



# St Mark's Church

## LEAMINGTON SPA

**Belonging... Believing... Becoming...**

**A community of believers, sharing God's love with the world**

### Sunday 18th February

#### 10.00am Morning Worship

Genesis 12:1-9

Leader: Marie Calvert

Preacher: Amanda di Giovanni

[www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchLSpa](http://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchLSpa)

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

#### Order of Service:

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

### 6.30pm Evening Worship in the Lounge

Genesis 12:10-20

Leader: Amanda di Giovanni

*Refreshments served from 6pm*

#### Order of Service:

Welcome, Confession,  
3 Songs, Reading  
Sermon & discussion  
Sharing & prayer, Song,  
Blessing

### Monday 19th February

7.30pm PCC meeting by Zoom

### Wednesday 21st February

9.15-10.45am Toddlers in the Hall

7.00-8.30pm Youth Group in Upper Room

### Thursday 22nd February

9.15-10.45am Toddlers in the Hall

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

10.30am Morning Worship

**Livestreaming Notice:** Our 10am service on Sunday mornings is livestreamed on our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/StMarksChurchLSpa/videos](http://www.youtube.com/c/StMarksChurchLSpa/videos)  
The distribution of Holy Communion will not be filmed.

If you have items to be included in the weekly notice sheet please email [office@st-marks.net](mailto:office@st-marks.net) by 10am Wednesday. Keep in touch via [www.st-marks.net](http://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



**Pathfinders Pancake Party.** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 6.00 - 8.00pm. Tom and Vandella King, Copse Hill House, Fosse Way, Moreton Morrell, CV35 9DE (map available). See poster for more info RSVP by 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Next Welcome Brunch.** Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February after the morning service. For anyone new (or newish) to St Mark's, join us for brunch in the church hall (11.15am-12.15pm - ish). Please let the office know if you would like to come and if you have any specific dietary requirements. Invitations at the back of church.

**World Day of Prayer.** Service at Our Lady's Catholic Church, Valley Road Lillington, CV32 7SJ. 1st March 2.30pm. All Welcome. [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

**Love means love. Exploring the Bible Together.** Led by Rev David Runcorn, author of 'Love means Love—Same-sex relationships and the Bible'. St Mark's Church 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Refreshments from 7pm, start at 7.30pm. Free, but please book so that we have an idea of numbers. <https://buytickets.at/stmarkschurchleamingtonspa/1143546>



**Family Brunch.** A time for you to chat over brunch about the joys and challenges of parenting / family life. From 10<sup>th</sup> March - Monthly after the All-Age service. In the upper room (11.15am-12.15pm - ish). Tim and Ros will organise games in the hall for the children. For catering purposes please let Ros know if you would like to attend [ros@st-marks.net](mailto:ros@st-marks.net)

**Calling musicians and singers.** We would love to have more people in our music groups on Sunday mornings. Speak to Tim.

**Real Easter Eggs.** Order by 3<sup>rd</sup> March. More information about the eggs on next page and about the ethical issues associated with chocolate on page 3.

**Carbon fast for Lent.** More information on next page.

**Hospitality team.** If you would like to be part of this team and haven't signed up already please let the office know.

**New Small Group?** If you would like to join a small group (evening, most likely Thursday) please speak to Amanda or contact the office).



/StMarksLSpa



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rugby Road, Leamington Spa

CV32 6DL

01926 421 004 / [www.st-marks.net](http://www.st-marks.net)

Reg. charity no. 1128485

## Together in Meditation

### 1 Kings 19: A sound of sheer silence

*'Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice . . .'*

**In a nut shell:** Sitting in silences with others, spending time in God's presence, actively listening and reflecting.

**Why:** Life is full on and its often difficult to make time just to be in God's presence – to listen for a heavenly voice, to reflect on what God has done and is doing. Together in mediation provides an opportunity to come together in silence, to create a space to be with God. Having a group of people to meditate with really helps to maintain focus – and the discipline of maintaining a solid time of stillness and quiet.

**When and where:** Starting Thursday 7th March we will be meeting at 7.30pm in the Upper Room and then on the first Thursday of the month. A short introduction, 40 minutes of sitting quietly together and a cup of tea or coffee and a chat at the end. Nothing complicated, anyone can do it, all welcome.

Speak to Colum Goodchild for more information.

*'Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love' (Psalm 48)*

## Real Easter Eggs.

Original £4.50, Dark £5.50, Fun Pack (6 eggs) £5, Special Edition £9.99. See poster for more details or <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg> <https://www.eden.co.uk/> Speak to Amanda or email the office. Pay with order by Sunday 3rd March.



## Sign up for the 2024 Carbon Fast for Lent on the Climate Stewards website.

In the Bible, caring for creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, we encourage you to take up the Carbon Fast Lent challenge – living more simply and finding new ways to cut your carbon footprint.

How the Carbon Fast works:

Each week will feature a different theme designed to help us take climate action. Beginning on 14<sup>th</sup> February, you will receive a weekly email containing some key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your climate footprint, and a prayer.

Sign up here: <https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/>

**Radical Love: being an inclusive evangelical.** Conference Saturday 14 September in Manchester [Radical Love Conference – SJE \(stjamesandemmanuel.org\)](https://www.stjamesandemmanuel.org) Speak to Tim or Marcella if you would be interested in going.

**Giving to St Mark's.** We are very grateful to everyone who gives financially. 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.

Or, best of all, you can set up a regular direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. Go to [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) and you can find St Mark's from the front page, and set it up online. Thank you.

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

## General Information

### Days off

**Tim's day off will usually be Tuesday.**

**Ros does not work Saturdays.**

**Fiona works Tuesday and Thursday.**

**Amanda works Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

### Contact information

Tim can be emailed on [vicar@st-marks.net](mailto:vicar@st-marks.net) Or phone 01926 421004 and follow the instructions.

### Office

The office is open Monday-Friday 9-1. Email [office@st-marks.net](mailto:office@st-marks.net) or phone as above. Please avoid office related questions on Sundays.

## Chocolate!

Chocolate is something that most of us enjoy and at Easter the shops are full of chocolate eggs. However, there are many ethical issues connected with its production.

- **Pay** - Up to 9 out of 10 West African cocoa farmers don't earn a living income.
- **Child labour** - Many farmers rely on child labour. Up to 6 in 10 cocoa growing households are estimated to use child labour.
- **Dangerous work** - Children sustain scars from using machetes and sharp tools and neck damage from carrying heavy loads on their heads.
- **Deforestation** - The yield of a cocoa tree starts to decline after about 15 years. To maintain production-levels farmers may end up in cycles of deforestation.
- **Sustainability schemes** - Most big chocolate companies have their own sustainability schemes but these tend to cover just a proportion of the company's suppliers with some farmers getting benefits and others none.

### What can we do?

Fairtrade International and Rainforest Alliance are the only large-scale cocoa certifiers that guarantee a premium price for farmers.

- **Meaningful Chocolate Company** - In church we are selling Easter Eggs from the Meaningful Chocolate Company made with certified Fairtrade cocoa and sugar.
- **Divine Chocolate** and **Tony's Chocolonely** - Available in Waitrose and Oxfam shops and Tony's in many supermarkets, recommended by Ethical Consumer magazine.
- **Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance** – look out for these logos on products.
- **Zero and Core Stores** - sell ethically produced chocolate bars (Leamington Stores).
- **Pray** - for cocoa farmers in West Africa, that big companies would take meaningful action towards a living wage for cocoa farmers.

### Cocoa Barometer

For more information, this biennial publication gives an overview of the state of sustainability of the cocoa sector: <https://cocoabarometer.org/en/>

*Article from the Nov/Dec 2023 issue of the Ethical Consumer magazine.*

