

Seek



March 2024

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

A Letter from our Curate, Bethan Rodden



This week, as I write this letter, we are in mid February, and we've just marked the start of Lent with Shrove Tuesday (and pancakes!) and Ash

Wednesday. Lent is the season in preparation for Easter. It is a waiting time, a preparation time. It is (as Will reflected last month) "often a time defined by giving something up."

I can remember as a child being in awe of a friend who managed to give chocolate up for the whole of Lent, squirrelling away any she was given in a designated spot in her parents' kitchen cupboards until Easter Day. She was full of anticipation and excitement for the return of chocolate and being able to enjoy it again on Easter Morning.

If we choose to give something up for Lent then some of this discipline is about sacrifice, perhaps praying to God when we would otherwise turn to the thing we've given up. But I hope as you read this, a few weeks into Lent, you may also be encouraged by the anticipation that something different is coming. The joy and excitement of Easter Day is on the horizon.



Our Lenten disciplines often also require effort. Some choose to take up something new, to read a chapter of the Bible or another book each day, to make space or time

for something otherwise pushed out. I was recently struck by a verse we used at a networking event for pioneer ministers. We looked at fourth chapter of Hebrews in the Bible and a small line stood out for me:

"Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest" Hebrews 4:11a

This Lent I am trying to make sure I enter into times of rest; that I don't run from one thing to the next, neglecting to listen to my body and my mind, and that I give myself the time for rest. After all, even God needed rest in the story of Creation, and Jesus often took time

away for rest. But it wasn't just the theme of rest that stood out; it was the fact that entering into rest takes *effort*.

Like giving up chocolate or reading a Bible chapter a day, taking rest requires effort. It is an important use of our time that is so easily pushed out. It is not easy to ignore our other tasks while we rest, just as I would be unable to do as my childhood friend did and ignore the chocolate in the cupboard!

Similarly, our relationships require effort. We put time and energy into them. Our relationship with God should be just the same. Whether we give something up or take up a new discipline, it should be something that helps us to see God more clearly. Something that brings us into relationship with Jesus, whose story we continue to follow through Lent and into Easter.

In the last week of this month, we will journey together with the disciples towards Easter. We will remember Jesus entering Jerusalem and the waving palms and shouts of praise on Palm Sunday. We will imagine the depths of despair and grief of the disciples on Good Friday after their friend, the one they believed to be the Messiah, had died. And we will join them at the eventual high point and joy as they discover the resurrection of the Son of God on Easter Sunday.

Throughout the week there will be larger gatherings, with excitement and Palm crosses, and quieter reflective spaces to sit with the disciples in their grief. I hope that in these services we will all find a space to come closer to God. Perhaps you might join us for one of our services as we journey together. Look on the next page for the details.

However you choose to mark this month and the season of Lent, I hope you might come to know God a little better and perhaps, if like me you're prone to being too busy, make the effort to find some rest.

Bethan

The April Issue of SEEK

All contributions are welcome. Please send them by Sunday 17th March to Jane Plows at janemp@virginmedia.com (350120) or contact any member of the committee.

Services at St Mark's Church, Newnham in March

Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday

Sunday and Holy Week Services

3rd March at 9.30 am	Communion
10th March at 9.30 am <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Morning Worship with Junior Church

17th March at 9.30 am	Communion with Junior Church
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Palm Sunday

24th March at 9.30 am	Communion with Junior Church
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Mid Week Services

25th March at 7.30 pm	Compline at Grantchester
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26th March at 7.30 pm	Compline at St Mark's
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27th March at 7.30 pm	Tenebrae at Grantchester
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Maundy Thursday

28th March at 7.30 pm	Remembering the Last Supper
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Good Friday

29th March at 10.00 am at 2.00 pm	Outside Service on Grantchester Meadows Last Hour at the Cross
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Easter Day

31st March at 7.00 am at 9.30 am	Sunrise Service on Grantchester Meadows Easter Communion
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Tuesdays

Weekly Communion (BCP)	at 11.00 am followed by refreshments
Monthly Messy Church	5th March at 3.30 pm



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.

Charity of the Month : Support for Gombe Diocese



A student from Nigeria who is now working for a PhD in Cambridge has joined St Marks' services on several Sundays, so I asked her if I could talk with her about her upbringing in a family that regularly attended a Christian congregation there. She began by saying that, though Christianity arrived in Nigeria through European missionaries, now the church has "taken on its own" way. Fundamental Christian doctrines remain the same but, for example, the length of church services would be a surprise to any English visitor. She recalled the processions of the choir at the start of services which could take up many verses of an opening hymn!

Religion was at the centre of her family's life in her formative years and faith was a fundamental part of it. Her family worshipped in one of the oldest church buildings in Nigeria, the Anglican cathedral in Lagos, popular for its grand size and its large congregation. The congregation was divided into a Sunday School, a youth church and the adult "big church". On most Sundays the groups met separately and parents would appear at the end to collect their children. She recalls that the congregation reached over 1000 members and the Sunday School about 600. The Sunday School included a creche through to the time when children left secondary school (typically at age 16/17). The church's Sunday programme started at 7.00 am. and so the family needed to get up at 5.00 am! I asked her if she ever felt lost in such a large congregation but she replied that that would not have been allowed to happen there.

Her memories of Sunday School include a leader who looked after the junior choir which she joined when she was eight. That lady ensured that the choir was dressed in their own black and white robes and sat in front of the congregation: this resulted in all the children wanting to join the choir! The leader hired a professional keyboardist, trained the children's voices and

provided snacks such as cup-cakes, doughnuts and meat-pies after rehearsals. For all the children in the Sunday School special activities were put on. This student remembers being taught in one activity to make jewellery, such as necklaces and bracelets, with beads. The sense of community was very strong. She remembers the friends she made and thought of the adults in the congregation as "uncles and aunties". This closeness of community is something that she still misses when she is away from home. She could have stayed in the Sunday School, but in fact moved on earlier when she felt that she had outgrown it.

That church and their home were in a more privileged area of Nigeria. It was only when she moved away to her first university, in the state capital of Abuja, that she really faced the realities of life for other Nigerian Christians. For them security was a main concern, and church came to stand for a place where they might feel safe. Some congregations met in the presence of armed guards.

Travelling further north to historic towns, such as Kano and Kaduna, she found that there were expectations that needed to be met to avoid offending others. When deciding what to wear one had to "cover up". So she became aware of a wider world that as a child she had overlooked. That area had earlier been affected badly by terrorism, part of whose strategy was to attack symbols of 'westernisation', such as education and health facilities. Hence the churches in the north of Nigeria, such as Gombe, put a strong emphasis on providing schooling and health care for their communities. So, through our support for Gombe diocese, members of St Mark's are demonstrating their empathy with those Christian congregations who must live with accusations of being 'too westernised'.

Andrew Watts

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The Lamentation over the Dead Christ



It stands out and is hard to miss. It is a piece of sculpture 155 cm wide and 87 cm tall. It is thought to have been commissioned for a private chapel in Siena in about 1510 by the workshop of Andrea Della Robbia in Florence. It is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum (usually referred to as the V&A) in London where it is prominently displayed on a metre high plinth at the entrance of gallery 26. Such large scale groups in various materials were used as the focal points for devotion in chapels and churches throughout Europe.

The sculpture depicts Christ following his crucifixion after he has been brought down from the cross. His body is positioned lying, the upper torso supported by his mother the Virgin and St John the Evangelist whilst Mary Magdalen looks on, slightly detached. The latter holds her traditional attribute: a jar of perfume. The Virgin and Magdalen are looking down at the dead Christ, anguish clearly depicted in their faces while St John looks outward, though not directly at the viewer. The wounds of Christ's crucifixion, especially the cut on his side, are prominent.

The creation of the sculpture is interesting. It was made in terracotta in five pieces which were then assembled together. These were fired in a kiln twice, during the second time being glazed to provide colour. Unfortunately the Magdalen was damaged during the first firing, probably due to air being trapped in the clay which expanded when heated. This prevented a second firing for tin-glazing and the figure was painted instead. Over the centuries the paint has faded so she is not as colourful now as the other figures. Unlike when it was originally displayed, it is possible to view the back of the piece to see further clues to its creation.

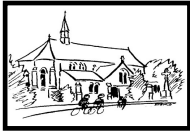
To some there may be an air of finality about the sculpture. Christ is definitely dead. But for us there is hope in that following Christ's burial shortly after the scene portrayed, three days later came the resurrection on the first Easter morning. I like to pause for a few minutes in contemplation and reflect on this.

Chris Hammond

Peter Hammond

We are sad to record the death of Peter Hammond, Chris's father, on the 3rd February and offer our condolences to Chris and all his family. Peter's funeral, to be attended by family members only, will be on the 27th February.

Recruiting A New Vicar for St Mark's and St Andrew and St Mary, Grantchester



As many of you know, our last vicar, Rachel Rosborough, left the parishes in August 2023 to take up a new post at Westcott House. Since then both St Mark's and Grantchester have been 'in vacancy' with no vicar in post. We now have a firm timeline for recruiting a new vicar.

In early February, the Archdeacon, Alex Hughes, chaired what is known as a Section 11 Meeting for the PCCs of both St Mark's and Grantchester. At this meeting the PCCs

- formally adopted the Parish Profile which has been prepared over the past two months. The Parish Profile describes the parishes and the local community, gives a feel for church life, explores the opportunities for mission and ministry, and paints a picture of the sort of person we are looking for to be our new vicar. It's our opportunity to sell ourselves to potential applicants! It's available to view on the St Mark's website (<https://stmarksnewnham.org>)



- formally elected the two Parish Representatives for each Parish: Hilary Murray and Rosey Gardiner for St Mark's, Liz Neville and Margaret Barwise in Grantchester. The Parish Representatives are part of the interview panel choosing a new vicar.

Timeline –

16th February onwards – Post advertised in the Church Times

15th March - Closing date for applications

25th April – Interview Day. After the interviews the chosen candidate will meet the Bishop

DBS checks will then be made, and an announcement will be made simultaneously in St Mark's, Grantchester and our new Vicar's home parish (if applicable). This may take a couple of weeks. The chosen candidate will then have to give notice in their current parish, but we hope to have our new vicar in place by September 2024.

Easter Flowers



Lilies - If you would like us to remember someone with lilies at Easter, please fill in the form in the narthex and give the money to Sue Payne - £3.00 per lily.

Decorating the Church - We shall be gathering at 9.30 am onwards on Saturday 30th March to decorate the church in our usual joyful fashion. Apart from the lilies, if you would like to contribute fresh garden greenery and some late spring flowers they would be very much appreciated and would add greatly to the joy and vivacity of the church at Easter.

Wendy Walford

Lavinia Harding Rolls

We are sorry to record the death of Lavinia Harding-Rolls on the 16th January and send our condolences to her family. Lavinia's Memorial Service was held in St Mark's on the 23rd February.

Admission of Children to Communion

On Sunday 28th January the congregation at the 9.30 am service witnessed the following children being admitted to Communion:-

Benedict Doyle
Nathaniel Doyle
Wilfred Menzies
Edie Menzies

It was a joyful service and it was a pleasure to welcome Natalie back for the occasion. In her sermon, directed to the children, she described her pleasure in witnessing their spiritual growth in Junior Church over the preceding months.

Lent Lunches : 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm

These lunches hosted by Newnham residents have been a tradition at St Mark's for many, many years and are an enjoyable way for people to enjoy a simple lunch during Lent in return for a donation to charity. This year the charity has been chosen by the host. Please contact the host to let them know that you wish to attend. Please bring cash as our church treasurer, Stuart Lingard, has offered to pass it on to the charities and reclaim the gift aid. The hosts, contact details, address and charity are listed below.

Wednesday 28 February – Val and David Keeble

Charity: Médecins Sans Frontières

01223 362291 dek1@cam.ac.uk

32 Barton Road

Wednesday 6th March – Wendy Walford and Judith Lewins

Charity: East Anglian Air Ambulance

01223 323519 wendy.walford@btinternet.com

12 Stukeley Close

Wednesday 13th March – Angie and Tim Cole

Charity: Jimmy's Night Shelter

01223 352633 angie2cole@yahoo.com

100 Barton Road

Wednesday 20th March – Sarah Perry

Charity: Kidney Cancer UK

07778 809803 sarahperry11@gmail.com

11 Trumpington Road

Wednesday 27th March – Amanda Glew

Charity: Centre 33 – Supporting Young People

01223 471354 Eamanda.glew02@gmail.com

16 Wordsworth Grove



CCHP : the January Charity

The amount raised for CCHP, including gift aid, was £986.10. Thank you to all who donated so generously.

(Additional late contributions raised the total for Musalaha, the December Charity, to £979.05.)

News from Newnham Croft School



The Eco Committee

At Newnham Croft School, we relaunched our Eco Committee in September 2023.

The committee is made up of children from every class in school who meet every half term to discuss actions we can put into place to make our school, and our planet, more environmentally friendly.

One of our initiatives this year has been to carefully monitor how eco friendly each of the classrooms are. Some of the Year 5 children check the classrooms daily to ensure they are remembering to turn off the lights, re-use or recycle paper and make sure the taps are turned off, The class who has been least wasteful wins a cup for the week.

Foodbank Dates for March



St Mark's Church – Sunday 3rd March

1 Millington Road and 19 Kings Road - Thursday 7th March 9am – 4pm

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

There is also a collection point at the Co-op.

Hard copies of Seek can be found in the Narthex of the Church and in the Community Centre.

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On the Buses 2



Some basic information

On the Whippet U and 18 buses the adult fare for a local single journey is £2 (concessions for university staff and students, under 15s and older children in schools and colleges). The U bus offers a £3 day ticket, which will cover your return journey and any other trips that day - very good value for a double journey which crosses Cambridge from Girton College to the Biomedical Campus around Addenbrooke's! Stagecoach has a complicated structure of fares, but local single journey fares cost £1.80.

If you are over the age of 67, you can travel free on all local buses after 9.30 am. Bus passes can be applied for and renewed through the Central Library.

The three main bus stops in Newnham are all situated along Barton Road and (inward only) Newnham Road. All these are **request stops**, as they serve different buses, so you need to signal to an approaching driver that you want the bus to stop. Additional bus stops are opposite Cousin's shop (199), Grantchester Road and Fen Causeway (18) Grange Road at Pinehurst/Selwyn College (U2). Slightly further from Barton Road are Grange Road by the Rugby Club and Queens' College (U1/U2) and the University Library (U1).

Some bus journeys from Newnham

St Neots We now have a direct service by 18 bus at 5 mins past the hour to the rail station and Market Square in St Neots. It takes 1hr 10 mins and is a pleasant journey through various villages, including Grantchester, Barton, Comberton, and then on the main road from Cambourne on comfortable and light modern buses, which these days travel as quickly as cars. (If you are feeling like a day out, you could try St Neots to Huntingdon and back to Cambridge via St Ives and the busway).

Going into Cambridge U2 buses pass through Newnham every half hour and the 18 every hour and are supplemented by the 75 every 2 hours or so, all in quiet modern buses, and the 199 bus on Tuesdays and Fridays. A good choice would be to travel in at

10 30 am when there are four possible buses within 30 minutes (five on Tuesdays and Fridays!)

Newnham to Trumpington (near Waitrose) Once you are in town, there are Stagecoach PR3 buses every 10 minutes from outside John Lewis in Downing St. The journey to the Park and Ride takes 15 minutes; for Waitrose, get off at Maris Lane (near the Shell Garage). I recently travelled from Newnham to Waitrose in 20 minutes on the U2 at 9.30 to the Botanic Gardens and from the same stop on the PR3 to Maris Lane. On the way back you could change buses at the Fitzwilliam where there is a bus tracker, so you will know how many minutes before the next U2.

Coton Garden Centre The best way to get there is the U bus to Storey's Way near Churchill College and catch the 4 (destination Cambourne), getting off at Cambridge Road, Coton. Both there and back you could also catch the X3 (destination Huntingdon) if one turns up earlier. The American Cemetery is a short walk away, but there is also a bus stop there.

Milton Keynes I regularly go to a town in the Midlands which I can reach directly by train from Milton Keynes, but not from Cambridge. I used to rely on the X5 Cambridge to Oxford coach service to get to the station at Milton Keynes. That was withdrawn four years ago and replaced by a badly connecting local bus to Bedford. This was so unreliable that I gave up and had to resort to getting there by train via London. I am planning to try again by bus to Milton Keynes and will report on my experience next time, together with more journeys you can undertake from Newnham by bus. I only mention routes I have tested personally.

The present excellent bus services from Newnham are unlikely to last long without strong local support. Do please try to use buses before we lose them, even if it's just now and then. And remember, if they are delayed, it is usually due to traffic congestion or road works.

Derek Cummings

Peter Hammond

"Burying Archbishop". The words in a telegram sent by our father Peter in 1944.

Peter died on Saturday 3rd February at the Cambridge Manor Care Home where he had been a resident for three months. We are immensely grateful that he was so well looked after during this time. He was 96 and we are relieved that he died peacefully and had only deteriorated in the last 24 hours. He never really got over our mother's death exactly 15 months earlier.

Peter was born in Singapore where his father was the local manager for P&O shipping. He returned to Britain aged seven to attend school first in Bexhill and then at the King's School, Canterbury. Although he spent most of his secondary schooling in Cornwall, where the school was evacuated in the second world war, as a King's Scholar he came to Canterbury for special occasions. These included the funeral of Archbishop William Temple (hence the telegram explaining his whereabouts to his mother) and the enthronement of his successor Geoffrey Fisher. After reading history at Lincoln College Oxford and a year teaching in Uganda he studied for ordination at Wells Theological College. It was Archbishop Fisher who ordained him as a priest at Canterbury Cathedral in 1953 so he was a minister for over 70 years. He was also present in the cathedral at the service to welcome Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Peter served his ministry in the Diocese of Canterbury firstly as curate at Willesborough near Ashford where he met our mother and then in Croydon before becoming rector or vicar of three delightful parishes in Kent: Barham, Walmer and Rolvenden. He was vicar of Walmer, on the Kent coast, for nineteen years where his duties included being chaplain to the local lifeboat service. Sometimes he was required to scatter ashes at sea. One year an outdoor Songs of Praise was filmed at the lifeboat station including a hymn he had written; luckily the rain just held off.

Soon after retirement to Cambridge in 1989 he was invited to act as priest in charge of Great and Little Eversden where he went every Sunday to take services and usually in the week to visit people. Sadly this meant he could not be as involved in the life of St Mark's as much as he would have wished but he enjoyed being attached to one set of parishes rather than travelling to different ones each week. Our parents loved living in Cambridge, appreciating the local shops and being able to walk into the centre, in later years returning by bus.

Among his many interests was church history and he wrote two books, one on Victorian country parsons and a biography of Dean Stanley, a nineteenth century dean of Westminster. Unfortunately in recent years his mobility deteriorated to the extent that he became housebound and needed help moving about but he remained mentally active reading The Times copiously each day and enjoying books.

Our mother's death in November 2022 after 67 years of marriage was understandably a great blow but it was marvellous that he could remain in his own home until the last three months of his life. Now they are reunited.

Chris Hammond and Jane Rees

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The New Church Lighting Beginning Installation

We have commissioned the three contractors who will install our new lighting and they are holding their first meeting with us on Wednesday 6th March from 9.00 am in church. This is an important opportunity to ensure that all our requirements will be met. Any member of St Mark's with questions or concerns about the lighting is welcome to come along.

The plans and all relevant information will be there.

Alan Jones Project Manager

Half Cut Theatre presents...

The Canterbury Tales

Thursday 7th March - 7pm - St Mark's, Newnham

Hello! We are delighted to be returning to Newnham with our brand new adaptation of some of the most romantic, ridiculous and raucous stories you've ever pretended to have read: Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

All good stories start down the pub, and this one is no different. A mismatched group of travellers ready themselves for a gruelling journey. Some have an axe to grind but all have a tale to tell. Can Harry, behind the bar at The Tabard Inn, keep control? What secrets is the Wife of Bath about to spill? Are we ready for Tim Pardoner's latest get rich quick scheme? And will anybody actually make it to Canterbury?

There's only one way to find out...

Following our previous visit to the area with A Christmas Carol and Much Ado About Nothing, we cannot wait to share this show of mayhem, music, laughter and love in one of our favourite tour stops!

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Prayers for March



A Prayer for a New Vicar

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St Mark's Church and so guide the minds of those who shall select a vicar for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

A Prayer for King Charles

O God, the strength of the weak and comfort of the sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servant, Charles our king, the help of your power, that his sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

A Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

A Prayer for Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

Chosen by Marie Miller



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Lord Peter Wimsey and his bride, crime writer Harriet Vane, have just started their honeymoon in their new home, when the body of the previous owner is discovered in the cellar. But who killed him and why? And, most intriguingly, how? Naturally, the famous amateur sleuths cannot help taking an interest in the investigation. This highly entertaining play with an ingenious outcome was first performed in 1937 and ran for over 400 performances. It is the perfect treat for fans of murder mysteries and shows Dorothy L Sayers at her best.

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.