

Seek



September 2022

The Church and Parish of St Mark Cambridge

www.stmarksnewnham.org

The Vicar's Letter



September is here and we look forward once again to enjoying the colours of autumn all around us, the fruit trees heavy with fruit in our orchards and gardens, the leaves and seeds falling to

the ground, moving towards the 'seedtime and the harvest' and 'soft refreshing rain' being sung about again in our churches and schools, and all being well as we recognise the familiarity of the turning of the seasons.

But at the time of writing, this is hard to imagine. We are in the midst of a reasonably prolonged heatwave. We are surrounded by browned dry grassland and fields, hedges and verges, with news of wildfires breaking out across both field and forest. The seasons seem less defined, the wildlife less prevalent, and the lives we live just a little more precarious perhaps.

What are we doing to our world and what are we doing to mitigate disaster?

The Millennium Seed Bank at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew suggests that two in five plant species are in danger of extinction – not just from this year's drought or fire but as a consequence of our failure to look after our world with respect and the devastating changes to the climate that are happening as a result. The Millennium Seed Project is collecting seeds from as many species across the UK and the world as it can. It will keep them at sub-zero temperatures in specially designed underground flood, bomb and radiation-proof vaults. They currently have over 2.4 billion seeds - and counting! A 'Noah's Ark' of seeds for the future, should we need it.

Seeds are the precious treasure-chests of life. They provide the food we eat as grain for bread, and crops of all kinds. They provide flowers and shrubs for our pleasure. They grow into trees for

the cleansing and replenishing of the air we breathe. In so many ways they sustain life.

Julian of Norwich, the 14th Century Mystic and anchoress, in one of her many visions found herself holding a hazelnut in her hand, as miniscule in God's eye as a tiny round ball floating in space, and she asked God what it was, and the reply came *'it is all that is made.....and God loves it'*.

As in previous years, this month we will be marking a Season of Creationtide at St Mark's, remembering the God of Creation who gave us a world full of beauty and change, evolution and development. We will be thinking a bit about what it means to believe in a God of Creation but also we will be examining our response to climate change and environmental emergency. Please come along to an event at St Mark's on Saturday 24th September at 7.30pm, led by Martin and Margot Hodson, looking at Climate Change and where we are up to, along with a discussion about how churches and communities might respond. We will continue with this theme in the 9.30 am service on Sunday 25th. All welcome.

Following this, our Harvest Festival Service will be the following week, on 2nd October again at 9.30 am.

Whether you come along to the above events or not, perhaps as we move into the autumn, we could find the space and time to reflect on the precariousness of our ecosystems, to think about how we use the world's resources and to make the changes needed in our own lives to reserve our world. Perhaps also, we could sow, plant or grow something new for God and for the future of our world.

Rachel

The Revd Rachel Rosborough
rachelrosborough@hotmail.com

The October Issue of SEEK

Our October issue is distributed to every home in the parish.

Please send your contributions by Wednesday 14th September to Jane Plows at janemp@virginmedia.com (350120) or contact any member of the committee.

A Message from Bethan

I want to start by thanking you all for such a huge and generous welcome to the parishes of Newnham and Grantchester. I will be here for the next few years as Assistant Curate whilst I continue my training. We are slowly settling into living in Newnham and learning the many treasures hidden here.

I have spent the last three years training at Ripon College Cuddesdon, near Oxford where I have completed a BA and PG Certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission, including placements at St Barnabas, Jericho, and St Aldates in Oxford city centre. I have particular interests in using the outdoors, hands-on activities, creativity and storytelling in worship and learning. Other areas of interest include Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Church, reconciliation, ecumenism, and disability theology.

Before training we lived for three years in Cottenham, where I worked as a parish assistant in Fulbourn and the Wilbrahams and was an active Scout Leader. I am married to James, who works as a software engineer. We both grew up in East Hertfordshire and met in Scouting. Prior to living in Cottenham, we were both studying. I completed my first degree in Psychology with Neuropsychology at Bangor University, in North Wales, meanwhile James studied Computer Science at Imperial College London. We enjoy playing boardgames, cooking, baking, and travelling.

We both are excited to be living in Newnham and I am looking forward to getting to know you and the local area much better.

Bethan Rodden

Belated Birthday Wishes

Congratulations to Michael Wallace and Betty Dorling who both celebrated their 90th birthdays on the 25th August. We hope that they both had a very happy day.

St Mark's Church Mission Statement

To be the people of God in this place and to work to make God more real for our community.

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METEA : The September Charity



I first learnt about METEA from Toni Beardon when we arranged to share the driving to our U3A walks. Over the months she told me about the organisation which provides training on teaching Maths to teachers across several African countries. I was greatly impressed by her enthusiasm and commitment to this enterprise which she herself had initiated and, as a teacher myself, I felt inspired by her descriptions of how the newly trained teachers introduced new ideas and methods into their classrooms.

Although she has now retired from her leading role in the charity she seems to me to be as committed and hard working as ever and I believe that this an extremely worthwhile enterprise for St Mark's to support.

Jane Plows

The September appeal is for the small UK registered charity METEA committed to the Equity Principle that educational opportunities should be equal for all providing an escape from the poverty trap. This appeal is specifically to benefit children in disadvantaged communities in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda by giving their teachers professional development training and the support and resources needed to train other teachers to spread the benefits more widely.

METEA supports teacher training but has no



employees, there are no overheads or expenses involved, and all the money donated goes entirely to support work in Africa.

METEA aims to improve the life chances of children by empowering teachers from the most deprived townships and rural areas to provide a better education for the children they teach. The key to achieving improvements in education is ensuring that teachers are trained in effective teaching methods and have resources available to them.

The service provider doing the training is the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Schools Enrichment Centre (AIMSSEC) that won the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize in 2012 for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers in Developing Countries. AIMSSEC is part of the AIMS Network, set up in 2003 by a group from Cambridge, which has Higher Education Institutes in five African countries (<http://nexteinstein.org>).



Masiphumelele township near the affluent suburb of Fish Hook in Cape Town.

Photo by Masixole Femi

AIMSSEC employs six Africans, assisted by former AIMSSEC students and a large international team of academics, working in their spare time, who give their time freely as unpaid volunteers. Seven AIMSSEC courses, combining 8-day residential phases with 3 months online learning, taught 36 times, have directly involved 2600 teachers, and benefitted more than 10 thousand other teachers, and over a million children.

AIMSSEC is a mathematics education community of teacher educators, researchers, schoolteachers, and subject advisers committed to lifelong learning and a belief that teaching in the 21st century must be different from the past because different skills are needed in this radically changed and rapidly changing world. Improved education in mathematics and basic life skills benefits people by providing the vital underpinning of the economy. It is essential in the sciences, medicine, technology, business, industry and the financial services.

Toni Beardon

Registered Charity Number 1183210 <https://metea.org.uk/>





Get ready for a wonderful

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At St Mark's Church on Saturday 10th September

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Nonagenarian Dorothy Elven

It was a privilege to interview Dorothy recently and to find out more about her life, interests and family. We chatted over a cup of tea in a room filled with memories – the wallpaper hung by her late husband, John, still in place, the grand piano he gave her for her sixtieth birthday and a wonderful collection of family photographs. Thank you for your, hospitality, Dorothy, and your readiness to share your life story with our readers.

Jane Plows

Dorothy, the daughter of a then Baptist Minister, was born in 1932 in Halifax, a prosperous Yorkshire town with a thriving textile industry. However, the family were not to remain there for long. In 1935 the country was swept by a severe whooping cough epidemic and Dorothy was one of its many victims. She battled through it but the doctor told her parents, "Dorothy is strong. She won't die - but you need to get her away from this industrial air." He recommended the bracing air of the Norfolk coast and the family duly moved to Great Yarmouth where her father became Minister at Park Baptist Church.

Dorothy has happy memories of her childhood in Great Yarmouth but in 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the family's life changed again. Great Yarmouth suffered greatly from enemy bombardment and the family left for the comparative safety of Sudbury in Suffolk and a new church. Before long they moved again when her father volunteered to become an army chaplain. He left for Italy and Dorothy, her mother and brother moved to Norwich.

(Dorothy tells us that her father's experiences in Italy were to widen his horizons considerably. A good linguist, well grounded in Latin, he was eventually able to preach in Italian, albeit not very grammatically! He told the family later that one of the things he most disliked was censoring the men's letters home. The big decision he made whilst there was to become an ordained minister of the Church of England and in due course he became a parish priest.)

The rest of Dorothy's school days were spent in Norwich where she attended Blyth Grammar School and where her musical abilities were recognised and fostered so that when she applied for and was accepted by Homerton College to train as a teacher her specialist subject was music. At Homerton she was able to play a full part in the thriving Cambridge music scene and she recalls singing the *Pie Jesu* from Fauré's Requiem, both at Homerton and in the Church of St John the Evangelist across the road.

Singing in choirs has always been an enormously important part of Dorothy's life, bringing pleasure, friendship and many opportunities for travel overseas. She was also to tread the boards at the Norwich Theatre Royal as a member of the Norwich Operatic Society.

Whilst at Homerton Dorothy enjoyed what she called her "lucky day". One young man she had met through Scottish dancing invited her to his twenty first birthday party whilst, at the party itself, a second young man invited her out. However, it was the third young man who made no impression on her at the time who was to be the most significant. That young man was John Elven, son of the Norwich City Treasurer, an undergraduate at Corpus Christi College reading Economics and Law.

At home during the vacation Dorothy received a telephone call from John (Dorothy's father who answered the phone remarked, "Elven – that's a familiar name. I think I pay my taxes to his father.") He invited her out to coffee and soon she was introduced to his parents and enjoyed many outings with the family. Sadly, John's father was to die before Dorothy and John were married by her father in 1956 and he did not live to see his son awarded a Double First.

John began his career as Junior Solicitor at Norwich City Hall, was promoted to Senior Solicitor and then to Deputy Town Clerk. In the meanwhile Dorothy maintained an active musical life, kept some teaching going and brought up their two

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sons, Christopher and Jonathan. Eventually John's promotion to Town Clerk of Cambridge meant a family move. They moved into Gough Way, into the house now owned by Chris and Sue Wagner and only a stone's throw from where Dorothy lives now. The boys went to Newnham Croft School, where Dorothy did a little teaching, before going on to the Perse. As can be imagined Dorothy became very active in the Cambridge musical world, singing in several choirs, including the Cambridge Philharmonic.

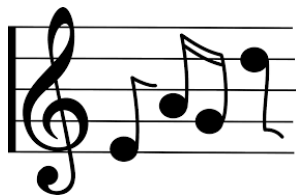
There was to be one more career move when John became Chief Executive of Bedfordshire County Council. The family moved to Sutton whilst the boys continued at the Perse which involved Dorothy in a great deal of driving over the years. Dorothy joined a range of musical societies including Douglas Coombes' newly founded Amici Choir. (Douglas Coombes will be remembered with gratitude by many generations of teachers and pupils for his BBC Programmes for Schools *Time and Tune* and *Singing Together* and the *Come and Praise* books.) She did some teaching in Sutton, Dunton and Sandy, including teaching the recorder, and

describes the experience of taking groups of ill-disciplined children from a London overspill area to Douglas Coombes' schools' concerts in London. "It was a wonderful experience for the children but I knew I would always come home with a migraine."

Upon John's retirement John and Dorothy returned to Newnham. Dorothy's house is now immaculate but when they bought it "it was almost a ruin" and John undertook almost all the repairs and decorations himself – a thoroughly skilled practical man as well as an intellectually able one. The couple were able to enjoy a wide variety of holidays and travel, to delight in their sons' academic successes, careers and marriages and to rejoice in the arrival of a bevy of granddaughters before John died in November 2005.

It is good for us that Dorothy, now a great grandmother to two little girls, remains such an important part of our community and a valued member of our congregation. She no longer sings in any choirs but it was a pleasure to see her joining the church choir to sing in *Zadok* at the Jubilee service in June.

Meet Marcus, our New Choir Director



I grew up in Watford, Hertfordshire, and began studying music at age 7, learning piano, organ, and voice through my school years, attending

Aldenham School, where I was taught by your former Choir Director John Wyatt, and then Merchant Taylors' School. My training in liturgical music began as a boy chorister at Pinner Parish Church at the age of 10, where my interest in the organ was also nurtured. Whilst studying for a music degree at King's College London I passed the ARSM diploma in singing and ARCO diploma in organ. I was a choral scholar in the chapel choir, which involved performing at prestigious venues such as St Pauls Cathedral and Cadogan Hall. Being a first study singer, I have conducted and played for choirs with adult's and children's voices for several years, conducting my first choir at the age of 16. Until recently, I was the Assistant Director of Music at Pinner, where I alternated with the Director of Music playing or conducting for weekly services of Eucharist and Evensong every Sunday during term time. This involved working with a choir which relied on a top line made up entirely of children and adults on the lower parts.

Since arriving in Cambridge from September 2021, I have been Graduate Organist at Robinson College, where I have just completed an MPhil in Music at Cambridge University. Alongside my background in choral music, I have always had a passion for musical theatre and education. Having spent a year assisting in the Music Department at King's College School, Cambridge, I will remain at Robinson for the next academic year as I undertake a PGCE in Secondary Music, with placements in several local Cambridgeshire schools planned.

I hope to remain in Cambridge for the foreseeable future after my PGCE concludes next year. I am one of the Singing Teachers at Stagecoach Performing Arts School Cambridge and Cambourne and have worked with the Cambridge-founded Dramatic Moments Theatre School too.

I am delighted to have been appointed Choir Director at St Mark's and am looking forward to working with the choir and meeting parishioners from September. The choir are always looking for people to join, both children and adults. Do get in touch if you would like to join, I would be delighted to hear from you!

Marcus Cox

Charity of the Month 2023

In October we shall be allocating Charities of the Month for 2023. We would love to hear from congregation members and people from around Newnham if you have connections with a charity you would like to nominate. Please email Rachel with details. If there is a particular month you would like to choose please also specify that.

We try to support a mixture of local, national and international charities, working with a wide range of people and issues. If you are nominating a charity you need to be willing to write a short piece for **Seek**, put up a small display at church and speak about the charity (2 - 3 minutes) at one of the 9.30am services in the month you are allocated.

July's Charity The British Red Cross



Many thanks to those who responded to the July appeal. We raised just over £430.

Foodbank



The next Foodbank collection will be on Sunday 4th September in church, followed by further collections on Thursday 8th September at 1 Millington Road, 19 Kings Road, and the Grantchester Reading Room.

There is also a weekly collection on Tuesdays in Gough Way.

Our current most needed list:

Tinned fish	Tinned soup
Tinned meat	Tinned fruit (in fruit juice)
Tinned vegetables	Sponge puddings and jellies
Pasta/cook-in sauce	Savoury snacks
Breakfast tea-bags	Noodles
Baked beans	Rice pudding
Bars of chocolate	
Snack bars	

Toddles

Our toddler group will resume in September. We meet on Monday and Thursday mornings at St Mark's Community Centre, behind the church. Contact Natalie Lealand, Children and Families Minister. 07925 439068 childrenandfamilies@stmarksnewnham.org



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Summer 22 and 'Old' Friends

Well, I guess this summer will go down as one of the hottest, driest ones that we've had won't it? The precious little water that remains in our water-butts is being saved for those 'fussy' potted plants like blueberries and azaleas. However, we've had many 'old' friends coming from afar to visit us as travel restrictions have been lifted, so fine weather has been a blessing. One couple we have known for many decades came over from Australia. It was so good to see them again and they haven't seemed to have changed at all since we saw them last in Sydney. Several years ago they made the decision to move out of the city, further north to live a more 'sustainable' life.



They have a house with a big garden and veggie patch near a tidal lake where they can go fishing and 'crabbing.' It all sounded very idyllic until I showed them our pond and the little grass-snake that seems to have taken up residence in the marginals slithered out and away to hide. "What's that?" he said. "It's a snake." I replied, whereupon he whipped out his mobile phone and showed me a photo of an enormous brown snake, no doubt terribly poisonous, coiled up on their woodpile. "THAT'S a snake!" he said. I had to smile as it was so reminiscent of Crocodile Dundee (remember those films?) pulling out a huge knife when someone tried to mug him with a penknife in New York.

One afternoon we took them for a walk across to Lamas Land and through the Paradise Reserve which they thought was really lovely and how lucky we were to have that on our doorstep. However, they were NOT impressed with bottles and cigarette butts thrown down in the long dry grass. "Don't people realise what a fire hazard both those things are?" It was not many weeks later that Britain did have wild fires.

During their stay I instructed them on the quirks of the shower in the bathroom. "You need to run it for a while to get warm water," I said. "No worries,"

was the reply. "We always have cold showers unless we have guests to stay." "Water is very precious anyway as we are not on mains water where we live and have to use rainwater and store it in large tanks." This made me think about our rain-butts which have to be said are a 'nicety' not a necessity.



When they left we had a discussion about how we could conserve more water (a glass of our friends' Fire Block** shiraz in hand to get the creative juices going). My husband came up with the idea of collecting the shower water in a bucket before it was warm enough to wash in. (Not into cold showers, us two!) He is very organised about collecting the water. I'm not so good as I keep forgetting to have my home-grown loofah on hand and then having to pootle off to find it, getting even more water in the bucket of course. It is amazing how much water is collected in that bucket. Perfect for flushing loos though.

It is lovely to see 'old' friends again. I was reading an article in the paper about friends visiting and I quote, "Friendship isn't about being inseparable. It's about being separated and nothing changes." We have some friends coming to Cambridge this week from the USA. It will be great to see them again but also interesting to hear their views on sustainability.

Well let's all try to be more water conscious and bear in mind our 'old' friend that needs looking after...Planet Earth.

Best wishes

Rosemary Ley

****Fire Block** - what we call a fire break in this country, in other words, land cleared to prevent the spread of fire - was excised from a large grazing property in 1923, out of concern that sparks from passing locomotives on the new Clare Valley railway could start bushfires. Situated on the western slope of the Valley, established to vines in 1926, the gnarled old veterans of Fire Block are grown to traditional dryland viticulture, with no systemic sprays or chemical fertilizers. From one of the most parched sites in Valley Clare, the vines sprout bunches of tiny shrivelled berries, yielding small volumes of intensely flavoured juices, to be vinified by the eminent O'Leary Walker winemaking team.

June's Charity: Arthur Rank Hospice Charity (ARHC)



The total for the June Collection, including Gift Aid, raised **£1,665.86** for our local hospice and the services they provide, including the Hospice at Home Team. The charity is immensely grateful to all those who gave so generously to this worthwhile cause in these challenging times. Thank you all so much.

Below you will find the letter of thanks I received from the ARHC Community Fundraiser.

Tina Wilson



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

01223 675888
arhc.org.uk
fundraising@arhc.org.uk

Mrs T Wilson
St Mark's Church
Spens Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
CB3 9LS

12/08/2022

Dear Tina

On behalf of Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and the congregation of St Mark's Church for the incredibly kind donations totalling £1655.86. We were delighted to have been chosen as your Charity of the Month and was pleased to be able to put together an eye-catching display and say a few words at one of your services.

A few words from a supporter:

"We just wanted to write to you all and personally express our appreciation and gratitude we received whilst going through one of the toughest of times in our lives. The way all the staff looked after and cared for X was beyond what we could have imagined" Inpatient Unit

To enable us to carry on providing our services free of charge to our patients and their loved ones, we need to raise £4.44 million so by donating this sum of money, in a time when there is much uncertainty, you have helped to support the vital care and services we provide for people living with a life limiting illness; we are very grateful for your contribution towards this and helping to make those moments count.

We are always delighted to know when our community organise a fundraiser for us so if there is anything we can do to support you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us phone on 01223 675888 or email fundraising@arhc.org.uk.

Thank you once again for your support.

With warmest regards

Alison
Alison Pinney
Community Fundraiser

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ST MARK'S AUTUMN RETREAT DAY

'Encountering nature, encountering God'

Saturday 17th September 10.00 am –4.00 pm, Clare Priory



Come away for a few hours, and join us in the beautiful surroundings of [Clare Priory](#). Together we will experience ways of exploring creation to become more attuned – to nature, to ourselves, and perhaps to the creator still at work in every part and particle. All are welcome.

The cost of the day is £25, to include a light lunch, plus coffee and tea. To book a place, please click [here](#). If you cannot book online, please phone Debbie Whitton Spriggs, who will be leading the day, on 01954 210076.

If you have never been on one of these retreat days, please do consider it. If you want to know more, please speak to Debbie on the number above or email her at debbie@whittonspriggs.com

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Celebrating a Season of Creation



This month we will, as in previous years, mark a
Season of Creationtide

We will be welcoming Martin and Margot Hodson
for an evening of discussion on Climate Change and our
response to it

on Saturday 24th September at 7.30 pm
and continue this theme at the 9.30 am service

on Sunday 25th September

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday 2nd October
at 9.30 am

From the Registers

Funeral

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Prayers for September



O God... increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. Amen.

from the Collect for Trinity IV, from the Book of Common Prayer

The Revd Richard Carter from St Martin-in-the-Fields spoke on the radio last month about meeting a group of Melanesian bishops at Kings Cross/St Pancras, in the UK for the Lambeth conference of bishops from the worldwide Anglican Communion. They told him they laugh at how people always seem to be in such a terrible hurry here, especially at stations!

Slow me down, Lord.

Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me, amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

from *Slow Me Down Lord* Wilferd Arlan Peterson

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the beauty and hope in the change of season, the promise that the coming of autumn heralds another ending, a new beginning.

from a poem by **Bob Hostetler**

At the start of a new school year...

O God, the strength of my life, make known your will for me in this place: help me to discover friends among strangers, to meet opportunities and challenges eagerly, and to do my daily tasks in your name. Give me strength to overcome my worries, and preserve me in your safekeeping, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of England website

Chosen by Tim Verney

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Tuesday and Thursday Home Groups

7:30 pm, weekly – contact: Andrew Watts, aa.watts@hotmail.co.uk or
Mike Thompson, michaelangelot99@gmail.com

Prayer Meeting

11.00 am every Friday at 10 Stukeley Close – contact: Anne Howie, 01223 356140

Choir

The choir normally sings on the first three Sundays of the month at our 9:30 am service. Rehearsals are 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm on the first and third Fridays of the month and from 9:00 am on Sundays.

Services at St Mark's Church, Newnham in September

Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday

Sunday Morning Services

4th September at 9.30 am	Communion
11th September at 9.30 am	Morning Worship and Junior Church
18th September at 9.30 am	Communion and Junior Church
25th September at 9.30 am	Communion and Junior Church (Creationtide)

Harvest Festival will be at 9.30 am on Sunday 2nd October

Tuesdays

Communion (BCP) every Tuesday at **11.00 am**

Messy Church at **3.45 pm** on 6th September

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