Seek





May 2023

The Church and Parish of St Mark Cambridge www.stmarksnewnham.org

The Vicar's Letter



It was announced in church on Sunday 16th April, just before the Annual Meetings at St Mark's, that after six years of being your Vicar, I am moving on to pastures new. From 1st September, I will be Vice Principal of Westcott House theological

college here in Cambridge. While I am excited about this next step, and it feels very right, it also comes with sadness as I have loved being the Vicar of St Mark's and Grantchester. We are delighted to be only moving up the road and staying in the wonderful city of Cambridge.

There will be more information to come about the upcoming vacancy and I am around until the beginning of August so no change just yet!

We had a positive Annual Meeting in April, looking back over 2022. It was mostly an opportunity to give thanks and below is a summary of my report. Full reports from the different groups, teams and individuals can be found at the back of church.

'As always, I will start with thanks. Rosey and Nigel have thanked many people in their churchwardens' report and I would like to simply echo their thanks rather than repeating too much. However, I would like to give a particular thanks to all of you for my sabbatical last year. As you know, I was due to have a sabbatical in March 2020 which would have happened after almost twelve years of ordained ministry. Covid had other ideas and so I was very ready for a break by the time last Spring rolled round. It is a great privilege to be granted a sabbatical and it was really good for me to be able to step back from the day to day realities of ministry; to have some time with friends and family, and especially Sam; to choose church at the weekends and to not have evening commitments for a while; to sleep, and pray and read. So, thank you to everyone for supporting that. A particular thank you to Andrew and to Tom, who carried the lion's share of ministry in my absence despite having very full-time jobs and families who need them. It turns out this was probably good preparation for a vacancy although we didn't know that at the time. Andrew has now finished his curacy, his training, and it has become very clear that he needs to do a little bit less in the way of ministry, as he juggles a very demanding full-time job, ministry and having time with his family. However, he will stay in the two parishes, offering two Sundays a month until Christmas. He will then take a break and a review in January to see what next. Look after him – he is a treasure! Tom is also able to step back into public ministry once again following a recent break. I am grateful to them both and will miss working with them.

I would also like to specifically thank those PCC members whose term of office has come to an end this year. Thank you for your years of service – Susan, Hannelore and Peter.

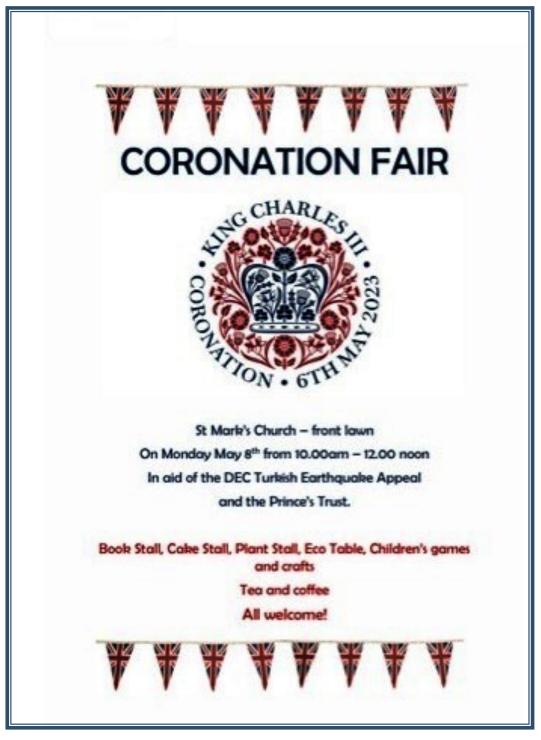
There is much to celebrate from 2022 in the life of the church. We just about found ourselves back to normal in terms of services. By the end of 2022 numbers attending on a normal Sunday were very close to what they had been before Covid and we have been pleased to welcome new people and to see children in our midst once again. Natalie has worked incredibly hard, often behind the scenes and alone, to keep our children's work going. Toddles, Messy Church and Junior Church are all growing again thanks to her efforts. It seems vital that we build up a team around Natalie to support, help, encourage and pray.

Two new faces joined us in the middle of 2022. We were delighted to welcome Bethan as our new curate in July and it has been great to have her on the team. It is fair to say that my moving on causes the greatest uncertainty for Bethan and we are waiting for a meeting with the Bishop to see whether she will continue her training here or whether her curacy will have to continue in a new setting. Either way, she will be ordained priest in Ely Cathedral on July 1st and we will have a joint celebratory service on July 2nd as she presides for the first time. Please put the dates in your diary. Many thanks to Bethan for getting stuck in, inspiring us with new things and for her patience and generosity amidst personal uncertainty.

In September we were also delighted to appoint Marcus as our Choir Director. He has been a great asset and we are delighted to have the choir helping to lead and enhance our worship. Thanks to Marcus for his hard work.

Not a new face but a new role, we were really pleased that Alison Rose was also licensed as LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) in the autumn and I know how much her preaching and leading of services is appreciated.

And so as we look ahead, we may be apprehensive, but actually in every annual report I have written I have acknowledged that we don't



know what is ahead. I preached a couple of weeks ago on 'expecting the unexpected' and that is really part of what it is to be a Christian and to be God's church. I have loved being your vicar these last six years and although I am excited about the new role, I am sad to be leaving you. You will always have a special place in my heart, I will pray for you, and please keep in touch — we are only going to go down the road. And, I am not going yet so here's to the next few months.'

The month of May brings a couple of special services, in addition to the normal pattern of

worship at St Mark's. On 7th May there will be a Commemoration Service for the Coronation of King Charles III at 9.30am. Please join us.

In addition, there will be an Ascension Day service, joint with Trumpington and Grantchester, at St Mark's at 7.30pm on 18th May.

Rachel

The Revd Rachel Rosborough rachelrosborough@hotmail.com

Christian Aid: Charity of the Month



Christian Aid is chosen as the Charity of the Month for May, to coincide with the national Christian Aid Week, 14th - 20th May.

Christian Aid works in more than 40 countries of the world. It began at the end of the 2nd World War, raising money to help the many refugees in Europe who were fleeing violence and struggling with destitution. Sadly the needs of refugees have continued — with wars and conflicts in many countries throughout the world. We have ourselves been made acutely aware of this by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the plight of the people there.

The vision to help came from, and is inspired by, the teaching of Jesus that we must love our neighbour and care for those in need. That teaching will always serve to inspire us to help as much as we can.

In recent years we have become more aware of the problems and suffering caused by Climate Change and Global Warming. Drought, and also floods, have led to crop failures and soil erosion, with hunger and starvation the inevitable result of these. This has been especially apparent in Central and North Africa and in the Middle East. It is the heavy use of fossil fuels and the high levels of energy consumption here in our own country, and others in the northern hemisphere, that have greatly contributed to and exacerbated Climate Change and Global Warming. Yet the suffering caused by crop failures is born above all by those in the southern hemisphere who have contributed very little, if at all, to Global Warming. Many parents there know each day that their children will go to bed hungry. They also cannot afford to provide

access for them to an education that could enable them to overcome the problems, and give them a meaningful future.

By obtaining and using drought-resistant strains of grain, and with the help of focused irrigation methods, crop yields can be improved and hunger lessened. Along with this, being able to afford education can become a reality. Christian Aid is working in all the affected countries, to help enable these improvements to be made. We take so much for granted in our lives here. Please help and give as generously as you can, so that Christian Aid can enable those who are suffering to be helped, and to be able themselves to respond in a practical way to the problems they face. Large parts of the world are in this vulnerable position. Let us never forget or ignore them.

We are aware of the importance of ecological issues in caring for the world God has given us. And we support work that makes ecological factors prominent in all we do as a church community. So let us also think globally. Let us be fully aware of how we contribute to Climate Change, both as individuals and as a Church – and let us increase our giving and sharing of all we have been given.

As in the last few years, there will be no house-to-house delivery and collection of envelopes in Newnham this Christian Aid Week. Please donate as in other months, along with a note for the treasurer (treasurer@stmarksnewnham.org) to say that the donation is for Christian Aid; and please ask for Gift Aid to be claimed if that is possible for you.

Thank you in advance for your generous response.

Susan Chester

Cambridge City Foodbank Dates for May

St Mark's Church - Sunday 7th May

1 Millington Road or 19 Kings Road on Thursday 11th May 9am – 4pm Gough Way – Every Tuesday morning 11am - 1pm at the Gough Way island with the postbox.

Now that May is here!



It may seem a little late to be reminded of Robert Browning's famous lines O to be in England, Now that April's there, which we all no doubt learned at school.

However, Seek is usually distributed in the last days of the month, so it may still be April when you are reading this - perhaps not too late to become aware of the tiny leaves around a tree trunk, though sadly probably not an elm tree anymore.

Be that as it may, although we may recall *Home Thoughts from Abroa*d to be all about April and

early spring, two thirds of the lines are actually about the month of May and has impressive images of a blossoming hedge with a thrush in full song and a late frost, when the buttercups will open in the noonday sun. Why don't you go and look it up now?

Perhaps his description of the melon flower as 'gaudy', suggesting an un-English lack of restraint, is a bit over the top, but it gives this famously nostalgic poem a memorable closing line. The truth is of course that Robert Browning loved Italy and was inspired by its natural beauty, history and great Renaissance works of art to write his finest poetry while he lived there.

Derek Cummings



Resurrection and Beyond

Following Jesus from Easter to Pentecost

Three weeks of this series still remain

4th May The ascension of Jesus

Jeremy Begbie—Professor of Theology, Duke University

Affiliated Lecturer, Cambridge

11th May The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Rob McDonald—Academic Dean and Tutor, Ridley Hall

25th May Jesus—the continuing story: informal discussion

Led by Jeremy Begbie and Richard Bauckham

All welcome

7.30 to 8.30 pm, St Mark's Church

Followed by refreshments

4th May in the Community Centre, 11th and 25th in the church

Around and About

We are all well aware of the major traffic disruption on Barton Road at present and lament at how long it will continue. Chris Hammond writes about it below.

The scheme currently being carried out at the junction of Barton and Newnham Roads, Grantchester Street and the Driftway is to upgrade the existing crossing arrangements to increase the safety and efficiency of movement for pedestrians and cyclists at what is a busy intersection.

A new signalled pedestrian crossing will be constructed on Barton Road between Derby and Hardwick Streets to provide a safer route for those travelling to the south side of Barton Road to get to the shops and amenities. This will enable users to avoid the main crossing point on the corner where the conflicting demands between pedestrians and cyclists can lead to congestion and overcrowding.

As part of the scheme there will be improvements to surface water drainage and the carriageway and pavements will be resurfaced in the vicinity of the works.

Work started on the 3rd April and is anticipated to last about 10 weeks.

I should add that one consequence of the temporary closure of the north section of Grantchester Street by the Co-op is that the 199 local bus service has been diverted via Hardwick Street. So far as I know it is the first time a scheduled bus service has ever operated along the street!

We were delighted to receive news from Newnham Croft School this month. First, Eddie Ferguson, the newly appointed Headteacher, introduces himself:

My name is Eddie Ferguson and I have been working at Newnham Croft Primary School since 2009. Initially, I was a supply teacher and that morphed into working for one day a week, which developed into two days a week and then, with seeming inevitability, led to a full-time teaching post in 2012. The teaching post then developed into becoming the deputy head in 2016, the interim headteacher from last September and, since January, the substantive headteacher.

I count myself very lucky to work in such a lovely area and with such a supportive community. The children make the school so special and the adults from the community who volunteer - helping with the gardening, running maths groups, working as governors - really add to the positive atmosphere. I look forward to further building our links with Newnham and hope to see many of you at our summer fete and some of the other events the school runs.

Next, we hear from Emma Laughlin, Chair of the PTA.

Springtime Success



Our recent Daffodil Day celebrated the combined efforts of volunteers, parents, carers and children who planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs in the spectacular school grounds. Despite the drizzly weather, lots of Newnham Croft families - past, present and future - as well as many members of the local community turned up to have a look around and

a cup of tea in the PTA tearoom. A lovely event with a great atmosphere, unquestionably the first Daffodil Day of many.

Community Garden

To keep ties with the local community, Newnham Croft Primary School is turning their front garden into a community garden for all to enjoy. The garden is one of the Co-op's Local Community Funds until October this year, so all proceeds will go towards updating and improving this area with more seating and raised beds for vegetables and flowers. The aim is to create a beautiful and peaceful space for both people and wildlife to enjoy. Members of the local community with a fondness for gardening are also being invited to help maintain and care for the garden, strengthening bonds between school, community and nature. The school garden volunteers are generally on the grounds most Sunday mornings during term time from 10.00 am - do pop along after church if you are interested in getting involved.

The June Issue of SEEK

All contributions are welcome. Please send them by Sunday 14th May to Jane Plows at janemp@virginmedia.com (350120) or contact any member of the committee.

A glass of wine, a convivial atmosphere and ...

Desert Island Picks



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

Bethan Rodden and Marcus Cox

will be choosing favourite music and readings on ...

Friday 9th June

at 7.30 pm

St Mark's Community Centre (large hall)

Fire from Heaven



Many of you will remember the fascinating and gripping oneman play, *Mr Darwin's Tree*, written by Murray Watts and performed by Andrew Harrison. The same team is bringing another wonderful play to St Mark's in July. This time, the play tells the story of one of our most gifted scientists -Michael Faraday. It's called *Fire from Heaven* and will be performed in church on Friday 7th July. More details to follow later.

The Bible in Colour



Mike Thompson's course on different translations of the New Testament continues in the small hall of the Community Centre on Wednesdays during May. Mike writes, "For six weeks after Easter, I will be leading a group that will explore the differences in the translations we have, offering insights from the Greek and inviting your thoughts and questions about selected texts. Our meetings will be called 'The Bible in Colour', and you're invited! We will meet weekly at St Mark's

for an hour beginning on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm. Attendance at every session is not required, no prior knowledge of Greek nor any preparation is needed, just bring your Bible and curiosity!"

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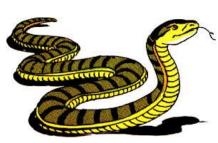
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Bin Befuddlement?

Firstly, a big thank you to all those Seek readers who responded to the last article and especially to the gentleman who sent me some lovely photos of the pheasant that seems to have adopted his garden. In fact, many of us have new 'tenants' in our gardens be they birds or otherwise. I was just putting some vegetable peelings onto the compost heap when a mouse scrambled out. I do hope we haven't got hordes of them! Mind you there are predators around too. I noticed a red kite flying in circles catching the thermals one sunny morning.



And did I tell you we have a grass snake? Last summer it spent a lot of time sunning itself on a large stone by the pond (much to my

husband's dislike). However, it disappeared, off to pastures new and I saw no more of it until... we had someone in to fix and clean the pond filter in January. As he lifted the plastic container out of the ground we found the snake, curled up around it, 'sleeping.' I guess the water flowing inside the filter was keeping it at a nice ambient temperature. The filter was repaired and cleaned and then replaced without it so much as it twitching so it must be hibernating. Amazing! When I told my husband he said with a shudder, "I don't want to know!"

Anyway, enough of that. Today's topic is 'bin befuddlement.' Evidently, new government directives will attempt to standardise waste disposal across the country. The newspaper article that I read on the subject suggested that it would end our bin befuddlement if we had **seven** different bins to separate the materials. Yes, seven! Where we would keep these bins is another matter of course. Anyway, we may not need them all as Cambridge has got a recycling centre. Our granddaughter told me all about it as she had been on a school outing

to see it. Not my idea of a jolly day out but I guess times have changed. She described to me how the paper, plastic, glass (NOT Pyrex), tin cans and aluminium cans were sorted and separated. She said the worst part was the smell caused by people not washing out food containers properly. (Hint, don't forget to do that. You don't need to use fresh tap water if you use 'grey' washing water).



The newspaper article went on to give some 'golden' rules of recycling such as removing pumps from plastic bottles but leaving the lids on glass jars and bottles along with the 'tennis ball rule'...it seems these facilities have trouble sorting out items smaller than a tennis ball which then end up in landfill or the incinerator. lt also suggested that we wait until we have enough aluminium foil so that it can be

scrunched up into the size of a tennis ball. However, if you are not sure how to recycle something, the Cambridge City Council website gives a very comprehensive and searchable list. (See recycling and rubbish A to Z). Oh, and please don't forget that we have collection bins in the narthex of the church for blister pack/pill packets, plastic milk bottle tops and used stamps.

There you go...lecture over...time for a nice cuppa and a wander round the garden to see what's going on out there. If it's raining, a window will do! Enjoy nature, just be mindful of the damage we can do to it if we are not careful.

Best wishes as always,

Rosemary Ley

Lent Lunches



The magnificent total of £2,051.25 was raised at this year's Lent lunches - a great result. Tina Wilson's comments below give recognition to all involved.

What a wonderful result for the Lent Lunches! Thank you, Sue Payne, for taking on the organisation, Rachel for supporting and promoting them in your weekly e-letters, Stuart Lingard for all his work in dealing with the financial and Gift Aid matters, and all the hostesses who provided such

enjoyable lunches as well as all those guests who responded so generously with their donations. It's so heartening to know that the lunches have resumed after the lockdowns and have raised so much money for such worthwhile causes.

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Coronation Celebrations at St Mark's



On the 7th May we shall gather in Church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. There will be a chance to for many of the congregation to join the choir in singing Zadok the Priest (contact Marcus Cox, our Choir Director if you want to know more). On Monday 8th May our Coronation Fair on the front lawn of the church will be an opportunity to socialise and to raise money for two charities. Go to page 3 to find the details.

This will be the fifth Coronation recorded in a range of St Mark's parish magazines each reflecting the views and attitudes of the time.

Edward VII (9th August 1902)

The first was the Coronation of Edward VII who was eventually crowned in August 1902 but only after an alarming delay. The Coronation Day had been set for 26th June, dignitaries had been invited from all over the world, many of them representatives of the Empire, and by the 23rd June they were all gathered in London. The King, however, was taken seriously ill that day and after an emergency but successful appendectomy (carried out on a table in the Music Room of Buckingham Palace!) the Coronation was rescheduled.

The vicar wrote in his July letter to the parish, "With deep thankfulness we rejoice over the message that His Gracious Majesty is out of danger. We look forward to the Coronation in September, and we hope that the bright weather of last week will then be vouchsafed to us again.

"We are now able to look back with calmness upon the sudden change in events last week, and while sympathizing deeply with the Royal sufferer, as also with those who have incurred severe financial loss, it seems that nothing to the nation but good has come. We have to confess that a spirit of proud boasting and human glorying was manifesting itself. The Coronation festivities were promising to be a worldly display of Imperial magnificence, and the King of Kings was in danger of being left out by too many of those who would have enjoyed the holiday."

George V (22nd June 1911)

George V's Coronation spurred the parish into action and we can still see the outcome of the decisions made today. In the parish magazine of June 1911 we read:

"As the District did not see its way to celebrate the Coronation locally, the Church Committee have decided to propose that subscriptions not exceeding one guinea, be invited towards a fund of not less than £30, to erect an oak screen across the archway in the North Aisle of the Church, where a curtain now screens the side of the organ, and place upon it a suitable tablet commemorative of the occasion..." Contributions poured in and the screen was eventually erected at a cost of a little over £34.

The July issue records, "Nearly 100 attended the 10.30 service on the 22nd when the service, authorized by the Bishop of Ely was well rendered by the choir.

Our local celebrations were somewhat individualistic, but an excellent combination [of activities] in the Selwyn Road District gave the children and others a happy afternoon and evening, and provided a charming illumination effect, and another afternoon of pleasure is promised the scholars of Newnham School on the 30th when the Mayor of Cambridge will distribute the Coronation Stoups in the Trinity Cricket Ground, Adam's Road, if the weather permits."



Camsight were very grateful to be nominated as Charity of the Month for March and particularly for the £800 raised by St Marks....so thank you very much.

Sue Payne

George VI (12th May 1937)

The magazine for May 1937 outlines plans for the Coronation but there is no record of how they went.

"Wednesday 12th. Coronation Day. There will be Holy Communion at 8 a.m. There does not seem to be a widespread desire to have the Coronation Service relayed in Church, and many, no doubt, will go to Great St Mary's for the civic service at 10 a.m. I do hope that, before the excitement of the day begins, many will seize the opportunity of earnestly praying for our King in the quiet morning hour, at the Communion....

"Coronation Service. This will be held on Sunday May 9th at 9.55 a.m. when our service will be of special character for the occasion. It is hoped that we shall have an Official Parade of Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies, and a Souvenir Booklet will be distributed to members present, and others if sufficient."

Elizabeth II (2nd June 1953)

In his July letter the Rev'd Edward Armstrong wrote, "In addition to the special services on the Sunday preceding the great day the Church was full of children from Newnham Croft School for a service the day after. Favoured by fine, if rather cold, weather, the festivities on Saturday on the University Hockey Ground were highly successful and much enjoyed by those, young and old, who took part...

"It has been stated that about half the population saw the Coronation on Television. It was most impressive and I believe it had the effect of heightening our national self-respect and increasing the man in the street's understanding of what happens in church, and especially of the meaning of outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace. May all our hopes be realised that the new Elizabethan age will outshine that of the first Queen Elizabeth."

And finally here is an account written by Pat Caesar of her memories of the late Queen's Coronation taken from the June 2013 edition of Seek when we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee.

My family was living at 115 Grantchester Meadows at the time and there was a great air of excitement in the neighbourhood. At our end of the road decorations and flags were going up. Red, white and blue flowers had been grown in some gardens and even the milk bottles at the doorsteps had decorative tops.

A couple of days before the special Bank Holiday my brother and I had our special photographs taken at Newnham Croft and we were all given Coronation Mugs, which some of us have to this day.

The procession route was printed in the newspapers and the service itself in the Times on

the day. The Reynolds family down the road, who owned Renbro, the radio and television shop in Mill Road, invited us all to their home as they had the only television in the road. We had a jolly party, staying all morning and going back later for the balcony appearance.

We could hear the Church Bells ringing over the fields and later in the week a party of us went to see the Pathé News at the Regal Cinema and purchased the edition of the Picture Post which is still amongst my souvenirs of the day.

Pat Caesar

Goodbyes

We are sad to record the deaths of two much loved members of our congregation.

Ann Silver died at the age of 93 on the 10th March and her funeral was held in St Mark's on the 3rd April. A well known and much respected physiologist, Ann was a quiet and familiar presence, particularly at the 8.00 am Communion Service. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Sir David Harrison, former Master of Selwyn College, died at the age of 92 on the 27th March and his funeral took place in the College Chapel on the 20th April. Roger Mosey, the current master of Selwyn, wrote on the college website: "Sir David was a towering figure in the history of Selwyn, and an inspiration to generations of academics, students and staff. Most of all, he was a conspicuously kind and gentle man who won affection through his charm as well as his intellect... and we will miss him more than words can say." We will miss him too and our thoughts are with Sheila and the family.

Prayers for May

Creator God, you loved the world into life.

Creator God, you loved the world into life. Forgive us when our dreams of the future are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom of justice, peace and an end to poverty.

Incarnate God, you taught us to speak out for what is right. Make us content with nothing less than a world that is transformed into the shape of love, where poverty shall be no more.

Breath of God, let there be abundant life. Inspire us with the vision of poverty over, and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.

Creator God, you loved the world into life.

Loving God, you make us in your image. Forgive us when we fail to see your image in each other, when we give in to greed and indifference, when we do not question the systems that are life-denying. As we are made in your image, let us live in your image and be Christ-like in service, endurance and love. Amen

A prayer used first in Christian Aid Week in 1958

O Holy Spirit of love, quicken our imaginations that we may feel more deeply for the needs of others as we put ourselves in their place. Give us hearts of self-forgetting compassion which will move us to give from that which you have given us, and to be good neighbours to those both near and far, for the sake of him who taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive, even Jesus our Lord. Amen

Chosen by Susan Chester

Regular Groups

Monday Bible Study

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

Tuesday and Thursday Home Groups

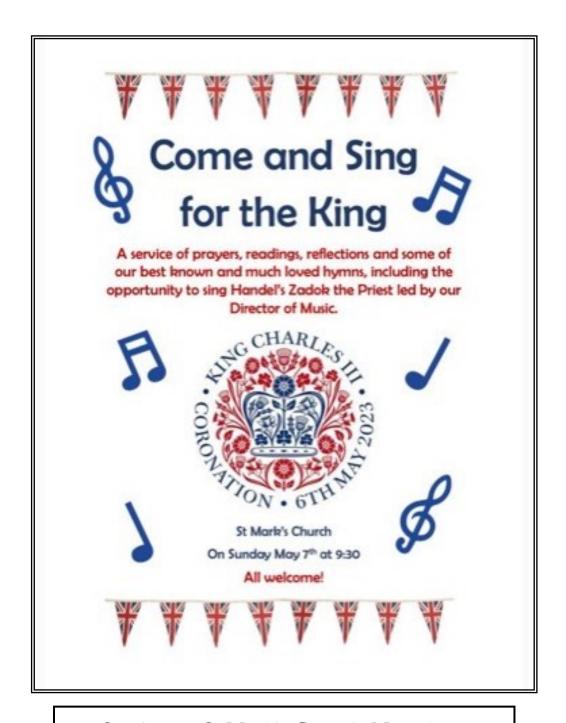
7:30 pm, weekly – contact: Andrew Watts, <u>aa.watts@hotmail.co.uk</u> or Mike Thompson, <u>michaelangelot99@gmail.com</u>

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 May

Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday

Sunday Services

7th May at **9.30 am**Commemoration Service for the Coronation

of King Charles III

14th May at **9.30 am** Morning Worship with Junior Church

21st May at **9.30 am**Communion with Junior Church
28th May at **9.30 am**Communion with Junior Church

Thursday 18th May

Ascension Day Service at 7.30 pm

Tuesdays

Weekly Communion (BCP) at 11.00 am followed by refreshments

2nd May from **3.30 pm to 5.30 pm** Messy Church

