St Mark's Forest Gate



October 2019

50p

www.stmarksforestgate.org.uk.

Who's who in the Church

Vicar: Rev. Ben King

ben.king@stmarksforestgate.org.uk

Church Wardens Mike Richardson 07824 859075

Sharon Yates 07909 279100

churchwardens@stmarksforestgate.org.uk

Treasurer Peter Arnold Organist Elizabeth Palmer

Music Group Janet Bone Phil Ridaut

P.C.C. Members

Chairman Rev. Ben King Vice Chairman Ann Arnold

Treasurer Peter Arnold (Deanery Synod Representative DSR)

Secretary Jane Ridout

Mike Richardson Sharon Yates Helen Rigby

Barbara Lumsden Charlotte Mouzer Janet Bone (DSR) Miranda Vincent Jackie Randall Ellen Kemp (DSR)

Yvonne Tiley Dave Dale Michael Semuguraka

> The P.C.C. represents the members of the church; if there are any issues you want raised, do talk to them.

Contact information

Website www.stmarksforestgate.org.uk Admin info@stmarksforestgate.org.uk Youth Work vouth@stmarksforestgate.org.uk magazine@stmarksforestgate.org.uk Magazine Notices notices@stmarksforestgate.org.uk

Facebook: St. Mark's Forest Gate 🍏 Twitter: @stmarks e7



Magazine

All material for the magazine to be left in the church office or emailed to the email address above. Material for **November** needs to be given in by the end of the morning service on Sunday 13th October.



Thought for the Month

What about Halloween?

It's that time of year when the shops are full of pumpkins and youngsters are knocking on our doors to 'trick or treat'. How should Christians respond to Halloween? Is it simply a fun festival for the children or does it have a dark side that we should avoid?

Firstly, Christians should not respond to Halloween with superstition. The Bible reminds us that evil is a real force at work in our world, as 'the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour' (1 Peter 5 v 8). We shouldn't underestimate his ability to blind the minds of unbelievers to the reality of spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 4 v 4).

Secondly, we can respond with confidence. While people are often fearful of witches, ghosts, and evil spirits, we mustn't forget that God is in control, not Satan. Jesus has secured the victory over sin and evil on the cross: 'having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.' (Colossians 2 v 15).

Finally, we can also offer hope. 'Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.' (Romans 14 v 9). Halloween is an opportunity to share the hope of the gospel. For example, if we offer sweets to children calling to trick and treat, we might include information about the Christian faith or church. Or we could organise an alternative Light Party, celebrating Jesus as the light of the world.

C S Lewis provides a helpful balance for us: 'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall into about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.' (The Screwtape Letters).



Introducing Ben and Joo-Young King



As a curate in Carlisle Diocese I lived in the house near the daughter church, St Mark's. A plaque by the front door alerted passers-by and enquirers that this was church property: 'St Mark's House', it read.

Apparently in years gone by, one of my predecessors had had a knock at the door and having opened the door was promptly asked, 'Is St Mark in?'!

Friends, I can assure you that the new vicar moving into St Mark's Vicarage, Forest Gate, is no saint but *is* very much looking forward to being with you and to starting this new chapter of ministry.

Longer introductions will follow in due course, I'm sure, but I want to say from the outset that, after nine happy years in Chigwell, both Joo-Young and I feel very strongly that God has called us to move on and has clearly led us to be with you. We have undoubtedly seen God's hand at work from the day I first looked at the parish profile and after all the waiting, it's finally time to start!

I know you have had to be patient during this process. It's been a long interregnum and I appreciate the uncertainties you have had to face during that period. But I also know that you have been praying hard and trusting in the Lord to raise up the right person. Joo-Young and I are incredibly grateful to you for your prayers and for retaining your focus throughout the interregnum and we are greatly encouraged to be coming to a group of people who are clearly faithful and are expecting good things from the Lord.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating the beginning of this new ministry at the institution service on Monday, 7th October and to starting with you in earnest. However, you'll appreciate that it will take us a little time to settle and, with a baby on the way at the beginning of December, we'll also need to try and prepare ourselves for the unknown!

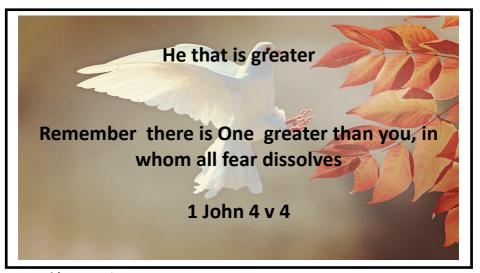
Please may I ask for your continued prayers and for a good deal of grace as we cope with all these changes, confident in the Lord's good purposes for us all.

Thank you.

We also promise to hold you in our prayers as we prepare to be part of our new church family and, as we seek God together about his future for us.

With rising hope and every blessing,

Ben



The Sermon

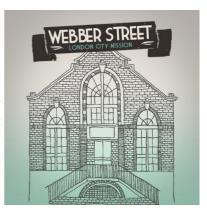
Sunday 15th September
Speaker Jean-Louis Kassis
Theme Matthew 25 v 35 – 36

We are all of us made in God's image regardless of who we are, we are wonderfully and perfectly made. At the Webber Street Day Centre where Jean-Louis works there are many needy people: the drug addicts, the homeless, the alcoholics and the sex workers—as many as a 100 a day, and they too are made in God's image. For many years the London City Mission has tried to help those in our City who need help.

The guests at the centre are humans that God created. God did not create them homeless and addicts, circumstances have done that to them, but He loves them and we need to help them as part of our love for God and to follow the teaching in Matthew, 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

They are offered showers, food and clothing, practical things, but most of all they are offered God's love. The practical things are love in action and are needful but all the guests also need someone to love them regardless of their circumstances. In offering them the love of God we are providing unconditional love.

We need to pray with an expectation that God can use us, that when he says go you can say send me. That their needs can be met, that we who have so much can provide for them whether it is a clean pair of socks and underwear, or a toothbrush or a hot meal. We can help fund the Webber Street Day Centre so that they have somewhere to go. As part of our Harvest offering we care collecting items that are needed: tinned food and appropriate clothing that we will pass onto the LCM. Most of all we should pray for them, their work and their guests.



Please note: this is a summary of the podcast, if you would like to listen for yourself just log in to https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/sermons

Induction and Institution Service

Induction and Institution for Rev. Ben King



Rev. Ben King will officially start as our new minister on Monday 7th October at 7:30 pm with a service of Induction and Institution led by Bishop of Barking. If you intend to come, please sign up in the church foyer so we can provide sufficient chairs and refreshments.

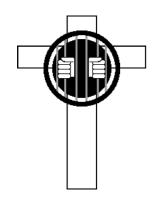
The first service Ben will lead will be on the following Sunday, 13th October, at 10:30 am. Following this there will be a bring and share lunch, so everyone will have a chance to get to know Ben and Joo-Young.



Jumble trail

Thanks to everyone who helped with the jumble trail. As well as raising £187 for the church, this increased our profile locally as people came in for refreshments, to use the toilets, and to have a look around.

The Persecuted Church



My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12 v 9

China - Return to Zero Initiative

The clampdown on religion in China seems to be accelerating rather than abating. Reports have emerged of a government initiative against the family, underground, church called 'Return to Zero', which sources have told persecution.org aims to 'dismantle the organisations and dismiss the church'.

The campaign is supervised by the Central Leading Group for Inspection Work and expects to expand over the whole country over the next two years.

Already there is evidence that the family church is retreating underground, any congregants caught in church raids have been sent back to their home villages and have had identification cards confiscated eliminating their ability to travel. The few Communist Party members caught attending

church have lost their jobs or resigned. Across the country students are under pressure to deny their faith or fail their course. The authorities have been offering rewards to those who report illegal Christian gatherings, and sharing the gospel has increasingly been restricted.

Ominous as it all sounds, the response from Christians to the increased persecution in China is not what you would expect. One young Christian pointed out, 'when it is more difficult its more of a challenge, believe in God, only He can build His church'. She pointed out that Christians are not the only ones facing oppression. As persecution hits other religious communities it has, in some places, actually become safer to share the gospel. People think twice about reporting a family member who has decided follow Christ as it would only draw attention to them and their own beliefs, something which all persecuted faiths are trying to avoid.

The Return to Zero campaign apparently aims to eliminate Christianity from the public sphere. Historically this has not been the most effective strategy, as those who have upheld their faith despite the harsh repercussions have raised questions amongst their friends.

Prayer and Action

'What is so important that they would give away an education or a career?' Those that are suffering in prison still have purpose, in the darkest hour a light will most brightly. When the church is stripped to zero it is at its strongest.'

Praise God that his ways are higher than our ways. Ask that He would be with those who are suffering under to the Return to Zero campaign.

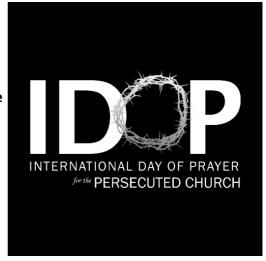
Source: Chinese Church Support Ministries

Diary Date



Release Women National Conference
Rejoice in Hope
St Michael's Church, Chester Square
London SW1 9EF
12th October 2019 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
£10 Admission

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Sunday 17th November



Church Funding

All things come from You, and of Your own do we ... not give back much!

Jesus taught a great deal about money and its dangers. Most of His parables concerned money in one form or another. He used the word 'Mammon' to describe a false financial god, saying "You can't serve God and Mammon."

So, a right attitude to money is essential for Christians.

Until we are released from the straitjacket of putting money before God, that blocked soul-artery will impede our way to God. Once we are liberated from the control money has over us, we can be lavish in our giving — with a sense of exuberance. St Paul puts it like this: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

St Paul spent ten years raising funds for the impoverished Church in Jerusalem where there was a serious famine. The little and very poor Church in Macedonia gave way beyond their comfort zone. The relatively wealthy Church in Corinth gave little by comparison. Paul contrasts them. Miserable Corinthians; joyful Macedonians.

Giving is fun.

Christian giving becomes something that we share privately with Jesus. In Matthew Jesus taught that when we give, we should not let even our left hand know what our right hand is doing. God is generous to us, so when we are generous, we share a secret with Him. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."

So - giving money away makes you happy!

Giving to God is giving back what He has already given to us. It's not the quantity, it's the percentage of what we have. A right attitude to money is vital for Christians.

31st October - All Hallows Eve

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark



side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Church of England News

Part of the Bishops' Open Letter on Brexit

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conditionally agreed to chair a Citizens Forum in Coventry and, without prejudice for any particular outcome, we support this move to have all voices in the current Brexit debate heard. However, we also have particular concerns about the potential cost of a No Deal Brexit to those least resilient to economic shocks.

As bishops with pastoral responsibilities in communities across urban and rural England, we respond to the call by Jesus to tell the truth and defend the poor. We also recognise that our obligations go beyond England and impact on relations with the wider UK and our neighbours in the EU.

It is unlikely, however, that leaving without an agreement, regardless of consequences, will lead to reconciliation or peace in a fractured country. "Getting Brexit done" will not happen on exit day, and we have to be transparent about the years of work ahead of us in bringing the country together for a better future. We also need to be frank about the potential costs.

Our main social and political priority must be to leave well, paying particular attention to the impact of political decisions on those most vulnerable.

We hold different views about Brexit and how our country should proceed from here. However, although we agree that respecting a public vote is essential, democracy and committed debate do not end after the counting of votes. Our concern for the common good leads us to express concern about a number of matters. Our conviction is that good governance can only ever be based on the confidence of the governed, and that includes minorities whose voice is not as loud as others.



Word for Today

Overcoming stress

'He appointed twelve... That he might send them out.'

Mark 3 v 14

Don't try to do it all yourself. One of the reasons we get stressed out is because we think that everything depends on us. Not Jesus. He enlisted, trained, and empowered twelve others so they could share the load. He delegated His work. He got other people involved. So why don't we do that? Two reasons:

- 1) Perfectionism. We think, 'If I want a job well done, I'll do it myself.' That's a nice idea, but often it doesn't work well because there are just too many things to be done. We simply don't have the time and talent to do everything ourselves. It's really an egotistical attitude that says, 'Nobody, but nobody, can do it the way I can!' Do you think Jesus could've done a better job than His disciples? Of course, but even knowing that, He still let them do the work. Why? Because we need to let other people make some of the mistakes in order for them to learn, the same way the disciples learned. Don't rob others of an education.
- 2) Insecurity. 'What if I turn this responsibility over to someone else and they do a better job than I do?' That possibility is threatening to many of us. But you won't feel threatened if you know who you are, who you're trying to please, what you want to accomplish, and the one thing you need to focus on. In order to be effective you must get other people involved, because you can't focus on more than one thing at a time and do it well.

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Can we help you?

People to pray with you

If you would like someone to pray with you, people will be available to pray with you after the Sunday morning service in the church prayer corner, which is just inside the door to the church. Prayer will be private and confidential. You do not need to attend the service.

Individual Prayer Requests

If you would like prayer for yourself or others, please put a prayer request on the notice board in the prayer corner in the church, and we will pray for you. As all these needs are known to God you do not need to provide names, but only the situation you want us to pray for.

Pastoral Care

We would like to provide pastoral care to the church and wider community through our ministers and the church leadership team. If you need help and support please contact the church wardens or our minister Rev Ben King

Rev Ben King ben.king@stmarksforestgate.org.uk

Church Wardens Mike Richardson 07824 859075

Sharon Yates 07909 279100

church wardens@stmarks for est gate.org.uk



Intercession: For our church leadership

Father we pray for those who are in positions of authority in our church.

For those who are the local leadership, the PCC, the church wardens and our ministers. For those who lead the deanery, the Archdeacon, Area Dean and Deanery Synod. For the Bishop of Barking and the Bishop of Chelmsford with regard to their care for all within the see.

We also pray for the overall leadership of the Church of England, for the Archbishops, and for those who provide the administration and responsibility of the church's role in this country.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Wednesday Prayer

Every Wednesday there is an early morning prayer session held in the church at 7:30 am, where we meet to pray for the life of the church. And on Wednesday evenings there is a ses-

sion at 7:00 pm with a focus the life of the church

Our Parish Streets:

Week beginning

6th October Pray for all who live in Tylney Road

13th October Pray for all who live in Woodford Road

20th October Pray for all who live in Woodgrange Road

27th October Pray for all who live in Capel Point

St. Mark's Diary

Sunday Services

Sunday 6th	8:00 am	Prayer and Breakfast
	10:30 am	Worship Service Followed by short Holy Communion
		No evening service
Monday 7th	7:30 pm	Institution and Induction of Rev Ben King
Sunday 13th	8:00 am	Prayer and Breakfast
	10:30 am	All Age Holy Communion Rev Ben King
	6:30 pm	Evening Service with Prayer for the Persecuted Church
Sunday 20th	8:00 am	Prayer and Breakfast
	10:30 am	All Age Service
	6:30 pm	Sharon Yates and Charlotte Mouzer Holy Communion Rev Ben King
Sunday 27th	8:00 am	Prayer and Breakfast
	10:30 am	Holy Communion Rev Ben King
	4:30pm	Praise Tea and Prayer Walk Sharon Yates

For Young People during Sunday Morning Services In September:

Crèche area for Babies 0 - 3 years Scramblers for 3 - 5 years Meeting Room Sunday Club for 5 - 11 years Hall Youth Group for 11 - 16 years Lounge

What's On

Wed	2nd	7:30 am	Prayer Meeting (every Wednesday)
Wed	2nd	12 noon	Bible Study (every Wednesday)
Wed	2nd	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting (every Wednesday)
Fri	4th	1:30 pm	Nifty-Fifties City Churches
Mon	7th	7:30 am	Institution and Induction
Fri	11th	1:30 pm	Nifty-Fifties—Quiz
Sun	13th	12:30 pm	Bring and Share Lunch
Fri	18th	1:30 pm	Nifty-Fifties - Spelling B
Sat	26th	2:00 pm	Jumble Sale

Every Wednesday in the church

7:30 am Prayer Meeting; 12 noon Bible Study; 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting



Care and Concern



Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning Friday 27th September 10:00 am



This is instead of the October coffee morning, and we will be joining the world's biggest coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The September coffee morning raised £110, and the November coffee morning will be on 1st November raising funds for Canine Partners.

All coffee mornings are held in the church hall at 10:00 am.



Newham Churches Food Bank



St Mark's is contributing, on a regular basis, to the Churches Food Bank in Newham. Each month we will be asked to buy particular items when shopping and bring them in to St Mark's.

For the month of October we are collecting sanitary protection and toilet rolls (4 packs). Please place items in the Food Bank box, outside the office at church.

Thank you

Jumble Sale

Recycle

Reuse

Fund raise for St Marks

Socialise

Saturday 26th October 2:00 pm



We are happy to take most things if you would like to drop them around at the church whenever it is open in the week prior (Monday 21st October onwards, but please do not leave things outside).

Help would be appreciated on the Friday afternoon after 4:00 pm and evening after 8:00 pm, and again on Saturday morning after 10:00 am to put things out, and on Saturday afternoon to sell, buy and to come and talk to our many visitors.

Any questions—please speak to Elizabeth Palmer or Ann Arnold



Fairly traded handicrafts and foodstuffs stalls on the third Sunday in the month in the Church Hall 11:30 am - 12:00 noon

Shoe Box Appeal 2019

Please note a few changes.

St Mark's is taking part in the *Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal*, which delivers boxes to Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine in time for Christmas.

There are two types of shoeboxes you can make up - The Family Shoebox and the Elderly Shoebox - although only one leaflet (leaflets available at St Mark's, from Julie or you can download it from the St Mark's website)

The Shoebox contents are similar and this year they have asked that each box should contain —

gloves/hat, sweets/chocolate (BB June 2020), soap and flannel, toothbrush/toothpaste, candles and holder, small games (travel size dominoes etc, playing cards)

Then please add at least five more items - see opposite for suggestions.

Please do not add medicines, food, coffee/tea or out-of-date items or literature. These are banned by Customs.

Then please wrap your box in Christmas paper and attach a leaflet to it, making it clear which appeal you are supporting. Fill in the Gift Aid form if you are a UK tax-payer. Finally, please **add £3 to each box** which pays for the transport of the box.

The complete shoeboxes must be at St Mark's by midday Sunday 27th October.

If you don't feel you can afford to produce a whole box please consider making a financial donation, via us, which will help with all the costs of getting lorries and people out to distribute the boxes.

Thank you for your support!
Julie Thomson (020 8534 7516) and Ann Arnold (020 8519 5765)



FAMILY - Ideas for filling your shoebox

Colouring pads (A5), crayons, pencils with

rubber and sharpener

Small toys (yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)

Soft toy/teddy

Tape measure/DIY tool

Headscarf (lightweight)

Shampoo (max 300ml)

Solar powered calculator

Safety razors



ELDERLY - Ideas for filling your shoebox

Contents must be suitable for both sexes i.e. gender neutral as much as possible

Reading glasses/magnifier

Mug/wooden spoon/cutlery

Sensory item (eg. lavender bag)

Hot water bottle

Work gloves

Pen/paper

Socks/tights

Wind up radio/torch

Shampoo (max 300ml) scissors/nail clippers

Safety razors



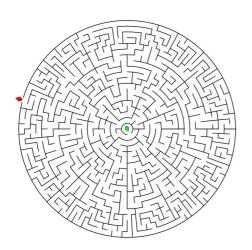


Puzzle Page

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The treasurer made the most of his moment in the limelight



London for Free



Museum of London Docklands

Open daily 10:00 am to 4:00 pm until the 27th October

Secret Rivers uses archaeological artefacts, art, photography and film to reveal stories of life by London's rivers, streams, and brooks, exploring why many of them were lost over time. Historic and contemporary artworks from artists, poets and authors also show how London's rivers have played an important role in the city's imaginations. Previously unseen artefacts from excavations of the River Fleet and elsewhere hint at the diverse industrial, economic and religious roles these rivers have played over the centuries.

The intriguing histories of the Rivers Effra, Fleet, Neckinger, Lea, Wandle, Tyburn, Walbrook and Westbourne all feature in the exhibition. Each river highlights a broader theme such as poverty, industry, development, effluence, manipulation, activism, sacred association and restoration.

The museum is a short walk from West India Dock DLR station. There is a café at the museum and it is not far from the Canary Wharf shopping centre.



In August we said our goodbyes to Dan as he moved on to study Sound Engineering. We are grateful to him for his contribution to the lives of the children and young people of this parish and wish him every success with this new venture.

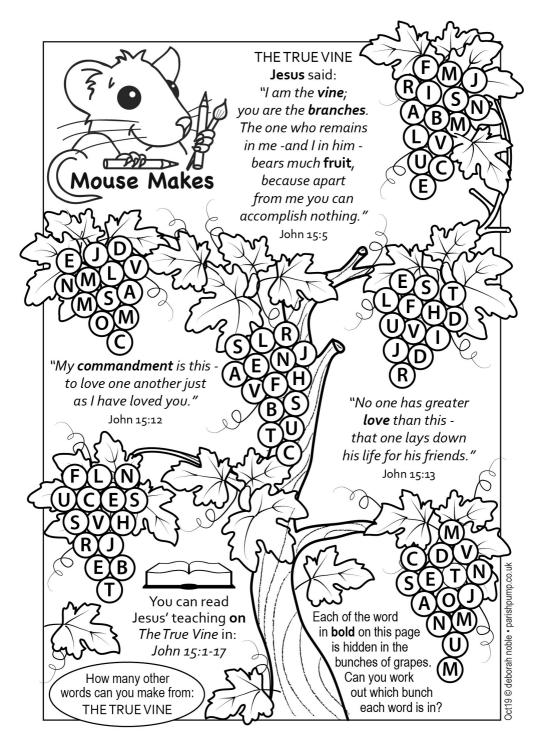
Whilst the church leadership decided to wait before appointing another Youth Worker, we are nonetheless committed to providing the best possible provision for our children and youth in this interim period utilising a team of volunteers from within the church family.

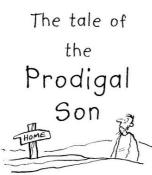
To date we are in a position to provide the following and will provide further information next month -

Sundays 10.30am - Youth zone
Years 6+ A time of fellowship, hot chocolate and Bible study
Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.00pm - Youth Bible Study
Years 7+ - An hour of Bible study with games, videos, prayer and refreshments.

If you would like any further information please contact Sharon on 07909 279100









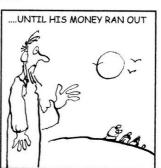






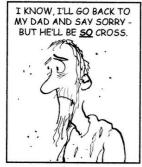






HIS DAD









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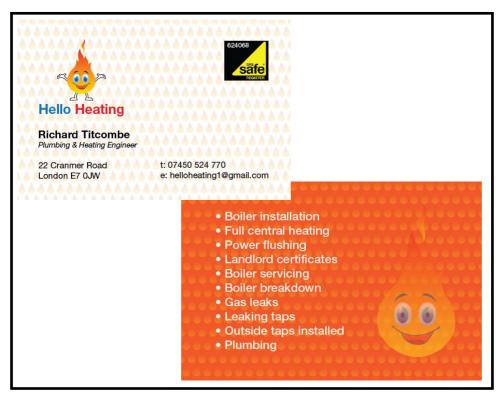
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St. Mark's Weekday Activities

St. Mark's is not just a Sunday church - why not try some of the other activities? For further details contact the Wardens Team or simply come along.

Monday	10:00 am	Banner Group
	6:00 pm	Brownies
	7:30 pm	Guides
	7:30 pm	Home Group: Cranmer Road
Tuesday	10:00 am	Parent and Toddler Club
	7:00 pm	Youth Bible Study: school years 7 - 11
	8:00 pm	Tuesday Fellowship
	8:00 pm	Music Group
Wednesday	7:30 am	Prayer Meeting
	10:00 am	Parent and Toddler Club
	12:00 noon	Lunchtime Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
	8:00 pm	St Mark's Players Group
Thursday	1:30 pm	Parent and Toddler Club
	8:00 pm	Home Group: Ridley Road
	8:00 pm	Home Group: Godwin Road
	8:00pm	Home Group: Lorne Road
Friday	10:00 am	Coffee Morning (monthly)
	1:30 pm	Nifty Fifties
Sunday	10:30 am	Crèche 0 - 3 years
	10:30 am	Scramblers 3 - 5 years
	10:30 am	Sunday Club 5 - 11 years
	10:30 am	Youth Group 11 - 16 years

Weekday Home Groups
Want more information? Contact the Wardens Team

St Mark's Forest Gate

St. Mark's Forest Gate

Church Centre: Lorne Road, London E7 OLJ

www.stmarks for est gate.org.uk

Vicar:

ben.king@stmarksforestgate.org.uk Email:

info@stmarksforestgate.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1132240



St. Mark's is a local Church of England Church. The Vicar will be pleased to help make arrangements for baptisms, weddings and other matters.

If this is the first time you have seen the magazine and you would like to receive it regularly, then phone or drop a note into the church and we will do the rest.









www.stmarksforestgate.org.uk