

# St Mark's Church

*Talbot Village* ⊕

with St. Saviour's, Scott Road



**August/September 2021**  
**Parish Magazine 60p**

# **SERVICES AT ST MARK'S CHURCH**

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

**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 Thursday morning from 9.00 am to 9.30am for prayer**

## **SATURDAY PRAYERS IN CHURCH**

Saturday prayers (the first Saturday of each month)

Saturday 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 be-tween 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

## ***A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR***

Times change rapidly these days and by the time you read this magazine we may be all freed from Lockdown and its precautions or back with them again. I have just had a new computer but lost my usual programmes and I am having to learn desktop publishing in a new way, so if you find mistakes as you read, please bear with me a while. The next magazine after this August/September issue will be October/November. At the moment I am producing bimonthly magazines as there has not always been much parish news to report. If you would like to submit something please send your articles to me. Thank you. diananewman36@gmail.com

**AT THE TIME OF WRITING SERVICES HAVE BEGUN AGAIN IN CHURCH.**

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED DURING SERVICES  
CONGREGATIONAL SINGING TO BE ADVISED  
SMALL CHOIR WILL SING**

**PLEASE USE THE GEL PROVIDED WHEN ENTERING THE  
BUILDING AND  
BEFORE RECEIVING COMMUNION  
THANK YOU**



### **STEWARDSHIP**

Have you considered reviewing your giving to St. Mark's recently? Our funds have been badly affected by the pandemic.

Any increase you can make will help enormously.

Thank you.



### **FEELING THE HEAT !**

A picture of Adrian's cat who found the heat a bit much so rested its tummy in the bird bath ! So even cats take a bath some times!

## *Clergy Letter*

*You can't help feeling that we are in a very muddily period of the pandemic. At the time of writing all restrictions have been lifted but there also has to be wise caution. Our church life has already reflected this balance. Sadly, our Youth Weekend Away had to be cancelled for Covid reasons but the Church Family Weekend Away went ahead. We had a fabulous time, and you can read about it in this magazine. However, I am writing this letter from isolation because Jo has contracted Covid!*

*So, what are we to make of this? Well, the important thing is to live our lives as we find them each day and not be swayed by what **might** happen. With careful wise caution it is possible to enjoy things together, especially outside. In our Sunday Services we will still have socially distanced seating for those who want it, and we will advise everyone to wear masks when walking around and to use hand gel. Wise caution.*

*This is about not living our lives in anxiety. Of course, it's much easier to say (or write) than do but the bible says quite a bit about anxiety. The damaging thing about anxiety is that it can lead us to live diminished lives being hemmed in by our fears. St Paul writes "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". This isn't escapism but finding strength outside ourselves and trusting Jesus. This is the invitation.*

*Paul goes on to say, "and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". This guarding is a promise that, even though we may be finding something difficult, we can know God's settling.*

*Our prayer is that even at this muddily time, we will live flourishing lives through him who is our strength.*

*With my love,*

*Rupert*

## *Parish News*

### Parish Weekend Away

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 31 of the church family went on a wonderful parish weekend away. It was based at a Christian sailing centre (Christian Youth Enterprise) in Chichester harbour. We were a group ranging from the very young to 86 years old!

The centre arranged some brilliant activities including sailing, kayaking, archery, an assault course and much more. The young team from the centre running the weekend were superb and managed to combine being really professional with also being lots of fun. Everybody had a fantastic time, and we were blessed with some sensational weather.

On the Saturday evening we had a campfire when we were led in some hilarious songs and ate marshmallows (and chocolate and sweets!). It was a great evening.

The weekend also gave us opportunities to reflect on our faith. We had a worship session each morning. On the Saturday Rupert shared about the humility of God supremely shown through the cross. It is truly amazing that at the heart of God himself is a humble, sacrificial, servant love. On the Sunday, the team leader for our weekend (Matt) shared his story and told us how he came to faith.

It was a wonderful weekend and a reminder of how a church family connects and lives life together.

The 2022 weekend is already booked! Do consider coming along.



## *Parish News*

### **Dementia Evening**

To support the St Mark's Church Memory Lane group a Dance was arranged actually nearly 2yrs ago ! and with covid restrictions lifted we were able to go ahead

The evening was organised by are Caretaker Adrian James and supported by myself and David Kellard .

A great group called Tunebox played the night away everyone had Fish and Chips

And the wonderful some of £408 was raised to help with equipment and an outing for the Memory Lane group at St Mark's. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported such a worthy cause . Dementia has touch us all being it a Family member, Love one or Friend

Marion Church Warden

### **The Summer Fun Day**

Well the rain held off until nearly the end of our Summer Fun Day Fair it was well supported and it was so lovely to see a lot of our Church Family especially the ones that had shielded throughout lockdown and the many Families and local Community who joined us to

My heart felt thanks go to all who donated and for everyone who helped and supported on the day such a wonderful sum to be raised of £2,600 .

Love and Blessings Marion.

Our thanks too to Marion who organised the event and does so much else for St.Mark's.

**Jumble Sale** Our Jumble Sale is postponed as our church and hall will be required for George Gardiner's Memorial Service which will be on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. All welcome to attend in his memory. The Jumble Sale will have a new date, probably in September.



## Parish News



Judy Hudson and her husband David always try to support our fund raising events. The picture here shows how little they were left with after selling a very full table of jars. We are grateful for her generous donations to our funds although she is a member of St. Luke's Church, Parkstone



A strange craft seems to have landed at the Fun Day. Not sure where it came from or who landed!

## *Parish News*

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June, the PCC met for a morning when we were able to think about the approaching autumn and reconnect with each other after such a long time of disruption.

We began with a few stories from the staff about what has happened over the last year, and it was moving to hear about how we were able to stay connected with the church family and make new connections with new people too. The use of Zoom and the recording of services and the making of films for younger people were celebrated as part of the new things we had to learn.

The PCC then shared their own stories from lockdown. Some were particularly moving especially from people working on the frontline.

We also reflected on what we value the most about St Mark's and St Saviour's. The top things mentioned were the church family itself, the stability that the church gives in times of uncertainty and the variety of worship we have.

Rupert then gave a presentation entitled 'Renew'. The theme was that, after such a long period of disruption, we need to renew what is most important to us as a church family. Rupert mentioned three areas:

**Our love for Jesus**

**Our love for others**

**Our love for joyful generosity**

This was based on 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 where Paul highlights these three elements as fundamental to a healthy church. Most importantly it is our love for Jesus in response to his love for us that ignites every other aspect of our lives

During this autumn we will be focussing on these three strands and renew these vital priorities for us as a church family. This is such an important thing to do when there has been so much disruption.

We then had prayer followed by a lovely time eating our lunch together on the sunny lawn outside the church hall.



## **Ye take the high road and I'll take the low road and I'll get Covid before ye! By Martin Jacques**

In 2015 in this church's magazine, I wrote a feature article about my trip to Edinburgh. Well, thanks to Covid this year, myself and my old friend Denis decided to re-visit 'Auld Reekie' and have a staycation – it seemed to be doing what everyone else was doing after all!

We didn't even know whether we would be able to stay in a hotel in the city, until the First Minister decided to release Scotland from lockdown at the end of April and open up the city again to tourism.

Too late to book a flight by then, and also the local airports to here weren't even scheduling flights up there during early May (when we went). So I thought I'd 'let the train take the strain' only to find that a few days before I left there was total chaos at Kings Cross Station, where many services had been cancelled due to engineering problems with trains. So, at the last minute, I had to re-route my journey via Southampton and Birmingham to the city.

It was a long and tortuous journey up there. I nearly missed my connection at Birmingham New Street, because I was unfamiliar with the layout of the station and got a bit lost. However, after setting-off from Christchurch at about 10.30am I finally got to Edinburgh just after 6pm. We stayed at the Leonardo Royal Hotel in Haymarket, which was very central and comfortable, with plenty of good cafes and restaurants surrounding it. For most of our stay you had to sit outside these and eat. After rising early and having the continental breakfast left outside our rooms, we were usually hungry again by 10am in Princes Street and used to stop and have 'Second Breakfast' in the great Tolkien/Lord of the Rings tradition at McDonalds for about four pounds fifty – a coffee, a hash brown and a sausage and egg mcmuffin!

The Princes Street McDonalds was much more helpful than the one outside Waverley Station however, where a young man used to prevent us from sitting inside because we didn't have (a clue about) or the 'track and trace' app! One of our catchphrases on holiday became: "We don't have the app!". Both of us being well over fifty, we didn't even know what an app was let alone how to get one!

I tried to plead with the McDonald's employee about this saying I have had two Covid jabs and could prove it. This he told me was no good: "I don't make the rules up I just have to apply them!" He replied apologetically to me!

We bought a passport-type bus tour ticket, which kept us entertained for a couple of days, with guided bus tours around the city and to the Firth of the Forth, where we went on a boat trip and saw seals, puffins and Inchcombe Island with its eleventh century abbey as well as all three Forth Bridges.

On the second day, it also included a trip to the Botanical Gardens and to see The Royal Yacht Britannia at Leith.

Then we visited the Presbyterian Cathedral of St.Giles, dating from around 1120 and very beautiful inside, as well as the National Gallery of Scotland, which was sadly not so interesting this time around as the number of paintings on display had been drastically reduced due to Covid restrictions!

The next day, we took a trip to the Castle and enjoyed the panoramic views of the city from its battlements as well as various military museums, the Scottish Honours (Crown Jewells) and the pretty but austere St.Margaret's Chapel, founded by the early Queen of Scotland.

On our final day of the holiday, we took a bus trip to Rosslyn Chapel – about 40 minutes outside town, to see the 15<sup>TH</sup> Century Freemason-built church which has links with the Templars, according to legend and more recently made famous by Dan Brown in his best-selling novel 'The DaVinci Code'.

It really is worth a visit, if you are up there, and there is a nice pub in the village where you can get a good pint of ale afterwards!

So we survived the 'Angels and Demons' of Covid and Edinburgh while we were up there, and had a pretty good holiday to boot!





## **Christian Aid Launches Emergency Global Hunger Appeal**

The Covid health pandemic, climate crisis, and continued conflict have worsened hunger and food insecurity in 20 countries. Countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, north east Nigeria, and Afghanistan are particularly affected.

In South Sudan, 60% of the population are struggling to get enough food to eat, and 82% are living in extreme poverty. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, six of the country's counties are already categorised as being in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe, which means people face starvation, death, destitution and debilitating levels of acute malnutrition.

34 states are in the emergency acute food insecurity phase as people experience very high acute malnutrition and excess deaths. The worst affected are Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

7.2 million people have been impacted during this lean season, expected to be the worst on record. James Wani, Christian Aid's South Sudan country director, based in Juba, said:

"Floods, drought, conflict and Covid-19 have joined forces to deliver devastation and fuel the food crisis in South Sudan - the combined result is the destruction of crops, livelihoods, houses and dwellings, while roads have become impassable, markets have stopped, supply chains have been crippled, and food prices have soared.

"I am gravely concerned about the scale of hunger we are witnessing, now escalating well beyond that formally reported in December, claiming the lives of the most vulnerable, particularly those displaced and already in dire need. People, at this time, are dependent on our good will and compassion.

Prayer for the Link between the Diocese of Salisbury and the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Father of all, before the Throne of Grace we remember the people of the Sudan

Give us the heart to feel  
for those who wander the World  
seeking a home  
to call their own.

Give us the mind to strengthen  
those who feed the hungry  
clothe the naked  
welcome the stranger.

Give us the spirit to pray  
for those who walk  
in the valley  
of the shadow of death.

May all the nations obey you  
all the peoples who love you  
and the whole earth rejoice in you.  
Father, Son and Spirit. Amen



### **GARDEN NOTES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

How beautiful our gardens have been with so much rain.

We are moving into a possible hot time so could you get a water butt or drip irrigation?

Tidy strawberries and pot up runners for next years plants.

Pick ripe fruit and compost rotting fruit.

Feed lawns with liquid fertiliser.

Prune once flowering roses and dig in horse manure.

Divide perennials and feed and mulch.

Plan for and buy spring bulbs. The small bulbs in pots and in window boxes with blue grape hyacinths red great. Deep colours with pink and orange.

Plant crocus, daffs and hyacinths.

We had luck with a large pot and tiered bulbs

First some tall daffodils

The tulips or vice versa

Hyacinths

Many crocus on the top layer. What a joy.

Give Thanks and enjoy your vegetables. Happy gardening.

Jo Hensman

**Following his retirement as Bishop of Salisbury, Bishop Nicholas has issued a thank-you, saying that he and Helen feel "overwhelmed."**

The Bishop says:

Helen and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people marking my retirement as Bishop of Salisbury. Please excuse my using Grapevine to say thank you because I know we will not be able to thank everyone individually.

The Diocesan card was a very striking painting by Nigel Done. It had hundreds of messages in it. There was a book of photographs from places and people around the diocese marking my ten years as bishop. The DBE, Mothers Union, Bell Ringers and Cathedral all added thoughtful and generous gifts. I am glad the Aldhelm Mission Fund has benefitted from your generosity and we are immensely grateful to have benefitted by an almost equal amount. I like the idea of using your gift to buy an electric bike as the South Downs will defeat me by pedal power alone and you will continue to energise me.

Bishop Karen's speech after the most glorious cathedral Evensong felt a bit like an exit interview where she had done all the work for me. She set what I have done as Bishop of Salisbury in the context of the 42 years since I was ordained a deacon. It was good for me to be able to give thanks for it all, including that which was difficult and challenging as well as the enjoyable and rewarding.

The future looks challenging for world and Church but we can be confident that God is faithful and generous. Thanks for the ten years we have been here. Ministry is always a partnership so thanks for your part in it. We will be moving next month to Brighton and you will continue with that which God has given you to be and do in this Diocese of Salisbury. God bless you and keep you and thank you all.

***All shall be Amen and Alleluia.  
We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know.  
We shall know and we shall love.  
We shall love and we shall praise.  
Behold our end which is no end.  
- St Augustine of Hippo***





## Reflecting on the Bible (or ‘Meditating on scripture’)

Many children enjoy boiled sweets – especially trying to see how long they can make them last. The pleasure of holding the flavoured sweet in your mouth is far better than crunching it up in a few seconds!

There is a way of doing much the same with a Bible passage, and it is called *Lectio Divina* or ‘holy reading’. Centuries ago, before Bibles were widely available, the abbot of a monastery would gather his monks together and read to them the Bible passage that was set for the day. He would read it three times and the brothers were encouraged to listen attentively and choose a phrase to remember. They would then go about their daily work in the garden, in the kitchen, in the infirmary or wherever. Through the day they would meditate on the phrase they had chosen and, rather like sucking a boiled sweet, would draw out the meaning for themselves.

You might like to try something similar: choose a passage from the Bible and begin to read it very slowly as if it were addressed to you. A few verses from Psalm 103 would be a good place to start. Stop when a phrase captures your attention. Maybe it touches you in some way, attracts or even disturbs you. Repeat the phrase slowly over and over again, taking its meaning into yourself. Let it sink in slowly. What does it have to say to you? Why do you think it caught your attention? Where is the connection for you? What memories does it evoke? Is there a word, a phrase, a sentiment, or an image that you can hold on to?

Move into prayer, expressing to God the thoughts and feelings that have spontaneously arisen in you. Let your mind be at rest and your heart open to the love and peace of God. When you are ready, carry on with reading the next bit of the passage or just leave it there for the day. Follow the example of the monks and return to your phrase or phrases during the day.

Ann Persson has written a book for BRF entitled *Time for Reflection: meditations to use through the year*, which may be helpful. The meditations are based on the Christian calendar, the seasons of the year in nature, and also the theme of time. They will offer you further ways of exploring the greatest book ever written.

*Ann Persson’s ‘Time for Reflection: Meditations to use through the year’, BRF £8.99*



## Poetry for the Soul at St Mark's

I have been a poet for over 50 years and have written poetry, written books on teaching poetry, published poetry, performed poetry, organised poetry readings (once for 4000 people in Southampton's Guildhall!), won a small number of poetry prizes, and currently I am on the Advisory Board of New York's The Society of Classical Poets (<http://classicalpoets.org>). The word 'classical' may seem a little off-putting, and to be clear: it doesn't mean just writing about 'classical' topics, but rather it means 'formal' poetry.

Formal poetry is not 'free verse'. Free verse is admirable especially for people who are using poetry as a healing modality; for in Greek mythology we remember that Apollo was the god of poetry *and* the god of healing, and these two areas of life are connected. But formal poetry is the kind of poetry that uses, for example, stanzaic forms, meter (to use American spelling) and sound effects like rhyme. And the primary reason for wanting such formality is very simple: it creates beauty.

We all want beauty - we crave it in all aspects of our life. Remember what the Psalmist David said, (Psalm 27.4)? 'One thing I have asked from the LORD ... To behold the beauty of the LORD ...' This is the ultimate beauty – to see Him as He really is, to behold His beauty. Our souls crave this and poetry can explore this desire.

Here is a formal – and secular - poem written by an American poet who invented this new form:

### TRIAD

*These be  
Three silent things:  
The falling snow ... the hour  
Before the dawn ... the mouth of one  
Just dead*

This is a beautiful poem, isn't it? So simple, yet ... I'd be impressed if anyone could tell who wrote this, and even more impressed if they could tell me what the form is; and how the form enables the tremendous impact of that last line?

Next term I am hoping to run 3 poetry workshops at St Marks in 3 successive months to encourage those who wish to write formal poetry. I am hoping from it to put together an anthology of poetry to be called something like, "Poetry of Praise: poems from St Mark's, Talbot Woods", and possibly volume 1 added!

And on the subject of the poetry of praise, perhaps one of the greatest short poems in the English language on this topic was written by the Jesuit Priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins: The World is Charged with the Grandeur of God (<https://bit.ly/3wr4CT2>). Its last four lines are so relevant to our times now:

*And though the last lights off the black West went  
 Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —  
 Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
 World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.*

We seem to be dying under Covid-19 –the ‘last lights’ sinking in the West: but see, the Holy Spirit driving morning forward with warmth and love, so that the bright wings will enable us to fly again. How encouraging is that?

If you would like, provisionally, to attend the poetry workshops, beginning in September, or more information, drop me a line at [james@motivationalmaps.com](mailto:james@motivationalmaps.com) and I will put you on list.

### **James Sale**

His latest collection of formal and lyrical poems, *Not Lost*, can be found on Amazon at: <https://amzn.to/32UhtAI>

His wider Dante700 project can be found at: <https://englishcantos.home.blog/the-wider-circle/>  
<https://englishcantos.home.blog/the-wider-circle/>

In my experience there are many 'closet' poets around in fact! The workshop will offer a non-threatening, non-competitive environment in which to improve one's skill set and also understand at a deeper level what poetry is and possibly isn't. People who write poetry but never read any, except their own, are like people who whistle down the street and think they are composers! Poetry makes the ugly in our world more beautiful, more endurable, for it invests it with beauty. In the course I am going to focus on the poetry of praise, so that the whole thing has a positive aspect from the beginning. If we go into a second season, then we might deal with some darker matter - like, for example, Gerard Manley Hopkins' summary of the book of Job in 14 lines: Thou Art Indeed Just Lord if I contend with thee ... A masterpiece of form and emotion. **James Sale**

### **Diagnosis**

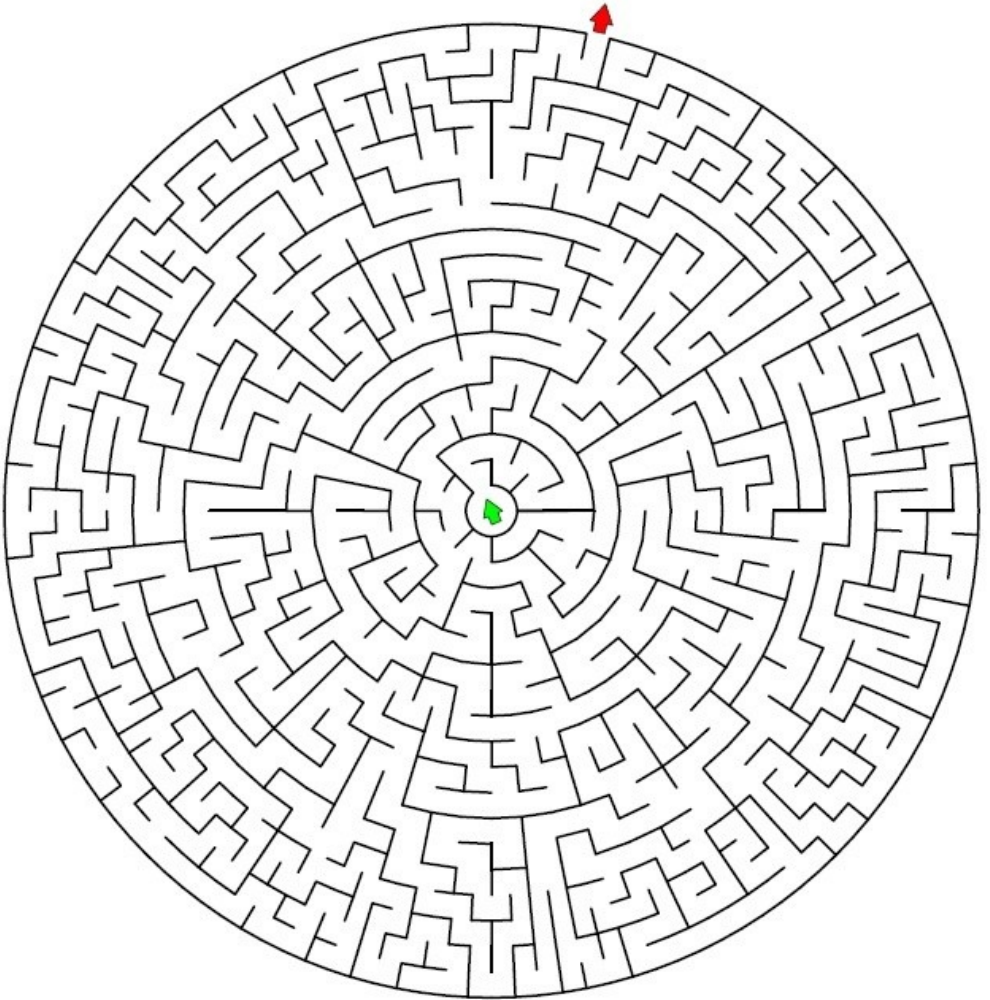
A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirled and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: “There’s a lot of it about!”



These Sumo wrestlers seem to have missed the Tokyo Games, but had a good showing at the Fun Day !



A chance to catch up with friends at last !  
Hope they found a good bargain.



Some of our congregation have got stuck at home. Can you help them find their way back to church ?

## HOLY BAPTISMS

Isaac Richard Gaunt  
Emily Beatrice Huntley



## MARRIAGES

Mark Kelly and Leanne Williams  
Nathanial Green and Charlotte Lunn  
Dominic Foot and Emma Westron

## BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

*We offer our sincere sympathy to friends and  
relatives of:*

## 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



*...er Vicar; it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought  
back from her foreign holiday...*

## Useful Contact Numbers

Vicar	Revd. Rupert Higgins 20 Alton Road, Bournemouth.BH10 4AE	939799
Parish Secretary	Mrs Mandy Williams	529349
Parish Office	9am to 11.30am.	
e-mail	stmarkschurch-talbotvillage@btinternet.com	
St Mark's website	www.stmarkschurch-talbotvillage.org.uk	
Assistant Priest	Revd Diana Newman	745136
Churchwardens	Mrs Marion Marks	520840
	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Deputy Church Wardens	Mr David Humphreys	527136
	Mr David Way	768410
	Mr John Gray	511745
	Mr David Kellard	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	Mrs. Ann Mace	
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		
Flag Officer	Mr Adrian James	07779613052
Intercession Readers		
Lost Property	Ms Angie Cornish	520052
First Friends Pre-School	Dani Haigh St.Saviours	07826040775
Magazine Editor	Revd Diana Newman	745136
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S.Mark's Sch.Head Teacher	Mr. Andrew Bright	512241
Uniformed Groups:	(see inside magazine)	
Visitors Group		
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mr Trevor Adamson	518737