

# Seek



**June 2023**

**The Church and Parish of St Mark Cambridge**  
**[www.stmarksnewnham.org](http://www.stmarksnewnham.org)**

# The Vicar's Letter



Last month I was privileged enough to be asked to do the funeral service of Mary (or Maureen to some in the village) Buss, a resident of Grantchester for close to 50 years. Her family told me it was good that her funeral was to be in the middle of

May as it was her favourite month, favourite as the flowers were all in bloom and the month she had married her husband.

This got me wondering as I hadn't considered having a favourite month before. So I did a bit of local research and mentioned this to a few people. What was noticeable is that everyone I asked named a month between March and September, and if I was pushed to choose a month (how can you when the changing of seasons brings such joy?!), I would probably plump for one of the summer months.



I wonder why this is. Certainly for me, and I suspect others, there are two reasons - light and life. Most people seem to feel better when the days are longer and there is more light. I know that I am someone who

would quite like to be of a species that hibernates all winter and then emerges into the light in Spring. We like the lighter evenings and the longer days. Perhaps humanity is simply drawn to the light. Certainly I know there are studies of people living in the far north of Europe where for some months there is no light in the day that suggest this has a detrimental effect on our health.

And the second is life. People, when describing why they had chosen a particular month as a favourite, talked not only about longer days and

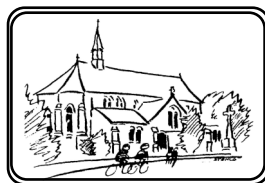
lighter evenings but about the life they see erupting around them – green leaves, particular flowers or plants coming into bloom, birdsong and new birth. There is something in us that acknowledges and delights in abundant life and growth.

Light and life are two key features of Christian faith. We believe in Jesus the light of the world who came to bring light and life in all its fullness. We believe in Jesus who told his followers to shine as lights in the world and who defeated death to bring eternal life.

And so, as we move into June (your favourite month perhaps?), as we see around us evidence of life in abundance – flowers, trees, butterflies, birdsong and so much more, as we delight in the longer, indeed longest days, may we be reminded of the God who came to bring us abundant life and who is described as the light of the world, and who calls each of us to shine as lights in a world that can often feel dark. However life feels at the moment, full of joy or tinged with sorrow, I hope this month each of us might catch glimpses of the light and life of God, and find ways we can bring that to others.

Rachel

*The Revd Rachel Rosborough*  
*rachelrosborough@hotmail.com*



## Bethan's Ordination



Bethan will be ordained priest at a service at Ely Cathedral on Saturday 1st July at 5.00pm.

She will preside at Communion for the first time at a joint service, followed by refreshments, at Grantchester at 10.30 am on Sunday 2nd July. (No service at St Mark's that day.)

## **The Cantus Singers of Cambridge**

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Under 18s free

## **The July/August Issue of SEEK**

Please note that the next edition covers two months. Make sure that any  
notices for August reach us in time.

All contributions are welcome. Please send them by Sunday 18th June to  
Jane Plows at [janemp@virginmedia.com](mailto:janemp@virginmedia.com) (350120) or contact any member of  
the committee.



## Umoja UK : Charity of the Month



Umoja UK supports our sister organisation Umoja Tanzania to empower youth from backgrounds of extreme poverty in Arusha, Tanzania to not only survive, but thrive, through holistic education, good physical and mental health and safe employment. Umoja offers a range of services to vulnerable Tanzanian youth, their families and their communities. We provide the freedom and security needed for young people to become the authors of their own lives.

- 11,230 young people reached annually through our programmes.
- Essential Life Skills knowledge delivered to over 4000 young people each year.
- 85% of Umoja graduates are now in employment, with 80% employed and 5% self-employed.



Eunice joined the Umoja programme in 2009 and we supported her throughout her studies to become a qualified teacher. She is now working at St. Thomas Primary School in Arusha. "Before joining Umoja I was staying at home without doing anything but now I am very happy because I see my future will be good."

2023 is sure to be another exciting year for Umoja! Since opening in 2009, Umoja has been based out of a rented residential house, which we have repurposed to suit our needs, including turning the living room into the IT laboratory and bedrooms into offices. This year Umoja will move to a new remarkable site and buildings which were initially

developed by another education organisation and require renovation. The main site (c. 2.6 acres) will be where we will run the programmes and will include classrooms, offices, sports ground, meeting spaces and more. The second site, a short walk away (c. 2 acres) contains various accommodation options, kitchen and gardens.

Whilst taking on this new site is a fantastic opportunity, fundraising to develop and then run the site *and* maintain the constant costs of the programmes and staffing is a big challenge – particularly during the cost-of-living crisis.

St Mark's Church congregation has been enormously supportive of Umoja, for which our students and staff are forever grateful. Your donations help to keep Umoja running and are used for a range of needs such as books, teaching resources, and routine medical check-ups for students. No matter the size, each donation is fully appreciated and put to good use to help us educate our students.

We aim to match each of our students with a sponsor whose contribution provides the necessary financial support for the student's ongoing tuition. We are actively seeking sponsors to support our bright young students. Please look at our website or contact me for more details.

Caroline Goody and I, the co-founders of Umoja, will be at the service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June and a Tanzanian craft stall will be held afterwards in the Community Hall.

Thank you for your support.

**Emma Wagner, Chair of Umoja UK**

e\_wagner@hotmail.co.uk  
www.umojatanzania.org

## Gombe : April's Charity of the Month

The total raised for the Diocese of Gombe was just over £580. Thank you to all those who donated.

## Goodbye to our Ordinands

*As the end of the academic year approaches we are waving goodbye to Sarah, Will and Mary. We have seen plenty of Sarah and Will during the past year and it has been lovely to see Mary back with us and to share the good news of her recent marriage. We have enjoyed getting to know all three of them and we wish them well in their future parishes.*

I'm going to be ordained Deacon on the 1st July at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and will be serving my curacy at St Mary's, Banbury, with the Revd Serena Tajima. I have been very grateful for the support of everyone at St Mark's, and will keep you all in my prayers!

**Sarah Cotterill**



I'm going to be ordained Deacon on the 24th June in Portsmouth Cathedral. I will be serving my curacy with Revd Dr Paul Chamberlain at St Faith's, Lee-On-the-Solent. I have greatly enjoyed my time at St Mark's, I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for being so welcoming over the past year!

**Will Alvarez**

After my attachment with Newnham and Grantchester, I completed an MPhil in Theology at Jesus College, Cambridge. My research focused on Anglican Ecclesiology and Global Christianities. Afterwards, I studied theology for a semester at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Switzerland. Bossey is attached to the World Council of Churches and the University of Geneva. Then I got married in Mexico! Diego, my husband, and I will move to Darlington in mid-June. I'll be ordained Deacon in Durham Cathedral on the 2nd July and serve as an Assistant Curate.

**Mary Yasini**



## Carving



As some readers may have seen carving has started on the Newnham War Memorial in our Church garden. Matthew of Hibbitts, one of the best stone carvers in Cambridge, will recut and paint 1,150 letters by hand throughout the summer. He will need good light and he will be carving for King's and St John's Colleges at the same time. He will finish in time for Remembrance Sunday. It would be nice to mark this in some way.

**Alan Jones**

## An Unexpected Thank You

At the height of the Local Election campaign we saw a young woman apparently photographing our landing window which displayed a poster and a small Ukrainian flag. We assumed the envelope put through the door contained Election material. On starting to read it we then expected it to be a plea for financial support - how wrong!

Instead we found a beautifully painted card and the following message.



Dear Ukraine supporter,

You receive this letter because I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the colours of the Ukraine flag (or other symbols) you've made visible.

When last year I arrived in Cambridge (April 2022), these signs were my anchors of hope, my connection with Ukraine and the heart-warming manifestations that we are not alone.

I am aiming to reach everyone I can with little gesture of appreciation for standing with Ukraine in these darkest times.

During a year in Cambridge, I have been drawing post cards that I name "Endless Spring". Drawing has been a refuge for me, a way to escape some of the trauma of war through the therapeutic process of doing something creative and soothing.

Hope you enjoy this small gift.

Thank you

Yulia D.

We both feel the sentiments expressed apply to the members of St Mark's and Yulia D's 'little gesture' could have been extended to us all had she known of our Church's efforts for Ukraine.

**Alan and Eleanor Jones**

### 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.



## Coronation Weekend 2023



Following the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May we celebrated the next day with a Coronation Commemoration Service. Readings, prayers and the sermon given by Andrew Hurst (go to the St Mark's website to read it) were interspersed with a range of familiar and well-loved hymns and for many the highlight of the occasion was the singing of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* when many members of the congregation responded to the invitation to join the choir and sang lustily.

On the Monday the rain held off long enough to ensure that the Coronation Fair was a great success. The front lawn, the Church and the Community Centre were all in use and it was a pleasure to see so many local Newnham people there. The event only lasted a couple of hours but that was long enough to raise £1,661.76 which was divided between to DEC Turkish Earthquake Appeal and the Prince's Trust.

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

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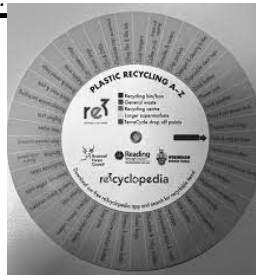
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## Things are getting a bit Hairy

First of all, the Eco team would like to thank everyone who supported the Coronation Fair by using the 'clothes exchange'. This was a great success. Thanks to the exchange a beautiful ballgown has found a new owner who is 'over the moon' with the dress I understand. How heart-warming is that?



So many people came to speak to us about ways of recycling and to take the leaflets that the council had sent. We have ordered more 'recycle wheels', a clever device for working out how or where to recycle different items and these will be left in the narthex for anyone who would like one. Lots of

ideas for reusing and repurposing things came to light. I had a pack of crushed shells produced by fishermen in Wales who caught cockles and then ground up the shells to sell as a by-product. These are really good for deterring slugs from munching on tender new plants but one lady told me that she used crushed eggshells. Lots of people were interested in the fact that aluminium foil should be collected and squashed into tennis ball sized balls so that they could be sorted easily and collected with aluminium cans by the machinery at the recycling centre.

I have been trying to do my bit and reuse our old plastic flowerpots to 'pot up' the seedlings that I have been growing on the windowsill. The pots were washed. (Soapy water used to mop the kitchen floor does a great job!) The only trouble is that the newly potted plants don't fit on the sill anymore so they have had to move to the conservatory. "Uh oh," said my husband as he gingerly tried to step over them to get to a seat. "It's the annual migration I see!"

However, when I walked around the garden to see what devastation the harsh winter had wrought on the plants, I was saddened to see many old favourites had succumbed. There was one blade of green in the pot of agapanthus that we have had in the garden for at least a decade without problems. The rest of the pot was a wood-lice hotel. Where is that robin when he's needed? The gardening article



in the weekend paper suggested emptying pots onto the compost heap and going to the garden centre to buy more. More peat-filled plastic pots? No thanks!

Anyway, I thought I'd go for a stroll around the Botanic Garden to see how their salvias etc had fared. Not

well either...but when I got to the shop by the entrance there was the solution. Plants in 'hairy pots'! OK they were a bit pricey but it's the principle isn't it? These pots are made from fibres of coconut husk (coir) that are a by-product of the large Sri Lankan coconut trade. The fibres are cleaned and made into 'pots' held together by a little latex from rubber trees. You don't have to remove the pot. You can plant the whole thing in the ground and the roots will grow through the coir which in turn will biodegrade in the earth. Neat idea I thought.

If you want to find out more do look up The Hairy Pot Plant Company on the internet.

Well before I drive you 'potty', I'll let you go. How about a nice walk in the fresh air or even opening a window to enjoy the wonderful plants and trees around us that are providing us with the oxygen we need and removing the carbon dioxide.

Best wishes,

**Rosemary Ley**

## Goodbyes

We are sorry to record the deaths of two well known Newnham figures.

Joy Cadbury was a friend to many of us over the years and a wonderful companion to James. She died on the 16th April and her funeral, at which her daughter, Lucy, and all three of her grandchildren sang, was on the 15th May. We extend our sympathy to James and all the family.

Loder Bevington died on the 9th May. He and Julia worshipped at St Mark's during Bill Loveless's time as Vicar and for some of that time Loder was Church Treasurer. Many of us who remembered them were delighted when they returned to Newnham and St Mark's many years later. There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Loder's life in Church on the 15th June. Our thoughts are with Julia and all the family.

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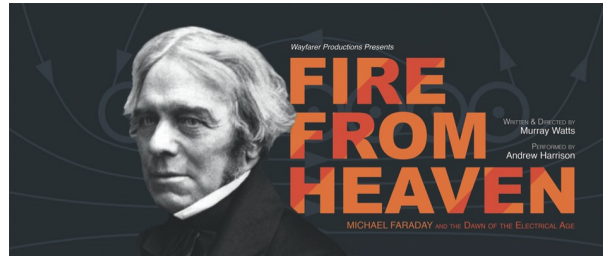
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# Fire from Heaven

Friday, 7th July 2023



Some years ago we were delighted when Andrew Harrison came to St Mark's with *Mr Darwin's Tree*, a one-man play written by Murray Watts. Since then Andrew has performed the play in many countries throughout the world including China, Korea and the United States.

Both writer and actor are now being celebrated with their brilliant new show which illuminates the career of Michael Faraday, the religious non-conformist and largely self-taught physicist, whose innovative scientific research formed the foundation of electric motor technology.

This compelling piece of story-telling and mesmerising acting will be presented at St Mark's on Friday, 7th July. Booking details to be announced soon but put the date in your diary now.

## Easter Talks

This year, instead of a Lent series, *Resurrection and Beyond, Following Jesus from Easter to Pentecost* provided us instead, after Easter, with a stimulating series of talks leading us to ponder on Resurrection, the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, topics which are often in danger of being side-lined. Many thanks to the committee who planned and put together these evening sessions.

Meanwhile on Wednesday afternoons in a course entitled *The Bible in Colour* Mike Thompson's group continued to explore the many different translations of the New Testament with reference to the original Greek, identifying nuances and placing controversial texts into their contemporary context. Thanks to Mike for his stimulating and informative leadership.

## U3AC Open Day

"No exams, no pressure - just learning and enjoying an activity for fun!" That's why I joined U3AC, says Tim Ewbank, Chairman of the educational charity based in Cambridge. If you're retired or semi-retired and looking for structure to your week and want to stay mentally and physically active, then come along to the U3AC Open Day on Thursday 6 July 10am-1pm, 27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UJ.

At the Open Day you'll meet a selection of tutors, take a tour of the classrooms, pick up a courses and activities Programme and find out what U3AC has to offer. You'll also get to hear from U3AC's Mainly Madrigals singing group as you enjoy one of the free refreshments.

U3AC's course programme follows an academic cycle, with three terms, starting in October. However, new members can join at any time.

In addition to courses, U3AC offers a weekly lecture series and social events throughout the year, which brings members together and offers the chance to meet more like-minded people. You'll also find members congregating over a cup of coffee after classes in the Bridge Street premises in central Cambridge.

For further information about courses, vacancies and membership visit [www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk)



# Prayers for June

## **A prayer for PEACE**

Almighty God who reigns over all the earth, let there be peace where there is strife. Help all involved in the brokerage of agreements and settlements to have your message at heart. Strengthen the peace-makers in their resolve to work for the good of the down-trodden and weary, for the displaced, the injured, the forgotten. Comfort them in knowing of your unfailing love.

## **A verse for HOPE - Isaiah 40:31**

'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'

## **A prayer for GUIDANCE**

God, help me trust you with my decisions and future. Let me lean on you with all my heart instead of relying on my own imperfect understanding. Give me clear guidance in my life. I ask for your help to direct my path. May I be filled with understanding and wisdom. Amen

## **A prayer concerning VISION - Charles Kingsley**

Come to us, O Lord! Open the eyes of our souls, and show us the things which belong to our peace and the path of life; that we may see that, though all man(kind)'s inventions and plans come to an end, yet thy commandment is exceeding broad – broad enough for rich and poor, for scholar, tradesman, and labourer, for our prosperity in this life and our salvation in the life to come.

## **A prayer from an unknown source**

Creator God, you send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world, that the whole creation in its groaning and striving may know your loving purpose and come to reflect your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Chosen by Hannelore Hägele**

### **Cambridge City Foodbank Dates for June**

St Mark's Church – Sunday 4th June

1 Millington Road or 19 Kings Road on Thursday 8th June 9am – 4pm

Gough Way – Every Tuesday morning 11am - 1pm at the Gough Way island with the postbox.

## Services at St Mark's Church, Newnham in June

**Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday**

### **Sunday Services**

4th June at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion
11th June at <b>9.30 am</b>	Morning Worship with Junior Church
18th June at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion with Junior Church
25th June at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion with Junior Church

### **Tuesdays**

Weekly Communion (BCP) at **11.00 am** followed by refreshments  
6th June from **3.30 pm to 5.30 pm** Messy Church

## Advance Information for two July Sunday Services

Following her ordination Bethan will preside at Communion for the first time at a joint service, followed by refreshments, at Grantchester at 10.30 am on Sunday 2nd July. (No service at St Mark's that day.)

Rachel's last Sunday will be Sunday 30th July. There will be a joint service with Grantchester at St Mark's at 10.30 am that day.

## 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](mailto:aa.watts@hotmail.co.uk) or  
Mike Thompson, [michaelangelot99@gmail.com](mailto: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.