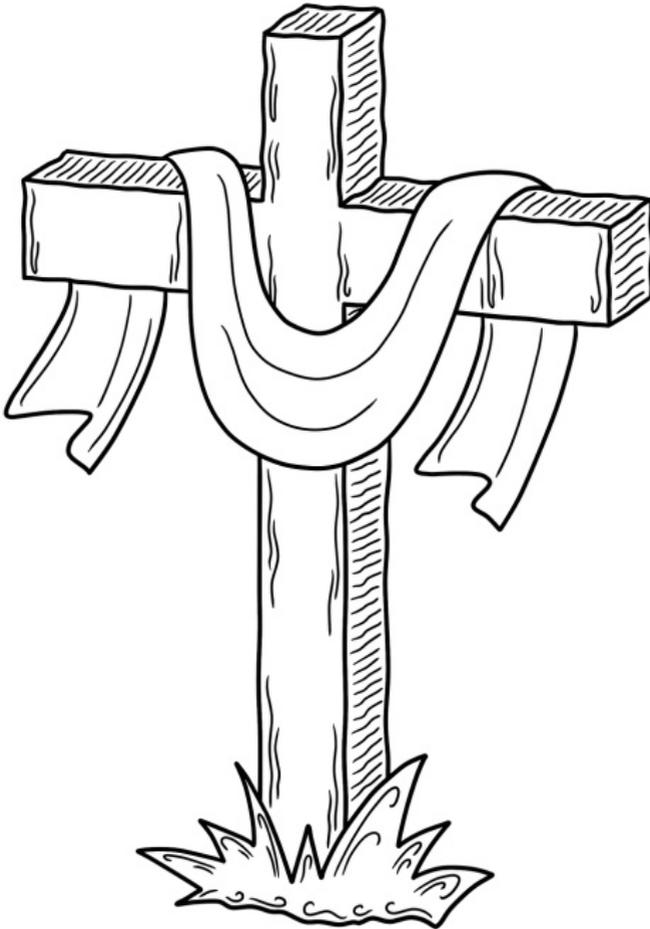


March 2026

St Mark's Church
Parish News

for Natland & Oxenholme

70p per copy or £7.00 per year





St Mark's Church is Proud to be....



Vicar	Reverend Becky Gibbs	74609 90631
Becky's rest day is Saturday and occasionally Friday		
Associated Priest:	Rev Lucy Foster	74942 48183
revlucyfoster@gmail.com		
Assistant Priest:	Rev Marion Mashiter	01539 731957
revquackers5@ gmail.com		
Lay Reader:	Graham Day	015395 61418
Local Lay Minister & Church Warden:	David Walker	01539 732524
Church Warden:	Roy Watkinson	015395 61373
PCC Secretary:	Elsbeth Jayne	015395 60942
Treasurer:	Hilda Walker	01539 732524
Stewardship Secretary:	Martin Jayne	015395 60942
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Roy Watkinson	015395 61373
Organist:	Clive Walkley	01539 723482
MU Families Group:		
Magazine Distribution & Subscription:	Shirley Miller	015395 61193
St Mark's School Head Teacher:	Louise Hinton	015395 60719
Anna Chaplain:	Gill Pilling	07354 377606
gillpilling.annachaplaincy@gmail.com		

MAGAZINE TEAM st-marks-natland-magazine@googlegroups.com

Articles for the **April 2026** edition of the magazine to be handed in by 14th March. **Please send articles to the magazine email address above.**

The team welcomes articles for future editions of the magazine. The Editorial Team reserves the right to decline to publish any item or to amend or shorten material. Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors, not necessarily those of the PCC, or the editorial Team.

Hello Friends,

You will probably be reading this as we are, hopefully, emerging from winter and approaching Spring. Winter's dormancy is giving way to vibrant life; flowers appearing even through frozen ground and the beautiful sound of singing, as birds start nest building. Spring shows us the beauty of a new beginning. As the earth awakens from the cold and barren months of winter, springtime allows God's creation to experience renewal. Spring reminds us that things we thought dead and gone, can re-emerge, giving us hope and reminding us of Christ's resurrection.

Believers are encouraged to leave behind the old, possibly by spring cleaning, or sowing new seeds, trusting in God's transformative power and embracing new beginnings. God's power spreads further than our here and now, even to bringing back to life the dead. This mirrors salvation and new creation in Christ.

Winter brought along the cold, harshness, and hardships which often come together but Spring offers a promise of light and warmth.

Throughout this God has been faithful; it is Him who offers constant renewal and growth amid the changing seasons. God provides all this, not just for Himself but for all who believe.

Spring is an ideal time to read the Bible and to pray, growing closer to God and showing your love for Him. It is a chance to reflect on God's grace and the promise of eternal life.

May you all find renewed strength, both physically and spiritually as we continue on the path that God has planned for us.

God bless you all With love and prayers

Marion

Rev'd Marion Mashiter

LENT 2026 EVENTS

WALK & TALK with reflection 10:30

Tuesday's 24th February, 3rd March, 10th March
17th March, 24th March, 31st March

LENT LUNCHEES @ 12 Noon

25th February, 3rd March, 11th March,
17th March, 25th March and 31st March

COMPLINE @ 6pm

Tuesday's 24th February, 3rd March, 10th March
17th March, 24th March, 31st March &
Easter Eve 4th April

AGAPE MEAL

April 1st joint with Crosscraque

CHARITIES

The King's Food Bank
Medecins Sans Frontieres
(Medicine without Frontiers)

You are invited to join us for Worship at Kendal Care Home

Thursday 5th March at 3p.m- Hymns & Readings
Thursday 12th March at 3p.m.- Holy communion
Thursday 19th March at 3p.m. – Hymns & Readings
Thursday 26th March – Hymns & Readings

Come and join us. All are very welcome.



OUR LENT CHARITIES

King's Food Bank is a community project, which partners with professional agencies and is supported by churches, companies, schools, organisations, societies, charities and individuals. They provide tailor-made food boxes to meet the needs to meet the needs of each individual and family referred to them.

Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without borders) provides medical humanitarian assistance to save lives and ease the suffering of people in crisis situations, to victims of conflict, natural disasters, epidemics or healthcare exclusion. They do this. in more than 70 countries

From the Registers

David Proctor, of Oxenholme sadly passed away on 13th February 2026



Funerals

7th February Mark Bewsher
18th February Dr Francis Obale

'Nothing can separate us from the love of God'

Mans life is laid in the loom of time, to a picture he does not see
While the weaver works and the shuttles fly till the doom of eternity.

Some shuttles are filled with silver thread, and some with threads of
gold,
While often just the darker hues are all that they may hold.

But the weaver watches with skilful eye each shuttle to and fro
And sees the pattern, so deftly wrought as the loom moves sure and
slow

God surely planned that pattern, each thread the dark and fair
Were chosen by his masterskill and placed in the web with care,

He only knows its beauty and guides the shuttles which hold
The threads so unattractive, as well as the threads of gold.

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why

The dark threads are as needful in the weavers skilful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he has planned.

From Norma and Paul.

(Norma's father, (and grandfather) were managers of a Leigh cotton
mill and Norma was born in the Mill House

Mothers' Union

MU Families Group will meet in the vestry of St Marks Church on Thursday 5th March at 2pm when Rowena Pavey will speak to us about the Carers' Association.



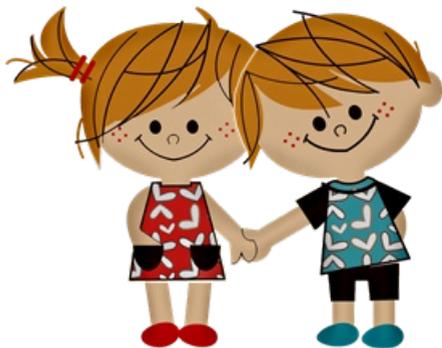
NATLAND CRAFT GROUP

All are invited to come and join the Natland Craft Group which meets on a

Wednesday 2-4pm in the Village Hall

Bring your craft and enjoy the company

Mini Marks Toddler Group
Wednesdays from 9-11am
in term-time
St Mark's CofE School Hall
Enter by the hall door
please.
£2 per adult.



PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

The annual subscription for the magazine is due by the April edition. Subscriptions run from April to March.

This year the subscription for the magazine remains at 70 pence per magazine/£7 for the 10 magazines per year.

Methods of payment are; -

Cash given directly to your distributor

Cash put in the wall safe – please label ‘magazine’ and your name

Pay online quoting ‘magazine’

HSBC Bank Highgate Kendal LA9 4TT

Sort Code 40-26-02

Account number 61594214

Account name – St Marks Church Natland

Cheques are welcome but unfortunately, they now incur bank charges of 40 pence per cheque therefore if you choose this method, it would be greatly appreciated if you could add the 40p to your payment.

If needed cheques can be sent to; -

C/O the treasurer

18 St Mark’s Fold

Natland

LA9 7Q

Many thanks

Shirley Miller

(Magazine distribution coordinator)

There are lots of different ways in which to support the wonderful work of TWAM including giving financially and donating unwanted tools and equipment. See the website for further details: www.twam.uk or speak to Margaret Myers.



A Poem for March

I love the skeleton trees of winter, fanned out under a clear sky.
Trees that have been pollarded I find rather more disturbing.



I suggest that you read this poem out loud,
and twice, and compare the difference in how
you feel between the first and second
readings?

*It is written by David Scott
Beyond the Drift. Bloodaxe 2014*

I pollarded am
I pollarded am.
My elbows ancient are,
but my hair, which
out of my neck does grow,
the head hacked off having been,
is young, absurdly, rubbery so.
O so ancient my chest and hips
pressing the legs of me, now stumps,
deep into underground.
Why do they this pollarding do?
One day, no doubt,
thus and thus did some king say.
So from the folly of an autumn cut,
it came to must be so.
They say in China this they do to feet.
In other countries, minds,
and others, souls.
Thus nature rearranged is.
I know not what to think
not having head,
for I pollarded am.



Contributed by Miggy Scott

10am on Tuesdays at Crosscrake Church

Our free all-age community drop-in continues through the winter months providing a warm space for anyone needing a break or some company for a couple of hours. We've loved welcoming around thirty people so far from all parts of our community and aged from a few months to 90-something to share cuppas, and conversation (and play!). Healthy snacks are provided for young children alongside cakes and biscuits. The kettle's always on so please join us in church between 10am and noon on Tuesdays.



**You are invited to Fun @4
in church
on Sunday 8th March 4pm**



The next meeting is Meeting is on Wednesday 18th March
at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The talk will be about The Bendrigg Trust

All new members welcome

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Natland Lunch Club



Enjoy a catch up with friends and a freshly cooked meal on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at The Punch Bowl, Barrows Green at 12 noon.

If you are interested in joining, please contact us on 01539 728118 or admin@ageuksouthlakeland.org.uk

Next date 17th March

Booking essential

Lunch Club Dates 2026

Gentle Exercise Classes

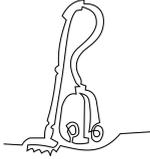
in Natland every Monday in from 2-3pm at the Village Hall, Natland Gentle exercise for the over 50's. Stay healthy and active with simple, chair-based exercises aimed at improving mobility and fitness. ***There's no need to book a place or call ahead - simply come along to a class.***

For more information about this or other exercise classes, please call on 01539 728118 or email: admin@ageuksouthlakeland.org

Cash In The Attic

Thank you for all donations so far. If you have any items that you think might be saleable and which are also capable of being consigned to the post then please send details for consideration to Collin. Thank you. If in doubt speak to or call Collin on 07740 447858 or collin4mansfield@me.com





CHURCH CLEANING



Martin & Elspeth Jayne 7th March
Joyce & Roy Watkinson 14th Feb March
Tony & Liz Bontoft 21st March
Hazel Carter & Kath Cater 28th March

Thankyou to everyone who keeps the church sparkling clean throughout the year. Elspeth Jayne 015395 60942

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Mark's Church with easyfundraising?

There are over 7,000 brands on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Amazon, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarkschurchnatland/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free, or scan the QR code above
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the brand will make a donation to St Mark's Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Mark's Church will be very grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.





A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Postage Stamps

Please keep saving postage stamps to help the work of the RNIB. They can be left in the porch or in church.



Help & Support

If you are in need of help at this time (or someone you know is) please let us know and we will try to help.

Please contact us on:
01539 732524
(David Walker)



Castlestead View,
Oxenholme

80% sold

Lovely community feel

Views and gardens

Please ring Margaret Doust

07525803994 to arrange

an appointment



Tricorn House | 51-53 Hagley Road | Birmingham B16 8TP



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Platinum



Keep in touch

St Mark's Church Website

<https://>

www.stmarkschurchnatland.co.uk/

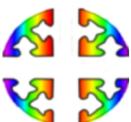
St Mark's Church

Facebook page:

@churchofstmark

For more Natland News visit:

www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk



Home Communion or Visit



If you are at home and for whatever reason, not back to church yet or out and about as much as you would like to be we can arrange for a service of Holy Communion in your own home. Please just contact a member of the Ministry Team to request this or indeed just a visit. (contact details on inside cover)

Church Administrator Vacancy

Crosscrake, Natland, New Hutton and Old Hutton
(Paid role, up to 8 hours per week)

We are looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person with good administrative skills and relevant experience to support our Vicar and work alongside our volunteers. This role is an important part of helping our churches run smoothly and serve our local communities well.

All appointments are subject to our safer recruitment procedures.

If you would like to receive a role description, person specification and application form, please email Reverend Becky.

Closing date: Monday 16 March

Interviews: Week commencing 13 April

The Helm Mission Community

Please pray for each of our churches and communities in the 'Helm Group' in our continuing work at this time - for Old Hutton, New Hutton, Crosscrake, Natland, Holy Trinity Kendal, Kendal United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army - and for the work and ministry we share with the Methodist Church and other denominations across Kendal.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Decorating the Church for Easter



We will be decorating St. Marks church on Good Friday, 3rd April at 3.30 pm. Volunteers always welcome. Gifts of daffodils and yellow or white spring flowers, and foliage appreciated. Thank you. Jenny

There will be no flowers during Lent

My water bills are going up again, on top of everything else. I can't manage to pay the increase. I've tried cutting down on showers and laundry, but what else can I do?

You are not alone. Citizens Advice recently found that one in five bill payers in England and Wales were unable to afford their water bill in the last year. 36% cut back on other essentials, 37% cut back on the amount of water they used, and 22% went into arrears.

Help might be available if you are on a low income, such as a social tariff or the WaterSure scheme, but each water company has different rules.

First of all, contact your provider either online or by phone (details will be on your water bill) and check if you are eligible. Water companies cannot cut off your water supply, but they can take you to court for debt and they can have payments deducted from benefits, so it's important to talk to them as soon as possible.

The Consumer Council for Water (CCW) website has lots of useful information on saving water – checking for leaks can save a lot of money if you are on a water meter – but do not compromise your family's health. Citizens Advice say it's a postcode lottery for bill support and creating a single social tariff is the best and fairest way to strengthen support and protect low-income households.

If you are still finding it hard to manage, contact South Lakes Citizens Advice for help with managing debt, checking your eligibility for benefits, and/or possible one-off grants.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems. How to access:

- Call 015394 46464 (9.30am – 2pm, Monday – Friday)
- Drop in sessions at Wainwright's Yard, Kendal, LA9 4DP (10am – 1pm, Tuesday and Thursday)
- Adviceline: 0808 2787 984 (9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday)
- email advice via the submission page on our website

www.southlakescab.org.uk

South Lakes Citizens Advice is a local charity based in the heart of South Lakeland. Can you help us by giving six hours a week to train to be a volunteer and help local people, or by joining our Trustee Board, or by donating to support our vital service? If so, please contact Karen – manager@southlakesca.org.uk

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

**STRICKLANDGATE
METHODIST
CHURCH**

2-00 pm.

ALL ARE WELCOME



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

Helm Mission Community Environment Group meetings

Meetings are the mornings of the 4th Saturdays in the month. Starting at 10 a.m for refreshments, 10.30 for prayer/worship followed by a talk.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 28th March at St Thomas Church Crosscrake.

The talk will be hopefully on butterfly conservation.

Please contact Rev Lucy Foster (see inside Cover of magazine) for further details and

'look out for posters in church for more info'



Jams & plants

We are very grateful to all who support our church porch sales and to those who keep the porch well stocked with plants and different kinds of produce.



King's food bank



The Kings Food Bank thank us for our gifts of food throughout the year.

According to the website the following items would be particularly welcome:

instant pasta

instant noodles

instant mash

UHT semi-skimmed milk

large tins of vegetables (eg. carrots, sweetcorn)

sponge puddings

Custard

crisps

Please leave any donations of food in the box in the porch. The box is emptied each Monday (except bank holidays).

We hope that one day the food bank will no longer be needed, however looking back over the past months and years know that this is not going to happen soon.

Donations are always welcome

We are currently asking for:

cheese

sugar and coffee

butter/margarine

tuna, corned beef, spam and other tinned meats

gravy granules

honey

olive oil

evaporated or UHT milk (blue top)

custard

deodorants and toothpastes (male and female)

laundry liquid tabs

washing-up liquid

tin-foil

toilet rolls

carrier bags for wrapping food parcels

long-johns and winter vests

Please note we have enough tea, beans, pasta and rice at the moment.

Thank you.

Manna House, The Stephenson Centre, Ann Street, Kendal, LA9 6AA

CUMBRIA SUZUKI

Mintsfeet Road

Kendal

Cumbria

LA9 6LU



Way of Life!

TEL 01539 723318

FAX 01539 734321

Website: www.cumbria.suzuki.co.uk



Hayes & Parkinson Ltd.

Funeral Directors



Independent Family Business Established 1892
KENDAL 01539 720105
07768 155511

Golden Charter 
Funeral Plans

Captain French Lane,
Kendal, LA9 4HS

OAKDENE JOINERY



*All aspects of Joinery,
Carpentry and Restoration
works undertaken.*

Local • Reliable

Tel: 01539 727646
Email: oakdene9@gmail.com

M.B. STAVERT LTD

Plumbing & Heating Engineers

WORCESTER
Heating Group

Accredited
Installer

VIESSMANN



Unit 29
Lake District Business Park
Kendal,
LA9 6NH.

Tel 01539 726874
Fax 01539 731466
Mobile 07831 299354

Email: mbstavertltd@btconnect.com

ABLE
MEMORIALS LTD.

Monumental
Sculptors &
Architectural
Mason

1 Wildman St
Kendal
LA9 6EN
T: 01539 735583

Edward Waller
07779 025745

Tony Knowles
07967 774 825



Natland Past and Present

Facebook Group

**Sharing memories of Natland
from the past to present day**

Find us on f

Natland past and present

www.facebook.com/groups/natlandpastandpresent

Experience Easter was written to resource churches to help children and young people explore the Easter story. Six stations cover key moments in the Easter narrative, exploring the events of Holy Week in ways that are interactive and stimulating.

'Experience Easter' follows a similar pattern to other Experience Journeys in the series such as Experience Christmas and Experience Harvest. These materials have proved extremely popular in a wide range of contexts from tiny rural parishes to major cathedrals in our large cities.

The interactive stations display the following topics:

1. Future Hopes – The story of Palm Sunday
2. Servant King – Jesus washes the Disciples' Feet
3. Remember Me – The Last Supper.
4. Alone – The Garden of Gethsemane.
5. The Cross – Symbol of Hope.

Resurrection – New Life.

'I have previously hosted Experience Easter in two churches and it was both profound and moving. Children and staff really appreciated the opportunity to reflect on the Easter story and what it means to them'

Reverend Becky

St Johns, Old Hutton, St Marks, Natland and St Thomas Crosscrake will host the stations consecutively for the fortnight before the schools break up for Easter. The dates are as follows;

14th-17th March Old Hutton

17th-23rd March Natland

23rd-29th March Crosscrake



EXPERIENCE
EASTER

If you would like to lend a hand either behind the scenes or on the days please do get in touch. (All volunteers will be asked to follow our safer recruiting process)

Speak Boldly: "We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both time-honoured & pioneering ways."

St Mark's Church If you would like to give a donation to St Mark's Church there are several ways in which this can be done:

Write a cheque to 'St Mark's Church Natland' and send it to '**The Treasurer c/o The Vicarage, 18 St Mark's Fold, Natland LA9 7QU**'

Leave a donation on the collection plate by the font at the beginning or end of services

Use our contactless machine at services or events

Make an online donation (quoting your name) to:

HSBC Bank, 64 Highgate, Kendal, LA9 4TF

Sort Code 40-26-02 Account Number 61594214

Account Name St Marks Church Natland



Ask about setting up a regular standing order.

All donations are gratefully received. Thank you.

The Helm Mission Community

Please pray for each of our churches and communities in the 'Helm Group' in our continuing work at this time

- for Old Hutton, New Hutton, Crosscrake, Natland, Holy

Trinity Kendal, Kendal United Reformed Church and the

Salvation Army - and for the work and ministry we share with the Methodist

Church and other denominations across Kendal.

For more Natland News visit: www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk

For more Natland News visit:

www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk

Why not also visit <https://>

www.stmarkschurchnatland.co.uk/

We need a New Christian Aid Representative.

Christian Aid Week has long been a part of the calendar of St. Mark's Church. It has long been a part of the lives of all those who have collected for it, and of those who have given so generously too. For nearly 30 years we knocked on doors, sometimes getting to know each other that way, sometimes having to accept a rebuff. One of the possibly rather welcome consequences of Covid was the subsequent change to deliver only envelopes. I expected income to fall as a result, but no, people donated over £2,000 in 2021. There has been a decline since, however, but that is probably due to people donating online directly to Christian Aid, which is to be very much welcomed. Sadly, the need for help for people in developing countries has not gone away. Though Christian Aid nationally has maintained a steady income from Christian Aid Week, its income from the government has fallen. Also climate change is impacting more and more on small farmers, accompanied by droughts and floods. So, sometimes a demanding role, but always very well worthwhile. It would be possible to keep the same way of doing it as previous years, but it could also be developed in other ways, just as it has evolved over the last thirty or so years that I have been involved, and probably for many years before that. Please contact elspethjayne@gmail.com



PRAYER PAGE



Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

From the Church of England website



Forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy.

In both we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow the way that you first trod. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there. **Amen**

From the Church of England website

ST. MARK'S CHURCH NATLAND & OXENHOLME

<u>Services</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Sidespeople</u>
<u>1st March (2nd Sunday in Lent)</u> 10am Holy Communion	Graham Day Di Outhwaite	Genesis 12:1-4a John 3:1-17	Margaret Myers Marion Studholme
<u>8th March (3rd Sunday in Lent)</u> 10am Holy Communion 4pm Families@4	Hilary Atkinson John Chandler	Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42	Shirley Miller John Miller
<u>15th March (Mothering Sunday)</u> 10am All Age Holy Communion	Pam Noonan David Smethurst	Exodus 2:1-10 John 19:25b-27	Pam Noonan Penny Day
<u>22nd March (Passion Sunday)</u> 8am Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship with APCM	Margaret Myers Miggy Scott	Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45	Miggy Scott Di Outhwaite
<u>29th March (Palm Sunday)</u> 10am Holy Communion	Nigel Mitchell Dorothy Smethurst	Isaiah 50:4-9a Matthew 21:1-11 Matthew 27:11-54	Elspeth Jayne Martin Jayne
<u>5th April Easter Day</u> 8am Holy Communion 10 am Holy Communion	Bill Wood Linda Wood	Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 28:1-10	Pam Noonan Gill Pilling

Every Thursday there is a said Holy Communion Service at 10am.