
CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

June — July 2019

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Foxgloves in a local garden

Words from the Vicarage

Dear Readers,

Exciting times for St James! This summer we are delighted to welcome Revd Anne Strauss who joins us as curate. Anne has been training on the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC), the scheme that Edward Westrip is training on and where I am associate tutor. Anne brings a rich wealth of experience – you can read more about her on the next page. Please hold her in your prayers as she is ordained at Ely cathedral on 30th June. We offer her and her family a warm welcome to St James and the parish. I hope as many people as possible can join her for her first Sunday with us and lunch afterwards on the 7th July.

We have been blessed at St James to have various clergy worshipping with us, either in retirement or alongside other work commitments. Recently it's been lovely to have Revd Brigitte Snell back in our community. Brigitte served her curacy here some years ago before forging her own path as vicar in different parishes. In retirement she has a licence to exercise a ministry with us and has already led some services, preached and become part of a pastoral visiting team – which is such an integral part of our work here.

There are more exciting things to look forward to this summer:

Friendship cafés on Tuesday 4th June and 2nd July

Summer Celebration event on Saturday 15th June

St James' Day celebration on Sunday 21st July

I hope you will be able to join us for some if not all of these events, and maybe bring friends and family along too.

Blessings for a fruitful and joyous summertime.

Revd Steve Rothwell



Anne Strauss introduces herself



First, I am delighted to be your new Curate! Although I have only worshipped with you once, I immediately felt at home, and I'm looking forward to getting to know you, the church and the parish.

So, a few details about me...

I grew up near Manchester in a practising Catholic family with strong ecumenical leanings, but left the north a fairly long time ago to study History at Cambridge. I stopped going to church regularly, but in my 20s a quest for God led me to Quakerism. At this time I worked as a solicitor, specialising in Criminal Law.

Marriage and children (4) followed. I helped to establish a local alternative school and ran Parent and Child groups indoors and outside in the woods. Meanwhile, I returned to liturgical worship, through Evensong, Holy Communion and Morning Prayer at Anglican churches and college chapels in Cambridge. I discovered that I was being called to be a priest.

I became a Children and Families Worker in Cambridge and Trumpington – leading Messy Churches, faith exploration groups, co-ordinating Junior Church and youth groups. I began my training for Ordained Ministry with the Eastern Region Ministry Course three years ago.... and here I am!

Congratulations to Emma Rothwell on completing her first London Marathon!

She hoped to raise £1,500 for Action Aid and in fact raised an incredible £2,743. Before the event she wrote this on her JustGiving page.

I have always believed in the transforming potential of education and I also believe strongly in gender equality and inclusion. Action Aid is a charity that supports women and girls globally to attain education, healthcare, water and food. I want to do something to help.

Becoming a mum was the most transforming aspect of my life. It taught me about love and purpose in ways I had never known, and I am still learning. My husband and two sons have been my greatest supports in almost everything I have achieved as an adult and this marathon is no exception.

Inspired by my two sons, who love running, I

started running just 16 months ago. Over the last year, I have run 4 half marathons and several 10km and 5km races, but London will be my first marathon. I have learned just how hard it is to keep training, through blisters, injury, stomach cramps and stitches and the varied delights of British weather!

Just over a year ago, I had a horrible running accident and ended up with multiple rib fractures, but I had the running bug by then. It has given me a new belief in life. I am more attentive to the world. For me, running is a meditative discipline, the highs and lows of each run seem to signify so much about life and I drink a lot less wine!

I have been lucky, I have had access to a good education and excellent free maternal and general healthcare. I want to model to my own lovely sons that we are never too old to try new things, that we can make a difference and that whatever gender we are, it is important to place our shared humanity above all else.

Partnership for Missional Church

Together with St Johns Hills Road and St Andrews Cherry Hinton, St James has just finished its first year as part of Ely diocese's **Partnership for Missional Church** initiative. With input from experts from the Church Mission Society, this structured process helps churches to discover what God is up to in their congregations and communities, and to discern how the Holy Spirit might want to lead them forward in mission.

The theme for this first year has been "listening". Our PMC steering group has met seven times to coordinate a range of activities, including: interviews with 24 members of the congregation and some key figures in the local community; introducing **"Dwelling in the Word"** as a congregational spiritual practice; a time-line event in September that aimed to help us reflect on our Church's history; and research into our neighbourhood, building, attendance and finances.

The PMC steering team presented the results of this research work to the congregation as part of a special service on Sunday 5th May, under the title **"Seeking God's Way Together"**. There was much to be encouraged about. For example, the interview responses were made anonymous and considered by an independent reviewer, who commented "An awful lot goes on in your church!" and "There is clearly a lot of energy and enthusiasm." It was not a surprise to learn that music is a highly valued part of our Sunday worship, and that this can play an important part in attracting new people into our fellowship. Other findings reflected issues that concern our local community, such as new housing, demographic change and the spike in numbers of cars and pedestrians that occurs outside the church at drop-off and pick-up times for pupils at Queen Edith Primary School.

An important component of the service was an opportunity for all those present to contribute their thoughts about how we could be involved in expressing God's love for our local

area. This prompted a creative outpouring of ideas that will be gathered together and carefully considered as we work out what the next steps for St James might be.

The research summary closed with a list of areas that need our special attention. If any of these questions capture your interest, do please pass your thoughts along to me, so I can make sure that your ideas form part of the decision making process.

- How could we encourage our neighbours to 'own' their local church?
- What role could music play in our mission?
- How could we best care for young people in our community, including the hundreds of pupils at Queen Edith Primary, Queen Emma Primary, Netherhall School and Oakes College?
- How could we continue ministering to the older generation in a sustainable way?
- How could we use our church buildings to serve our neighbours better?

Bill Broadhurst *on behalf of the PMC steering team*

Dwelling in the Word

As mentioned on the previous page, the spiritual practice of “Dwelling in the Word” is closely connected with PMC and was included on the morning of Sunday 5 May. The PCC have also devoted some time to it as a prelude to the actual business of the meeting.

These are the guidelines given about how to proceed:

We invite the Holy Spirit in prayer to open our ears, hearts and minds. We listen to the passage read out loud and notice where our attention is drawn — a verse, phrase or single word. We then remain in silence for a minute or two, staying with the place in the passage that stood out for us.

Then:

- *We each find a person in the group whom we might call “a reasonably friendly-looking stranger”.*
- *We listen to that person as he or she says what they heard in the passage: a particular verse, phrase or even single word. They may mention something they’d never heard before, something odd or something comforting, or something about which they’d like to ask a Bible scholar.*
- *Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of the group (in fours, sixes or the whole group) what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. Some people even take notes to help them focus and remember. You introduce your partner by name to the group and share what you heard them say, each one takes their turn when they are ready to speak.*
- *If there is time a conversation develops around what God is saying to us today from the themes arising in the whole group.*

What is striking about the focus of this way of sharing scripture is that it really involves listening and interacting with another or others. You have to report on what someone else has said and not on your own thoughts. Finding “a reasonably friendly-looking stranger” can be relevant in some contexts, but in a St James gathering, this may need some re-interpretation ie find someone you don’t often talk to or have never talked to before.

The following passage is the one that has been used at St James recently.

Luke 10:1-12 The Mission of the Seventy

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

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⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'^[b] ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'^[c] ¹² I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Good Friday workshop: activities for all ages



Building the huge
stone for the front
of Jesus's tomb



Crafting the Easter story



Making Easter cards



Deep concentration
in the gazebo



Making theatres for the
Easter story

To Kick, or not to Kick

I have never indulged in much exercise and I have always been a duffer on the sporting field. How anyone can find delight in kicking or knocking a ball about is a mystery equal to anything I have come across in theology. True, I have played the occasional game of snooker and I did venture onto a golf course once, and on the occasional visit to a tennis court I have managed to return the ball now and again, but never have I impressed anyone, including myself, with my physical dexterity. Nothing works in harmony. *No, grandpa*, exclaimed my then 4-year-old grandson – now a gentle giant who has climbed the highest mountain in Russia and cycled across South America – *No, Grandpa, this is how you kick a ball*. And he proceeded, very impressively, to show me.

It was therefore a great comfort to come across a verse in the Psalms which suggests I have a kindred spirit in the Bible. Psalm 131 opens with: *Lord, my heart is not haughty nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me*. Clearly the one who wrote that, like me, would never dream of entering a marathon or attempting a high jump or any other extravagant athletics.

Yet the extraordinary thing is that now, in my extreme old age, I am exercising more than at any other time in my life: during my morning shower I give my stiff neck and shoulders a good workout; before I dress I lie on the bed manoeuvring my legs into tortuous positions in order to strengthen them; then follow a few balancing postures to help with my dizziness and recently my physiotherapist advised me to practise getting out of a chair without using my hands. All this is in addition to the dog taking me out for a walk several times a week. I am putting in more time trying to keep decrepitude at bay, than a prospective gold medallist preparing for the Olympics.

But some of you will be getting hot under the collar. You are about to accuse me of indulging in over-imaginative exegesis and dragging the unfortunate psalmist into this narrative by the scruff of his neck. So I have to confess to knowing he is not referring to PE but to RE and yet, despite my duplicity, this pleases me even more. In my youth I belonged to a puritanical, fundamentalist sect the members of which sought to exclude everything but religion from their lives. Not only cigarettes, alcohol and gambling – including buying raffle tickets – were banned, but dancing, the cinema and the theatre were out of bounds. Any pastime that took you outside the confines of this rigid organisation was frowned upon. It was a religious marathon with a vengeance and I wonder if these decent, well-meaning, Bible-obsessed folk ever came across Psalm 131 – *I do not exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me*. By contrast the psalmist's religion was a moderate one.

The picture he paints is gentle and domestic: *Surely I have behaved and quieted myself as a child that is weaned of his mother; my soul is as a weaned child* – God, our loving mother rather than the often terrifying Jehovah of the Old Testament. I love it. I often think the Parable of the Prodigal Son would have been more attuned to real life if it had been his mother not his father who welcomed his return home and anyway it was no doubt she who prepared the fatted calf for the celebratory dinner party. And there wouldn't be many capable of high jumps after that feast.

Geoffrey Howard



A colorful poster for a 'Summer Celebration' at St James Church. The top half has a light blue background with a yellow sun with red rays in the top left, a white cloud in the top right containing the church's name, and two butterflies (one orange, one blue) on the left. The title 'Summer Celebration' is in large, bubbly yellow letters. Below the title, the date and time 'Sat 15 June 2019' and '2 pm - 4.30 pm' are written in bold black text. The bottom half has a green background with three lines of text, each preceded by a small orange butterfly icon. At the very bottom, there is a row of stylized, colorful houses and trees. The bottom of the poster features the church's address and website.

St James Church,
Wulfstan Way

Summer Celebration

Sat 15 June 2019
2 pm - 4.30 pm

 Lots of fun games and activities for all ages

 Raffle, tea, cakes, bookstall, + lots more

 Free entrance! All welcome



St James Church, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge CB1 8QJ <http://stjamescambridge.org.uk/>

Bargain books for the avid reader

Some of you will be regular patrons of the Bring and Buy/Coffee mornings held on a Saturday morning once a month. As well as your having the opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee and chat to friends, there are shopping opportunities on the bric-a-brac stall, toys and games, home-made cakes and bread, and a regular raffle. An extensive range of tables is laid out with jigsaws and books. What a wealth of reading matter! Fiction from crime and fantasy to classics and award-winning novels. Non-fiction such as reference books and attractive guide books. All for very modest prices (30p upwards).

As an avid reader ranging widely over fiction and non-fiction, I get through numerous books every month. I am a member of the Cambridgeshire libraries and have a Kindle, but even so I welcome the opportunity to browse the stall and pick up something to further supply my appetite.

Recently I picked up the 2017 Costa award-winning book *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. I knew nothing about the book or the author, so had no expectations. I can thoroughly recommend it.

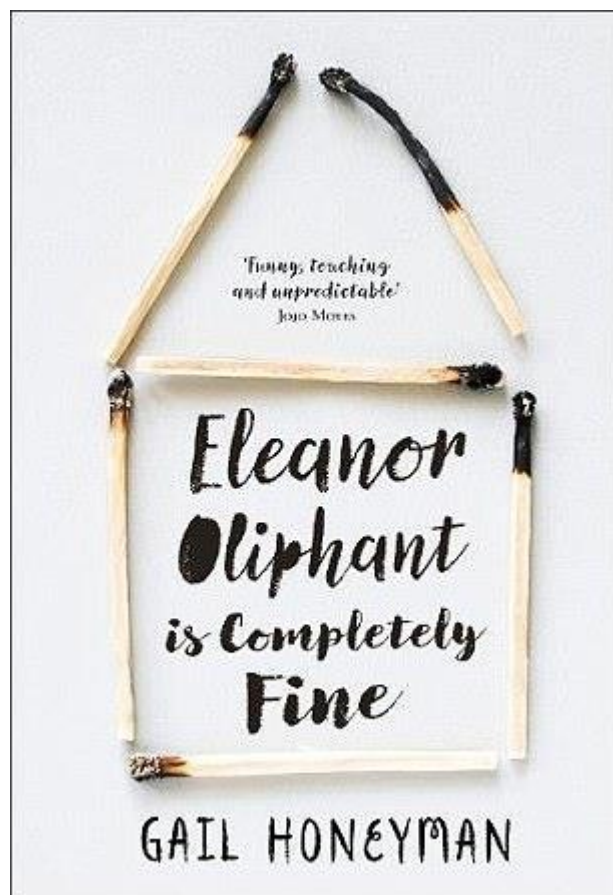
It is a story that sucks you in as you try to work out how exactly Eleanor became the sort of person she is and what the future holds for her. Although a young woman, she leads a routine life, working at her office computer, eating the same meals and wearing the same clothes and her purchases at Tesco's are always the same. She has no friends or social skills, and gets through the weekends by sticking to the same patterns, alone in her social housing flat with two bottles of vodka. Why does she shun and is shunned by her colleagues and how was her face disfigured by burns? Who is the monster of a mother that she phones every Wednesday?

It is only when she is befriended by a workmate, Raymond, a kind man who takes her in his stride, that things start to change. She becomes involved in new relationships and experiences and we eventually learn the childhood trauma that made her the disconnected person at the beginning of the book.

What I had suspected in the first few pages was that this was "chick lit", but it turned out to be much more engrossing than that. The writer, who was inspired to write by wondering about the experience of loneliness in younger people, said she wanted to focus on "the importance of kindness, and on how tiny acts can be completely transformative."

I can recommend the book stall. You might just pick up a bargain that is really worth reading.

Jennifer Day



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SEPTEMBER ISSUE of *CROSSPIECE***

Thursday 18th July

The Editors welcome articles, news items and photographs for inclusion in the magazine. If possible these should be in digital form, photos and words in separate files. However we can accept typed or handwritten items and photographic prints.

**ADVERTS FOR LOCAL SUPPLIERS &
SERVICES****Celia Kenney**B.Sc. (Hons) Podiatry, M.Ch.S, S.R.Ch
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Available for home appointments



St James's Church, Cambridge: Calendar for June—July 2019

JUNE

Morning Prayer is said on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9.30 am.
Everyone is welcome.

1st 5.00 pm No Youth group

2nd 7th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

8.00 am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00 am All Age Eucharist
4th 2.30 pm Friendship Café
7.30 pm Home Group
8.00 pm Compline
5th 10.15 am Eucharist at Dunstan Court
8.00 pm Taizé Service
7th 1.30 pm Meditation Group

9th PENTECOST

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
10th 7.45 pm Children's Work Meeting
12th 10.15 am Eucharist
13th 7.45 pm PMC Meeting
14th 1.30 pm Meditation Group
15th 2-4.30 pm **Summer Celebration**

16th TRINITY SUNDAY

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
18th 7.30 pm Home Group
19th 10.15 am Eucharist
20th 2.15 pm Hymn service at Cherry Hinton Care Home
7.30 pm Men's Beer Ministry at Queen Edith Pub
21st 1.30 pm Meditation Group

23rd 1st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
24th 10.00 am Staff Meeting
26th 10.15 am Eucharist
28th 1.30 pm Meditation Group
29th 10.00 am Bring & Buy Coffee Morning with Book Sale

30th 2nd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Eucharist)
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
**Ordinations at Ely Cathedral,
including Anne, our new curate**

JULY

2nd 2.30 pm Friendship Café
7.30 pm Home Group
3rd 10.15 am Eucharist at Dunstan Court
5th 1.30 pm Meditation Group
6th 5.00 pm No Youth Group

7th 3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00 am All Age Eucharist
12.00 pm Bring & Share lunch to meet our new curate
10th 10.15 am Eucharist
12th 1.30 pm Meditation Group

14th 4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
16th 7.30 pm Home Group
17th 10.15 am Eucharist
8.00 pm PCC Meeting
18th 2.15 pm Hymn service at Cherry Hinton Care Home
7.30 pm Men's Beer Ministry at Queen Edith Pub
19th 1.30 pm Meditation Group

21st ST JAMES' DAY Patronal Festival

No 8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School to be followed by Picnic and Parish Walk
23rd 2.30 pm Pastoral Tea Party
24th 10.15 am Eucharist
26th No Meditation Group
27th tba Wedding in Church

28th 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist
30th 7.30 pm Home Group