

# Seek



## November 2024

**The Church and Parish of St Mark Cambridge**

**[www.stmarksnewnham.org](http://www.stmarksnewnham.org)**

# The Vicar's Letter



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I often find that, when addressing a gathering (as my role requires of me quite regularly!), my mind, in reaching for the right word, lands upon the wrong one, and I end up saying something which displeases me. One such word is 'fellowship'. I often hear myself inviting people to stay behind, say after a funeral or a service, for 'fellowship'. What I mean to do is invite people to remain once the worship is done in order to enjoy and benefit from one another's company. But instead I reach for this word 'fellowship', which is not quite friendship, and which fits into that category of words which we use in church without thinking a great about what it might mean.

But nothing is beyond redemption, and I have been enjoying a collection of sermons recently, written by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, which he published under the title 'Fellowship with God'. For Temple 'fellowship' was no clichéd shorthand for rubbing along nicely over tea and cake: it was a critical theological term for understanding our faith. He wrote that 'The fundamental fact about human life is that God, in His Love, has entered into fellowship with us. The loftiest hope for human life is that we may, in answering love, enter into fellowship with him'.

Temple conceived of fellowship as the antidote to self-centredness: 'As long as we are concerned with our own feelings and desires and purposes...we are shut out from true fellowship. It is when we cease to think about desires or feelings or experiences, and give ourselves wholly to the object before us, that we find fellowship'.



Archbishop William Temple

Last month marked the eightieth anniversary of Temple's death. He died in office in the last year of the Second World War, during which he had become an important voice of reason and hope for the nation. And he practised what he preached, living in the bombed out basement of Lambeth Palace,

and travelling around London on the bus. Despite his privileged background, he was an ardent reformer. In a lecture of 1928 he coined the term 'welfare state', contrasting the 'power state' of military dictatorships, which coerced citizens to their own ends, to a 'welfare state', which was organised to meet the needs of its people. In other words, society conceived as a fellowship.

The words of Temple's which I have quoted above are taken from a sermon he gave in 1919 at Westminster Abbey for All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day (or All Hallows, hence, of course, All Hallows Eve, which tends to hog the limelight these days), is the first day of this month. In many ways it sets the tone for the days that follow, which, frankly, have an awful lot to do with death: there is the feast of All Souls, when we remember loved ones who have passed; and Remembrance Day, when we remember the sacrifices made in conflicts, past and present, but particularly in the two World Wars.

Temple, who, as I have already mentioned, ministered throughout those two conflicts, was insistent that by acknowledging our fellowship with God, we also had a continued fellowship with those who had died, for we are all united 'in Christ'. The Church calls this the communion or fellowship of the saints.

'We claim the station Christ has won for us. With Him we are conquerors of death and citizens of the eternal world. We seek the saints and our departed friends in His presence; we are near them when we keep close to Him. He is the way both to the Father and to the Father's home, where his children are gathered'.

Or, as the unsurpassable Collect for All Saints' Day from the Prayer Book puts it, in words I commend to you during this season of remembrance and reflection:

'O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

In friendship and in faith,

*The Rev'd Jim Robinson*

<https://stmarksnewnham.org>

## Adam Bak - an Ordained Ordinand?

*We are delighted to welcome Adam Bek who is joining us as an ordinand from Westcott House this year.*

I cannot express my joy at being attached to St Mark's Church and Grantchester. Firstly because I have loved reading and watching the Grantchester Mysteries for many years and also because of the welcome I have experienced in these churches!

As I said in my first sermon, I am Hungarian and I was ordained in the Catholic Church a little over eight years ago. After nearly five years of service, I asked my bishop to release me from active ministry. There were several reasons for this. Theological and, of course, personal reasons. By theological reasons, I mean that I do not believe in the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, I do not believe in purgatory, I recognize the legitimacy of divorce, and I view LGBTQ+ people differently and more openly

than Catholic teaching would expect. And my personal reason was that I did not want to be alone for the rest of my life.

I loved and still love my studies. I did a Master's degree in Theology before, and now I am writing my Master's degree in Anglicanism. I've been always interested in biblical languages and liturgy and I love diving into doctrinal teaching.

In my free time I love to spend time with friends, to read, watch good movies and enjoy a glass of wine. I go to the gym regularly and I also promote exercise and health at the College.

I look forward to being with your two communities and getting to know you better this academic year.

Let us keep each other in our prayers!

**Adam Bak**

### The Cantus Singers of Cambridge

(Conductor: Alan Howard)

The next concert by the Cantus Singers at  
St Mark's, Newnham, will be on  
**Saturday 7 December 2024 at 8pm**

#### Welcome Yule

##### A feast of Christmas favourites

Bennett *Susanni*, *Out of your sleep, Sweet was the song*  
Byrd *O magnum ~~mysterium~~*, *Puer Natus*  
Bruckner *Virga Jesse*  
Dering *Quem vidistis, pastores*  
Handl *Omnes de ~~saba~~*  
Holst *Christmas day*  
Howells *A spotless rose, Here is the little door, Sing lullaby*  
Lassus *Resonet in ~~laudibus~~*  
Lauridsen *O magnum ~~mysterium~~*  
Parry *Welcome Yule*  
Rutter *Sans day carol, Nativity carol*  
Sweelinck *Hodie*  
Warlock *Bethlehem down*  
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# SSAFA : Charity of the Month



The charity began life back in 1885 when the Second Expeditionary Force set sail for Egypt. Major (later Colonel Sir) James Gildea wrote a letter to The Times appealing for money and volunteers to help the military families left behind at home. A fund was set up to provide allowances and what was then called the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (SSFA) was formed.

Since then it has grown and adapted to the changing needs of military personnel and their families. Indeed its name changed after the first world war to the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) when the Royal Air Force was established.

This is how they describe themselves today.

## **Who we help**

Our support covers both regulars and reserves in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army and the Royal Air Force and their families, including anyone who has completed National Service. We know and understand the unique demands of service life, whether in the UK or overseas, and in times of need, we help to enable the Forces family to thrive.

Our recent research shows that service leavers aged 25-64 need more specialised support. The challenges they face are complex – from low income to life-changing injuries or hidden wounds, like depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Armed with this information, we are improving our services for younger, working-age veterans, and we will make sure they know we're here when they need us.

## **How we help**

SSAFA helps the armed forces community in a number of ways, though our focus is on providing direct support to individuals in need of physical or emotional care.

Addiction, relationship breakdown, debt, homelessness, post-traumatic stress, depression and disability are all issues that can affect our members of our Armed Forces community. Many of

these problems only become apparent when an individual has to leave their life in the Forces and join 'Civvy Street'. SSAFA is committed to helping our brave men and women overcome these problems, and rebuild their lives.

## **What makes us unique?**

We've been supporting the Armed Forces for more than 130 years. We support thousands of people in the UK and on military bases around the world. But it's not just this that makes us unique.

The needs of serving men and women and of veterans are becoming more diverse as the world and military landscape changes. So we work hard to make sure our services are flexible. We constantly adapt them to fit with people we support and what they need. This means we can offer everyone we work with a range of tailored services to help them navigate life in and beyond the military.

SSAFA works in partnership with other military charities and specialist organisations to ensure that those who turn to us for help get the support they need.

## **Where we are?**

SSAFA provides support wherever it is needed in the UK and worldwide. Our volunteer network reaches into every county of the UK and 11 countries around the world, operating on or near to the UK's overseas bases. We coordinate our activities from our central office in London and via our regional teams and committees.

## **How we fund our work**

Our charitable work is financed by contributions from benevolent funds, generous donations from members of the public and the profits generated by our Health and Social Care department who are contracted by the Ministry of Defence to provide direct support to serving personnel and their families in the UK and overseas.

Please remember this charity on Remembrance Sunday and donate generously.

**Miles Elliott**

## The Reverend Christine Farrington

Christine Farrington was Vicar of St Mark's Church from 1996 to 2002. living in the Vicarage behind the church. She was among the first group of women to be ordained as priests in the Church of England and was highly respected by her colleagues for her experience and counsel.

She was a good parish priest, and many of the older generation will remember her kindness and support, especially in times of sadness or trouble. She encouraged people to participate in parish responsibilities.: the Listening course evolved into the Visiting group, and she persuaded others to undertake further training within the church.

As St Mark's was at that time technically a half-time post, Christine also worked for the Ely diocese where she had particular responsibility for supporting other, less experienced, women priests, and also for assessing and advising applicants for ordination. Overall, it was a heavy workload but she had good support in the parish from the non-stipendiary curates, Lindsey Goodhew and Marguerite Roberts.

She had a wry sense of humour which helped in difficult situations, and a strong sense of propriety. A lasting personal memory is of her driving away with a flourish in her dashing little two-seater sports car which she loved and had purchased only after she retired. She had felt such a vehicle would not have been thought appropriate for a lady vicar! She was a woman of her time.

Christine was appointed as one of the Chaplains to the Queen, another recognition of her standing within the wider church, and she was very proud of her red cassock which she wore only at royal events and when taking services at the Chapel Royal once or twice a year.

In 2001 St Mark's celebrated the centenary of its consecration as the parish church. The construction of the narthex marked this event and Christine was a prime mover in the appeal for funds and completion of the project. There was general disappointment when she decided to retire in 2002. Her portrait is on the embroidered centenary banner which hangs in the church, and the narthex is a lasting memorial to her time here.

Christine retired to Redbourn, a village in Hertfordshire which had been her home in earlier years and where she had many friends. She gradually was drawn into helping in church affairs both locally and further afield. She had a particularly interesting year working in Orkney where she had responsibility for the church communities in the smaller islands. She lived independently until about 18 months ago when she moved into a care home in the village. She died there, peacefully, on the 10th October, aged 82.

### Margaret Herbertson

Christine's funeral will be on Wednesday 13th November at 12 noon at St Mary's Church in Redbourn,

## The December Issue of SEEK

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

## Compline for All Souls Day

**Monday 4th November at 6.00 pm**

We will have a said service of Compline (Night Prayer) for All Souls Day, to remember departed loved ones.

Names of those who have died can be recorded in the Narthex and will be read out as part of the service, and there will be the opportunity to light a candle in their memory.

# Newnham in War Time

*As we look at the conflicts raging in our world today the plight of innocent civilians comes constantly to our attention. A trawl through our parish magazines gives us an idea of what it must have been like for parishioners here in Newnham to live through the Second World War as civilians. There must have been constant anxiety but there were also many practical adjustments; no evening services - or even 8.00 am communion - during the dark winter months because the church could not be given effective blackout, for example.*

*These excerpts from the letters written by the Rev.d Alan Goodman who had taken over as acting vicar, for the 1940 October and November issues of the Parish Magazine give us a picture of some of the adjustments that needed to be made and the realities that had to be faced.*

## October 1940

After consultation with the churchwardens I have felt obliged to take the most regrettable step of closing down for the time being of the Children's Church. During my short period at St Mark's I have had several opportunities of seeing some of the work of the Children's Church, so well organized and conducted by Mr E.C. Hullock. It has seemed to me to be of very great value indeed to St Mark's Church, and therefore it has been with great reluctance that I have made this decision. But the danger of air attack and the inadequate protection that we can provide for any considerable number of children leaves me no option. I do however think that if parents will bring their Children to Church with them on Sundays, the problem of getting them to safety if necessary will be much lessened. You will remember our arrangement at St Mark's that should an air raid warning be given during any service, the service will immediately cease for a space in order that all

who wish may take cover with the least possible delay. If it seems practicable the service will then be resumed.

## November 1940

I am planning to commence a Sunday School in the Newnham Croft Schools, Chedworth Street. The Borough Education Committee has kindly given us permission to use one of the rooms in the school for this purpose, and the use, if needed, of the School Air Raid Shelters....

I have been asked by the Military Chaplain of this district if I would be prepared to act as Chaplain to a Field Company of the Royal Engineers now billeted in the neighbourhood. This I have readily agreed to do and the Church Council has given its approval to the proposal that from time to time they should hold a Church Parade in St Mark's. The Company were amongst the last of our Forces to leave Brussels, where they did valuable work, and came, like so many others through Dunkirk, fortunately with no loss of life, though with much loss of equipment and clothing. They are practically all north country folk, for the most part from Northumberland and Durham. A few of the men have their wives billeted in Cambridge, but most of them are far separated from their relations and friends. I am sure you will all wish to make them very welcome and that St Mark's may be for them in a real sense a home from home...

You will, I am sure, wish me to pay tribute to the memory of Sergeant Pilot Harold Henry Allgood R.A.F., who was killed in action on October 10th and was buried in St Mark's Burial Ground on October 22nd. We offer our sympathy and deep respect to his family and in particular to Mrs Allgood... (*Tragically Harold's brother, Edwin, was also to perish later in the war.*)

## Online Art Discussions

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# The Greatness of God

Marie Miller writes, “I came across this little devotion in my readings and thought it was worthy of passing on.”

**Luke 9:43a** *And all were astounded at the greatness of God.*

When was the last time you were astounded by the greatness of God? The thing about our liturgy is that, while it can be beautiful, if we don't put intention behind it, the words and actions become rote—no longer life-giving but simply routine.

I find it funny that Moses didn't expect to encounter God at Mount Horeb—even though it was known as the Mountain of God. Then, I think about how many Christians (including myself) go to church (often known as the House of God) without expecting to encounter God.

The truth is we will always find what we are looking for. And I wonder if some of us forget to look for God—not just during our liturgy but in our daily lives as well. Perhaps the next time we go to church, we commit ourselves to experience the presence of God throughout the liturgy, to put intention and meaning behind the words we hear and say together. Better yet, maybe today, we dare ourselves to be astounded by the greatness of God.

**MOVING FORWARD:** Where will you encounter God today?

<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd/2024-10-19>

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## 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.

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# Hints and Revelations

## St Mark's Hosts the Radius Festival of Drama



An enthusiastic audience packed St Marks on Saturday 12 October when it hosted the second Radius Drama Festival. They were treated to a directing masterclass, a play about the poetry of John Betjeman and an expert panel discussion and Q&A on faith and the theatre.

Fans of the 'The Archers' on BBC Radio 4 had the chance to witness talents of Emerald O'Hanrahan, the actor currently starring as 'Emma Grundy' in the long running everyday story of country folk, as she and her husband Martin Delaney led the masterclass. Based on the Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', readings, role plays and lots of audience participation enabled everyone to have a better understanding of dramatic text and how to make it come alive.

A short awards presentation then followed to Kit Walkham winner of the 2024 Radius playwriting competition for her play 'Holly and Lichen'. She described how her original idea for the play had come to her over a decade ago but she'd put it on her 'To do sometime' pile, and urged the audience to visit their pile if they have a similar one, as she did during lockdown because inspiration can strike at any time and can bring unexpected rewards.

After a delicious and convivial lunch, served by Sue Wagner and her team of catering stars, there was a performance of Rex Walford's dramatisation of the poetry of one of Britain's best loved 20<sup>th</sup> century poets, John Betjeman. Produced and directed by Tricia Peroni and Wendy Walford, 'The Hint of the Unknown God' explores Betjeman's fascination with religion, the hopes and fears of the human spirit and takes a critical look at the Church as an institution. Highlights included a church mouse popping up out of the pulpit and the opportunity to drop in on the goings on at a PCC meeting.

The festival concluded with a lively panel debate and Q&A with the audience chaired by Dr Sean Lang, historian, playwright and master of ceremonies for the day. On the panel were the Right Reverend Rob Gillion a former professional actor and now the Church of England's Bishop for the Arts and newly appointed President of Radius; professional actor Amanda Root who has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, in the West End and on Broadway; and Jane Bower associate lecturer, vocal coach, playwright and performer.



Themes discussed were the portrayal of faith and holy people on screen and on stage, a plea for religion to be depicted in real and authentic ways and the trend for 'hot' priests in TV dramas!

The next Radius Drama Festival will take place in two years' time, but you need not wait that long get involved with its work. Radius is the Religious Drama Society of Great Britain which explores faith and humanity through drama and it welcomes new members. Membership benefits include regular newsletters and magazines, access to plays and other material, workshops in person and online,

playwriting competitions and the chance to meet and share ideas with others with similar interests.

You can find out more at [radiusdrama.org.uk](http://radiusdrama.org.uk) or find them on the usual social media channels.

Grateful thanks go to the unstinting work of Wendy Walford and the Festival Steering Committee of Wendy, Romilly Janes and Nick Warburton in putting on the Festival; and to the St Mark's Arts and Events Committee.

**Lizzy Jarvis**

*Photographs courtesy of David Johnson  
Photographic*

## *Christmas Lunch*

*There will be the usual Christmas Lunch  
in the Community Centre  
on Sunday 1st December at 12.30pm*

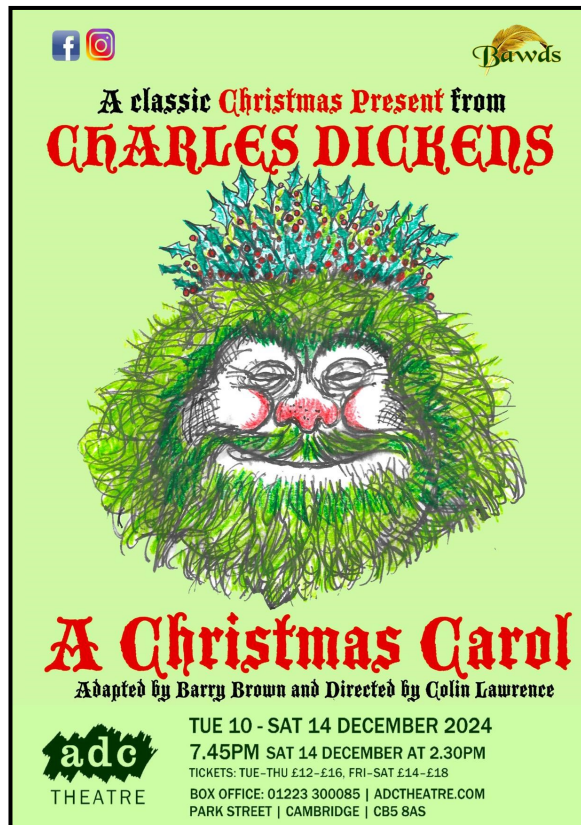
*Watch out for further details and a sign up sheet.*

## **From the Registers**

**Funeral**

**3rd October**

**Stuart Lingard**



### **BAWDS PRESENTS : A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**BY CHARLES DICKENS**

To be staged at the ADC Theatre, December 10 - 14

When Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 he gave the world an enduring gift which captured the essence of the love, kindness and generosity of the Christmas season.

This timeless classic, and the story's uplifting magic, remains as potent today as when it was first published.

A Christmas Carol tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who, on a bleak cold Christmas Eve, is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. As the ghostly visits become more terrifying Scrooge soon realises that he must change his ways.

This new adaptation captures the true meaning of Christmas, the value of family and loved ones, and how to live generously with those around us, highlighting the importance of charity and friendship.

## **Regular Groups**

### **Monday Bible Study**

10:30am, 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.

## Prayers for November



Lord, we are saddened at the thought of war, of the soldiers who must fight and all those people who are killed. At this time of year especially, we remember with great sadness the sacrifice of those who fought bravely for the freedom we enjoy and we give thanks for them. Amen

We remember O Lord all those who have died in any kind of war throughout your world. At this time we remember especially those victims of the two world wars including those close to us, or to our parents and grandparents. We remember those who came home with terrible injuries, both physical and psychological and those whose loved ones never returned.

Remembering the conflicts of the past and the sacrifices which were made, we pray for a world where war is still a grim reality. Lord, as we remember those who have lost their lives, help us to renew our fight against cruelty and injustice, against prejudice, tyranny and oppression. Lord, hear our prayer for the multitudes in every country who do not want war and are ready to walk the path of peace. May their voices be heard and may they not lose heart.

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of the nations at this time, asking you to pour out your spirit of reconciliation on them. Give them a longing to bring freedom from fear and freedom from want for all peoples. We pray also for the Christian Church, called to witness to your love in this generation. May those who profess one faith respect those who sincerely hold another faith and build a community where there is harmony and understanding. We pray in Jesus' name, the Prince of Peace. Amen



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

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

### **Sunday Services**

3rd November at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion
<b>10th November at 10.00 am</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> with Junior Church
17th November at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion with Junior Church
24th November at <b>9.30 am</b>	Communion with Junior Church
<b>Monday 4th November at 6.00 pm</b>	Compline for All Souls Day

### **Regular Weekday Services**

**Monday - Friday at 9.00 am** Morning Prayer

### **Tuesdays**

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

## Foodbank Dates

Please bring donations for the foodbank to church on Sunday 3rd November.

Alternatively, on Thursday 7th November leave them at 19 Kings Road (Eleanor Scott) 9.00 am - 3.00 pm, and 1 Millington Road (Rosey Gardiner) 8.00 am - 6.00 pm.

There is also a Tuesday morning collection point from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Gough Way island with the postbox.

In addition, there is a collection point at the Co-op.