

Seek



November 2022

The Church and Parish of St Mark Cambridge

www.stmarksnewnham.org

The Vicar's Letter



November is the month where we mark Remembrance Day and every year as we gather, often in large numbers, often outside on crisp days, I ponder what we are doing. We pray and

we ponder the nature of war and peace; we think of sacrifice and service; and we acknowledge a world that is broken in places by violence. And all of this is good and makes sense in a Christian church as well as in our wider community. But what are we remembering as we hear read the names of the fallen from the two world wars. Because of course, for many of us, and certainly for the next generation, we are not truly 'remembering' the events of the two world wars - they were over before we were born. It is, for an increasing number of us, an 'inherited' memory rather than any actual memory. A narration of life in another time that most of us probably recognise we need to hold on to and to tell to the next generation.

I am always pleased to hear from the people who can tell of life during the war, what childhood was like, food rationing, evacuation and blackouts and how different things were when the war ended.



The narration, or remembering, of Remembrance Sunday is so that we remember the shocking horror of the two world wars; we remember those who gave their lives in service; we remember that war has not ceased and that there has been conflict and violence and war in the decades since the

two world wars, and there still is today all round the world, not least in Ukraine. I think this remembering, this narration, is important for our society. In part, so that we can acknowledge the individual stories of sacrifice, of heroism, of tragedy, of hope but also so that we can pledge to live differently, so that we can look to the past in order to strive for a different future - for our children and grandchildren but also for the millions we don't know all over the world who are caught up in war and conflict.

In the Old Testament of the Bible there is a slightly obscure book called Ecclesiastes. The unknown writer displays many traits in his (and it probably was a he) writing – humour, pathos, insightful wisdom – but he also writes a piece of near poetry that many of us might recognise. It comes in chapter three and begins 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven' and continues with a list of contrasting events and happenings that occur over the course of a life – 'a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to speak and a time to be silent....' He ends with 'a time for war and a time for peace.'

Now we might want to debate this – surely we would prefer that there is no time for war - but what the writer is doing is naming the realities of life.

Remembrance Sunday is undoubtedly a time to acknowledge times of war – of sacrifice and service to country – but also to strive for times of peace, now and in our future.

Remembrance Sunday is undoubtedly a time to hold silence – two minutes as the nation remembers – but also to embrace the time to speak out – against the atrocities of war around the world.

So whether we actually remember, or whether we have an inherited memory, our narration is important. Together we 'remember' that which is past, we acknowledge the reality of the present day and we strive, and pray for, for a different future.

Rachel

The Revd Rachel Rosborough
rachelrosborough@hotmail.com

Our Remembrance Service at St Mark's is at 10.00 am on Sunday 13th November, beginning in church and then moving out to the war memorial for the last bit of the service, finishing with an Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence at 11.00 am. We are pleased to welcome children and young people from Scouting and their families to the service. For the youngest children (under 6) there will be Junior Church for the first part of the service. Please come to the main church building and the children will go over to the Community Centre. All welcome in church, at the war memorial and for refreshments afterwards.

The Burma Campaign



Sue Wagner continues her research into those whose names are recorded on the war memorial.

Major Sidney Leeland lost his life in one of the almost forgotten outposts of the 2nd World War in Myanmar (Burma). The Forgotten War, as it has been known, was a campaign that was long overlooked after the end of the 2nd World War. It was a desperate place to fight and to die.

Sidney John Leeland was born on the 22nd September 1913 in Chesterton. His parents were Sidney and Ellen Leeland and in 1935 the family were living at 59 Eltisley Avenue. He attended the Perse School. In 1936 he married Dorothy Morton in Newmarket and when he signed up on 29th September 1939 they were living at 12 Garry Drive Cambridge. His occupation is listed as commercial traveller/gas industry.

He joined the Royal Artillery and spent the first part of the war in England. However in March 1942 he left the UK for India with a posting to Delhi. His unit became part of the 7th Indian Division and they took part in a campaign that is described in the book *Tomorrow will be a Good Day* by Captain Tom.

'Nothing prepares you for the sights, sounds and smells of live action. The noise is incredible and almost continuous as one weapon after the other

unleashed its fury on to an intransigent enemy. The smell mixed with cordite fills the air and all around you there is a teeming ants' nest of activity as sunburnt, unwashed men soaked through with sweat push aside their discomfort and fear to get on with the job in hand. There can be no conversation unless shouted into an ear and at all times you are aware that a shell might land on your position or a Japanese sniper could have you in his sights.'

It was during this battle, known as the Battle of Admin Box that Sidney Leeland died on the 9th February 1944 aged 30. He was awarded the Burma Star. The battle claimed many lives on both sides but 'was an important and decisive action. It was a massive boost to our morale, because it proved that we were finally gaining the upper hand.'

Major Leeland is buried in TAUKKYAN War Cemetery, Myanmar. This large cemetery is on the road to the airport from Yangon (Rangoon). We passed it on the way to the airport a few years ago. Also buried in Thanbyuzayat Cemetery in Myanmar is Kenneth Baines of the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment captured at the fall of Singapore in February 1942 who died as a prisoner of war on the 2nd October 1943 aged just 22.

Sue Wagner

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SSAFA : Charity of the Month



The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association known as SSAFA is the Armed Forces Charity of which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was patron for sixty years.

My father was a Hurricane pilot and in May 1940 was shot down over France. He survived and spent five years as a POW in Germany. He came home in 1945 and was physically and mentally weakened. During the remainder of his career in the RAF he recognised and supported the services of SSAFA.

Miles Elliott

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, works to ensure that the needs of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families are met in an appropriate and timely

way. Our mission is to relieve the need, suffering and distress of serving members, veterans, and their families; no one's service is forgotten.

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The December Issue of SEEK

All contributions are welcome. Please send them by Wednesday 16th November to Jane Plows at janemp@virginmedia.com (350120) or contact any member of the committee.

Our Church Lighting

On Tuesday 15th November our PCC will face the last major challenge our building presents - the lighting!

We have improved the porch, heating, organ, chancel furniture and PA system but, apart from two small improvements over pulpit and lectern, our lighting has not been changed for fifty years.

Prompted by our church architect a small working party has assembled all the issues. They range from poor lighting in the sanctuary and north aisle, access for maintenance, bulbs which are not energy efficient or dimmable, to the five separate switch points which light the church, and perhaps the biggest issue of all, the chandeliers.

Will these arrangements help us to adjust our worship to meet future needs or accommodate wider use of our building?

The PCC has engaged Paul Rackham, the church lighting specialist, to give us suggestions after his successful work in Barton and Grantchester. These will be considered on the 15th November together with the crucial question of affordability.

If you would like to know more do speak to a member of the lighting working party, Rachel, Nigel, Roy Murray, Chris Hammond, Peter Hampson or me.

Alan Jones

Exploring the Mystery



It was a pleasure to see St Mark's playing host to **Exploring the Mystery**, a festival of new plays presented by Radius (the Religious Drama Society of Great Britain) on the 15th October.

We were presented with a moving and thought provoking series of new plays, beautifully produced, presented and acted. The large and enthusiastic audience was fully engaged in the performances and the lively panel discussion.

Thanks must go to all those involved in organising this event including the team that worked tirelessly to provide lunch and other refreshments.

Desert Island Picks



Another in our occasional series of conversations
with members of the St Mark's community.

Jane Hellyer Jones and Mike Thompson
will be choosing favourite music and readings on

Friday 11th November

at 7.30 pm

METEA, Charity of the Month

Donations to Metea, the September Charity of the month, totalled over £600. Very many thanks for your generosity.

Jane Plows

Meet our New Ordinands

Hello and thank you all for the warm welcome you've given me since arriving at St Mark's! It's a real pleasure to be alongside you, and to be joining you in your worship and life together.

I'm in my final year of training for ordination at Westcott House, coming to Cambridge from Oxford diocese. I grew up in Birmingham, moving to Oxford and New Jersey for my university studies in politics and philosophy. After several happy years teaching undergraduates, I decided the research life wasn't for me. Among the jobs I've taken since then, I've been a library assistant, college night porter, administrator and farmhand. I'm looking forward to continuing diversity in ministry!

In my spare time I like to walk, read golden age detective novels and listen to American musical theatre. I'm really looking forward to meeting more of you and learning from you over this year.

Sarah Cotterill

Hello, my name is Will and I have just entered my third and final year at Ridley Hall. I am halfway through studying for a master's degree in theology and am about to start a dissertation in the field of environmental stewardship.

I'm originally from Clevedon and prior to ordination training, I studied Environmental Science and was a youth minister. My other interests include sports, traveling, and chess. I play football and hockey regularly and support Liverpool FC. This past summer I also obtained a Table Tennis England national ranking of 591. I can be found most Saturdays in the Grafton Centre Ping Pong Parlor at 2 PM if anyone would like a game!

I am delighted to be attached here at St Mark's Newnham and at St Andrew's and St Mary's Grantchester and am looking forward to getting to know you all in the coming year.

Will Alvarez

Charity Updates

We have received further donations recently for previous charities and the total for the Autumn Fair to support the Ukraine Appeal is now £1,588 and the Foodbank Fuel Scheme raised £1,929.

Stuart Lingard

Alison Rose, Lay Minister



On Saturday 1st October Bethan and I set off to Ely to attend the service of Admission of Readers and Triennial Re-

Licensing of Licensed Lay Ministers and to support, especially, Alison Rose from St Mark's and Grantchester as she was to become a new Lay Minister. As always when travelling to Ely, it is a joy to be the first to see the West tower of the cathedral and then, after Stretham, to see the whole building sitting majestically on the horizon. At the cathedral we joined with many others to support those to be licensed by Bishop Dagmar of Huntingdon. I was, as always, struck by the vastness and beauty of the nave as we walked up to our seats just below the Octagon. As the service began I was also struck by how many lay people dedicate their lives to the church. Without them the church would find itself in difficulties.

The service was joyful and there were many happy faces both amongst the Lay Ministers and in the congregation. After the legal admission of the Lay Ministers we all took part of the Holy Sacrament with music set by David Thorne. (His St Thomas's Mass always reminds me of attending church services of the Isles of Scilly.) At the end of the service the Bishop led the newly admitted and licensed ministers, plus all those robed, down to the West Door and out to the green where the members of the congregation could congratulate the new and relicensed ministers in glorious sunshine, just as we did with Alison.

So to Alison from all at St Mark's Newnham and St Andrew and St Mary's Grantchester, we welcome and congratulate you. We also would like to pay tribute to Andrew Watts who has now stepped down as a Lay Minister and we thank him for all his service to God and us.

Nigel Porter

All Wrapped Up?

I woke up the other day with the beautiful autumn sunshine streaming through the crack between the curtains. The bed was warm and I thought, "Oooh lovely, just a few more minutes before I get up." I stretched out, enjoying the moment, when my toe got caught in something. "What's that?" I thought and stretched further. There was a tearing sound. Oh no, I really meant to repair that little hole in the fitted sheet but now it's a massive rip. I couldn't even blame my long-suffering husband as he was already up and making me a cup of tea.

The sheet was beyond repair. I looked online to try to find where I could take it to recycle the cotton. No luck. Torn, worn sheets don't seem to be a collector's item these days. What happened to the 'rag and bone' men that used to come round and collect old fabrics and sharpen knives when I was a child? Well after some thought I cut the sheet up for polishing cloths but then saw that you could buy cotton covers for bowls of food stored in the fridge. "I could make those," I thought. They are just a circle of cloth with elastic around the edge. Mmm, much fiddlier than I thought. I think I'll buy some of those 'mob caps' instead. In fact, wouldn't they make nice 'stocking fillers' for Christmas?

The good thing is that they are washable and therefore much more 'sustainable' than cling film. Did you know that we use 1.2 billion metres of cling film every year, most of it non-compostable? Aluminium foil on the other hand can be reused several times if you don't scrunch it up. It can be recycled too. According to the Cambridge recycling website you should collect cleaned aluminium foil until you can parcel it up into a ball the size of a tennis ball. The recycling plant can cope with these quite happily it seems. Perfect! I now collect the foil tops from glass milk bottles and when I have enough of them I wrap them in a used piece of foil to make my 'tennis' ball and pop it into the recycling bin. 'Bower Collective,' an ECO company, sells rolls of recycled foil. I read somewhere that recycling aluminium uses 95% less energy than producing it from raw materials.

Of course, you can use beeswax wraps. I wrote about these in the April 2020 issue of SEEK. It was one of my first articles. It looks like I have been 'encouraging' you all to be more sustainable for two and a half years now! I think we all realise how important it is, especially these days, so how are you doing folks?

Best wishes,

Rosemary Ley

Found on the web.....



Lots of people ask us about foil wrappers and crisp packets...so here's a couple of things to think about...

Sweet wrappers are often small bits of foil - so the best thing to do is when you get a foil sweet wrapper or bottle top just scrunch it up into a ball and put it to one side. As you get more, just keep adding to it until it gets to the same size as a tennis ball, and all you have to do is pop it into your recycling bin. Doing this prevents all the small bits of foil from getting lost along the way.

So, don't forget to recycle all your foil wrappers from your chocolates and sweets, even those foil yoghurt pot tops and milk bottle tops. Oh and don't forget the foil bottoms from individual tarts and pies too. You can also recycle foil food trays from ready meals and take aways, as well as and cooking foil...BUT please make sure they are rinsed off so that there is no food waste remaining.

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Memories of Meeting the Queen

We have been delighted by our readers response to our request for their memories of encountering Queen Elizabeth II. Below you will find a selection of memories. We are very grateful to all those who have contributed.



Not long after I had arrived as Director of Social Services for Cambridgeshire in 1974 I was invited to show the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh round a new work centre for people with disabilities.

My predecessor had commissioned this under some pressure from the

ambitious Peterborough Development Corporation, ignoring the fact that there were already two such centres in Peterborough. As the day of the Royal Visit approached I learned with horror that the workers in these two centres were unwilling to move to the new one. I managed to persuade some to move across to the new centre for the day but the Duke of Edinburgh immediately spotted what I had done. The Queen tactfully pretended not to notice. Not a day to remember.

Alan Jones

In January 1998 Sheila and I had the honour of an invitation from the Queen to spend the night at Sandringham. Together with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret were all there. The Princess had been Chancellor of the University of Keele during my time there as Vice-Chancellor. Sitting

next to the Queen at dinner, she said she wanted to talk about the education of her grandchildren. It was one of the easiest conversations I have ever had.

David Harrison

I remember when John was Chief Executive of Bedfordshire County Council the Queen coming to open the new offices there and being presented by Lord Hanbury to the Queen. We also attended several of the Queen's garden parties at Buckingham Palace during the years he was in office.

By far the most important event though was when, in 1989, we went to Buckingham Palace with our two sons to see John receive the CBE for his services to Local Government. It was a lovely day and afterwards we celebrated by enjoying a lunch together at the London Hilton!

Dorothy Elven

When Denis and I were based at Farningley we had the privilege of being introduced to the Queen. She shook our hands and asked Denis, "What do you do?"

"I command the Varsity Squadron," he replied.

"Ah, yes. It gives very good service," she said.

I think this is the perfect epitaph for the Queen herself.

Anne Howie



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My experience of 'meeting' the Queen and Prince Philip involved a kidnapping and almost being sent to the Tower. In 1981 the Queen was invited to the opening of the new Robinson College in Grange Road. As I had never seen her, I thought I would take Claire, then aged four, along to catch a glimpse of her. Arriving early we stood

along with other people on the pavement opposite to the main entrance to the College. We chatted to the people also waiting and the policeman on duty. Eventually the royal cars approached and stopped opposite and the Queen and Duke appeared. At this moment a lady who I had been speaking to policeman was a bit quicker on the uptake than me and rushed after her. He managed to intercept her just as my daughter was being thrust towards the Queen. By then I was also across the road trying to retrieve Claire from the clutches of this crazy woman. I have to admit that the next few seconds are rather a blur but Claire was restored to my arms by the policeman and what happened to the woman I don't know. Perhaps she was sent to the Tower for kidnapping a child and assaulting the Queen.

My other experience of the Queen was at a Buckingham Palace garden party. I don't expect many people know that you can attend if you win a ticket in a ballot! My daughter Emma was a very junior member of staff working at the Scotland Office in Whitehall where a ballot was held for tickets to a garden party. She won a pair of tickets and invited me to attend with her. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience but we felt such frauds amongst all the great and the good that we kept well away from the royal party. We couldn't dare to admit to anyone that we had won a ticket.

Sue Wagner

This next contribution comes from another long term Newnham resident

I am fortunate in having memories of the Queen when she was still Princess. I was a student at that time and I remember the announcement of her accession to the throne while she was on her honeymoon staying at Treetops in Kenya.

In 1947 when she was on her world tour, she visited Durban, South Africa. There she was resident at King's House, a bungalow in large grounds in the suburb of Morningside and when Sunday came she attended the morning service of the parish church of St. James in Venice Road.

At that time I was in the church choir and when Sunday came, the Queen sat next to her sister Princess Margaret-Rose in one of the front rows of the nave. During the sermon, I heard her say of the preacher, the then earlier picked up Claire in her arms and rushed across the road. I was absolutely stunned and it took me a moment to understand what was going on. The young Bishop of Natal, "He looks just like his brother Geoffrey (the Archbishop of Canterbury)."

The second occasion was in 1953 when my husband and I, as Commonwealth visitors, were guests at Christmas at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park and it happened that the queen was spending time at Windsor Castle. After lunch we went for a walk in the Park and there we soon observed that the queen was also out walking with her dogs. Just then one of them slipped his lead. My husband picked it up and handed it back to her. She gave a gracious "Thank you" and we continued on our separate ways.

Rather later, a year after her Coronation, we were in the Mall one day when momentarily the gates at the side of the Palace opened and we had a glimpse of a small boy and girl, Prince Charles and Princess Anne, riding their tricycles on the grassy stretch beside the palace.

And, finally, Jane Hellyer Jones sent us this account of an eventful visit to Buckingham Palace.

In the summer of 1989 we were invited to Buckingham Palace for the conferral of the Companionship of Honour, the highest honour in the land, on my first husband, Stephen Hawking.

On our arrival at the Palace, we were escorted up a broad, red-carpeted staircase, along a wide, gold and marble corridor, back through the impressive picture gallery, and finally arrived at the British Empire Room, a small room full of paintings and furniture, where we waited.

When an equerry came to fetch us, we left the three children, and followed him along a narrow passage. True to form, Stephen charged ahead in his wheelchair towards the open door across the passage. There by the mantelpiece stood the Queen, wearing a royal blue dress streaked with white. She glanced in our direction with a friendly but apprehensive smile. This soon changed to a look of absolute horror when Stephen, bursting in haste into her reception room, rolled the carpet up in his wheels. The chair had hoovered up the edge of the thick coffee-coloured carpet tying it up in knots, bringing Stephen to an abrupt halt and blocking the way into the room!



From behind the chair I could not easily see what was happening and there was nothing I could do to release the royal pile. The Queen was the only person inside the room ahead of Stephen. She hesitated and then for one moment made a gesture as if she herself were about to step forward and lift the

heavy mechanism and its occupant out of the snare. Fortunately the equerry who had announced us, vaulted over the chair, lifted the front wheels and sorted out the mess.

In all the chaos, the Queen was a little flustered and I forgot to curtsy as she uttered a short, formal speech of welcome. After an awkward silence, Her Majesty decided that the best course was to go ahead with the presentation straightaway and so proceeded to announce that she was pleased to invest Stephen with the Companionship of Honour. She showed him the medal, which I received on his behalf, reading the inscription aloud: "In Action Faithful, in Honour Clear" The Queen remarked that it was a particularly lovely wording and Stephen typed up, "Thank you, Ma'am."

It was then our turn to present Her Majesty with a thumb-printed copy of *A Brief History of Time*, which she found rather perplexing, and enquired, "Was it a popular account of his work such as a lawyer might give?" This perplexed

me. I replied, when I had composed myself, that I hoped it was more readable than that, especially in the early chapters which dealt with the history of the study of the universe before the physics became too complicated. Stephen then demonstrated the workings of his electric wheelchair - and his synthetic American voice. The Queen probably thought that she had seen enough of the former already, and was disappointed by the latter, enquiring if there were not an English version available.

Her Majesty directed her questions to me with a piercing blue gaze as bright as the sapphire and diamond brooch on her shoulder. Although there was warmth and consideration as well as keenness in that gaze, it transfixed me, and I stood awkwardly rooted to the spot, not daring to look round the pretty turquoise reception room with its Canalettos on the walls and mementoes on desks and tables.

However we discovered a shared love of North Norfolk and from then until the end of the audience, the conversation became more relaxed.

Afterwards we walked round the Palace gardens and had lunch with the children in a nearby hotel. Had it all been a curious dream? I wondered, as I told them the story of our visit to the Queen.

Jane later added a possibly apocryphal story to her account.

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November Prayers

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

Matt.5:4

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38, 39)

We give them back to thee, dear Lord, who gave them to us. Yet as thou dost not lose them in giving, so we have not lost them by their return. Not as the world gives givest thou, O lover of souls. What thou gave, thou takest not away: for what is thine is ours always, if we are thine. And Life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

(William Penn)

God give us the courage to stay with Jesus so that we may know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering and thereby transmit to those we meet some of the riches of his compassion. Amen

O thou that hast prepared a place for my soul, prepare my soul for that place; prepare it with holiness; prepare it with desire; until it comes to rest with thee. Amen

Blessed are they whose strength is in thee, O God, they who walk in thy ways, who going through the vale of misery use it for a well.

(Psalm 84)

Lord support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life over, and our work is done. Then Lord, in thy mercy grant us safe lodgings, a holy rest and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(The Book of Common Prayer)

These prayers were chosen by Erica Burgon for the 2008 November edition of Seek. They seem as appropriate today as they did then in a month that includes All Souls' Day and Remembrance Sunday.

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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Services at St Mark's Church, Newnham in November

Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday

Sunday Services

6th November at 9.30 am	Communion
9th November at <u>10.00 am</u>	Remembrance Service and Junior Church
20th November at 9.30 am	Communion and Junior Church
27th November at 9.30 am	Communion and Junior Church
7.00 pm	Wolfson College Carol Service

Tuesdays

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

Messy Church at **3.30 pm** on 1st November

Cambridge City Foodbank

Where You Can Donate this Month in Newnham and Grantchester

St Mark's Church – Drop it off in the Narthex on the First Sunday of every month (6th November)

1 Millington Road or 19 Kings Road, Thursday 10th November 9am – 4pm

Gough Way – Every Tuesday morning 11-13.00 at the Gough Way island with the postbox (contact sarah.smalley@ntlworld.com for further details)

Grantchester Reading Room - Thursday 10th November 9am – 3pm

Trick or Eat

For Halloween this year, the Newnham Scout Group will be spending the evening collecting food donations for the homeless and for those in need (for both Jimmy's Cambridge and the Cambridge Foodbank). Donations will be collected between 18:00 and 21:00 on the 31st October.

Regular Groups

Monday Bible Study

10:00am, alternate weeks – contact: Sue Wagner, 01223 563435

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.