St Mark's Church, Shiremoor



The Lion's Share

Volume 2, Issue 7 - Harvest 2017

St Mark's Church, Shiremoor

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Saturday 4th November At 12 noon

Everyone is Welcome!



1967-2017 The Year of Jubilee

The Lion's Share Harvest 2017

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The Lion's Share is a parish magazine for the whole community.

To submit an article, to tell us about your community group or event, or to find out how to get some copies for your organisation,

email: tony.curtis@cantab.net

The Vicar's scribble...



It has been a very busy summer for a lot of the groups who meet at St Mark's, and you can read about some of the things people have been getting up to in this issue of the magazine.

As Autumn starts to arrive and make its presence felt, we are once again in a season of change. We have recently had to say farewell to much-loved friends of St Mark's, among them Keith Wade and

Margaret Vasey, and we have been reminded once again how fragile life can be by some of the events we have witnessed in the news over the summer.

We are also entering a period of great hope however, with the approach of our Golden Jubilee and the chance to rededicate our whole community to the work of the Kingdom of God at our Rededication Sunday morning event.

I am pleased to say that the church itself is looking and feeling very welcoming following all of the work we have been undertaking over the past year to make St Mark's more accessible and inclusive. To finish the job (at least for this year), a new microphone and speaker system will ensure that the church *sounds* just as welcoming as we look forward to the next 50 years.

All of the changes to our building are only part of the story though, and now the challenge is to all of us, the *people* of St Mark's and the wider parish, to make *ourselves* more welcoming, accessible and inclusive to all God's children, as we seek together to build on the foundations which God has laid over the past fifty years since the church's move to Brenkley Avenue.

Over that time, Shiremoor, West Allotment, Moorside and Murton have all seen rapid change, and have been joined by newer communities in what is now a very diverse parish. I hope that we too will reflect and rejoice in the wonderful diversity of God's people as we look to the future together and seek to proclaim the Gospel afresh for future generations.

Fr Tony

Inclusive Church



St Mark's is part of *Inclusive Church*, a group of churches and individuals who try to offer a 'radical welcome' to everyone:

We believe in Inclusive Church: Church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

You can find out more about Inclusive Church at inclusive-church.com

We hope and pray that you will find a welcome at St Mark's – if you don't already, why not come along and see for yourself?

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Smart K's at Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage

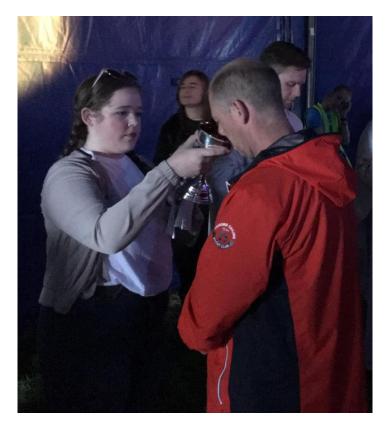


In August Smart K's set out as usual at early-o-clock on a Monday morning for their trip to the Annual Youth Pilgrimage, assisted again by Ian Allison from St Nicholas Gosforth, who drove the people carrier full

of pilgrims and was his usual helpful self throughout the week.

Kate was on chalice duty during mass this year, and all of our pilgrims enjoyed the range of worship services and trips despite the fact that it rained for most of the week, following which gale force winds blew part of the site away!

There was a good mix of worship, rest and relaxation, including a night-time visit to



the shrine for prayers and sprinkling of holy water, and our traditional trip to the seaside on Thursday afternoon, when for once the sun came out as we plunged into the North Sea.



This year's theme was "Who do you think you are?" exploring God's call to us, and Smart K's will be telling us more about it at our Walsingham Mass at 9.30am on Sunday 24th September (see p.23).

In the meantime a big thank you goes to Linda, Joanne and Alice along with Ian for working hard all week and keeping the young pilgrims fed, watered and sheltered. Now to plan for next year...



Brownies on safari!



During the holidays 1st Shiremoor (St Mark's) Brownies went on Safari at Knowsley Safari Park near Liverpool! Staying for the week at Woodbank Guiding House (actually on the Park grounds!) we could even hear the lions roaring as we cleared up after breakfast and had our campfire in the evening.

As well as enjoying the safari park itself, where we got to meet sea lions

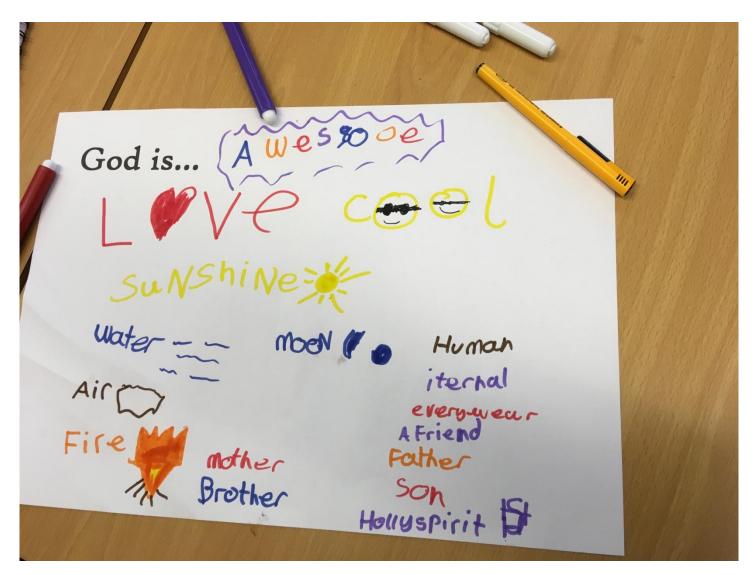
and birds of prey up close, had an interesting encounter with some baboons, and saw the big beasts in person, there was also a trip to Liverpool where everyone enjoyed the World Museum and the Liverpool Museum (there even was a karaoke booth!)



There was time for a lot of traditional crafts, games and activities too, and the Brownies completed an "On Safari" challenge badge during the week. We're already looking forward to our next trip...



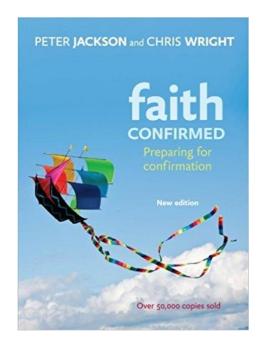
After-school church returns to Shiremoor Primary...



We're very happy to be restarting *After-school Church* at Shiremoor Primary School on Tuesday 19th September, with some old friends

returning and some new children joining us for a year of exploring God, faith, the universe and everything in our regular weekly act of worship at the end of the school day.

This year a number of our After-school Church children will also be thinking about Confirmation and the next steps in their Christian journey, so please pray for all the amazing young people at our local schools, and particularly for our Tuesday afternoon crew...



Join us for a morning of mission on Sunday 15th October

With our Jubilee celebrations fast approaching, Fr Tony, Fr Jim and Fr Richard have been looking at ways we can all get together as a church community to celebrate what St Mark's has been and is today, and to think about the future of our Church.

We will be meeting as usual at **9.30am on Sunday 15**th **October**, and will have some readings and hymns before breaking up into some groups to really get stuck into some discussion about the morning's readings, what we love (or don't!) about church, and the theme of Jubilee, after which we'll have a chance to take a short break.

Then we will gather back in Church for the rest of our Parish Eucharist service, where we will hear again the story of the last supper, and be formed into Christ's body around the Altar of the Lord.

After the service we hope everyone will stay to carry on the conversation and enjoy a bring-and-share lunch together.

This is our chance to reflect on 50 years of St Mark's, our church today, and the kind of community we want to be in the future as we help to build God's Kingdom together in this parish.

We'll be sending out personal invitations to everyone over the next few weeks, and I hope you can join us – if you are part of St Mark's, we'd really like you to be part of our morning of Jubilee mission too!

> St Mark's Church 1967-2017 The Year of Jubilee



Jubilee events and more in October...

As well as our Rededication Sunday, we are also looking forward to a series of events leading up to our Big Golden Jubilee Service on 4th November, and October will be jam-packed with activity at church.

On 1st October, we'll be having our "Come and See" service for Michaelmas (see p.22), and on Tuesday 3rd October it'll be our regular Coffee Bingo session in the Church Hall at 7pm.

The following **Sunday**, **8**th **October** we'll be celebrating our Parish **Harvest Festival** in the morning, led by the girls from 1st Shiremoor (St Mark's) Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. All of the gifts and produce we bring into St Mark's this year will be donated to the People's Kitchen to help those in need. Then at 6.30pm, we'll have our Harvest Supper and prize raffle in the Church Hall.

On **Saturday 14th October at 7pm** we are delighted to be welcoming the **Backworth Male Voice Choir** (see page 20) for some rousing musical entertainment ahead of our morning of mission and rededication on **Sunday 15th**.

Then on **Sunday 29**th **October**, we'll be celebrating All Saints in the morning with the Doves Sunday School group, before our **'Come and See'** in the afternoon where we'll be looking at one of my favourite saints **Ruth** as we take a slightly different look at Harvest-time.

All of this leads up to our celebration weekend when on **Saturday 4**th **November at 12 noon** we hold our Jubilee Service, followed on **Sunday 5**th **November** by our Jubilee Parish Mass. I hope you'll be able to join us this month as we celebrate 50 years of the 'new' St Mark's and look forward to the next half-century together...

R. J. RYLAND

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50 years on and Jesus still asks us to change!

When I was a student back in the 1960's I shared a room with someone who was very keen on the music and lyrics of Bob Dylan. To be honest I had never really taken any notice of his music, but Roy, my roommate played it regularly and like it or not I learnt some of the tunes and also the words. One particular favourite was "The times they are a changing."

It was written to reflect some of the mood of the 60's especially in America with the war in Vietnam very much influencing the politics of the time. But the title could have been written at any time for it reflects one of the truths of life and the resistance of each generation to the fact that things are changing: and I can hear many of us saying, "and not always for the better." The resistance is ever present and yet change is always inevitable.

I know personally in those fifty years since the 1960's I have physically changed considerably, as the photographs at home attest. But what about the 'essence' that is me, 'the treasure that is contained in the earthenware jar,' as St Paul put it in his second letter to the Corinthians. Have I allowed my essence to be influenced by the love that surrounds me, in my family, with my friends, within the family of the Church, and also with the love that God shares with me day by day?

I suspect that is why God came into the world as Jesus, because of our resistance to change. It is that permanent tension between the 'me' and 'us' in every situation, and all of us struggle with this tension on a daily basis. Most of the time the issues are of such little significance that we almost do not notice them but at other times when we think that our equilibrium may be disturbed we put up far greater resistance. Some of the time, the change is inevitable and yet even here great efforts are spent in resisting: just think of how much time effort and money is spent, especially in the western world, on anti-ageing products of one form or another.

As I reflect on the Gospels, I have to accept that Jesus was all about change and helping others to do the same.

He challenged the political status quo in his birth, for how many would have expected the saviour of the world to be born in such lowly circumstance. He reached out to the poor and hungry, the homeless, the sick, and those on the edge of society, and suggested that others might do the same. He used the imagery of servanthood to show that all of us can both change other people's lives as well as our own. I am left wondering sometimes whether Jesus ever used the word comfortable in the way that we use it today. It is a word that we now use to explain why it is that we do not want to be disturbed, we expect life to be comfortable, and the Gospel of Jesus is not about comfort.

Perhaps we have not always realised that the Christian Community is not about escape. It is about finding ways in which we can build up the spiritual strength of one another so that we can better live out our lives in the complex world in which we live.

So to answer the question I asked of myself, "have I allowed the essence that is me to change?" I think the answer must be yes, some of the time it has been influenced by love and some of the times by circumstance. Some of the times I have rejoiced from the very depth of my being and sometimes I have screamed at God that life is not fair. I suspect that often it has been in small ways, when others have just nudged my elbow or simply suggested a better way, sometimes I have fully understood the influence of God and other times his influence has been more subtle, using as he so often does other people to show us the way. But of course it is far from easy and if we are to help people to see in Jesus and his message something that can change lives then we must show them that we too are being changed day by day.

So next time we face a change, be it a new hymn that we do not like at first, or a neighbour who seems a bit strange or even something earth shattering, can we remember that God is always with us on the journey, his love is constant and strong, and he understands our every need?

Fr Jim

Keeping everyone safe at St Mark's

There is always a lot happening at St Mark's, and many of our activities, services and events include children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We have a programme of training for all staff and volunteers who work with vulnerable groups, which along with DBS checks, confidential declaration forms and safeguarding procedures, help us to make church as welcoming and safe as possible. If you have any concerns, or need anyone to talk to, our Parish Safeguarding team are here to help:



Joanne Barnfather Parish Safeguarding Officer







Fr Tony Curtis
Vicar of Shiremoor

Services at St Mark's

Sunday - 9.30am: Sung Eucharist with Junior Church

Our main service at St Mark's is our Parish Eucharist at 9.30am on Sunday. This service always includes Holy Communion, hymns, readings and a sermon or talk on the day's themes. On big festival days we sometimes have incense and a procession. Most Sundays there are Junior Church groups for children and young people aged 3-7, 8-11 and 12-17. Once per month the service is less formal, and is led by one of our groups of young people - everyone is always welcome!

Sunday - 6pm: Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel

This is a quieter service lasting around 20 minutes with readings and prayers.

Tuesday - 11.30am: Midweek Mass in the Lady Chapel

This is a short communion service with readings and a hymn, and is followed at 12 o'clock by the lunch club in the Church Hall.

Feast Days and Festivals

On special days in the Church year, such as Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and All Souls Day, there are often evening Eucharist services.

During Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas there are a number of seasonal services – you can find out more about what's coming up at St Mark's on page 23.

Baptisms (Christenings)

Baptisms normally take place on Sunday mornings at 11.15am, although people who come to St Mark's regularly often choose to have a baptism as part of the main Sung Eucharist at 9.30am.

If you'd like to arrange a baptism service for your child, or are interested in being baptised yourself, please come along to St Mark's on a Sunday morning or get in touch with Fr Tony to find out more (see page 26 for contact details).

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Guides growing once again



While our Rainbows and Brownies units fill up with new recruits as we head into a new school year, this September the Guides are again going from strength to strength, so much so that we've had to add an extra patrol this term!

Over the summer the unit got a chance to meet up and head down to South Shields by ferry, where we investigated "The Word" library and their fantastic Pirate exhibition, before heading down to the beach and the park for some more traditional summer fun (like ice-cream).

We're already planning ahead for a whole host of events and activities, including next year's pack holiday in May, and in the meantime you may be able to see (and hear) some of our Guides in action as part of a special choir for the Golden Jubilee in November...







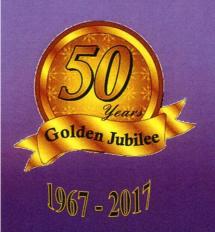


Backworth Male Voice Choir

in concert with soprano
Delia McNally

to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of

St Mark's Church
Shiremoor
Saturday 14th October
7.00 pm





Come and See in 2017!

Throughout 2017 at St Mark's we'll be telling the story of Jesus with words, songs, music, drama, pictures and video in a new way. Why not come and join us?

Sun 22nd January at 2pm - The Wise Men's Story
Sun 5th March at 2pm - Lent and the Wilderness
Sun 2nd April at 2pm - The Story of Easter*
Sun 30th April at 2pm - The Last Supper*
Sun 4th June at 2pm - The Church's Birthday
Sun 2nd July at 2pm - Doubting Thomas*
Sun 10th September at 2pm - All about Mary!
Sun 1st October at 2pm - I believe in Angels...*
Sunday 29th October at 2pm - Ruth at the Harvest
Sun 26th November at 2pm - Jesus the King!*

*At these services there will be Holy Communion on offer.

You are welcome to come just once, every time, or when you can. Questions, doubts and explorers welcome!



St Mark's Church, Shiremoor 1967-2017: The Year of Jubilee

> "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10.10

"Come and See" I believe in Angels! Sun 1st October at 2pm

Come and find out about Angels:

are they real?

what are they like?

what do they tell us?

songs, readings, video and a short

Eucharist (and then hot chocolate!)

St Mark's Church, Shiremoor Everyone is Welcome!

COMING UP AT ST MARK'S

Sun 17th Sept FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am: Sung Eucharist and Sunday Schools

11.15am: Holy Baptism

Sun 24th Sept 'WALSINGHAM MASS'

9.30am: Sung Eucharist with Smart K's

11.15am: Holy Baptism

Sun 1st October SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am: Parish Eucharist and Sunday Schools

11.15am: Holy Baptism

2pm: "Come and See – I believe in Angels!" followed by hot chocolate in the Church Hall

Tues 3rd October 7.00pm: Coffee Bingo in the Church Hall

Sun 8th October HARVEST FESTIVAL

9.30am: Sung Eucharist and Church Parade

6.30pm: Harvest Supper in the Church Hall

Sun 15th October EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am: Rededication Sunday (see page 11) followed by a bring-and-share lunch for all.

Sun 22nd October NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am: Parish Eucharist and Sunday Schools

11.15am: Holy Baptism

Everyone is Welcome at St Mark's!

Please note that at big festival services we may take photos or videos for our websites and magazine – please let us know if you don't wish your children to be included in any published photos.

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For your prayers:

Baptisms

Congratulations to those who have been baptised, especially

Cole Graeme Stevens
Emily-Michelle Hartley
Paige Gloria Hartley

"Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father!"

Weddings

Congratulations also to those who have been married at St Mark's:

Lindsay Edmondson & Steven Udberg

"May their marriage be life-giving and life-long!"

Funerals

Please pray for those who have died and their families, remembering all those who mourn, and especially those whose funerals have taken place:

Margaret Vasey Keith Wade Jack Iley

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory."

Handy Contact Details

The Parish of Shiremoor, Saint Mark

in the Diocese of Newcastle

Vicar: Fr Tony Curtis SCP Tel: (0191) 253 7020

St Mark's Vicarage, tony.curtis@cantab.net

Brenkley Avenue,

Shiremoor,

Newcastle upon Tyne,

NE27 OPP

Churchwarden: Mrs Nora Storey Tel: 07770 625 393

Safeguarding Officer: Miss Joanne Barnfather Tel: (0191) 280 7964

Parish Secretary: Mr Paul Robson Tel: (0191) 251 1162

Shiremoor Primary School Tel: (0191) 200 8701

Shiremoor Adventure Playground Tel: (0191) 643 8300

West Allotment Community Centre Tel: (0191) 218 9876

Bertram Grange Community Centre Tel: (0191) 252 3937

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To talk about christenings, getting married at St Mark's, or any problems you might want to discuss with the Vicar, get in touch with Fr Tony.

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St Mark's Church Shiremoor

Sunday Eucharist 9.30am Everyone Welcome!

Home of St Mark's Lunch Club, Smart K's and 1st Shiremoor (St Mark's) Girlguiding





We believe in Inclusive Church.

Everyone is welcome at St Mark's!