

Seek



July & August 2024

The Church and Parish of St Mark Cambridge

www.stmarksnewnham.org

A Letter from Bethan, our Curate



From the end of May we entered the longest season of the Church year, the season we call Ordinary Time. The weeks from Trinity Sunday to All Saints Day in the autumn make up this period.

Godly Play, the way of exploring the stories of the Bible we use in Junior Church, describes Ordinary Time as the “great green growing time” in the church calendar and in recent weeks our readings in church have drawn our attention to our place amongst nature.

A few weeks ago, Alison in her sermon, reflecting on a passage from Genesis in the Garden of Eden, posed the question God asks us:

“Where are you in your relationship with me, the Creator of the cosmos?”

Last Sunday our readings were about planting and growing of trees from cuttings or seeds, Ezekiel 17:22-end and Mark 4:26-34. It's amazing when you start looking in the Bible just how many gardening metaphors, nature illustrations or simple poems of praise at the beauty of the natural world around us there are.

In Mark, Jesus shares the parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed, highlighting the mysterious and profound growth and flourishing of God's kingdom. Similarly, Ezekiel speaks of God as a gardener who takes a small sprig and nurtures it into a mighty tree, offering shelter and sustenance to all.



Both passages remind us that the world in which we live and the Kingdom of God are like an intricate ecosystem, full of interconnected relationships and dependencies. Just as plants rely on their roots,

soil, and surrounding environment to thrive, so too do we rely on our faith, our community, and our relationship with God to flourish spiritually. These biblical illustrations invite us to explore where the roots of our life lie, understanding that there is always more beneath the surface - much like the unseen roots of a tree.

Scientific discoveries have revealed the existence of mycorrhizal networks, or the “woodwide web,” where fungi connect trees and allow them to

communicate, share nutrients and warn one another of danger. In healthy forests there are millions of threadlike mycelium which connect trees together into a network, exchanging these valuable resources and information. If a sapling is growing in the shadow of a bigger tree without enough sunlight to photosynthesise, older, bigger trees will share nutrients with it. There is a suggestion that forests have “hub trees” or “mother trees” with more fungal connections, deeper roots which enable them to detect the ill-health of other trees and send distress signals across the forest.

In this time of climate crisis, of warfare and starvation on our news-screens, of political campaigning and general elections, perhaps we do well to remember and consider our roots and connections, and the roots and connections of the people around us. How can we help share nutrients, information and aid to help our neighbours next door and on the far side of the world thrive?

Ordinary time has taken on a role as the time when we acknowledge the beauty in the ordinary, that regular things are still sacred, when we focus on the earthly work we are called to in our communities – stewarding God's gifts, caring for families and friends. And it is also a time when we celebrate the beautiful growth that comes from living faithfully and loving well.

This summer what connections do you have and how can you strengthen them here in Newnham and in our city? Where are you in your relationship with God, creator of the Cosmos?

As I close, this summer magazine is the last before Jim starts as our new vicar. I would like to take a moment to extend huge thanks to those who helped sustain our parishes during the vacancy; especially our Churchwardens and the other Clergy who have supported me over this period. And, most of all, this community for being so supportive as I've found my way through systems and processes. I look forward to continuing to grow these roots and connections as we move forward together.

Bethan

The Cantus Singers of Cambridge

(Conductor: Alan Howard)

The next concert by the Cantus Singers at
St Mark's, Newnham, will be on

Saturday 6 July 2024 at 8pm

A programme of light classical music for a
summer's evening

M Haydn: Missa Sancti Amandi

J Haydn: Te Deum in C

Insanae et Vanae Curae

Mozart: Ave Verum Corpus

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Schubert: Salve Regina

Tickets £10 in advance from Margaret Hay
(mmhay29@gmail.com) or £12 on the door.

Under 18s free

The September Issue of SEEK

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

A Letter from Jim Robinson



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a deep and humbling joy to be able to write and introduce myself as the next Vicar of Grantchester and St Mark's, Newnham. It may be, of course, that some of you know me already. My family and I moved to Newnham nearly two years ago in order for my wife, Arabella, to take up the position of Dean and Chaplain of Selwyn College. At the time of Arabella's appointment I was working as a parish priest for a group of twenty-five villages (nine of which still had open churches) in north east Lincolnshire, around the town of Louth. I was also, latterly, serving as rural dean. Parish ministry is very dear to both our hearts, although I am delighted that I will now be able to count the number of parishes in my care on just one hand!

We love Newnham, and feel very much at home in this area. In order to give Arabella the chance

to get settled properly into her new role I have, since moving, been predominantly looking after our two sons, whilst providing some occasional cover for churches when needed. Both of these duties have brought me into contact with St Mark's: my two year old son Ivor and I have had many a happy morning at the Thursday Toddles group, and we have all been along to Messy Church. I have also been helping with the Tuesday and 8.00 am Sunday Prayer Book Communion services. Needless to say, when the vacancy was advertised I was very interested having enjoyed my encounters with St Mark's very much indeed.

Arabella is the daughter of academics, and spent her childhood in Cambridge, before her parents moved to new jobs in Charlottesville, Virginia. They returned in time for her to take A-Levels and earn a place at New College, Oxford, which was



the city where we then met. I am a native of the Lincolnshire Fens, where my family ran a saddlery business from the end of the nineteenth century until my father's recent retirement. At university, first in Wales and then at Lincoln College, Oxford, I studied Roman history, and came increasingly to focus on the early Church. It was at Oxford that I became an Anglican, having been brought up in a Methodist household. It was at the same time that I began to sense that I was being called not only to study the church, but to serve it, and I was able to test this vocation by working as a verger at the historic, city-centre church of St Michael at the North Gate. From there I came to Cambridge and Westcott House, to train for ordination. At the same time I did a second undergraduate degree, this time in Theology at St John's College, whilst also being on placement in the glorious chapel there. I was ordained in Lincoln Cathedral, to serve as curate in Grantham, before moving to the aforementioned parishes at the other end of the county in 2018.

Moving back to Cambridge has given me the opportunity to pursue further study, and I have recently been accepted onto a part-time PhD programme, run by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Degree Scheme. As both a historian and theologian, I have long had an interest in the interaction between the Church and 'the World' (think John Chapter 17), and my doctoral research is considering the somewhat strained relationship between the High Church revival of the nineteenth century and the monarchy. Study has always fed my soul and enriched other aspects of my ministry, but I hope I don't bore you should you ever be bold enough to ask to hear more about it.

We have two sons, Aubrey (9 in August) and Ivor (3 in July). Aubrey attends Newnham Croft Primary School, and Ivor goes to nursery round

the corner, at Owlstone Croft. Aubrey loves reading, history, science and wildlife. He sings in the choir at Little Saint Mary's Church. Ivor loves horses, and attempting to do anything his big brother does!

Apart from family life, and history and theology, I am a keen fisherman and have an interest in most sports. I was lucky enough to be selected for the Archbishop of Canterbury's Cricket Team, when the Vatican challenged us to a match. We played them at Canterbury - and won - before a return fixture in Rome, where we diplomatically allowed them to take their revenge. I am a little rusty now, but enjoy helping with the coaching of Aubrey's year group at Coton Cricket Club. I am also a lifelong supporter of Nottingham Forest F.C., which keeps me humble. Arabella and I have a shared love of nature, literature and the arts, with a particular interest in folk music and song. I am a very inadequate guitar player and am currently attempting to learn to play the Appalachian Dulcimer.

That is an awful lot about me, but I hope it serves as a helpful introduction. I very much look forward to meeting and finding out more about you. Do please come up and say hello, should you see me. The vicarage becomes available for us to move into in mid-August, and I will be licensed and start my ministry in the first week of September. I truly cannot wait. In the meantime, please be assured of my prayers and, if you have the chance, please include us in yours.

In Christ,

Jim

The Reverend James Robinson

Jim's Service of Institution and Induction

We are delighted to announce that the Service of Institution and Induction to welcome our new vicar, the Revd Jim Robinson, to the parishes will be on Thursday 5th September at St Mark's Church at 7.00pm followed by celebratory drinks in the Community Centre.

Jim's First Service

Jim will preside at his first service the following Sunday 8th September in a joint service for both St Mark's and Grantchester. The service will be held at Grantchester and will start at 10.30am. All welcome! There will be a lunch afterwards to which everyone is invited in Grantchester Village Hall. (For catering please RSVP to warden@churchgrantchester.org.uk)

New Lamps for Old? Yes, Now!

The new church lighting will be in place this month.

What started as a maintenance issue three years ago has become a complete renewal thanks to Rachel's and Nigel's enthusiasm and the commitment of the Lighting Working Party.

We were able to halve the initial estimates by searching for the right contractors. Your generosity and our Treasurer's fundraising talent has helped us cover all the cost of just over £40,000. We hope the result pleases. Our new vicar James will be twice bathed in light on the 5th September, Bethan sees ECO gold in reach, and our Arts and Events team plan a Light Show later in September.

The church needs to be closed from Monday to Friday during the work because of the heavy lifting equipment involved but normal worship will continue on Sundays, with the Tuesday Communion at 11.00 am moved to the Community Centre.

Alan Jones

On behalf of Nigel, Roy, Chris and Peter, the Lighting Working Party.

On the Buses

Those who have received a printed copy of Seek will have also received Derek Cummings's booklet on the local bus services. This is based on the articles we have published over the last few months and is an invaluable resource. It has been sponsored by the church. Do look out for a copy of this very helpful booklet.

Derek has put hours of research into this document and we are very grateful to him. He plans to seek local sponsors and to revise and update the information later in the year.

James Cadbury

We are sad to record the death of James Cadbury on the 17th May. James was a much loved member of the St Mark's community, singing in the choir for many years and contributing his fascinating articles to this publication regularly. The Cambridge Bird Club on its Memorial page records, "James was a quiet, gentle man who wore his knowledge lightly. He was one of the great naturalists of our generation, wonderful fun to be with and kindness itself." We shall miss him and offer our condolences to Lucy, Thomas and their families.

A memorial service for James will be held in Grantchester Church on the 11th July at 11.00 am.

Church Tea Party

on Friday 19th July at 58
Gough Way at 3.30 pm

There is a sign up list in the Narthex or email susan.wagner1@ntlworld.com if you prefer. We hope the weather will be fine enough to sit in the garden but otherwise we can use the conservatory and lounge. All are welcome but particularly those on their own during the summer.

Sue Wagner

Foodbank Dates for July

St Mark's Church – Sunday 7th July

1 Millington Road and 19 Kings Road - Thursday 11th July 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.

Seek is printed by

Parrot Print Ltd

01487 711107 : rb@parrotprint.co.uk www.parrotprint.co.uk

**Copies of the magazine can be found at the back of the Church
and in the Community Centre.**

La Maison du Steak

125 Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 1PG
01223 324258
info@laisondusteak.co.uk/

We are more than just a Steak House. Come and discover us!





PAINTING & DECORATING
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
WALL & FLOOR TILING
PLASTERING
WOODWORK
REPAIRS

07411599219
WWW.COEHOME.CO.UK
INFO@COEHOME.CO.UK



Thinking of selling or letting?

Then contact the experts on **01223 323130** or visit rah.co.uk

LOCAL HANDYMAN Andy Beeton

- General gardening and house maintenance
- Small painting jobs or repairs
- Also professional plasterer

FREE ESTIMATES
07800 871738

andrew.beeton48@gmail.com



Set down a leafy lane, our Ofsted Outstanding rated nursery cares for 2-5 year olds in a stimulating and fun atmosphere with excellent outdoor facilities.

Established over 50 years ago, we offer a happy, safe and secure environment with fully qualified staff.

Registered with the Government Early Years Funding Scheme

01223 356565

4a Millington Road, Newnham, Cambridge
www.millingtonroadnursery.co.uk

THE DERBY STORES

Newnham Post Office
Delicatessen/Newsagent

Jean and Neera

01223 354391

*Off licence, Provisions, Cakes/Biscuits,
Cheese Counter, Luxury Ice Cream*

6.00am - 6.00pm daily

Sunday 6.00am - 2.00pm

Garage Services : GP Motors

Newnham Service Centre
Eltisley Avenue
Cambridge CB3 9JQ
Tel: 01223 355574

www.gp-cars.com

e-mail: enquiries@gp-cars.com



PAUL WALDMANN

Designs in Wood
41 Norfolk Street

paulwaldmann169@gmail.com

01223 314001 07740 167055

Cabinet making

Furniture restoration

Interior woodwork

(fitted cupboards, bookcases, etc.)

www.paulwaldmannndesign.co.uk

latham builders

40 Grantchester Road, Newnham, Cambridge

01223 503634 **lathambuilders.com** 07528 772899

Beginners

PIANO TUITION

in your own home

Tel: 07834 420739

maureen.pritchett@gmail.com

Registered with Ofsted

PARISH OUTING



**A visit to St Albans Cathedral, Verulamium
and Hatfield House Gardens
on Wednesday 24th July**

For further details and a booking form please contact Sue Payne on 01223 328996 or susanruthpayne@gmail.com

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.

**FULLY TRAINED, INSURED
AND DBS CHECKED
CAT SITTERS**



**THE FULBOURN
CAT SITTING CO.**
EST. 2021


In-home cat sitting based on your cat's individual needs, giving your feline companion safety, comfort and familiarity in their own surroundings.

www.thefulbourncatsittingcompany.co.uk
@thefulbourncatsittingcompany
info@thefulbourncatsittingcompany.co.uk




A caring and professional service at all times

**Richard Stebbings Ltd
Funeral Service**

Kendal House, Cambridge Road,
Impington, Cambridge CB24 9YS
Tel: 01223 232309
Fax: 01223 232319
Member of the British Institute of Funeral Directors



- Independent family business
- Personal 24 hour service
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Pre-payment funeral plans
- Monumental masonry
- Floral Tributes

CHIMNEY SWEEP
Professional and insured
Certificates issued
Advice given and problems solved
edcleansweep@gmail.com
07919 888990
www.cleansweep.co.uk




Based in Haslingfield

CHIROPODIST & PODIATRIST
BEECHWOOD PRACTICE
41 HILLS ROAD
Celia Kenney, B.Sc. (Hons) Podiatry,
M.Ch.S, S.R.Ch.
Available for home appointments
01223 315541 07939 227195

**Greenwood
homecare**

**Do you need
care visits at
home?**

Greenwood Homecare provides quality care in Cambridge and the surrounding areas

✓ FREE ASSESSMENT
✓ DAY, LIVE-IN OR NIGHT
CARE AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit: Greenwoodhomecare.co.uk
Email: bethanie@greenwoodhomecare.co.uk
Call: **01223 850938**



**Rothwell's
Carpet Cleaning**

Carpet Cleaning
Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs
In business since 1993
www.Rothwell.biz
01638 428 060 and 01223 832 928
We're an honest local family firm.
Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible. 100% satisfaction or it's FREE.
Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

Dasha Tenditna
Photographer
portraits, events,
documentary, lifestyle

+44 777 131 2301
Instagram@dasha_tenditna
FB: dasha tenditna
Email: dasha.tenditna@gmail.com



DS ELECTRICAL

Extra sockets to full re-wires Part P registered Inspections and Testing
07870 372788
www.ds-electricalservice.co.uk
Call for free friendly advice

**C.S. MARTIN
PAINTING & DECORATING**
For a complete and reliable interior
and exterior decorating service
Free estimates and advice
Over 25 years experience
Please contact Chris on 01223
233613 or 07778338437
csn.decorating@googlemail.com



**Christopher
LOCKSMITH**

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors No Call Out Charge No Fix No Fee
All Work Fully Guaranteed 10% Senior Citizen Discount

For More Advice & Help Call Christopher: **07772 111 222**
www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989 We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service We Service All Old And New Doors



C & C BLINDS
SPECIALISTS IN BLINDS
ANY SIZE ANY COLOUR
FREE ESTIMATES
01223 211171 07761 262070
Vertical Blinds, Roller Blinds,
Venetian Blinds, Wooden Blinds,
Roman Blinds, Pleated Blinds, Repairs

**FRESHCUT
Turkish Barber**
45 Newnham Road
9.00 - 6.30 Monday - Saturday
10.00 - 5.00 Sunday
07552 679 356

Advertise in this magazine
11 editions each year and also online
Small advertisement £45 per annum, Large
advertisement £80 per annum.
Contact the Editor
janemp@virginmedia.com

Meet Sarah, our New Churchwarden

Thank you for electing me as your new Churchwarden – I feel very honoured and, also, mildly terrified by the prospect! I will endeavour to do my best to help in whatever way I can to promote and support the life and work of St Mark's.

My connection to St Mark's arose in a roundabout way – my mother, Shirley Fox, left her home in Wokingham and came to live with me and my husband Jon in Cambridge during the summer of 2022. She missed her local church, and it is with great thanks to Roy and Hilary Murray that she was welcomed into the warmth of the St Mark's community. Seeing how friendly and supportive people were to Mum led me to start attending on Sunday mornings and, before you knew it, I was gently encouraged to be more involved in the life of St Mark's. When there was a need for short-term help with church administration at the start of the year, I volunteered and wrestled with the photocopier for a few months before Felicity admirably filled the post. Jon and I joined the choir with Marcus' encouragement. Then the vacancy of Churchwarden arose and Rosey, Hilary and Bethan were a persuasive team!

My childhood was initially spent in Birmingham and then Meriden with my Welsh parents and younger sister, Elaine. My Dad became a church warden in Meriden for a few years and I have happy memories of singing in the church choir there. I remember my special treat as a teenager was when Dad took me and my sister to support Birmingham City at St Andrew's. Sport has been a keen interest for me ever since. My family then moved to Wokingham in Berkshire where I finished my schooling. I graduated from Bristol with a law degree, was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple but decided that it was too fiercely challenging an environment, so I requalified as a solicitor and worked in the Private Client department of

Slaughter & May. I had my first child, George, during that time but left paid employment to raise him and then his twin siblings Harvey and Rosie. To keep myself busy, during the children's school years I studied for a music degree with the Open University which reignited my desire to sing again. I moved to Cambridge from Wimbledon in 1993 with my first husband, Malcolm, and our three pre-school children. We settled into our new life here but tragically Malcolm died of melanoma at the age of 42. Our children were hugely supported at King's College School. Friends and family rallied round with emotional help, a food rota and dog walking, for all of which we are still so grateful.

I married Jon 20 years ago and he has been an extraordinary husband and step-father. Jon is a radiologist (at Peterborough City Hospital) and served in that capacity in the Royal Navy for 35 years. He was deployed to Iraq for the Second Gulf War, Afghanistan, Kosovo and finally Sierra Leone, all of which were challenging for us and the children. Music has formed an important part of his life too. Now we are fortunate to have a loving, lively family which includes a 16-year old grandson, Oli.

In my time I have volunteered for various roles – PTA chair at King's College School, Citizen's Advice, Homestart trustee, Covid vaccinator - each one giving me the chance to try and give something back. My time is now spent caring for Mum, playing tennis, wrestling with the garden, choral singing and going to the theatre and concerts.

Please come and say hello and let me know if I can be of help. I am usually at the 9.30 service and I look forward to meeting more of you, especially in this exciting time for St Mark's.

Sarah Perry

Shirley Thoday

Susanne Thompson tells us that Shirley Thoday Streater died on the 12th May. Shirley will be remembered by long standing members of the congregation as the driving force behind the development of the Community Centre. Her name is recorded over the door of the small hall which is officially named The Shirley Thoday Room. We extend our condolences to Shirley's family.

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.

Umoja UK : August's Charity of the Month



Umoja UK supports the Umoja Centre located in Arusha, northern Tanzania. It provides free educational and support programmes to help young people who have fallen out of the formal education system.

Initially, as part of the foundation year, students are taught English, IT, and crucial life skills. Following the foundation year, students can then take the two-year Intensive Secondary Certificate, an accelerated secondary school programme which helps them catch up and become more qualified for the job market. Additionally, Umoja supports students in job applications, mentoring, counselling and scholarships for further training.

Successfully securing a career gives these students greater autonomy and allows them to provide for their families, helping to break the cycle of poverty and inequality. 85% of Umoja graduates are now in employment, with 80% employed and 5% self-employed.

Hosea Stephano is an example of the amazing progress students have been able to achieve. After dropping out of Secondary School due to financial difficulties and struggling on the streets for three years, he joined Umoja in 2021 and this changed his life. He recently scored the highest grades for the Intensive Secondary Certificate, highlighting how much he has excelled in this education.

Last month Umoja announced a new partnership with Branches Community to develop the site that Umoja moved to last year. With their funding and technical support, they will create four new classrooms, a library, teachers' office and kitchen. This construction has begun to transform once dark spaces into bright classrooms, creating a wonderful space for children and young adults to enhance their education.

A more recent development has been Umoja's new community sports hub. This has been a great success in attracting young people and institutions around the area. Last month over 600 young people from ten Lutheran churches were able to spend the day running a sports camp including activities such as a tug of war, races and a series of other fun games.

The current financial climate is challenging for Umoja, with increasing costs and limited opportunities for receiving new grants to maintain its education programmes. Umoja is incredibly grateful for all the support the St Marks' congregation has provided since it started. Thank you for all your donations. For more information, please see our website www.umojatanzania.org.

Olivia Jarman

(Susan Wagner's granddaughter)

Canon Philip Spence

We have received news of the death of Canon Philip Spence who was Vicar of St Mark's from 1987 to 1996. He died peacefully at home on the 29th May.

Thanks to those, including Alan and Eleanor Jones and Anne Howie, who have shared their memories with us.

These, of course, include his wonderful cartoons, which spread to the butchers and other locals all of whom he looked upon as his parishioners and by whom he was well known. He loved "good conversations" and Eleanor and Alan remember walking and talking with him and his wife Monica on weekends away arranged by Michael Ingham.

He is fondly remembered, too, for his tremendous sense of humour and his readiness to involve members of the laity in church services. Also, for his kindness to those recently bereaved.

His involvement with the media was also mentioned. His role as Religious Adviser for Anglia Television, as it then was, led to one of our services being televised.

A service to celebrate Philip's life will be held at Uppingham Parish Church on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 2.30pm.

We send our condolences to Monica and the rest of the family.

August's Charity of the Month

The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association



We have chosen JEMCA as our charity of the month for August as we wanted to find a way to support the work of Churches in Jerusalem, Israel, Gaza and Palestine. The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East works in a much broader way than our diocese. It has responsibility for large projects across healthcare and education.

When I attended a study pilgrimage in the region in 2022 we visited both churches and projects which are part of the Diocese of Jerusalem. This included the Princess Basma Centre which is a centre for disabled Palestinian children and their families to receive care, education and support which would otherwise be inaccessible to them. They face huge issues with enabling their families to travel to the centre in Jerusalem from the Occupied West Bank and Gaza due to checkpoints, road blocks and lack of permits. In October 2023 the Centre opened its first satellite centre in Gaza just days before the atrocities of the 7th October. Their centre was damaged by the fighting and has just been able to reopen and they are already treating 18 children with acute injuries, providing post-operative rehabilitation and psychosocial support for those undergoing life-changing surgery there as a result of the war.

This is just one example of the projects the diocese supports. JEMCA is the leading Anglican charity supporting the Church throughout the Middle East and North Africa and works to raise awareness of the situation of Christian communities in the Middle East. It supports the diocese there and is also working for reconciliation in the Middle East through dialogue and practical support

Founded in 1887, JEMCA has a long-standing tradition of serving communities in the Middle East through education and support. Initially focusing on the needs of the Christian communities in the region, JEMCA's mission has evolved to address broader educational and humanitarian needs. This historical legacy forms the backbone of their current initiatives, which are characterised by a deep commitment to fostering peace, education, and social justice.

Currently JEMCA has two appeals:

The Archbishops Joint Appeal for the Diocese of Jerusalem



“Towards the end of October, Archbishop Justin Welby paid a solidarity visit to Jerusalem in the aftermath of the Gaza War's eruption, and immediately following the bombing of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which Archbishop Hosam [Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East] and his chaplain, The Revd Canon Donald Binder, had visited just three days before the outbreak of the war. Together, at this time of extreme crisis in the Holy Land, the two Archbishops have decided to issue a Joint Appeal Letter, calling for prayers and donations not only for the hospital's vital work in Gaza, but also for the wide range of their ministries throughout the Holy Land which are also being greatly affected by the war. Alongside the various healthcare programmes they run, the diocese also provides education and training, youth and women's ministries and ecumenical and interfaith engagement. Full details of the ministries of the dioceses can be found on their website: j-diocese.org”

Archbishop Hosam asks the larger Body of Christ to support their mission throughout all the Holy Land in three ways:

- Pray for the diocese's mission as well as for the peace of Jerusalem
- Advocate with your representatives for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, so that all who dwell within these lands can live in security
- Support their ministries in Gaza, Palestine and Israel, and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem by contributing financially.

Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza Appeal

The Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, owned and supported by the Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Jerusalem, continues to serve the whole 'family' (Ahl) of human beings in Gaza. It provides a vital service in an increasingly desperate situation. The hospital is committed to providing 24/7 health services for all people in need of medical care.

The hospital is in the middle of the war zone which Gaza has become. I struggled to find current information about the situation of the hospital but there can be no doubt of the enormous need for emergency healthcare in Gaza and financial support to enable this to happen.

By supporting JEMCA we will be supporting the work of the Anglican Church in the region to enable healthcare, education and reconciliation.

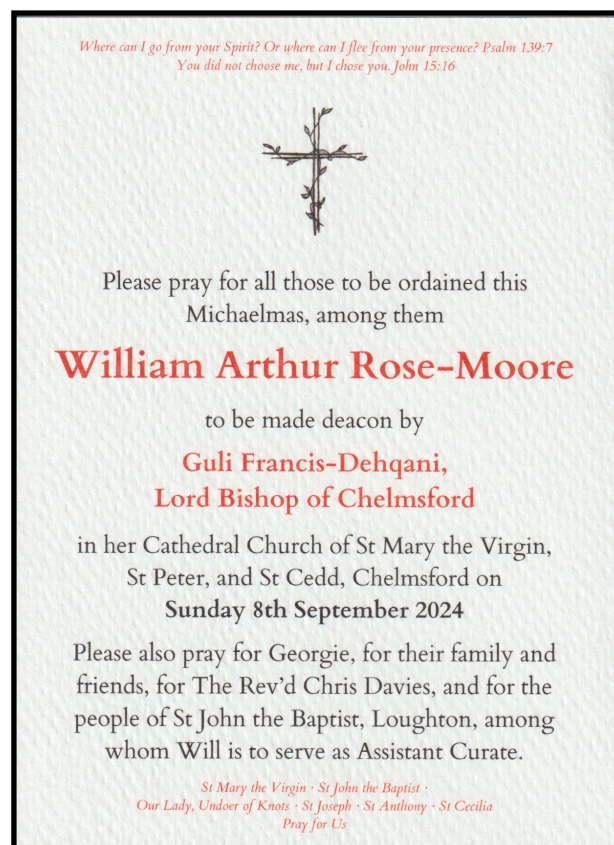
Financial contributions are crucial for JEMCA to continue their work. Donations can be made directly through our website, direct bank transfer or through the Charity of the Month collections on the 11th August. You can also donate direct to JEMCA if you wish to support them in the longer term with regular financial support.

We can also help by advocating and raising awareness about JEMCA's mission and the challenges faced by communities in the Middle East. Use your voice and your vote at the general election to advocate for policies and initiatives that support education and humanitarian aid. Visit their website at jemca.org.uk to learn more.

Thank you.

Bethan

Will Moore



We were sad not to be able to say goodbye to Will Moore on Trinity Sunday at what had been scheduled as his final service at St Mark's. Illness prevented him from preaching to us but we were able to hear his words read by to us Bethan and to pray for him as he approaches his ordination as deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral on Sunday 8th September.

Will has been a superb member of the clergy team during this year of vacancy and we thank him for all he has contributed to St Mark's.

A Meditation for July and August

The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me,
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm;
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It is not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key,
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day,
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do or say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be.

Chosen by Anne Howie

Services at St Mark's Church, Newnham in July and August

Communion (BCP) at 8.00 am every Sunday

Sunday Services

7th July at 9.30 am	Communion
14th July at 9.30 am	Morning Worship
21st July at 9.30 am	Communion
28th July at 9.30 am	Communion
4th August at 9.30 am	Communion
11th August at 9.30 am	Morning Worship
18th August at 9.30 am	Communion
25th August at 9.30 am	Communion

No Junior Church during the summer holidays but children are very welcome at all the services and there are toys and activities to enjoy at the back of the church.

Tuesdays

Weekly Communion (BCP) at 11.00 am followed by refreshments This service will be held in the Community Centre while the new lighting is being installed.