

May 2026

*St Mark's Church*  
***Parish News***

*for Natland & Oxenholme*

*70p per copy or £7.00 per year*



**Christian Aid Week. May 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**



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



<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Reverend Becky Gibbs</b>	<b>74609 90631</b>
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	David Walker	01539 732524
Church Warden:	Roy Watkinson	015395 61373
PCC Secretary & Administrator	Cath Gaskell	07986 707230
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Treasurer:	Hilda Walker	01539 732524
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**MAGAZINE TEAM** [st-marks-natland-magazine@googlegroups.com](mailto:st-marks-natland-magazine@googlegroups.com)

Articles for the **June 2026** edition of the magazine to be handed in by **14th May**. **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.

Greetings friends!

I wonder how you manage everything you need to do in life...?

Are you someone who likes a 'to-do' list? Or are you more laid back about things?

Are you someone who likes to feel organised and on top of things? Or are you a last-minute person?

Sometimes I like a list....

Other times I relax in knowing that it will all get done at some point.

Sometimes I'm ridiculously organised... and other times I'm still writing a service and preparing a PowerPoint in the early hours of Sunday morning!

Having been appointed to Kendal Corps for nearly 9 years now, I'm quite familiar with the rhythm and seasons of Corps-life, and the expectations that come with it. But I've recently heard that my role is changing from July, and I am also going to be the Officer for Carlisle.

Kendal Corps will have to adapt to having only half an Officer... and Carlisle Corps, from having two full-time Officers to only half an Officer.

It's a situation that isn't unique to any denomination.... Less people are responding to the call to full-time ministry, and the number of newly-trained clergy each year is a mere fraction of the number retiring from active service.

In the moments when I am anxious about how I can be enough for two Corps, I keep coming back to the story of the widow's oil in 2 Kings; a story that reminds us how God sees and meets our needs with what we have.

The widow is in a desperate situation, and Elisha asks her only one question: "what do you have?" All she has is a little oil.... and our God of abundance takes and uses that oil to solve her situation and meet her every need.

It's a promise we see played out again in the feeding of the 5000... when Jesus takes a boy's packed lunch and feeds the hordes. He uses only what they have available.

"The Lord is my shepherd... I lack nothing."

We live in a world that often makes us feel we are lacking... That we don't have enough, aren't young enough, aren't thin enough, aren't clever enough, aren't good enough, aren't fit enough... it's an endless list. It's also an untrue one.

"The Lord is my shepherd... I lack nothing."

Blessings!

Captain Canon Hilary Borthwick

## **Were you there? Did you see him?**

Early on Easter morning I walked up to Kendal Castle to join with other Christians to celebrate the risen Lord. There were adults and children from the town and surrounding villages along with some visitors. A wonderful way to start Easter Morning.

During the service we were asked did you see him last Sunday on a donkey going up Highgate? There were crowds of people, they were waving palms and shouting Hosannah. Were you there?

Did you see him the following day in the market place? Well what a to do that was with him overturning all the market stalls! There was fruit and vegetables and cheese rolling around everywhere

Where you in Cortillo Lounge when that woman came in with a bottle of Chanel No 5 and poured it all over his feet? That's not just any old perfume you can just get from Boots you know. Well, what a waste. The money spent on that could have gone to Manna House or the Kings Food Bank.

After a good meal to celebrate the Passover, he wanted us to go for a walk with him to Noble's Rest and would we watch and wait with him.

Well, I had a full stomach and a few drinks, you know what it is like I just fell asleep. Then they came and arrested him, we did not want to be arrested so we ran away. The next day they brought him up here and crucified him. Some of his followers took his body down and took it up to the Lime Kilns and buried him, putting a big stone over the entrance.

Did you hear this morning some of the women were going to look after his body but the stone had been rolled away and he was not there and then we all saw him He is Alive!

At the end of the service before we went back to our own churches we got told to go tell everybody.

I hope this gives a flavour of the reflection that Shanthi gave.

Anon

## Confirmation Reflections



As some of you know, my Confirmation took place on Palm Sunday, which felt very fitting as it marked the beginning of Holy Week. Confirmation itself took place at St Mary's Church in Crosthwaite, and despite the typical Lake District wet weather.. the service was a truly joyful occasion. Everyone on the day, and during the rehearsal the day before, was incredibly kind and welcoming.

By pure chance, one of the other Confirmation candidates was a former Sergeant who I worked for during my time in the Police Service, so it was especially meaningful to share the experience with him. I am also very grateful for those who came to share in the day with me, it meant a great deal to have their support and to witness such an important step in my journey of faith.

In the lead up to confirmation, I had some very meaningful conversations with Lucy that helped me reflect on what confirmation truly means. Her support and encouragement continue to make a real difference. It was also my first time meeting Bishop Rob, who was very kind and helped make the service feel welcoming and special.

Since my confirmation, I have felt positively changed by the experience, and feel more confident and open in my faith. I have recently joined the faith committee at my workplace, where during Holy Week I had the opportunity to write an article that was shared across our regional offices. That felt like a meaningful way to share my reflections and the message of the week.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported me, and for all the cards and well wishes I received. Many blessings, Stuart (Stu) G

## **Kendal Care Home welcomes Bishop James Bell**

On Thursday 16th April, the Anna Chaplaincy team, residents, visitors and staff at Kendal Care Home gathered for a particularly special Holy Communion service, marking the Confirmation of Alison Baker. Bishop James, previously Bishop of Ripon and now an honorary Bishop in Carlisle, led us all in a joy filled reminder of our Baptism promises and Christian commitment

*Loving God,  
we thank you for Alison and for the step she has taken in Confirmation.  
Fill her with your Holy Spirit,  
strengthen her in faith,  
and guide her each day in your love.  
May she know your presence beside her,  
your peace within her,  
and your joy in her heart.  
Bless her always,  
now and in the years to come.  
Amen.*



### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a Christening when you were a child, your parents and Godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a Confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. The Bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life. If you think you would like to explore making this commitment - please speak to Becky, Marion, Graham or Lucy."

## **Not what you want, but what God wills.**

Do you want what you want when you want it?  
Do you pray and expect a reply?  
And when it's not instantly answered  
Do you feel that God has just passed you by?  
Well, prayers that are prayed for in this way  
Are really not prayers at all,  
For you can't go to God in a hurry  
And expect him to answer your call.

For prayers are not meant for obtaining  
What we selfishly wish to acquire,  
For God in His wisdom refuses  
The things that we wrongly desire.  
And don't pray for freedom from trouble,  
Or ask that life's trials pass you by  
Instead pray for strength and for courage  
To meet life's dark hours and not cry.

That God was not there when you called him  
And he turned a deaf ear to your prayer.  
And just when you needed Him most of all  
He left you alone in despair  
Wake up! You are missing completely  
The reason and purpose of prayer  
Which is really to keep us contented  
That God holds us safe in His care.

And God only answers our pleadings  
When he knows that our wants fill a need.  
And whenever "Our Will" becomes "His Will"  
There is no prayer that God does not heed.

From Norma Singleton

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

Thursday 7th May at 3p.m- Holy Communion  
Thursday 14th May 3p.m.- Hymns & Readings  
Thursday 21st May 3p.m. – Hymns & Readings  
Thursday 28th May – Hymns & Readings

Come and join us. All are very welcome.



## Helm Mission Community

Environment Group Meeting

"The Helm Mission Community Environment Group meets on Sat 23 May at The Salvation Army Hall on Gillinggate in Kendal. We'll be hearing from our friends from Crosthwaite Church about their recycling initiatives and other work caring for creation.

Refreshments from 10am, meeting 10.30am 'til noon. Contact Rev Lucy - [revlucyfoster@gmail.com](mailto:revlucyfoster@gmail.com) or just turn up on the day.

### **If you MUST speed on the motorway, sing these hymns loudly:-**

At 45mph....."God will take care of me"

At 55mph....."Guide me O thou Great Jehovah".

At 65mph....."Nearer my God to Thee"

At 75mph....."Nearer still, and nearer"

At 85mph....."This world is not my home"

At 95mph....."Lord, I'm coming home"

At 100mph....."Precious Memories"

From Norma and Paul

## Lent Charities

Thank you to all who raised money in any way for our Lent Charities this year whether by providing for or helping at the lent lunches or the Agape meal or attending them or donating. Our Charities were:- Medecins sans Frontieres(Doctors without Borders) and the Kings Food Bank £536.39 was raise and is to be split between them.

*Proudly supporting*



**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES  
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

**King's  
Food Bank**

**Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your donation of £268.20**

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your support and to pass on a message from my colleague, Lucy Hart, a paediatrician who has been working in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan:

**“I’ll never forget arriving in Afghanistan and how overwhelming the situation on the hospital wards was, but MSF really does make a difference, and we really do save lives. What we were able to do for our paediatric patients wouldn’t have been possible without your donations. Thank you.”**

If you have any questions about the work of MSF, please do not hesitate to get in touch by calling 020 7404 6600 or by emailing us at [uk.fund...@london.msf.org](mailto:uk.fund...@london.msf.org).

Kind regards,  
Alannah Walsh | Community & Events Fundraising Assistant | MSF UK |  
Direct line: +442070674227

## MOTHERS' UNION



On Thursday, 7th May, at 2pm in St Marks Church, Natland Mothers Union are holding a service of Celebration for 120 years of the Mothers Union in Natland. We will be joined by members of other Mothers Union groups in the Deanery, Rev Lucy will take the service and Rev Angela Whittaker will give the sermon.

We will share food together after the service.

### **Palliative Care Support Trust Malawi Coffee Morning**

Although the final total is not yet known at the time of going to press, the amount raised is in the region of £1000. This is just incredible.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Coffee morning and to all those who worked hard to make it a success.

Thank you all. Gill Pilling

For more information visit [www.palliativecaremalawi.org](http://www.palliativecaremalawi.org)

### **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)



# 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 Families @4 in church

### on Sunday 10th May 4pm



The next meeting is Meeting is on Wednesday 20th May  
at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Talk to be arranged

All new members welcome

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## **Natland Lunch Club**

The Punch Bowl, Barrows Green

Enjoy a catch up with friends and a freshly cooked two course meal at a reasonable price every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12 noon. Booking is essential.

### **Mens Pie & Pint**

Kendal Rugby Club, Kendal LA9 6NY

A men only group, enjoy a main course and a pint/drink of your choosing for £10 every 1st Thursday of the month.

### **Booking essential.**

Gentle Exercise Classes

Natland Village Hall every Monday at 2pm – 3pm except the 3rd Monday of the month.

Stay active and healthy with simple exercises aimed at improving your mobility and fitness. All welcome, no need to book.

For more information or to book a lunch please call our admin team on 01539

728118 or email [ad...@ageuksouthcumbria.org.uk](mailto:ad...@ageuksouthcumbria.org.uk)

## **Postage Stamps**

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





# CHURCH CLEANING



Bill and Linda Wood 2nd May  
Martin and Elspeth Jayne 9th May  
Joyce and Roy Watkinson 16th May  
Tony and Liz Bontoft 23rd May  
Hazel and Kath Cater 30th May

*Thank you 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](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.



## **I was made redundant recently and now I'm finding it hard to keep up with my bills and am getting into debt - what can I do?**

You don't have to face this alone. Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward. Firstly, make sure you've been paid everything you're entitled to by your former employer. Check your rights on the Citizens Advice website.

Free budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can help you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month, and where you might be able to cut costs. Try to find your most recent bank and other financial statements. Make sure you include all your expenses. If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, you can find out if you are eligible for financial help on the Citizens Advice website.

Don't ignore bills or letters about money that you owe. Prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. Speak to the organisations you owe money to – they might let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments.

For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. If you need help with this, contact South Lakes Citizens Advice. Our advisers can help to check if you're eligible for any benefits or financial support, and explore all the options for dealing with your debts.

**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. New opening hours:**

**Tuesday - Drop in at Wainwright's Yard, Kendal 10am - 1pm, last client at 12.45**

**Wednesday - Pre-booked appointments**

**Thursday - Pre-booked appointments**

**Adviceline: 0808 278 7984**

**Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133**

**Universal Credit Helpline: 0800 328 5644**



**Join us:**

**for a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Christian Aid, in  
St. Mark's Church on  
Thursday, May 14th at 10.30.**

**There'll be a Spring Plant Sale, a Stall with delicious  
cakes,  
and a Raffle.**

**Christian Aid Week. May 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**



## **Agape meal at Crosscrake**

Martin Jayne reflects it was a joy for the parishioners of Natland and Crosscrake to share in a meal in the Hub on the Wednesday evening of Holy Week. This meal dates from the very early Church when Christians gathered for fellowship and a communal meal- a love feast or Agape. Overtime this has changed to become the more symbolic Holy Communion which we celebrate today.

We shared an excellent meal thanks to the organiser, those who provided food and refreshments (too much to finish like the "loaves and fishes") and all the Hub helpers. We worshipped, sang and prayed and symbolically washed each others hands. Martin shares words by Sister Margaret Basso, an American nun, mentor, friend and spiritual advisor to many. "When the bread is broken for us, that is Eucharist. When we break ourselves open to reach each other, that is also Eucharist. Perhaps that's why something remarkable happens when people sit down to eat together. We share food and conversation, we become part of each others lives, we break open ourselves to one another; may this be true for all of us "

## **At Crosscrake on Easter Morning**

Gill Pilling shares her experience of the warm welcome, a roaring fire outside the Church porch and a welcoming group waiting for the lighting of the Easter candle before lighting their individual candles. An early morning with wind, dark clouds, rain and hail showed us hope as sun peeped through gaps in the sky. We sang hymns together, a group of more than twenty and worshipped in joy. "He is risen!! He is risen indeed!" The initial worship was followed by the first Communion of Easter- joyful, reflective and opportunity to give thanks and praise. This was followed by breakfast, sharing food, fellowship and our Faith together.

My thanks to all involved in organising this uplifting start on Easter Day.

Joseph Haydn

# THE SEASONS

**Kendal South Choir**  
 Conducted by Geoffrey Field  
 with orchestra led by  
 Pamela Redman

**Kendal Parish Church**  
**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
 at 7.30pm

Ellie Blewitt [Hanne]  
 Kristen Gregory [Lucas]  
 Jonny Hill [Simon]





 **Tickets £18** (under 18s free)  
 via TicketSource or choir members  
 kendalsouthchoir.weebly.com

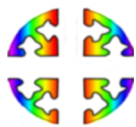


## Help & Support

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)





**Keep in touch**  
 St Mark's Church Website  
[https://  
 www.stmarkschurchnatland.co.uk/](https://www.stmarkschurchnatland.co.uk/)  
 St Mark's Church  
 Facebook page:  
**@churchofstmark**  
 For more Natland News visit:  
[www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk)



**0800 804 8044**

**DailyHOPE**


A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

**Natland Past and Present**

**Facebook Group**

Sharing memories of Natland  
 from the past to present day

Find us on   
**Natland past and present**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/natlandpastandpresent](http://www.facebook.com/groups/natlandpastandpresent)

# 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*



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07967 774 825

## 'Walk & Talk'

Join us for a gentle walk. We meet at the post box on Natland Village Green at 10.30am. We will return by 11.50am. We walk in most weathers!

Tuesday 5th May

All are welcome



## ALTAR FLOWERS

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the church so beautiful for Easter. From the generous gifts of flowers and to those who arranged them. Thank you. It was wonderful to see the church so full of flowers.

There are still gaps on the altar flower rota between 3rd May and 28th June. Volunteers needed please.

Thank you. Jenny Kelly



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



# 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.



## 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.



For more Natland News visit:  
[www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk)  
Why not also visit <https://www.stmarkschurchnatland.co.uk/>

## 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](mailto:collin4mansfield@me.com)



## 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.



## CUMBRIA SUZUKI

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Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 6LU



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Website: [www.cumbria.suzuki.co.uk](http://www.cumbria.suzuki.co.uk)

## A prayer at Pentecost

The Spirit came  
and your Church was born,  
in wind and fire  
and words of power.

The Spirit came  
blowing fear aside,  
and in its place  
weak hearts were stronger.

The Spirit came  
as your word foretold,  
with dreams and signs,  
visions and wonders.

The Spirit came  
and is here today,  
to feed the hearts  
of a world that hungers.

from ([faithandworship.com](http://faithandworship.com))

**PRAYER  
PAGE**



## From the Registers

### Baptism

29th March Margot Grace Appleby

### Funerals

8th April Margaret Labbate



*"When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:4-6*

*'Nothing can separate us from the love of God'*

## ST. MARK'S CHURCH NATLAND & OXENHOLME

Services	Readers	Readings	Sidespeople
<u>3rd May (5th Sunday of Easter)</u> 10am Holy Communion	Martin Jayne Di Outwaite	Acts 7: 55-end John 14:1-14	Jenny Kelly Marion Studholme
<u>10th May (6th Sunday of Easter)</u> 10am Holy Communion 4pm Families@4	Graham Day Pam Noonan	Acts 17: 22-31 John: 14: 15-21	Elspeth Jayne Martin Jayne
<u>17th May (Sunday after Ascension)</u> 8am Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship	David Smethurst Dorothy Smethurst	Acts 1: 6-14 John: 17: 1-11	Gill Pilling Pam Noonan
<u>24th May (Pentecost)</u> 10am Holy Communion	John Chandler Margaret Myers	Acts 2: 1-21 John 20: 19-23	Di Outwaite Miggy Scott
<b>31st May Trinity</b>			
9.30 am Helm Mission Community Joint service , holy communion at Kendal Parish church			
<u>7th June 1st Sunday after Trinity</u> 10am Holy Communion	Nigel Mitchell Bill Wood	Psalms 33:1-12 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Penny Day Collin Mansfield
Every Thursday there is a said Holy Communion Service at 10am			