's Minister	Miss Alex Morris	07947842400
Church Cleaning	Mrs Lyndsey Wilson	517648
Church Flowers	Mrs Celia Hurn	01202 027031
Parent and Toddlers Group		
Electoral Roll	Mrs Alex Grimes	
Flag Officer	Mr Tony Fancy	515924
Intercession Readers		
Lost Property	Ms Angie Cornish	520052
First Friends Pre-School	Dani Haigh (Manager) St.Saviours	07826 040775
Magazine Editor	Revd Diana Newman	745136
Archivist	Mrs Carol Medlicott	01425 672899
S.Mark's Sch.Head Teacher	Mrs Caroline Burn	512241
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**

**February/March**

**Spring**

## SERVICES AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

**At the present time during the pandemic services at  
St. Mark's are temporarily changed but  
(SEE CURRENT NOTICE AT THE BOTTOM  
OF THE PAGE)**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:stmarks_talbotvillage@btconnect.com)

Website: [www.churchofstmark-talbotvillage.org.uk](http://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.

**AT THE TIME OF WRITING, IN COMMON WITH MANY  
CHURCHES IN ENGLAND, ALL SERVICES ARE  
CANCELLED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC**



Don't forget to send in your photographs and articles of any thing that might interest others

### HOLY BAPTISMS

No Baptisms



### MARRIAGES

Mica Hosey and Chris Bailey

### BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

We offer our sincere sympathy to friends and relatives of:  
Peter Hughes ,  
George Gardner

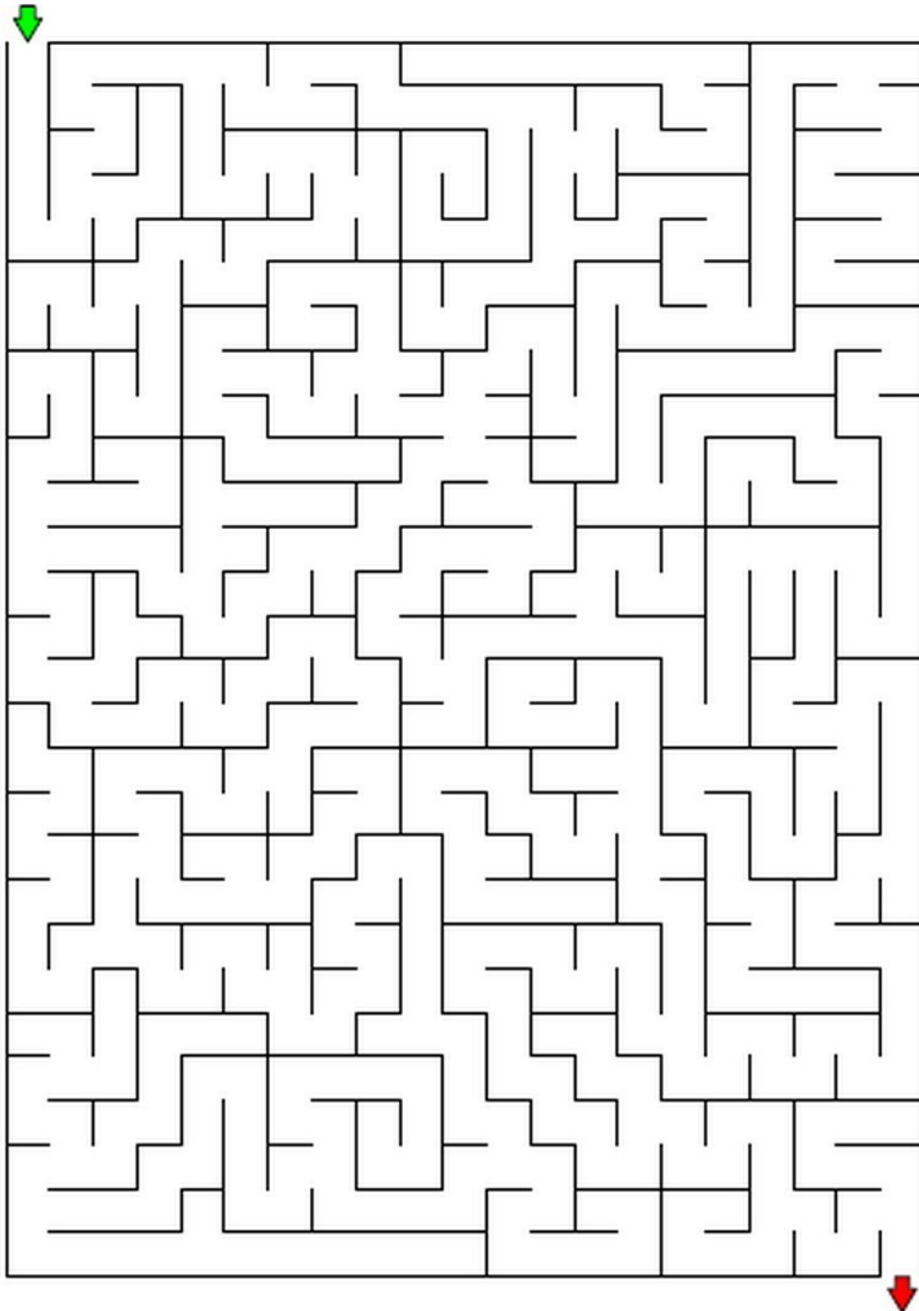
#### Seen on a birthday card:

Forget about the past,  
You can't change it.  
Forget about the future,  
You can't predict it.  
Forget about the present,  
I didn't buy you one.

#### 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

## February Maze



## A note from the Editor

Sadly we have not had church services for some weeks and I know how much you miss them. The Epiphany service had to be cancelled at the last minute as the infection rates in the area seemed very high. As soon as it seems safe to do so we shall of course be open for worship. I hope that by now most of you will have had your vaccinations and will feel a little happier about getting about. This magazine is for two months February and March, as there is so little happening in church. Any articles for the April magazine should be sent to me by email [diananewman36@gmail.com](mailto:diananewman36@gmail.com). Keep safe. Diana

### **LENT BEGINS 17TH FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY**

We hope that by the middle of February churches might be open again for worship. Even if they are not we can still keep Lent ourselves by making our own commitments and offering them to God at home. Last year Easter could not be celebrated in our churches but we hope for better things this year.

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### **A Prayer for Light**

Fountain of light, source of light,  
Hear our prayer.  
Drive away from us the shadow of sin.  
Seek us, kindly light.  
You, who created us in holiness,  
Who condemned our sin,  
Who redeemed us from our sin,  
Sustain us by your power.  
Pour your gentle light into our dull minds,  
Filling our heads with holy thoughts.  
Pour your glorious light into our cold breasts,  
Kindling holy love within our hearts.  
From horror, lust and fear,  
Guard us while we sleep.  
And if we cannot sleep,  
Let our eyes behold your heavenly host.

**By Alcuin of York, c. 735 – 804, was later abbot of Tours.**

### **Clergy Letter**

*One of my vivid memories of primary school is my teacher, Mrs Curry, rehearsing us for the running races at sports day. "See if you can break the finishing tape" she would say. And the reason Mrs Curry said this is because we were slowing down as we got closer to the end. "Keep going and try to break the tape" was etched in our minds. I never actually broke the finishing tape, but I gave it a good try!*

*Keeping going can be tough, especially if we are already tired. Strangely this lockdown has seemed very tiring and has had an energy sapping feel about it. In the New Testament, the writer of Hebrews writes "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us". The writer then adds "fixing your eyes on Jesus". And that's the clue to keeping going. As we remember all that Jesus went through for us, we can gain strength to keep going ourselves.*

*The important point is that God is not just a spectator. Jesus knows all about suffering and difficulty and this is God himself. He knows. As we read the gospels and pray, we can be confident that he shared the many struggles we face but also went so much further than we are ever required to. The cross is the ultimate example of perseverance and is our salvation.*

*Perhaps we can dare to hope that we can have some community celebrations in the summer. Who knows, perhaps even a bumper Summer Fete! We can certainly hope and in the meantime we must keep going and break that finishing tape!*

*With my love,*

*Rupert*

### **GARDENING NOTES FOR FEBRUARY**

Greetings!

Have you seen your first white snow drop? And early cyclamen?

There are several things to do...It's pruning time for Clematis, not the evergreens,

Hydrangeas, not too much, Cornice and a lot of evergreen shrubs.

When it's warm outside roster repair jobs

Clear dead foliage

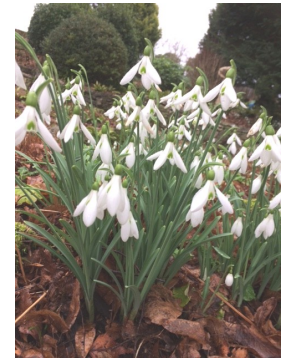
Check dahlia tubers and choose summer bulbs

Plant seedlings indoors

Keep mulching

Keep safe

Joanna



### **GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH**

Spring is here and I hope the vaccines are nearing completion.

Hope your garden will lift your spirits.

Scientists say gardening can trigger activation of feel good hormone, Serotonin.

Your lawn will need loving care, top dressing of compost or fertiliser.

Time to split perennials and remove dead material.

Keep mulching!

Plan for a dry summer

Keep well and safe

Blessings

**JOANNA HENSMAN**

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### **Pray with grannie**

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying his face in his hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"



## The Revd Andy Dovey, Lead for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust

in south London, reached out to churches and faith groups in the area to raise awareness of the availability of the vaccine.

It came as NHS teams across the country booked appointments for the most vulnerable people in our society, including those over 80 who



were already coming in to hospital for outpatient appointments,

“The response has been amazing,” he said.

“I am really grateful to the community of churches that have pulled together to support our congregations in these difficult times.”

To ensure all of the vaccine was used for the benefit of those prioritised by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), churches from across Croydon contacted people in their congregations and the wider community who were over 80.

They asked if they wanted the vaccine and, if they did, obtained permission to forward their details to Andy who sent them on to the hospital’s Covid-19 vaccination team to book appointments, bolstering their efforts in the initial days of the vaccine roll out.

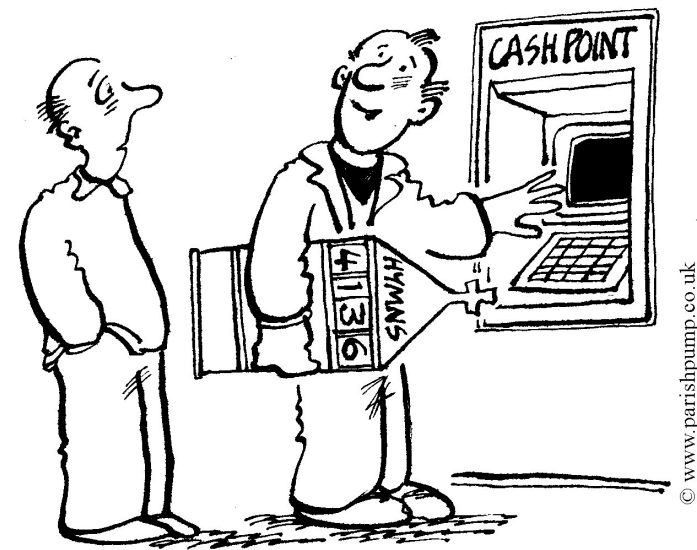
“We have been able to reach not only the church, but the wider community and other faiths,” said Andy.

**Fall down** One way to find out if you’re old is to fall in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you’re young. If they panic and start running toward you, you’re old.

## Parish News

Thank you to all who donated gifts for the Christmas Raffle, among them Sylvia Wigg, Mabel, and Mr. Stephen’s hairdresser. It has enabled us to raise the great sum of £429 which will be used to buy a contactless card machine for the church. We are researching into this at the moment and if you would like to donate towards this we would very much appreciate it. Cheques can be made out to St Mark’s Church Talbot Village PCC. It would be wonderful to have the machine in place for the re-opening of Church and much safer for in view of the Covid 19 Virus.

Many congratulations to all who have had the JAB ! It's been lovely to hear so many of you say how safe you have felt in Church with the precautions we take but I know many are missing the services. We will continue making sure all those who have not got the internet receive Thoughts of the Day and the Video Sofa Sunday Service. If you have been given names of people to ring while they are sheltering, please keep up regular weekly phone contact. Thank you.



*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*

## Parish News

**DAILY HOPE 0800 804 8044** is a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers and its available 24hrs Salisbury Diocese

At Christmas **ASA** sent a message to say they are all well , and facing fresh challenges. He has just gained an extra parish in the past week and now has 5 Churches and 3 parishes. He says “it sounds more daunting than it is and Gods is faithful and he will do it.” Nonetheless, its quite a challenge! Asa sends fondest love to all at St. Mark’s and St. Saviour’s.

Gods Love ever keeps going around. Stay safe and well much love to you all. (Marion, Church Warden )

**PHYLLIS in Ireland** retires at the end of January and will be moving from the Rectory with lovely views to another house, this time in a town. Packing has been occupying her time while the churches are closed, but both Phyllis and Keith are well and looking forward to their new opportunities together in retirement. She will still be within travelling distance of her family in Ireland.

**LET’S VALUE OUR CHURCH FAMILY** Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. Many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it. Perhaps it is an opportunity to find new ways of reaching out to others.

**R.I.P** We were sorry to learn about the death of George Gardner. His health had been deteriorating for some time. He was admitted to hospital but was able to come home and be looked after by his family He died at home on 7th January aged 92 years. At St Mark's we have many fond memories of dear George for his help and support and utter kindness to all . Friday mornings , whether cold and frosty, pouring with rain, hot and sunny, he was picking up litter in the car park and grounds; att the Community Lunches showing friendships and kindness to all ! At Home group making us so welcoming , even when Dear Ann had passed away .

The moon shines clear as silver  
The sun shines bright as gold  
Both are very lovely and very very old.  
God hung them up as lanterns  
For all, beneath the sky.  
Nobody can blow them out  
For they are up too high!



*From June's Book of Poems, 2008)*

**A TRUE STORY** - this happened at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. This class would NOT pray during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it "for fear of offending non-Christians". Staying within the guidelines they gave inspirational and challenging speeches but no one mentioned divine guidance or asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. After the final speech they received a standing ovation.

Then a solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment and then it happened. All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED in unison! The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU' and then walked off the stage ....

The audience exploded into applause. The graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future, with or without the court's approval!

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## Seven Wonders of the World

- 1) To see
- 2) To hear
- 3) To touch
- 4) To taste
- 5) To feel
- 6) To laugh
- 7) and to love

## WORD SEARCH



February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone

Temple	Naming	Candlemas	Simeon
Love	Anna	poverty	Fortnight
Valentine	Matthias	Coffee	
Bananas	wedding	marriage	Chocolate
Romance	Fairtrade	nestbox	Holocaust
Matthias	leprosy	justice	Christ

George was full of love and it certainly brought tears to us all not having that normally contact for all these months it was wonderful to see him still attend Church even though he did not enjoy wearing the masks like us all !

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**On Candlemas Sunday we take down our crib and put away the figures because it is officially the end of the Church Christmas Season**

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to ‘present Him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

**'He gave us eyes to see them':  
woodcut from Cologne Bible of 1478**

The RSPCA was the first national animal welfare society in the world and was founded in 1824 by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. He asked the question, 'Can the infliction of cruelty on any being which the Almighty has endued with feelings of pain and pleasure consist with genuine and true benevolence?'



The picture focuses on the story of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22. Balaam has not heeded God's will, and as he journeys, an angel bars his way. Balaam cannot see the angel, but his donkey can. Three times the animal turns away. Three times he is beaten by his owner, and eventually the donkey asks, 'Why are you beating me when I have served you faithfully?' Balaam's eyes are opened: he sees the angel and his heart repents.

This story is captured in a vivid woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478. It was a translation into Low German and enhanced by colourful illustrations. We can see Balaam on his donkey in the countryside. He has raised his hand to strike, unaware that the donkey has seen the angel of God. As we look and ponder this story, we can remember that cruelty and abuse mark out life today with children, vulnerable adults, and all creatures great and small. The donkey calls us to think of how we treat creation around us.

Donkeys can be stubborn, but they are also signs of humility, patience and hard work. It might be Dapple with Sancho Panza in the story of Don Quixote, or Tim Moore travelling the camino with his donkey in 'Spanish Steps.' And in the Gospels, we recall the donkey in the Christmas story and the donkey that bore Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. We celebrate that day next month: the humble donkey sharing in the triumph of that entry, just as he shares with all animals in the wonder of creation. G K Chesterton's poem reminds us that the donkey may be starved, scourged and derided, but he had that special hour of glory. 'There was a shout about my ears and palms before my feet.'

**The Bishop of Sherborne 2021**

**by Another Road**

*'They left for their own country by another road.'*  
Matthew 2:12b



I wonder what happened to the wise men. How were their lives shaped from that day when they left Bethlehem and returned to their own country by another road? How did seeing the longed for Messiah change the rest of their lives?

It was really encouraging in the Autumn to engage with clergy and laity from across the diocese to look back at what church life had been like in 2020. This time last year we would never have imagined or believed how the year would turn out, and yet amidst all the tragedy, the fear, the anxiety, the challenge, there have been many signs of hope, new life, creativity, energy, of discovering new ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our calling now is to go forward into this New Year, in the light of 2020, by another road. To take that which has been good, new and energising into our future, not just as the church, but also as individuals.

What may this look like? Well, for me my first three and a half years in this role meant spending a great deal of time indoors and in the car. My challenge therefore going forward is to consider how I continue to reduce my mileage and create space to take time to enjoy God's creation. It is about deciding how I utilise the many benefits of Zoom without spending most of the week in front of a screen. It is about continuing to bring clergy and County leaders together around common topics whilst paying attention to the needs of the local church.

January 2021 will also be like no other January we have ever had. Whilst still taking care, with the possibility of being vaccinated by the summer, our resolutions can be about the life post-Covid we wish to retain and the new possibilities we need to grasp. So, what will returning by another road mean for you? The Wise Men knew to avoid returning the way they had come. We need to learn that lesson too because the year 2020 will have taught us nothing if we go back the same way. + **Karen**