

Advance Notice: St Mark's Natland APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place as part of our service of morning worship at St Mark's Natland on Sunday 22nd March at 10am.

At this meeting we will:

- Review reports on the life and ministry of the church over the past year
- Receive the church accounts
- Elect Churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod reps

If you are on the Electoral Roll, you are warmly encouraged to attend and take part in the elections.

Copies of the annual reports and accounts will be available in church the week before the meeting.

If you are interested in standing for the PCC or would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to one of the clergy or a churchwarden.

Join us for an Agape Meal on Wednesday 1st April, 6pm at Crosscrake Community Hub. Bring and share food, enjoy hymns, reflection and prayer. Please see sign up sheet and further details at the back of church. Donations support Lent Charities.

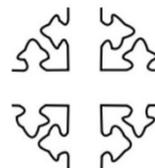
Church Administrator Vacancy

(closing date for applications is Monday 16th March) Contact Rev Becky if you are interested in finding out more about the role

The Rev Canon Dr Michael Leyden, founding Dean of Emmanuel Theological College, has been nominated as the next Suffragan Bishop of Penrith, with the approval of **Charles III** following a recommendation from **Rob Saner-Haigh**. He will move to Cumbria in the summer and live near Penrith, taking responsibility for developing discipleship, vocations, leadership, and supporting the diocese's 104 church schools.

Dr Leyden has led Emmanuel Theological College since 2021 and has strong links with the Diocese of Carlisle through training many local ministers and lay leaders.

Growing up on council estates in Merseyside, he later studied at **University of Oxford** and earned a PhD at **University of Chester**, and has spent about 20 years teaching theology while also serving in parish ministry. He is known for encouraging people from under-represented backgrounds to explore vocations in church leadership.



**A very warm welcome to
St Mark's Church
Sunday 15th March 2026**



Welcome to worship today. During the service you will be invited to sit, kneel or stand at various points - these reflect what we most often do at St Mark's - but please do what is most comfortable for you. Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after the 10am services and all are very welcome to stay

Electricity Sponsorship

The electricity this week is sponsored by an anonymous donor. Thank you to all of our donors.

Today –

Mothering Sunday (4th Sunday of Lent)

10am All Age Holy Communion

The Week Ahead

Monday

1pm Experience Easter at Old Hutton Church

Tuesday

10.30am Walk and Talk with reflection

10am-12noon Drop-in Crosscrake Church

12 noon Lent Lunch

1pm Experience Easter at Old Hutton Church

6pm Compline

Wednesday

9.15am Experience Easter at Natland Church

9-11am Mini Marks

1pm Experience Easter at Natland church

Thursday

10am Holy Communion

3pm Readings and prayers at Kendal Care Home

Next Sunday –

5th Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship with APCM

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

*You can use this code to donate to St Mark's Church.
All donations are very gratefully received. Thank you.*



Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First reading: Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So, the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So, the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Gospel Reading: John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For our prayers

- ◇ all whose lives are devastated by war, conflict, disaster, oppression or disease
- ◇ Charles our King and all who hold influence and power in our world
- ◇ For the churches in our Mission Community with vacancies (both clergy and lay) This Lent, may we hear God's call and respond in faith.
- ◇ those who are sick, struggling or recovering, including: Norma Hewertson, Audrey Bott, Irene Armistead, Bernice Cooper, Doreen Hall, Ian McLoughlin, Pat McLoughlin, Kate Moore, Christine Moore, May Smaje, Edna Watkinson, Janice Hornsby and Moira Wild
- ◇ those who have died recently, whose anniversary falls at this time, and all who mourn including Carolyn Houghton and family on the death of Dennis Houghton.
- ◇

Prayer for the New Bishop of Penrith... Heavenly Father, we thank you for the appointment of Michael Leyden as the new Suffragan Bishop of Penrith. As he prepares to take up this mantle of leadership in the Diocese of Carlisle, we ask for your wisdom to guide him, your grace to strengthen him, and your peace to fill him.

Lord, bless his ministry, his family, and all those he will serve across Cumbria. May he be a faithful shepherd, preaching your Gospel with boldness and leading with humility and love. Grant him energy for the work ahead and a deep sense of your presence, that through him, and working alongside his colleagues from across the traditions of the Church, your name may be glorified and your Church strengthened.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Notices

Experience Easter
Interactive event for schools 16th-29th March
St Marks School will be visiting the stations here in Natland on **Wednesday 18th**
and **Monday 23rd March.**

Pam Noonan is taking part in a sponsored **Big Swim in aid of Manna House** on Saturday 28th March at Kendal Leisure Centre (see poster). Pam's sponsor form will be in church on the 15,22 and 29 March. Good luck Pam! 😊