

NEWS

Sunday 7 March 2021

St Mark 
St Andrew
SERVING JESUS, EACH OTHER, OUR WORLD

Come and Join us ONLINE

We live-stream Sunday at 10.30 from St Mark's.

If you are unable to access our worship online
we are open for a few people to join us socially distanced in person.

Dear family and friends,

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." [2 Corinthians 4:7]

This verse from 2 Corinthians remind us of the paradox that our weakness is the gateway to God's power being demonstrated. When we are strong and vigorous it is easy to forget the Lord. If things are achieved, it is natural to assume that it is because of our own strength or ability. But when we are weak, we are forced to rely on the Lord. And then, when things are achieved, it becomes very clear that this could not have been done by us - it must have been the Lord demonstrating His power and grace.

This was Paul's experience as he sought to share the message of Christ Crucified. He came to the conclusion the reason for his own weakness as a witness was to show God's power.

Isn't it true that salvation in Christ is a such a precious treasure to us and if we get the opportunity to share it we are indeed unimpressive vessels. But our very weaknesses are the places for the Lord Jesus to display His grace and power. As Paul said later in the same letter *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* [2 Corinthians 12:9] May these verses encourage us in all our evident weaknesses and give us boldness to share this great treasure with others.

The Corinthians and our own society value impressive things and despise weakness such as the Cross of Jesus. In this [song](#) Keith & Kristyn Getty reflectively sing about 'The power of the cross.'

Warmly in Christ, Andy Bousfield

VERSE for 2021:

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus." Hebrews 12:2 (NIVUK)



ONLINE SUNDAY

Breakfast@9 LIVE

9.00 - 9.45 in [Zoom1](#) and available afterwards.

10.30 Livestreamed

via our [website](#) and [YouTube](#) and as a recording afterwards.

Followed by [CoffeeChat](#) at 11.30-12.00 in Zoom1

IN THE WEEK

ZOOM1 daily social 4pm

Weds 'Morning Prayer'

9.30am. Bible readings and a short time to pray. In Zoom1 or join by phone see p3.

Housegroups continue to meet through Lent.



Church Connect

..Pick up a Phone...Care, Share and Prayer Who will you encourage this week? Contact a churchwarden if you need help to get started.

www.stmarkstandrew.org



Please click above for a Spring term programme.

7 March

3rd Sunday of Lent

Signs & Sayings:

John 10:1-10 [Torchlight](#)

Lectionary readings:

John 2:13-22 [Worksheet](#)

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

Collect for Lent:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Sunday:

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Breakfast@9 with Andy in John 10 "I am the Gate..."

On Sunday we will be looking at Jesus' claim to be the gate for the sheep. John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." This is in contrast with those Jesus calls thieves and robbers who are intent to steal and kill and destroy. If we move quickly away from the pastoral images of sheep pens in Galilee to the nub of the matter... Jesus claims to be offering to us 'life to the full' (John 10:10). This, he claims, comes only through listening to his voice and entering into a new life through him.

The blind man (in chapter 9) had a taste of this: from birth his life had been limited but Jesus opens his eyes, and Jesus offers to extend our horizons too and enlarge our lives. The Pharisees deny that any of this is from God. Their way, rejecting Jesus, leads to death (says Jesus) but his way, recognising the voice of the Shepherd, leads to life.

Which is it? Who has the way to eternal life?

Do you believe that the world can give you all you could ever need or hope for? Or do you suspect Jesus came to offer you what the world could never give?

Is Jesus a stranger to you? Or have you heard in his words the voice of God the shepherd of your soul? Jesus invites you today: 'whoever enters through me will be saved'.

First Sunday at 10.30 with Jo King in John 10:1-10

This week we are looking at John chapter ten verses one to ten where Jesus says that he is the door or gate of the sheepfold – this can sound a bit odd to us but to the listeners at the time, they knew it essential that the sheep were kept safe at night and led into pastures for nurture.

The chapter includes two of the "I am" sayings – I am the gate for the sheep (verses 7-9) and I am the good shepherd (verse 11). It says the only way the sheep (us) can find safety is through the gate (Jesus) to enter into a fulfilling life.

We look at the background of the passage; smaller flocks would not have a gatekeeper. What is being pictured in this reading is a large sheepfold capable of accommodating several flocks.

We look at the call of the sheep by the shepherd and how they recognised the shepherd's call.

We see that the shepherd guards and protects his sheep from danger and provides for their nourishment, for their life in abundance.

The final part of the passage looks at how the listeners in the passage can have life and have it abundantly; Jesus is focused on their welfare.

Finally, we look at what this passage means to us today – what is Jesus calling us to do? How can we be more like Him? How can we have life in abundance? How do we recognise the voice of the good shepherd above all the other voices and their promises?

News & Notices

Online Groups running January - Easter

Click the [link](#) for list of groups or contact the office.

What happens when we pray?

That was the question that Jo King posed to a small group of us back in October. So began a fascinating course (on Zoom of course), which led me to a new understanding of how to draw closer to God through prayer.

Following a book by Evelyn Christensen, we tried out various techniques to help us to focus on the quality of our prayers. I had never been confident about praying in a group, but I soon discovered that it can be quite easy. For example, I learned that:

- I should keep my prayers short and to-the-point;
- it's OK to ask for things, but bear in mind that our requests are subject to God's will, and;
- it doesn't matter where or when I pray, because sometimes things happen that need prayer in that moment.

Jo paired us up with a prayer partner, and I have become very friendly with mine. Also I got to know several people from St. Mark's, whom I had not spoken to before. As a relative newcomer, who joined just before lockdown, that was a great bonus.

I would recommend this course to anyone, whatever their level of confidence in prayer, as it provides fresh ideas about how to approach our most important daily conversations i.e. those we have with God.

Cathy Butcher

THANKYOU: CITYWIDE PRAYER

Simon from Grace church writes...

'A **very big thank you** for everyone who got behind the Citywide Prayer...

We had **22 churches** (we think!) represented and **167 screens** at one point, many of which had more than one person, so I'm guessing somewhere between 220-250 people which is amazing, and represents hundreds of prayers for our City. Amazing to think that our Father heard every single one of them. **I believe that night made a difference.'**



MOTHERS' UNION - VIRTUAL LADY DAY DIOCESAN SERVICE

11am 25TH MARCH 2021
Zoom details to follow soon

Join Zoom events by phone

For those who can't use zoom you can join by telephone on **0330 088 5830** then put the ID number below in on your keypad followed by # when prompted.

Meeting ID 251 131 0154
For all events in Zoom1

How are you
using your time?

How are you
using your talents?

How are you
using your money?



RECYCLE AT ST ANDREW'S

Medic to Medic (a charity that provides funding for socially and economically disadvantaged students in Malawi to train as healthcare workers) is accepting empty tablet blister packs for recycling.

St Andrew's Church will be a collecting point.

Please start collecting now so that when the Church reopens they can be placed in the box provided.

Thank you , Sarah Male.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

In March, the daily content will guide callers through Lent, preparing them for Easter.

The Barrington Centre (Bishopdown)

Available for "Work Space During Lockdown"

Wifi and mini kitchen available for you to work alone or with your bubble. No charge, but donations welcome.

Please apply to:
office@stmarkstandrew.org

Mission News

March Focus:

Diocese of Yei, South Sudan (1) Bishop Hilary Luete Adeba

Having recently retired as Bishop of Yei, Hilary writes: "At this moment am not quite sure what the Lord is leading me to do in the near future. The wait for a new Bishop is 90 days from 1/1/21. Please pray that our diocese may remain united for Jesus Christ. Mama Joyce and I have decided that we remain in our community. We've been so much woven together we find it hard to break those cords of togetherness. This has been so for our peaceful ministry to our

people that they felt bad that we are leaving.

"I take this opportunity to thank your churches for all the partnership we have enjoyed over the years and I trust that with the new bishop, even this bond may become even firmer working together in the name of Jesus. The Diocese of Yei appreciates every support in prayer and in practice."

Please pray for the process of electing a new bishop and of course Bishop Hilary and Mama Joyce as they make the transition to retirement and a home is prepared for them.

PRAYER POINTS

- **Andy and Jo** leading and preaching today.
- **For the PCC as they meet this week.**
- For those on our **Prayer Chain:** **Teresa Donaldson** starting chemotherapy treatment; **Peter Fairweather** - Karen Mundy's father now in the hospice; **Anne Bull** - give thanks for her return home after a brief spell in hospital; **Michele** - she has had a second tumor removed but is still awaiting investigations; **Joy** (Jan Seaman's sister-in-law) chemotherapy for Myeloma; **Joan & family** - recently bereaved; **Gordon** (Alma's Brother); **Alec & Jean Jordan, James & Sarah; Peter & Janet Dominy.**
- **Bishop Hilary (see insert)**
- **Headteachers and teachers in the Parish** as the schools return, and for the safety of everyone.

GIVING

If you are looking to donate regularly please visit the [Giving Page](#) at our website for information on this which has links to the *Parish Giving Scheme*. Thank you for recent donations to help our online service provision.



Do you know someone who would value receiving this newsletter? Please encourage them to subscribe using [this link](#).

Zoom links

Zoom1

Meeting ID 251 131 0154
Passcode zoom2020
Phone 0330 088 5830

Zoom2

Meeting ID 923 007 5605
Passcode 0GmyyD

Our Zoom rooms are available for your use - to avoid any clash please let the church office know in advance.

ZOOM daily social

Join us for a social chat on Monday - Saturday 4pm in **Zoom1**.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would value prayer for anything please send requests to our prayer chain. This will be shared with home group leaders and passed to our dedicated pray-ers. All details will be treated respectfully.
prayer@stmarkstandrew.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Do pray for us and contact the office with suggestions.

PCC 8 March 7.30pm

SALT, MALT and PCC have their meetings in **Zoom1**

Contacts

All enquiries and requests for support to Jane Holme: church@stmarkstandrew.org or by calling 07933 952171
Prayer Chain: prayer@stmarkstandrew.org
Items for the Newsheet: news@stmarkstandrew.org
Parish Administrator Jane Holme: office@stmarkstandrew.org
Vicar - Andy Bousfield (07866 434117) vicar@stmarkstandrew.org
Churchwardens, St Mark's - Jo King (07771 858547), Sarah Hardy sarahhardy40@gmail.com
Churchwardens, St Andrew's - Sue Gallagher (332619), Russell Jugg (07703 170308) russell.jugg@ntlworld.com
Safeguarding - safeguardingconcerns@stmarkstandrew.org



TORCHLIGHT

07/03/21

THEME: 'I AM THE DOOR'

John 10:1-10

Hi Torchlighters!

Something to think about...

In John 10:1-10 Jesus said 'I am the door...'

It sounds a bit odd for somebody to say that they are 'a door', but of course the people who listened to Jesus understood perfectly. Once all the sheep were safe inside their stone shelter, (like this one in Scotland) the shepherd would sleep across the doorway to make sure no thief or wild animal got to them.



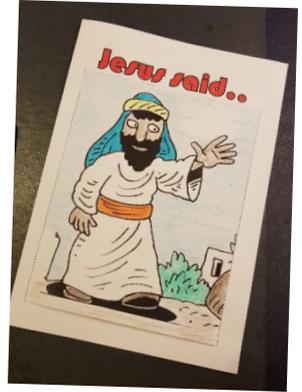
I have done the same sort of thing in hotel corridors when leading school parties, but that was to keep the more adventurous students in their rooms!

If you see a door, especially in a strange place, you wonder what's on the other side. In 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' the door led to

another world, where things were like the 'normal world' but also very different. If we ask the question 'If Jesus is the door, what's he a door *to*?' the answer is rather the same. In verse 10 he says *'I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they have ever dreamed of.'* (The Message) So Jesus is saying that he is the way into a new sort of world that is real now, not just made up like Narnia.

Something to do.....

Print off the pdf [here](#) (both sides) and colour in the picture of Jesus and the lettering, then cut carefully round three sides of the dotted line. Fold in half and you have something you can put on your door to help you remember this 'I am...!'



Something to find out....

Whose doors are these?



How many doors are there in your home? Maybe you are surprised how many!
Could you think of giving a penny for each one to a charity like Alabaré that helps people who have no front door of their own.



Something to pray.... 'Thank you Jesus that you came so that people might have more and better life than they have ever dreamed of.'

This 'I am' is so closely linked with another claim that Jesus made 'I am the Good Shepherd' that the Together@H resources this week will cover today and next week as well.

Morris





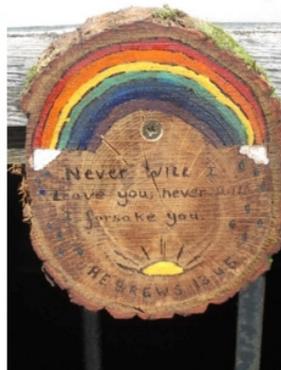
Welcome to St Mark's Church Garden



St Mark's Church Signs and "Wander"

Hello! 

Would you like to go for a wander around our garden? There are some signs and doors hidden in the garden; do you think you can find the ones shown below? See if you can find the extra ones that are hidden!



We hope you enjoyed your visit and that you will think about joining us on line at <http://www.stmarkstandrew.org> or visiting us in person on a Sunday! 😊