

# Seek



**April 2024**

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

## A Letter from Andrew Hurst, Assistant Priest



As I write we are setting out on Passiontide - the last two weeks of Lent in the run up to Easter; as you read this we shall have celebrated Easter.

Easter is a season of contrasts that encompasses the depths and heights of the human experience as it encounters the profundity of the Divine. Palm Sunday represents fickle triumph, with a crowd (soon too easily to turn) cheering the entry of Jesus of Nazareth into Jerusalem. There is then the drama and the tightening tension of Holy Week, the chaotic betrayal of Maundy Thursday, a sham trial (always the first resort of those who will stop at nothing to get what they want), the agony of judicial murder on Good Friday, the uncomprehending loss, the dead time of grief and then triumph - the real triumph - of Easter Sunday. Then follows that bewildering, breathless time when everyone seems to be running. There is urgency and talking and comprehension, and doubt and walking and realisation. Easter is nothing but the all too human story of the encounter with the Divine.



We live in chaotic, uncertain times; our country seems so angry. There are, what seems to be, only a mere handful of individuals who wield such disproportionate

power in the world that they impose misery and fear on millions, and stoke up discord, loathing and strife. And we wonder what we can do - we watch on and wonder and maybe we don't know what to think. Maybe.

Easter is a time when the worst and best of people are played out. The Institutions buckle and give way; what the powerful want they seem to

get. Violence breaks out. Death and grief appear to overwhelm. Decent people despair and hide.

But in the end what wins out is a victory so enormous and profound that Christians live their lives and faith by it: the conquering of sin and death in the resurrection, and the taking to the Cross by one lonely, near abandoned figure the sins of the world.

For us in what is likely to be an election year, for us as we realise we have come to live with the fact of an entrenched, aggressive war in Europe, for us as we watch on ever more anxiously towards Israel, Gaza and the Middle East, more than ever we need to hold fast to the fact that, despite the worst that humankind can do to itself, there remains the undefeated truth of God's love and redemption for the World.

So we do, in fact, know what to think and do. In our worship, song, stillness, prayers and fellowship as a Christian community here in Cambridge we connect with the fundamental decency that remains at the heart of us, as God's creatures. We know the beauty of our praise that is man made and God given. By our mutual encouragement and welcome to others we are about God's work. By our looking forward to our new appointment and thriving through our vacancy we are doing God's work. In our very being that refuses to roll up, despair and hide away, we are doing God's work.

So in all the tumult we by our witness, words and way of life serve God; we can aspire, demand, expect, and cajole that society is and can be a better place. We can open our mouths and not fall silent, remaining as we are, sisters and brothers in the love that never fails, in the love of Jesus Christ and in the proclamation of Easter Day: Alleluia, He is risen - He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

**Andrew Hurst**

### The May Issue of SEEK

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



A poster for a Spring Fair. The background is a light cream color with various floral and leaf illustrations in watercolor style. At the top left, there are purple grapes. At the top right, there are green leaves and small pink flowers. On the left side, there are green leaves and a branch with small red berries. At the bottom left, there is a large orange daisy. At the bottom right, there are pink orchids and a branch with small pink flowers. The text is centered on the poster.

# SPRING FAIR

In aid of church funds and the **British Red Cross Appeal** for occupied Palestinian territory and Israel

- Books
- Cakes
- Plants
- Eco table
- Clothes swap
- Children's games & crafts
- Coffee & cakes

## St Mark's Church

(front lawn, church, and community centre)

**Saturday 18 May, 10-12 noon**

**ALL WELCOME**

### 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.

## Hearing Dogs for Deaf People : Charity of the Month



*I am delighted to introduce our April Charity of the Month. Oscar, my oldest grandson has a hearing dog. We knew almost from the moment that he was born that Oscar was deaf. It has been amazing to watch the whole family's journey as he has grown from a premature baby with no functional hearing to the confident university student with cochlear implants that he is today. Hearing Dog Rosie has been an important part of that journey.*

*Oscar, along with his parents, and Rosie will be joining us in church on Sunday 14th April and we hope that they will be able to spend some time with members of Junior Church in the Community Centre during part of the 9.30 service.*

*Below you will find a resume of the work undertaken by the charity and a contribution from my daughter Hilary telling you what Rosie has meant to their family.*

**Jane Plows**

### **The Charity**

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People trains dogs to alert deaf adults and children to important and life-saving sounds, such as the smoke alarm, intruder alarms, alarm clocks and even baby monitors.

Just as importantly, the dogs provide love, companionship and emotional support.

Every hearing dog is carefully matched to a deaf adult or child during their training so their skills perfectly complement the lifestyle and needs of their new partnership. The Charity then supports each hearing dog partnership for their lifetime to ensure that they remain healthy and happy together.

Hearing dogs are easily recognisable in their smart burgundy jackets helping to bring visibility to a largely invisible disability and giving confidence to their deaf partner in public places.

The Charity also offers a range of personalised services to help people with their hearing loss.

### **Our Family's Experience**

We feel so fortunate that Hearing Dogs for Deaf People offered our hearing impaired son Oscar a partnership with Hearing Dog Rosie in the early days of dogs being placed with children. As a result of our family's experience - and other successful early partnerships with children - many more hearing impaired children, as well as adults, now have the benefit of a hearing dog.

From the moment Rosie came into our lives in 2017, as a fully trained 18 month old dog, she has had an amazing and positive impact on us all, soon becoming an integral part of our family.

Not only did Rosie quickly gave Oscar independence and security when navigating the world of sounds, but she also bolstered his confidence at a time in his early teenage years when we, as his parents, were becoming concerned about him becoming isolated, and about his lack of confidence in social situations. A Hearing Dog by your side not only alerts to a hidden disability but is a great conversation starter!

Oscar and Rosie's partnership journey has been a joy to watch. We are also so grateful for the ongoing support of the Hearing Dogs team; we feel part of a special community. Oscar, Rosie and I love volunteering for the charity - raising awareness and funds, to help others have the same experience that we are so lucky to be part of.

**Hilary Williamson**

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## Gombe Diocese says Thank You to St Mark's Church – February 2024

*Stuart Lingard, our Church Treasurer was very pleased to receive this letter a few weeks ago, particularly apt as collections for our Charity of the Month in March were for Gombe Diocese.*

Dear Stuart,

Greetings from all of us in Gombe Diocese (Anglican Communion). Happy New Year and many blessings to you and all yours. Greetings also to our brothers and Sisters at St Mark's parish.

During a meeting of deanery and archdeaconry supervisors yesterday 15th February 2024, the bishop of Gombe Diocese the Rt. Rev Cletus Ajighben Tambari informed the house of your generous donations and what the last donation was used for.

He presented the electrical and wiring materials that will be used for the electrification and wiring of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Kaltungo which were purchased from the last donation made by St Mark's.

We as a diocese appreciate every one of our brothers and sisters at St Mark's and pray that God will bless and reward you abundantly.

Thank you so much,

**Ven. Peter Okparaji**  
**Admin. Assistant to the bishop**



The picture above is of the bishop and the senior clergy appreciating St Mark's parish.

**Coming soon!**  
**A series of talks**  
**for the Easter season**



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**Exploring the implications of Easter  
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**10th April: Belonging to Christ**

**Mike Thompson**

**17th April: Empowered by the Spirit**

**Richard Bauckham**

**24th April: Sent in Mission**

**Rhiannon King**

**1st May: Reconciliation in the Body**

**Brett Gray**

**8th May: Living in Hope**

**Jeremy Begbie**

**Sunday 21st April**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
and Election of Churchwardens  
in the Community Centre  
after the 9.30 am Service**

The APCM and Election of Churchwardens, will take place on  
Sunday, 21st April, after coffee.

All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

## The Canterbury Tales at St Mark's

It was a great idea to invite a small company of actors to bring their Spring touring production to St Mark's. The Halfcut Theatre presented a two-hour original adaptation of *The Canterbury Tales* to a large audience. They had transformed the chancel into an amazing set for just one performance, representing the bar of the Tabard Inn, the pilgrims' starting point, and the varied locations of their chosen Tales. The four actors gave energetic portrayals of multiple characters, with lots of live music, notably provided by guitar, saxophone and drumbeats, with many prop, costume and lighting changes, not to mention some audience participation.



Their adaptation included parts of the Prologue, the enactment of the Pardoner's Tale, the Nun Priest's Tale (starring Chanticleer the cock), extracts from the notorious Miller's Tale, which

we all enjoyed at school, and of course the equally notorious Wife of Bath's life story and also her Tale. All this was delivered at breakneck speed, sometimes a shade too fast for my slowed down brain to process, but making an impressive visual audial and theatrical experience.

*The Canterbury Tales* is on a 12 week tour with one-night performances six days a week, mainly in church or community centre venues in East Anglia and Southern England, ending appropriately in Canterbury itself in April.

Meanwhile, we in Cambridge we are fortunate to have the opportunity to see Nick Warburton's open-air production of *The Canterbury Tales* in the gardens of Madingley Hall in July; so look out for details of dates and booking. Not to be missed!

**Derek Cummings**

## Update on Progress on the Vacancy

Applications have now closed; 10 candidates have submitted applications and these are now being reviewed by the Parish Representatives. In the case of St Mark's, the Parish Reps are Hilary Murray and Rosey Gardiner. Grantchester have elected their two church wardens as Parish Reps: Liz Neville and Margaret Barwise.

The 25th April has been set as Discernment Day, when shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and the chosen candidate will meet the Bishop.

After this, DBS checks will 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 Parish Reps will be meeting soon to begin to plan the structure of the interview day and they will let you know when they have a firm plan in place. If anyone has any particular concerns or questions that they think should be asked of the candidates please let either Hilary or Rosey know. The Archdeacon, Alex Hughes, stressed the vital importance of confidentiality in all of this - particularly on Discernment Day. Some candidates will not want their application to get back to their current post so everyone involved in the interview day must understand the need for confidentiality.

Finally, if you have any questions, please just ask Rosey, Hilary or Nigel.

### Foodbank Dates for April

St Mark's Church – Sunday 14th April

1 Millington Road and 19 Kings Road - Thursday 18th April  
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.



## Around and About

On Sunday 3rd March, just a few days late, Derek Cummings and Peter Hampson invited members of the 9.30 congregation to join them in celebrating St David's Day. Derek generously supplied us all with Welsh cakes to accompany our coffee and Peter sang in Welsh the folk song *Sosban fach* (Little saucepan) with Derek providing the English translation.

At the same service Roy Murray invited us to congratulate Tony Palmer on his 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Tony, who still sings in the St Mark's choir, can remember the start of his choral singing when he sang in the choir in Norwich Cathedral back in 1939.

Many congratulations too to Eleanor and Alan Jones who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on the 11th April. Eleanor and Alan were married in Lincoln Cathedral in 1964.

At the 9.30 service on the 17th March Bethan thanked Sarah Perry for all her work in preparing the pew sheet whilst we were without an administrator and Nigel Porter presented her with a bottle of wine as a thank you gift from all the congregation.

Toddles, our weekly toddler group, has continued successfully this term despite the loss of Natalie as Children and Families Worker. This is thanks to the work and commitment of Amanda Glew, Barry Read, Dani Redhead and Angela Watts. At the same service Bethan presented them with smart new lanyards with their names on them to enable parents and carers to identify them easily.

**Jane Plows**

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## On the Buses 3



*We are enormously grateful to Derek for all the information on our local bus services. Not only has he researched meticulously but he has also explored many of the routes himself.*

*We hope to put together a booklet later in the year containing the three articles he has written for Seek with the very latest timetable information.*

### **Getting to local attractions**

#### **Anglesey Abbey**

The No. 11 bus runs hourly from Drummer Street Bus Station to Newmarket and stops at or near the entrance.

#### **Wimpole Hall**

The No. 75 provides one chance a day to travel by bus from Barton Road at 10.44 to Orwell village within walking distance of the Hall, but check with the driver the location of the return stop and time (around 15 00).

#### **Coton Garden Centre/American Cemetery**

The No. 4 bus has been rerouted and does not stop at Storey's Way now. So to get to Coton, catch the X3 Huntingdon bus which leaves Drummer St every hour and is due at Storey's Way five or so minutes later (e.g. from Barton Rd catch the 9.45 U1 bus, change at Storeys Way and pick up the X3 around 10 10). Get off at Cambridge Road, Coton. The next stop is the American Cemetery. The X3 returns past the Cemetery and Coton every hour on the hour. Change at Storey's Way or stay on to Queens' College.

### **Shopping**

#### **Beehive Centre Retail Park**

Frequent No. 3 Buses (for Fison Road) from St Andrew's Street with several stops along Newmarket Road. The P&R bus to the Newmarket Road site also stops near the Retail Park.

#### **Newnham Village to Gough Way**

The 119 bus provides a useful way to get back from local shopping along Barton Road and via Pinehurst and along Gough Way. It leaves from opposite Cousins at 13.05 On Tuesdays and Fridays.

### **Major supermarkets**

Sainsbury's at Eddington: the U bus stops outside the store;

Tesco and Aldi on Newmarket Road: No. 3 bus from St Andrew's St every 20 minutes;

Waitrose Trumpington: U2 to Botanic Gardens, then P&R No. 3 bus every 10 minutes during the day (or catch it outside John Lewis).

### **Some days out**

#### **St Ives**

A very good service on the B bus using the fast busway every 20 minutes from Drummer Street and with the same frequency on the A bus from New Square. (The B buses go on to Huntingdon/Hinchingbrook) You could choose to come back from there on the main road on the X3 Huntingdon to Cambridge bus directly to Queens' College (or change to a U bus at Storey's Way).

#### **Saffron Walden**

The No. 7 bus from Emmanuel St leaves at 10 to the hour. Journey time: 65 minutes. Return at 13 past the hour. NB: Other No. 7 Buses only go as far as Sawston, so check the destination with driver.

#### **Newmarket**

A good half hourly service with two different buses. Running alternately: the No. 11 goes on to Bury St Edmunds ; the No. 12 goes on to Ely.

*(Ely, Kings Lynn, Bury St Edmunds, Norwich and the Norfolk East Coast are best reached by train, then use local buses if needed).*

### **Park and Ride Buses**

These buses are not just for car drivers using the P&R car parks. They stop at most intermediate stops and provide a valuable additional service to the Cambridge suburbs they serve.

## Further afield

### *Bedford and Milton Keynes, Oxford*

Until a few years ago there was a direct service to these destinations from Cambridge by comfortable X5 coaches. Now the route has been fragmented and at least one bus change is required. So it is not as good, but still possible and is free to bus pass holders.

*From Newnham:* The best plan is it catch the U2 to the P&R bus stop, then walk through the car park to the vehicle entrance, cross the road and catch the 905 bus to St Neots and Bedford. There is a tight change at Bedford, so you may have to take a 25 minute coffee break there before getting the next X5 on to Milton Keynes. Allowing for this, the journey time from Newnham to Milton Keynes rail station is over 3 hours and to Oxford is another 1½ hrs. The train journey via the main London stations is quicker, but not hassle free, and costs just under £60 return with a railcard, whereas by bus it costs nothing to bus pass holders.

### Further information

Whippet Coaches provide detailed timetables of their U buses and a separate booklet on their No. 18 and X3 buses. But the most up to date information for the major players is undoubtedly online. So if you can, contact [www.whippetbus.co.uk](http://www.whippetbus.co.uk) and [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com).

You could also just type into Google; for example, "Cambridge bus to Fen Ditton." If you have a smart phone, it is worth trying these companies' apps. Cambridge City Council have set up their own bus app. called Your Bus Trip which tracks all local buses and is useful when you are standing at a bus stop without its own bus tracker. Their app. also has a contact number to report any failures of their own bus stop trackers. We need to be aware that in most cases the times given on printed timetables for intermediate stops are guidelines for the drivers only, not an exact time that must be adhered to the minute, as they depend on traffic and road conditions. But we should report a legitimate complaint, if for example a bus fails to run at all.

And finally, to say again what I have said before in these articles, the buses we currently have may not be there in a few years' time unless we use them now.

### Derek Cummings



PS The bus stop I mention in the section about the Bedford bus must have the most evocative name of all: the British Antarctic Survey Stop.



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# Prayers and Meditations for April

Some prayers and meditations taken from poetry

*Here is part of the Reverend Eli Jenkins' evening prayer from 'Under Milk Wood':*

Every evening at sun-down  
I ask a blessing on the town,  
For whether we last the night or no  
I'm sure is always touch-and-go.  
We are not wholly bad or good  
Who live our lives under Milk Wood,  
And Thou, I know, wilt be the first  
To see our best side, not our worst.

*Andrew Motion's poem 'Simple' tells the story from St John's gospel of the 153 fish caught by the disciples when Jesus appeared to them on the beach. Motion says "they went out, expecting to catch something - and quickly came to believe they weren't going to catch anything at all. And then, after Christ had intervened, they caught so much that they didn't know what to do with it." He says this is a bewildering prospect, that he sometimes "feels bewildered by the richness of the promises faith appears to make and keep."*

*This is how the poem begins:*

Men came from the sea  
with their unusual catch -  
one hundred and fifty three.  
A fire burned on the beach.  
They had expected nothing,  
now there was a glut,

and also this man waiting ...

*Here is part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in a version by Sir Philip Sidney. A different view of a familiar text:*

The Lord, the Lord, my Shepherd is,  
And so can never I  
Taste misery:  
He rests me in green pastures His:  
By waters still and sweet,  
He guides my feet.  
He me revives; leads me the way  
Which righteousness doth take,  
For his name's sake:  
Yea, though I should through valleys stray  
Of death's dark shade, I will  
No whit fear ill.

*And from 'Love III' by George Herbert:*

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew  
back,  
    Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
    From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
    If I lack'd anything.  
'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'  
    Love said, 'You shall be he.'

**Chosen by Nick Warburton**

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

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

### **Sunday Services**

7th April at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion
14th April at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion
21st April at <b>9.30 am</b>	Morning Worship with Junior Church
28th April at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion with Junior Church

### **Tuesdays**

Weekly Communion (BCP) at **11.00 am** followed by refreshments

## Church Administrator

We are pleased to welcome Felicity Parker as our new Church Administrator and look forward to getting to know her. We hope to find out more about her in a future issue of Seek.

## Caring Together : the February Charity



The amount collected to date plus Gift Aid is £681.90. Stuart Evans writes, "That's great to hear and our thanks to you all."

## 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.

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