



## Across

- 1 Sung of Mary's pet? (10)
- 4 There are two in the Bible (10)
- 10 Matthew, Mark, and Luke are the \_\_\_\_ Gospels (8)
- 13 'A' before a vowel (2)
- 14 Book of wise sayings, put into the singular (8)
- 15 Also built a [12 down], but wasn't keen on babies (5)

## Down

- 2 The house of God, the \_\_\_\_ of Heaven (see Genesis 28:17) (4)
- 3 Said at end of prayer (4)
- 5 Before Peter? (5)
- 6 Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar (4)
- 7 Lots of doubters? (8)
- 8 Worn by President at Eucharist (8)
- 9 Abraham's son (5)
- 11 Ruth's mother-in-law (5)
- 12 Solomon built one, but David wasn't allowed to (6)

Answers in next month's issue.

## Editorial

Welcome to your revived church magazine! St. Mark's used to have a magazine called *Outlook* but production stopped some years ago. Several back numbers are in the archives. In fact, magazines in the parish have quite a long history; I came across one dated 1917, copies of which were apparently posted to servicemen. So, this is the latest in a long line! Each issue will feature a puzzle or quiz, articles by our clergy, notices, and a short editorial. Eventually, we hope to expand the magazine, and we'll be on the lookout for more content! We hope that you enjoy our little offerings.

*David M. Sargent*

## From Fr Simon

Dear all

Today (as I write) it is glorious sunshine. Tomorrow is forecast heavy rain, the day after that is forecast snow. So it seems with the world: one day we are celebrating Christmas, the next we are in lockdown; one day children are sent to school, the next they back at home; one day we are worshipping in church, the next we are live-streaming from the vicarage.

It's hard to settle into a routine with all these changes.

Faith is built around a routine: the cycle of the church seasons takes us through the year with Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance. The routine of the week keeps us grounded in God as we come to church on Sundays (when not in lockdown). Many of us have daily routines of prayer, reading and worship as well. Some people say the Lord's prayer every day in the morning or evening.

It's these routines that keep us grounded and confident in our faith when all else is changing. So cling to them and value them. Encourage each other to keep going.

*[continued on page 3]*

# For All the Saints

*by Mother Janet, Associate Priest*

Welcome to our new monthly series on the saints.

Over the next few months I am going to choose a saint whose day will be celebrated in that month. Some will be well known and others obscure. In the Church of England we do not canonise new saints but we do mark notable people by remembering them in the Lectionary so this series will include some of them as well.

As we are starting in February let's think about the one everybody knows: St Valentine.

The Roman Catholic church recognises at least three St Valentines and their stories seem to be fairly entangled so the stories which we have could be about more than one person.

Valentine was a priest (or in some versions a bishop) and legend says that he continued to carry on marrying people after the Emperor had forbidden it so he was martyred in Rome.

There are quite a few legends about him. Another one says that while he was in prison Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and sent her the first Valentine greeting a letter signed "From your Valentine," which, of course, is the way traditionally to sign the anonymous token of admiration.

The connection of St Valentine to romance really came in the Middle Ages. Geoffrey Chaucer (who wrote the Canterbury Tales) also wrote a poem called "Parliament of Fowles" which contained the line "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird comes there to choose his mate."

In this age of chivalry when courtly love was the custom, the idea of expressing secret admiration really became popular and of course remains so today.

The world celebrates love. Nothing wrong with that. John's epistle says "Beloved let us love one another for love is of God."

So this St Valentine's day let's celebrate love in all its forms and thank God for His love that keeps us safe and protected always.

## From Fr Simon [continued from page 1]

Sometimes our routines of prayer feel full and joyful, as if we are experiencing God almost tangibly. These are blessed moments. Enjoy them and revel in them.

Sometimes our routines of faith feel a chore and empty. It may feel as if you struggle to mean the words you are speaking. But at these times it is important to keep going, because in the future, when you look back, you will see that your prayers have carried you; the words of worship have swept you along and held you up. Faith needs stubborn discipline as well as spontaneity, and the Holy Spirit works through both.

If you don't have a daily routine of reading or prayer, maybe think about starting one during Lent which this year begins on Ash Wednesday on 17th February. A little something every day is better than a big intention that fizzles out.

These are hopeful times as well as frustrating. Vaccines are being administered having been developed at lightning speed. It seems the end of lockdown is in sight. In your prayers remember to give grateful thanks to God, and to pray for those who don't see a light at the end of the tunnel: those suffering depression, those in despair and darkness, those who suffer abuse, those who are enslaved by world economics.

And remember that whatever happens, whatever changes come our way, in life and in death, God is our steadfast hope and constant companion.

As the hymn puts it: Thou who changest not, abide with me.

God Bless

## Notices

During lockdown, Sunday services are live-streamed from the vicarage at 10am, followed by Zoom coffee (contact the vicar if you want help accessing these).

St Mark's Longwood is usually open for private prayer on Wednesdays 11am-12pm.

*If you can't access our broadcasts online, never fear; the BBC is here!*

Sunday ----Radio 4 "Sunday Worship" at 0810

Sunday ----BBC 1 "Songs of Praise " (timing variable)

Sunday ----Radio 3 "Choral Evensong" at 1500

Wednesday--Radio 3 "Choral Evensong" at 1530

We do not know yet when services in church will resume, but we will post updates on our websites and facebook pages, and we will do our best to let you know.