

Marksmen

A Paper of St. Mark's Church, Westmoreland Road, Bromley



Saints



March, April, May 2020

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Editorial: parish news

Exciting times for St Mark's Bromley in recent weeks. Not only the joys of Christmas and New Year celebrations, but also some very special events that rarely feature in our calendar. We have a new Vicar, and you can read about her in this edition of Marksman.

In December, we were delighted to welcome as vicar Revd Canon Victoria Pask. The choir were on top form, and the parish gathered en masse for the traditional Induction and Installation. Rochester Bishops, Archdeacons and local clergy led the formal affirmations, and we were joined by visitors from other churches, civic representatives, friends and neighbours. We pray we will see them often in future, as we aim to be a wide and inclusive church where all will find a genuine welcome, and where strangers become friends.

Meanwhile, we are in transition mode, as responsibilities are transferred from the interim arrangements into the Vicar's care. We pray that as the glamour of the great festival services wears off, Canon Pask will find her new ministry richly fulfilling.

Marksman is a team effort, and we are looking forward to the energy and purpose that a new editor (our Vicar) will bring. For the time being, we are sticking with the current format, until things have settled down, always aiming to build creative

relationships with authors, readers and advertisers. We begin our planning meetings with prayer, and prayer really helps focus our thoughts on what God is trying to say through us. And then we try and use his inspiration to come up with varied, readable articles to produce a magazine that has something for everyone. Please let us know if it works for you.

This edition takes a look at 'Saints'. This seems to be a term of the church rather than Jesus, who had 'disciples' and 'followers'. So not surprisingly, we needn't be too afraid of a sideways look at what we mean. Here you will find lives that are traditionally labelled saintly, but also thoughts about what modern saints might look like. Perhaps you don't need to be dead? And how do we take inspiration from the work of those around us, and the creative force unleashed by art and music?

With Jesus beside us, everything is possible, and we are made in the image of God. So God's challenge is to allow ourselves to revel in the freedom that faith gives us, to do the very best we can with what we've got. As we pray every Sunday 'send us out in the power of your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory'.

Christina Parry
Acting Editor

Saints of the UK: *Find snippets about our patron saints throughout Marksman*

Dewi Sant - Saint David

Patron Saint of Wales, celebrated 1 March



David lived in the sixth century. His father was Sant and his mother Non. He was taught by a blind monk, Paulinus. Dewi went about the country preaching the Gospel and establishing churches. He led a strict monastic life and was known as 'Dewi Ddyfrwr', because he drank only water. Legend has it that when preaching at Llanddewibrefi in Cardiganshire, the ground rose lifting him higher, so all could see and hear him clearly.

He died at St Davids and his bones are preserved in a casket at St Davids Cathedral. Thousands of people visit this quiet sanctuary in south Pembrokeshire every year.

Tegwen Ranwell

The New Vicar

Reverend Canon Victoria Pask

We are pleased to welcome The Reverend Canon Victoria Pask as Vicar of St Mark's. Canon Pask was formerly a priest in Salisbury diocese before moving to Exeter as Precentor of the Cathedral. She was most recently working as priest and teacher in Camden. Before ordination Victoria Pask was variously a software consultant, a maths teacher, and Head of Department at a Weymouth comprehensive school. She writes:

When I heard there was a vacancy for Vicar, I hopped on the train from Victoria to Bromley South to have a look. Taking the route through St Mark's Square I sensed the buzz of community. Then St Mark's itself in all its splendour: how good to find the church open during the day!

I am a 'towny' and was immediately drawn to Bromley with the High Street, coffee shops, cinemas and much more. Transport links into London, across the country and abroad are a bonus!

Having moved with my husband Conrad to the Vicarage in December, I was Instituted as Vicar by the Bishop of Rochester in time for the Christmas services. What joy! We have been made very welcome. Thank you.

If this magazine arrived through your door, then you are living in the Church of England parish of St Mark. My passion as a parish priest is to make known that the Parish

Church exists for all; whether you attend it or not; whatever faith or none. There are moments in life – the good times and the bad - when we need a quiet space, a sacred space, maybe a rite of passage.

There is of course regular worship at church: Sunday by Sunday centred on the Eucharist, the heart of the Christian faith. My calling to be a priest came from a love of the choral tradition and the ceremony, giving a sense of the sublime, that which is beyond our understanding. St Mark's has a fabulous choir, and music epitomising the 'beauty of holiness'. I highly recommend Choral Evensong services, usually on the fourth Sunday of each month, and the special services coming up around Easter.

It is a privilege to be here - do say hello if you recognise me around town!

Canon Victoria Pask

Vicar

Paul Gladman

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Sing In Your Hearts!

Saint Cecilia is the Patron Saint of music, and particularly significant for St. Mark's, with its long history of music as an important part of worship. Saint Cecilia is celebrated by the Catholic and Orthodox churches as well as the Anglican Communion.

While many details of St Cecilia's life are fictional, her existence and martyrdom are historical fact. She was a noble lady of Rome forced by her parents to marry a pagan nobleman named Valerian. As the musicians played at her wedding she 'sang in her heart to the Lord'. Cecilia told Valerian that the angel of the Lord watching over her would punish him if he violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity. Valerian asked to see the angel. Cecilia told him to go and be baptised. Following



Saints Cecilia, Valerian, and Tiburtius
by Botticini

Cecilia's advice, Valerian saw the angel beside her, crowning her with a chaplet of roses and lilies. Cecilia is said to have suffered martyrdom by being beheaded with a sword.

Because she 'sang in her heart to the Lord' she became the Patron Saint of Music and an early Church of St. Cecilia was founded in Rome in the Third century.

Since the fourth century St. Cecilia's feast day on 22 November has become an occasion for concerts and festivals featuring music dedicated to her. St. Mark's choir and congregation still do their best to follow her example, by singing in their hearts to the Lord.

Chris Dadson



Saint Patrick

Patron Saint of Ireland, celebrated 17 March
Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Early medieval tradition records him as the first bishop of Armagh and the founder of Christianity in Ireland. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as Ireland's patron saint.

Marksman

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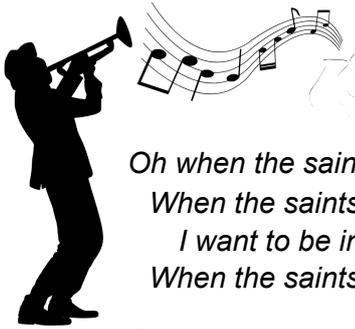
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When the Saints go marching in...



*Oh when the saints go marching in
When the saints go marching in
I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in*

Surely everyone knows the words, and is now humming the tune, or maybe one of its many variations.

For sports fans, the song has more significance. In football, 'The Saints' are Southampton FC. The club was named originally after the local church, so no prizes for knowing the chant that goes with the name. In Rugby League, same goes for St Helens. For the non-sporting, it can come as a surprise to learn When the Saints Go Marching In is used by many teams in various sports. It may be the team's theme song, or reserved for when they score. It may be used with the standard lyrics, specialised lyrics, or no lyrics at all. The 'Saints' of Southampton FC use the words of the original, but other teams change the words to their individual clubs or town name. So Spurs fans sing 'When the Spurs, go marching in...'

When sung by a crowd, it's often started at very slow tempo, around 70 beats per minute. The next verse is then dramatically speeded up to somewhere around 140 beats per minute. It is peculiarly hypnotic and exciting as the tempo builds - try watching a YouTube clip.

Beyond sport, if you think about the words, much of the imagery comes from what the Bible says in the Book of Revelation. The verses about the Sun and Moon refer to solar and lunar eclipses. The trumpet (of the Archangel Gabriel) is the way in which the Last Judgment is announced. And the hymn expresses the wish to go to Heaven, picturing the saints marching in (through the Pearly Gates). Many football and rugby fans would love to enter with a team win behind them.

Christina Parry



Saint Andrew

Patron Saint of Scotland,
Celebrated 30 November
The gospels say Andrew was present on important occasions, as one of the disciples more closely attached to Jesus.

In Scotland, feasts were held in his honour as far back as 1000 AD.

Marksman

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Saint Mark - patron saint of Marksman & our church

Mark, also known as John Mark, a Jew and native of Jerusalem, was the traditional author of the Second Gospel.

His mother, Mary, not to be confused with Mary the mother of Jesus, was a widow. She was a woman of wealth and position and her house was used as a meeting place for persecuted Christians. The young man referred to in Mark 13:51, who fled naked after Jesus' arrest, is almost certainly Mark. Presumably he was not named for safety's sake in such dangerous times. Mark's is the first acknowledged Gospel, written about 70 A.D. and gives us a picture of the everyday Jesus, a simple framework of his life, baptism, miracles, preaching and finally death and resurrection.

Mark joined the other disciples on missionary journeys with his uncle, Barnabas, but left them when they sailed for Asia Minor to return to his mother in



Jerusalem. Paul thought him unreliable and refused to take him on the next mission. However they must have been reconciled as he is later found with Paul, who was imprisoned in Rome.

Many centuries later his remains were removed from Asia Minor to St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. The winged lion has become Mark's symbol, and several sculptures can be seen

above the ornate doorway, and above the Campanile with one paw raised. This symbol portrays Mark so well. He was young, bold and brave, preaching the Gospel in a time of vicious persecution.

Our own church here in Bromley South is dedicated to St Mark, celebrated on April 25. It is comparatively modern, built and consecrated in 1898, and restored after damage in the Second World War. Recently the outer brick wall and iron railings were removed and the gardens re-landscaped. A circular seat round the central tree makes an inviting place to sit. Behind the church is a Garden of Remembrance, symbolically planted with plants featured in the bible. A quiet retreat from a busy world, open & welcoming to all.

Sheila Webb

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Saints in Paintings and Art

For those of us living in the London area, we are immensely fortunate in having so very many beautiful churches and cathedrals in our midst. Not only these, but we also have a number of world-renowned art galleries and museums.



Many of the paintings in the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square are of Christian subjects, including saints and scenes from their lives. The subjects are puzzling to those who are not familiar with the Bible or Christianity. But for others, the saints are easily recognisable, as are the events shown.

We can learn to identify the ways artists have of representing saints from particular symbols, known as attributes. Many attributes are reminders of how a saint was martyred, while others recall important actions or events from their life. Each saint has a story and a reason - why they led an exemplary life. Attributes, which are often carried in the hand by the saint, were particularly used to help the illiterate recognise a scene and to give each of the saints something of a personality in art.

Here is a short list of attributes to bear in mind when looking at paintings, commencing with the four evangelists:-

- Matthew - man or angel
- Mark - winged lion
- Luke - bull
- John - eagle
- Mary, Mother of Jesus - is often portrayed wearing blue
- Mary Magdalene - is usually shown in red often with a pot of ointment close by

George - is portrayed as a soldier or knight in armour often on a white horse with a dragon

Andrew - the Saltire

David of Wales - a dove

David of Scotland - a King with sword or sceptre

Patrick - a cross, harp, serpent, baptismal font, demons, shamrock

Marian Smith



Saint George

Patron Saint of England, - 23 April
 St George is the patron saint of several countries. Legend said he slew a dragon, but little is known about his life. He was apparently a Roman soldier, born in what is now Turkey. He was beheaded for being a Christian in 303AD. While it's highly unlikely that St George came to England, his reputation for virtue and holiness spread across Europe.

Sue Duke

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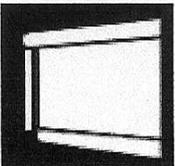
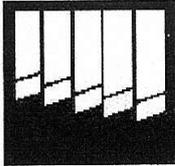
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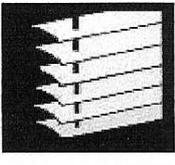
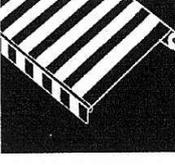
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Who is a saint? not necessarily the long dead and forgotten

All Saints is the great festival when we're reminded that the saints are not just a selected few singled out for recognition, but that great company sometimes known as "the holy common people of God". Lives marked by integrity and concern for others. Saints are celebrated for their faithfulness, persistence, and compassion. Sometimes we find them awkward when they remind us of our own shortcomings and failures to 'get our own act together'.

The apostle Paul reminds Christians they are 'called to be saints'. Sometimes he even addresses his letters 'to the saints' of a particular place. And he encourages them to 'become what you are'. He knew, as all good leaders know, how difficult life can be – how we all struggle to practise trust, hope, and love; wisdom, courage, restraint and justice.

Several books of the Old Testament were written in times of crisis, when people often believed they were living in the end-times. Paul and the early Christians also believed



they were 'at the end of this age', and urged one another to prepare for it. They were not overly concerned about changing or abolishing unjust institutions and practices, but about transforming relationships within them.

When Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is at hand', he taught that his kingdom will be realised in the changed behaviour of people here and now.

We, too, live in apocalyptic times. There are many uncertainties at present, conflicts and a growing concern about climate change, and the narrow window for turning things around. Many are calling, not for 'pie-in-the-sky-when-we die', but for political and economic transformation in the here and now.

Who are the saints who will show integrity and lead with conviction, courage, and compassion? Will we be among them? As we ponder the future of life on this earth, may we be inspired by those who have gone before us and shown us how to be fully alive, to the glory of God. So for all the saints, past, present, and future, thanks be to God! And may we not be afraid to be called to join them.

**Reflections on All Saints Day,
1 November 2019**

adapted from a sermon by **Carol Robins**

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Famine and the unlikely saints

In October 1984, UK television broadcast horrifying films of thousands of people starving to death in Ethiopia. The BBC described it as a famine of biblical proportions, the closest thing to hell on Earth. The world was shocked.

There followed an extraordinary response - an avalanche of fundraising and donations ranging from pennies given by children to million pound donations. And the funds were mainly the result of efforts by the most unlikely people - the pop music celebs of the day.

Bob Geldof, lead singer in the Boom Town Rats, an Irish punk band, saw the news, and asked himself: what he could do. He and Midge Ure quickly co-wrote the song, 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' in the hope of raising money for famine relief. Geldof then contacted stars in the music industry and persuaded them to record the single under the title 'Band Aid' for free.



The song was released in November 1984. It became the fastest-selling single ever in Britain, stayed at number one for five weeks and was Christmas number one. It raised £8 million for Ethiopia, rather than the £70,000 Geldof and Ure had initially expected.

The 1985 Live Aid concert was conceived as a follow-on, designed to be as big as humanly possible. *'There's no point just 5,000 fans turning up at Wembley; we need to have Wembley linked with Madison Square Gardens, and the whole show televised worldwide. It could raise a phenomenal amount of money. It's not an impossible idea. It's a logical progression from the record, but the point is, you don't just talk about it, you go ahead and do it'* said Geldof.

It's estimated that around £150 million was raised for famine relief as a direct result of the concerts.

Can a scruffy, ranting pop star qualify as a saint? The answer might be 'yes', if we think of saints as ordinary people doing extraordinary things to benefit others.

Marksman

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John H. Newman – A Modern English Saint

Canonised as a Saint in October 2019, St John Henry Newman is remembered as a preacher, educational visionary, and one of the most significant modern theologians of the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.



Anglicanism was seen by many of his friends and colleagues as a betrayal of the work of the Oxford Movement, and of their own personal friendships. Former colleagues called him a traitor, and many Catholics considered him a closet Protestant.

Newman's life work largely developed High Anglicanism in the modern Church of England. With John Keble and Edward Pusey, Newman became the driving force of the Oxford Movement, defending Anglicanism as one of the three branches of the Catholic Church (together with Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy) - a "middle way" between Catholicism and evangelism.

Newman's search for greater understanding brought him into continual, often bitter, dispute with fellow clerics. His reading of the Church Fathers began to undermine his confidence in Anglicanism. In 1843 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. Newman's abandonment of

Newman exiled himself and, in 1848, he founded and became the superior of the Birmingham Oratory. Here priests who were not monks or friars could share a religious life. He wrote his *Apologia pro vita sua* ('A Defence of My Life'), which gained Newman sympathy and popularity. Encouraged by this change in his fortunes, in 1865 he wrote the devotional poem *The Dream of Gerontius*, later set to music by Elgar. Newman continued to be involved in theological and ecclesiastical disputes until his death, but also re-emerged as a more establishment figure. In 1877 he was elected the first honorary fellow of Trinity, his undergraduate college at Oxford. In 1879 was made a cardinal. Newman became known as a powerful preacher in his adopted city of Birmingham and some 15,000 people lined the streets for his funeral in 1890.

David Young



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“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted.

.....
It was nine in the morning when they crucified him.

.....
And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

.....
As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man ... he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!..”

.....
Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven ... he rebuked them for their lack of faith.

Above extracts from St Mark's Gospel

Services at St Mark's

Palm Sunday - 5th April.

6.30pm Palm Sunday Choral Service.

Maundy Thursday - 9th April.

8pm Holy Eucharist with hymns.

Good Friday 10th April.

9am The traditional litany from the Book of Common Prayer.

11am Walk of witness into Bromley with local churches.

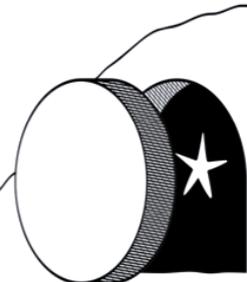
2pm Service of the Last Hour.

Easter Day Sunday 12th April.

7am Dawn Service in the garden, with the lighting of the Easter bonfire, followed by breakfast.

10am Easter Eucharist.

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Our current charity

The Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) is leading a movement against suicide, the single biggest killer of men under 45 in the UK and the cause of 18 deaths every day.

CALM offers a free and confidential phone and web chat support service for people in crisis– 7 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone who needs to talk about life’s problems. They also support those bereaved by suicide, through the Support After Suicide Partnership (SASP).

CALM helps communities by supporting parents, siblings, partners, friends and colleagues. The charity spreads its message in universities, pubs, clubs and prisons across the country – so that people feel empowered to share their experiences and get the help they need



before they reach the point of crisis.

CALM campaign with media partners, brands and ambassadors to spread awareness of suicide and its devastating impact, with campaigns like #Project84, #DontBottleItUp and The Best

Man Project. ‘We challenge boring male stereotypes and encourage positive behavioural change and help-seeking behaviour, using cultural touch points like art, music, sport and comedy’.

CALM was first launched as a pilot by the Dept of Health in Manchester in 1997. Finding that local commissioners and supporters wanted it to continue, CALM was launched as a national charity on 31 March 2006.

Until 2011 CALM was aimed at men aged 15-35. By 2011 it was clear that the volume of male callers aged over 35 was growing and suicide among older men was increasing. So CALM expanded its remit to cover all men in the UK. CALM now supports men and women.

The organisation receives a small proportion of its income from trusts, foundations, local authorities and companies, but the majority of its funding is through charitable giving.

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What's On

Traidcraft - stall open after the morning services on Sundays 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May for all your fairly traded groceries, household goods and cards.

Lunch Club – 12noon – 1:30pm every Wednesday in term time in the Church Room. Open to all. A light lunch, with a speaker or entertainment. A contribution of £2.50 is encouraged.

Sunday School meets during the 10am service in school term. All children over 3 are welcome.

We also run Sunday groups for young people in Years 7-9 and Years 10-13.

Breathing Space - a quiet, reflective service. 6:30pm on Sundays 8th March, 10th May. All are welcome.

Bromley Youth Net – for Year 6s and above. 6:30pm on Sundays 15th March, 19th April, 17th May venues tbc.

Palm Sunday Choral service Sunday 5th April, 6:30pm.

Parade Service Sunday 15th March we will be welcoming our local uniformed organisations for a non-Eucharist service. All are welcome.

Mothering Sunday 22nd March, 10am with distribution of flowers.

Maundy Thursday 9th April, 8pm. Holy Eucharist with hymns.

Good Friday 10th April, 9am. The traditional litany from the Book of Common Prayer. 11am Walk of witness into Bromley with local churches. 2pm Service of the Last Hour

Easter Day Sunday 12th April. 7am Dawn Service in the garden, with the lighting of the Easter bonfire, followed by breakfast. 10am Easter Eucharist. 6:30pm Celebration Choral Evensong.

Easter Monday Walk Meet at 10am (see notice board for further details).

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

27th October Henry James Boxall

27th October Ava Carol Ward

We welcome them into the Lord's Family

Funeral

30th October John McGrath
(d. 13th October 2019)

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Who's Who at St Mark's

St Mark's Web site www.stmarksbromley.co.uk

Vicar The Revd Canon Victoria Pask 020 8460 6220 vicarstmarksbr2@gmail.com

Curate The Revd Bethany Lewis
25 Matfield Close 07516 951540 bethlynnlewis@hotmail.com

Churchwardens

Pat Openshaw 8460 1211
Richard Collins
e-mails via the pcc secretary

Treasurer

David Thomas 8460 1476
davidsbthomas@hotmail.com

PCC Secretary

Joanna Seymour 8460 3097
pccsecretary1898@gmail.com

Licensed Reader

Carol Robins 01689 832833
goldenplanet@btinternet.com

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Mattison 8464 1288
maureenmattison@hotmail.co.uk

Choirmaster

Andrew Wilson (A Cert CM) 8289 9103
wilson2912@hotmail.co.uk

Organist

Ralf Ayling-Miller
Stopped_Diapason@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Theresa Weller 07771 946615
tweller1@icloud.com

Children

Maureen Mattison 8464 1288

Youth

Beth Lewis 07516 951540

Friends of St Mark's Church

Margaret Hales 8464 6970
margarethales@gmail.com

Church Room Bookings

Claire Buckley stmarkshallbr2@gmail.com

Marksman

Christina Parry 8658 7233
clparry00@yahoo.co.uk

Coming Services at St Mark's

8am Sundays Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Wednesdays Holy Communion

		10.00am	6.30pm
Sun 1st Mar	<i>Lent 1</i>	Parish Eucharist	
Sat 7th Mar		3.15pm Choir singing Choral Evensong at Rochester Cathedral	
Sun 8th Mar	<i>Lent 2</i>	Parish Eucharist	Breathing Space
Sun 15th Mar	<i>Lent 3</i>	Parade Service	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 22nd Mar	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Parish Eucharist	Reflective Sung Service
Wed 25th Mar	<i>Annunciation</i>	11am Holy Communion (said)	
Sun 29th Mar	<i>Lent 5</i>	Parish Eucharist	
Sun 5th Apr	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	Parish Eucharist with distribution of Palms	Choral Service
Thur 9th Apr	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>		8pm Eucharist & hymns
Fri 10th Apr	<i>Good Friday</i>	9am Litany and prayer	2pm The Last Hour
Sun 12th Apr	<i>Easter Day</i>	7am Dawn Service 10am Easter Eucharist	Festival Choral Evensong
Sun 19th Apr	<i>Easter 2</i>	Parish Eucharist	
Sun 26th Apr	<i>Easter 3</i>	Parish Eucharist	Rochester Cathedral Choir singing Choral Evensong at St Mark's
Sun 3rd May	<i>Easter 4</i>	Parish Eucharist	
Sun 10th May	<i>Easter 5</i>	Parish Eucharist	Breathing Space
Sun 17th May	<i>Easter 6</i>	Parish Eucharist	
Thur 21st May	<i>Ascension Day</i>		8pm Sung Eucharist
Sun 24th May	<i>Easter 7</i>	Parish Eucharist	Choral Evensong
Sun 31st May	<i>Pentecost</i>	Parish Eucharist	

St Mark's PCC is a Registered Charity: No. 1163095