Seek



September 2023

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

A Letter from our Curate Bethan



This Summer has brought rather a lot of change, so I wanted to take the opportunity in this letter to think a little about reorientating ourselves.

Over the summer we said goodbye to our

vicar Rachel and to her husband Sam as they move into Cambridge for Rachel to take up her new post at Westcott House. For those involved with education there was also the ending of the last school year and preparations for a new one. There will be exam results for many and changes of class or even school. It has felt like the weather has changed season on at least a weekly basis too!

With Rachel moving on we find ourselves in a period at St Mark's that is often referred to as a vacancy, or occasionally an interregnum. And with that period of vacancy a number of different people have taken on different roles and responsibilities until a new vicar starts - more about recruiting a new vicar anon! Rosey (Gardiner) and Nigel (Porter), our churchwardens, have taken on extended responsibility and they will be overseeing all aspects of the governance of our church community and in the bigger picture parts of the life of the church. I am delighted that Bishop Dagmar has allowed me to stay in my post here as Curate (trainee vicar) in Grantchester and Newnham. During this period of vacancy I will be responsible for services and the main contact for pastoral matters - weddings, funerals, baptisms and such

We are so lucky in St Mark's to have wonderful teams who I know will continue in their fields of expertise bringing the wonderful diversity of activity we have in our community. Our visiting team is available if you know anyone who is sick, bereaved, lonely or would appreciate visits for chats and support in a way that respects the dignity of individuals at all times. Our Arts Events, Education and Discipleship, and Social teams will continue to run all manner of events – look out for the Autumn Fair, Harvest Lunch, concerts and more. Our Eco Team continue to enable us to consider our impact on God's creation. It is wonderful that people give time and energy to making our community a better place. If you would like to join them, please do get in touch!

As we look to this new academic year and this new period in the life of St Mark's and the wider Newnham community, I want to encourage you to consider which way your life is orientated. What is your focus that leads you? I am currently writing a sermon for Sunday on a reading from 1 Kings 19 when Elijah is exhausted from running from persecution and from trying to minister to people who aren't listening to what he says. One commentary writes "Like Elijah, we may feel exhausted, alone, self-righteous, and under attack, as we look for new signs of God's presence and direction". But Elijah doesn't find God in the expected powerful displays, the earthquake, wind and fire. He finds God in the quiet place afterwards, the still small voice of calm. I wonder where you are looking for direction this September. As we turn our faces to the next steps for our communities, look in the unexpected places. You never know, you might find something that changes your perspective and invigorates you to something new.

Bethan Rodden



Goodbye, Rachel and Sam

On Sunday 30th July Rachel led us in worship for the last time. We were joined by the congregation of Grantchester Church for a service of Holy Communion which included some of Rachel's favourite hymns. At the end of the service Nigel made a presentation on behalf of us all as we wished Rachel and Sam farewell. After the service we gathered in the Community Centre for prosecco and strawberries and cream comforting ourselves with the thought that they are not moving far away and that we shall continue to see them around Cambridge.



Centre 33: Charity of the Month



The start of a new school and academic year with its challenges and new beginnings seems an appropriate time to focus on Centre 33, the local mental health charity for young people.

Nancy Hogg, their Fundraising Officer writes:

Centre 33 is a charity working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough providing young people (up to age 25) with emotional and practical support. We are a local charity and are lucky to have such wonderful support from our community. We would like to thank everyone involved with St Mark's Church, Newnham for choosing Centre 33 as your September charity of the month. We are very grateful for your support.

Centre 33 opened its doors to young people at 33 Clarendon Street on May 1st in 1981. Our first employee, and founding patron, Maggie Hunter had a vision of somewhere 'Where young people could come and talk over difficulties confidentially with a counsellor without fear of judgement.' In its first year Centre 33 supported 190 young people. In the intervening 42 years much has changed. Centre 33 now has hubs in Cambridge, Peterborough, Ely, Wisbech and Huntingdon and works closely with 2,500 young people each year, reaching 1,000s more through responding to enquiries from young people, professionals and parents alike. But we have stayed true to that vision, working towards a future where all young people are listened to, respected and supported.

'In your head you're blowing up like a balloon with all the anger...I have so much stress, but I can't burst at home.' Young Carer

Centre 33 have a holistic approach to supporting young people. Our open access Someone to Talk to drop-in service means young people can come to us for free and without appointment. Our range of services under one roof means young people can access all the help they need with their emotional health in a friendly and non-stigmatising environment. In addition to our drop-ins, we offer counselling in our hubs and in many schools across the region. We can support with money worries, sexual health, employment, or homelessness. Our Young Carers Project offers one-to-one support, advocacy and respite to children and young people up to the age of 18 who take on practical and/or emotional caring roles in their families. Young people can talk to us about anything. We are here to listen and to help.

We provide specialist practical support around the following needs:

- · Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Housing/homelessness
- Employment, education, and finance
- Food poverty and food bank vouchers
- Sexual health (Including STI testing and supported pregnancy testing)
- Support with reducing the negative impacts of caring responsibilities

Our services aim to ensure young people are supported to:

- · Be emotionally and physically healthy
- Be safely housed
- Be in employment or meaningful education / training
- Have improved financial situations
- Reduce the negative impact of their caring responsibilities

It can be a brave move for young people to reach out and ask for help, so when they do, we ensure they feel heard. When a young person visits Centre 33 we ask them 'What brings you here today?'. A young person's response to this simple question can often be the start of a transformative journey. We make an individualised, holistic assessment of a young person's current situation to provide the right help for this young person. In return we aim for young people to feel empowered, respected and, most importantly, heard. By listening, and helping, we can work together to foster a kinder and more caring society; a future where all young people are listened to, respected, and supported.

We cannot do this without the support of our community. So, on behalf of everyone at Centre 33 and, most importantly, the young people we work with, thank you again to everyone at St Mark's Church, Newnham for supporting Centre 33.

Nancy Hogg

Please give generously, under Gift Aid if possible. Donations may be made via the Church website stmarksnewnham.org. Alternatively, contact our Treasurer, Stuart Lingard at treasurer@stmarksnewnham.org if you wish to give via bank transfer.

Tina Wilson

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Julia Bevington: Nonagenarian

Julia was born on the 16th May 1933 in her grandfather's home in Bakewell. Her grandfather was the local GP and her mother had returned to her family home for the birth of her first child. Three more were to follow – a son and two more daughters.

Her first home was a flat in the Vicarage of St Andrew's, Holborn, where her paternal grandfather was the vicar, but after two years the family moved to a dilapidated house in Sydney Street, Chelsea, now a very smart area of London but then very rundown. Her father had trained as an architect but in the 1930s jobs were scarce and he had secured work instead with Lloyds Insurance.

When war broke out the family moved to Hampshire. Her father commuted into London regularly whilst back in the village he was in the Home Guard which bore a strong resemblance to the motley crew of Dad's Army. The family lived in their paternal grandmother's house in Weston Patrick throughout the war, as part of a household of as many as 11 people. Julia describes a village life that has long since disappeared. The family had strong local associations and indeed her great-great grandfather had designed and rebuilt the church after the original one had burnt down. Today the cottages are



all inhabited by newcomers but then they belonged to local people who had been born and brought up in the village and who all knew each other. She remembers the old roadman, whose responsibility it was to keep the roadsides clear of vegetation, and his granddaughters pushing his pet jackdaw around the village in a doll's pram, the bird imitating the old man's cough, and of being sent with her siblings and cousins in pairs with a can to fetch the milk from the farm each morning.

The war made remarkably little impact on the children's daily lives and in many ways it was an idyllic childhood. They were at liberty to explore the

countryside at will building dens and helping with the harvest which was gathered in in horse drawn wagons. Only once when they were mushrooming did they see a German aeroplane flying overhead and they sought shelter in a wood.

When she was nine she was sent to a boarding school in Fleet and, when the war was over and the family returned to Sydney Street, she went to Francis Holland School, just a short walk away. For the first term so soon after the end of the war the school buildings were still inaccessible to them and lessons took place in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Three years later the family moved into a large house back in Weston Patrick and Julia spent her final school years in Winchester before doing a secretarial course in London.

Once qualified she went for an interview for what she believed to be a post at the Foreign Office only to find herself offered a job with MI5. This required her to sign the Official Secrets Act and meant that later her potential husband had to be vetted and that, when she eventually left the service, she was barred from travelling behind the Iron Curtain for six years. She worked for MI5 for an enjoyable nine years. The highlight was probably the two years she spent in Malta where she and another girl shared a flat which came complete with a housekeeper and where a driver drove them to the Castille each morning and then back to the flat for lunch. Julia says, "We were very spoilt." As the Navy, Army and Royal Marines were all based in Malta at the time life was full of picnics, dances and parties. Occasionally when her boss was away it was her job to visit the Palace to give the daily report to the Governor.

Back on leave in England Julia was staying with friends in Bosham when a young man spotted her swimming in the mill pond. He promptly invited her to join his farewell party in London. So began her long and happy relationship with Loder. A young biologist, he was about to leave for Costa Rica (hence the farewell party) to work on banana diseases but they corresponded regularly and two years later were married in 1961.

Loder was working for what was originally Fisons and, apart from a period near Basingstoke, they lived in the Cambridge area in a series of rented homes, often cold and drafty, including a flat in Byron House in Grantchester, before they finally bought 20 Brooklands Avenue. The house was in terrible repair when they first moved in but over the years they renovated it to make a wonderful family home for Clare, Dickon and Alice, their children.

With ample space they used the top floor to house a series of girl lodgers, providing them with breakfast and an evening meal and making many good friends on the way. Most of these young women were doing A Levels or secretarial courses and their adventures would fill an article on their own.

It was during this period that Julia, Loder and the children began to attend St Mark's on the recommendation of Clare who had been taken to one of Bill Loveless's family services by a friend. They became closely involved in church life and, indeed, Loder was Church Treasurer for 10 years.

All this time they had been on the lookout for the perfect house in the country and in the late 1980s they found The Merchant's House, a Grade II listed property in Swaffham Bulbeck. Today it is a beautifully maintained building but when they moved in there was a hole in the roof with a tin bath to catch the rain and the garden was a wilderness. Over the next ten years they worked hard to restore the property and achieved a beautiful house and garden. Some readers may remember an Away Day they hosted for St Mark's when Philip Spence brought 20 parishioners for a guiet day. They became closely involved in village and church life, with Loder becoming the Village Treasurer and later Parish Chairman, and opening the garden regularly for church events. One year they were part of the National Gardens Scheme but Julia says, "Once was enough!"

Through the many years of their life in Cambridge Julia undertook a wide range of jobs and responsibilities. Amongst these she was a part-time PA to the Admission's Tutor at Trinity College and also had a corner in Cottage Antiques opposite the Catholic Church where she worked for several years. She was a trustee, and for three years chairman, of the Royal Albert Homes, and fund-

raised for the Castle Project Workshop before it was taken over by the Richmond Project. She also did Bed and Breakfast for ten years at the Merchant House. She says, "I had some fascinating guests, including Roger Bannister and his wife, and some quite odd and challenging ones!" In addition, she says, "I have helped with seven grandchildren over the years and have been chief dogwalker for decades."

When the Merchant House became too big for them Julia and Loder moved into a cottage in the village. There was a barn attached where Loder, a gifted wood worker, was able to set up a workshop, and a garden small enough to be easily maintained. They lived there happily for nine years before Loder's health began to fail.

By that time Alice and her family had moved into Gough Way and she alerted them when a house came up for sale in Pearce Close. With all three of their children living locally it was the right place to be and the right time to move and their Newnham friends were delighted to see them settle back here.

With Loder's health deteriorating further and with him finally suffering a devastating stroke, the last year or two have been very difficult for all the family and for Julia in particular. Loder died on the 9th May, just a week before Julia's 90th birthday. With amazing fortitude she provided celebratory cake for all the congregation to enjoy after the service on the Sunday following her birthday. Given the circumstances I think that our birthday wishes were particularly heartfelt.

I am very grateful to Julia for spending time with me and telling me so much about her life. In many ways I feel that I have only scratched the surface. Do ask her to tell you more about her interesting and varied life.

Jane Plows

Autumn Fair



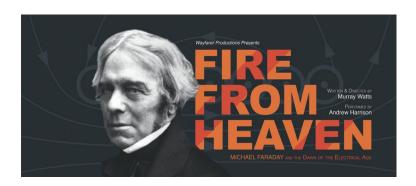
Go to page 3 to find details of the Autumn Fair on Saturday 23rd September. As usual, your help will be welcomed. Lookout for the sign up sheets in the Narthex.

There will also be a clothes swap, so if you have any clothes that you would like to donate please hold onto them and watch out for details of how to donate them.

Fire from Heaven

The story of Michael Faraday, written by Murray Watts and performed by Andrew Harrison.

Friday 7th July



Fire from Heaven, Murray Watts' latest one-man play, worked doubly well when it was presented at St Mark's in July. It gave us an account of the extraordinary and inspiring life of Michael Faraday, and it did this through a dazzlingly skilful performance from actor Andrew Harrison.

Faraday (1791 to 1867) became one of our most brilliant and influential men of science — it's said that Albert Einstein kept a picture of him in his study — but he achieved this eminence from humble beginnings. He was apprenticed to a bookbinder and had no formal scientific education. He was, however, able to attend lectures on chemistry given by Sir Humphry Davy of the Royal Society, and in time Davy became both his mentor and his employer. *Fire from Heaven* shows Davy to have been a complex influence, through an odd mix of kindness and resentment. Davy's decline and the insecurity it brought about form one of this play's moving sub-plots.

The fact that he was largely self-taught and possessed an unusually unassuming character often got in the way of Faraday's progress through an England divided by class. Eventually, though, with determination and brilliance of mind, he succeeded. In later life he was offered a knighthood but he turned it down on religious grounds. (He was a life-long member of an

obscure non-conformist sect, the Glasites.) Riches and material rewards were never as important to him as the pursuit of knowledge. The play reflects this. It paints a picture of a man more interested in the way the world works than in what it can give him.

Fire from Heaven tells Faraday's story in the third person, rather than through the voice of the man himself. At first this has a slightly distancing effect, but we are gradually drawn in. When we do hear Faraday's voice, it's attractively modest and almost apologetic.

Andrew Harrison told the story clearly and expressively. He inhabited all the characters – Faraday himself, his wife Sarah, Sir Humphry Davy and his class-conscious wife Jane, a down-to earth lab assistant, and a whole cast of others – with a mesmerising ability to switch from one to another in the blink of an eye. I was sometimes convinced that two people were talking when there was only one to be seen. All this was augmented by telling sound effects, expertly played in by our own Barry Read.

By the play's conclusion I felt I'd been taken on a fulfilling journey through the complex world of a sweet-natured genius.

Nick Warburton

Newnham Walkers



Newnham Walkers meet every Monday by the Crofters Cafe, Lammas Land at 10.30 for a short, gentle walk, followed by refreshments in a local café. Regular participants or occasional visitors are both welcome!

Hot Pants?

I was reading an article in the Cambridge Independent (often a source of inspiration for me!). It was about a farmer who had buried two pairs of identical cotton underpants in the ground. One pair in a field where there had been no ploughing, only direct drilling to plant seeds, the other in an area of the field that had been ploughed over. After two months both pairs were dug up and the difference was remarkable. The first pair had been devoured by microbes etc (except for the elastic and the label) whereas the second pair were barely affected. The farmer deduced that the unploughed soil was full of the life which is needed for growing crops.

I wondered if it would work in our compost heap but before I could try it out, my husband came in from 'turning' the compost heap, to ask if I was carrying out an experiment in it. He had found lots of what looked like cut up 'plastic' bags in there. "It's not really plastic," I said. "The vegetables from Riverford came in those bags and it said that they were home compostable." He didn't look very convinced so I thought that it wasn't the time to experiment by burying his old cotton underwear in the compost heap!



RIVERFORD We have been having deliveries from Riverford Organic Farmers for a

while now and we are really pleased with the quality of the vegetables and fruit especially as customers can now choose what they want in the box. (In the beginning we ordered the 'British only' box and were rather swamped with cabbage/kale/broccoli). My granddaughter enjoyed helping me to shell garden peas but quite a few of them never made it to the saucepan for some reason! Yum, yum.

Anyway, the box is put out on the morning of the delivery and collected along with any packaging that we can't 'home compost' or recycle. They even do a 'no packaging' box but you don't get to say what you get in it.

"OK," I hear some of you say, "But we grow our own" or "I cycle down to the farmers' market on Sunday," both of which are really commendable. Well done! However, I do enjoy ordering items online and reading about the farmers who produce the fruit and vegetables. With regard to growing our own, the only success we have had is with our black tomatoes this year. Tasty and very prolific but a lot of tlc required from February onwards!

I was reading about a village that had a share scheme. If one family had a glut of tomatoes they would share with the others in the village some of whom had a glut of beans or something else. A



rather nice idea thought. like FareShare, the UK's national network

charitable network food redistributors that take good quality surplus food from right across the food industry and get it to frontline charities and community groups. I gather that Riverford donated cabbages earlier this year as the farmers had too many of them.

Sharing is a very 'sustainable' idea and it doesn't only have to be fruit, vegetables or flowers does it?

The ECO Church Action Group plan to hold a 'clothes swap' again at the Autumn Fair on the 23rd September so maybe here is your chance to have a purge of your wardrobe? However, all clothes need to be in a good condition so no pants that have been buried in the compost heap please!

Best wishes.

Rosemary Ley

Dementia Compass: July's Charity of the Month

At the time of going to press the total raised for Dementia Compass is £628 including Gift Aid. Thank you for your generous donations.

From the Registers

Funerals 10th July Bahri Duru

> 27th July Christophe Amez

Regular Groups

Monday Bible Study

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

Tuesday and Thursday Home Groups

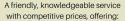
7:30 pm, weekly – contact: Andrew Watts, <u>aa.watts@hotmail.co.uk</u> or Mike Thompson, michaelangelot99@gmail.com

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.



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A Prayer for September

The Aramaic Lord's Prayer, interpreted by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos; Focus your light within us, make it useful.

Create your reign of unity now, through our fiery hearts and willing hands.

Help us love beyond our ideals, and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.

Animate the earth within us; we then feel the Wisdom underneath, supporting all.

Untangle the knots within, so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.

Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.

Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

Abwoon d'bwashmaya Nethqadash shmakh Teytey malkuthakh

Nehwey tzevyanach aykanna d'bwashmaya aph b'arha.

Hawvlan lachma d'sunqanan yaomana.

Washboqlan khaubayn (wakhtahayn)

aykana daph khnan shbwoqan l'khayyabayn.

Wela tahlan l'nesyuna

Ela patzan min bisha.

Metol dilakhie malkutha wahayla wateshbukhta l'ahlam almin.

Ameyn

Chosen by Dani Redhead



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.

Services at St Mark's Church, Newnham in September

Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday

Sunday Services

3rd September at **9.30 am** Communion

10th September at **9.30 am**Morning Worship with Junior Church
17th September at **9.30 am**Communion with Junior Church
24th September at **9.30 am**Communion for Creationtide with

Junior Church

Tuesdays

Weekly Communion (BCP) at **11.00 am** followed by refreshments 12th September from **3.30 pm to 5.30 pm** Messy Church

St Mark's is in Vacancy

During the Vacancy please contact the Curate, The Revd Bethan Rodden, whose details are given below, for all queries regarding weddings, funerals, baptisms and home communions.

Please note that Bethan's day off is Friday.

07542 843983 revbethanr@gmail.com

Cambridge City Foodbank Dates for September

St Mark's Church – Sunday 3rd September

1 Millington Road and 19 Kings Road - Thursday 7th September 9am - 4pm Gough Way - Every Tuesday morning 11am - 1pm at the Gough Way island with the postbox.

Umoja: June's Charity of the Month

The total raised for Umoja was £1,140.64. Thank you to all those who donated to this wonderful total.