



St Mark's Church

LEAMINGTON SPA

Belonging... Believing... Becoming...
A community of believers, sharing God's love with the world

Sunday 19th January

10.00am Morning Worship

Romans 16: 1-4 & 17-20

Leader: Helen Toner

Preacher: Amanda di Giovanni

Order of Service:

Welcome, Song, Children
leave, Confession, Song,
Reading, Sermon, Songs,
Prayers, Song, Blessing

After the service, please join us for refreshments at the back of church.

www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchLSpa

6.30pm Christian Unity Service at St Paul's Church.

Leicester St (CV32 4TE).

No service at St Mark's.

Wednesday 22nd January

9.15-10.45am Toddlers in the Hall.

7.00-8.30pm Youth Group in the Upper Room

Thursday 23rd January

9.15-10.45am Toddlers in the Hall.

9.00-10.20am Church open for private prayer & café,

10.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm Leaders & Preachers Meeting in the Upper Room

Livestreaming Notice: Our 10am service on Sunday mornings is livestreamed on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/StMarksChurchLSpa/videos

If you have items to be included in the weekly notice sheet please email office@st-marks.net **by 10am Wednesday**. Keep in touch via www.st-marks.net or St Mark's Facebook Page. Contact the office to receive this notice sheet by email (or to stop receiving it). Our privacy policy can be found on the website.

Events and activities coming up

Romans Link <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-romans/>



Gathered Grace: Sunday 26th January 2025, 6.30pm. Please join us for this informal, charismatic, worship-led service. Rev Naomi Nixon will be speaking. All are welcome. Speak to Tim or Claire Lucas for more information.

Being With Course. Discovering Christian faith in a positive and inclusive group. No special knowledge or religious language needed, just what you have learned in life so far. See being-with.org for more information or contact vicar@st-marks.net Starting Thursday 30 January at 7:30 pm in the Community Centre (room tbc)

DIY Day. 1st February 10am-1pm. See insert for more information.

The next Men's Curry Night is Friday 7th February, 7.30pm. Further details to follow. Please let Andrew Lee 07512 411690 know if you would like to come.

Welcome Brunch. After the morning service on 9th February. Details to follow.

Churchwardens. Marcella and Charlie have announced that they will be stepping down as wardens next May (at the APCM). Please pray and consider whether this is a way you would like to serve St Mark's. Role description available from office.

Church Weekend Away. 20-22 June. Rooms have 4-5 beds, but we are not expecting one couple to share with another, and we have some scope for single room occupancy. The centre charge extra for this, but we are committed to our 'pay what you can' policy. Our current booking is for 24 rooms, we can book another block but this would be for 24 people and the centre cannot guarantee another group won't book it. Attending as a day visitor on the Saturday is also possible, please contact the office for cost. If you want to come, please book and pay a deposit as soon as possible and by **21st February** (new date).

***Church Office.** Until we appoint a new administrator the office may not be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you want access to the building on Tuesdays please ring ahead as there may not be anyone around, on Thursdays there are groups in, and the church is open for the café and service.

FIRs Lunch. We are reviewing the viability of FIRs lunch so if this is something that you can help with please contact the office. There is a great team of people who set up tables and welcome guests, but we are short of cooks and washer-uppers. FIRs is monthly, but as with most things, the more people involved, the less often each person has to help.

(SOS) Silence of Suicide. The charity, is setting up a mobile wellbeing hub outside the Council's Safe Space at South Lodge, Leamington for several days in January and February, where they will provide a warm and welcoming space for anyone who would like to stop by for a chat, learn more about what SOS does, or simply share what's on their mind. https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/news/article/1268/sos_silence_of_suicide_partners_with_warwick_district_council_to_support_community_mental_health



THE SANCTUARY & SERVICE PROJECT

REFURBISHING ST MARK'S FOR A NEW ERA

St Mark's was consecrated in July 1879, so we are approaching the 150th anniversary of worshippers gathering in our buildings. 2025 is the year we will start making some changes to the church and community centre so that our values of belonging, believing and becoming are more physically apparent to everyone who visits. The project will happen in phases, and some of the professional work to be done includes:

- ❖ The drains, gutters and downpipes will be repaired or renewed to prevent further water damage to the walls and interior.
- ❖ The south doors near Rugby Road will be improved with better wheelchair access, including electric doors and a new ramp. External lighting will be improved.
- ❖ The community centre will receive new signage and electric doors, a new flat roof in places, and repaired roofing in others. New windows will be installed in the hall and security will be improved.
- ❖ Lighting and sound will be improved in the church and community centre to ensure everyone can hear and see, and so that we are as eco-friendly as possible.
- ❖ Work to the exterior will be done to ensure the stability of the bricks, and the east window will be guarded against damage.
- ❖ And lots more...

St Mark's is a place to belong, and these changes will ensure that future generations of people can continue to find sanctuary within our walls and be served by our buildings.

February 2025 will be an indoor DIY month – we are looking for people who can take on small tasks that will make sure that we are ready for the big changes to come. There are loads of different tasks; from putting wheels on sofas to sweeping the clock chamber, so whether you're a beginner or an expert, you can help!

Come along to St Mark's on 1 February between 10am and 1pm or contact Marcella King (Marcella@st-marks.net) to choose your task. The idea is that your task might take longer than the time available on the day, but will be finished by the end of February.

Days off

Tim does not usually work Tuesdays. Ros does not work Saturdays. Amanda works Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Contact information

Tim vicar@st-marks.net phone 01926 421004 and follow the instructions.
Office The office is usually open Monday-Friday 9-1*. Staff meeting 11.30-12.30 Monday. Email office@st-marks.net or phone as above.

Please avoid office related questions on Sundays.

Ros ros@st-marks.net or phone as above.

Churchwardens wardens@st-marks.net

Safeguarding Officer Sue Turner safeguarding@st-marks.net

Children & young people's groups.

Sundays (except all age services and school summer holidays)

Climbers (Reception to Year 3). Explorers (Year 4-6). These meet together on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Pathfinders (Yr 7 and up)

Parents and carers are welcome to take children under 4 into the Committee Room at the front left of church, where there are toys and a screen to watch the service.

Wednesdays (term time). Youth group (Yr 7 and up)

Prayer

The wildfire situation in Los Angeles: the bereaved and injured, those who have lost homes, firefighters and the authorities working to cope.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah to hold and the ongoing relationship between them, for people as they return home.

Russia, Ukraine, and other countries in the midst of conflict.

Syria.

For all those at St Mark's who are finding life tough at the moment.

Dan and Phillipa Munday returning to Nepal for their final few months

The Church in Turkey www.givinghopetoturkey.org

Environment: Ongoing impact of climate change in many countries. Our response as individuals and as a nation. There are lots of ideas here <https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

Giving to St Mark's. We are very grateful to everyone who gives financially. Ideally, and particularly if you can gift aid your donation, please set up a regular direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. Go to www.parishgiving.org.uk and you can find St Mark's from the front page, and set it up online. Thank you. Alternatively, you can give on line, using this link <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/670e813c-9dbf-456a-b47e-c077c9a02904> or the one on the church website. <https://www.st-marks.net/more/giving> You will also find a link to a Gift Aid declaration form here.

If you are writing or updating your will, please consider leaving us a legacy.

Opportunities to ask for Prayer.

- After the morning service on Sundays (except all-age services) members of our trained prayer ministry team are available to pray with and for you.
- Put a note in the prayer box at the back of church. You can give as much or little information as you feel comfortable, and it can be anonymous. It will be passed to the prayer team.
- By emailing prayer@st-marks.net or contacting us via the website at <https://www.st-marks.net/contact>. Your message will be passed on to the team, and again you can give as much or as little information about the situation as you wish. Requests made in this way will not be anonymous as a name and email address are visible to us.

If you would like to be part of the prayer team please contact the office.

Small Groups at St Mark's. You can find out a bit about each group on the notice board at the back of church (opposite the kitchen door). Speak to Amanda di Giovanni for more information or email office@st-marks.net

Getting involved at St Mark's. If you would like to find out more about being part of the Welcome or Coffee Teams, leading intercessions, reading in church, joining the music groups, helping with children's or youth work, Chaplaincy Team at Leamington College, cleaning the church... Please contact the office and we will put you in touch with the relevant person.

Inclusive Church. St Mark's is part of this network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision. www.inclusive-church.org

Sight Loss Friendly Church. If you, or someone you know, are affected by sight loss please let the office know how we can help.

Eco Church. We have achieved our Silver award.



/StMarksLSpa



Rugby Road, Leamington Spa

CV32 6DL

01926 421 004 / www.st-marks.net

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