

Little St. Mary's, Cambridge
NEWSLETTER

January 2006, No. 369
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SERVICES & EVENTS IN JANUARY

- Sun 1st **MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS**
8.00am Low Mass 10.30am Procession and High Mass
6.00pm Evensong and Benediction.
- Fri 6th **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**
12.30pm Low Mass. 7.00pm Procession and High Mass
Friday lunch resumes
- Sun 15th **6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service & Benediction**
followed by Epiphany Party
- Wed 18th **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to 25th January.**
7.00pm PCC meets
- Sun 22nd 10.30am High Mass Preacher: Revd John Proctor,
Westminster College.
Ecumenical Service 6.30pm, venue to be announced
- Wed 25th **CONVERSION OF ST PAUL**
10.00am Low Mass 7.00pm Sung Mass

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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I begin the New Year by entrusting the editorship of our Newsletter to Sue Munro, this is a task which she has undertaken previously in another parish. I hope that you will support her by supplying material from time to time! Please note the deadline each month for material to reach her. I am very much aware of the importance of freeing myself from certain other administrative tasks; we are still in the process of a careful assessment of how best to do this, but I hope that the splendid new porch noticeboard (purchased with funds from the Vicar and Churchwardens Fund) will prove a symbol of increased efficiency in parish communication and administration! It would be good if little by little we all found that we could refer certain questions not to the Parish Priest, but to the appropriate lay person. Liturgical responsibilities and preaching, pastoral matters, general oversight and 'one to one ministry' all require a focus and attentiveness which I am all too conscious that I don't always bring to them, and I suspect that this is sometimes because my attention is wandering too much into matters for which I don't really need to take direct responsibility. I hope you will forgive me concluding this section of my letter with an appeal concerned with that often frantic time after Mass on Sunday mornings! This is when I (and others, I hope!) am looking out for newcomers and visitors, and it is not easy to do that if I am 'buttonholed' by a 'regular'; there may be a feeling that this is the only time I can get hold of the Vicar, but I do try to respond to telephone or e-mail messages, or to notes left in the Church letter-box...and I do hope that you won't hesitate to refer pastoral matters to me.

As always January brings with it the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, from the feast of the Confession of St Peter ('Thou art the Christ') on Wednesday 18th, to that of the Conversion of St Paul a week later. On Sunday January 20th we shall welcome John Proctor, from the staff of Westminster College, as our preacher; his was one of the outstanding contributions to our 2005 Lent and Eastertide course, and we look forward very much to hearing him again. That evening there will be a 'Churches Together' ecumenical service (venue yet to be announced), and we shall have said Evening Prayer in ISM at 5.30pm, followed by Devotions and Intercessions for Unity before the Blessed Sacrament. I'm hoping that around that time a proposed meeting between Lance Stone, the new Minister at Emmanuel, Keith Riglin of St Columba's URC, the Revd Deborah Ford of St Benet's and myself will be taking place; the idea is to consider whether there are possible ways of collaboration between our four neighbouring churches. This does not mean that the 'special relationship' between ourselves and Emmanuel URC is being forgotten; Lance Stone is keen for it to continue and develop, and we shall certainly be meeting soon to consider arrangements for a joint procession on Palm Sunday. But we have to remember that there are a number of tables under which he has to get his feet, following a long interregnum, and the adding of an additional URC congregation to his charge.

I'm delighted that Amy Merriman feels that it is worthwhile continuing her monthly 'Meditations on the Word'; the next two will be in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays January 11th and February 8th, at 6.30pm, and they will offer a very valuable opportunity for quiet and reflection. Some of you will be aware that a gathering of a rather different style, to say an evening Office once a fortnight, took place for around ten years in various homes in the Mill Road vicinity. For the time being, this group is in abeyance, but if there is any interest in considering the revival of such a group, whether in the same or in a different geographical area, do please have a word with me, or with Bill de Quick or Sheila Bennett, who gave the impetus to the original group. Prayer is something in which most of us need encouragement and support, and it's certainly not a sign of weakness to join with others, whether for quiet and reflection, or for more formal prayer.

Most of you will remember Fr Ron and Sally Thomas, from both of whom I have recently had long letters. Things are clearly not altogether easy for them in the Episcopal Church, and they say a good deal about missing LSM, the people and the liturgy; Sally says: *of all the things I loved about our life in Cambridge, I have missed the Choir at LSM most...also, I miss hymns that haven't had all their words tampered with by Sister Dolores Painsuit or someone like that!* Fr Ron is enjoying teaching...*in three undergraduate institutions and one seminary!* They now have four children, for whom Sally is operating a 'home schooling scheme', with great success. They send their love and prayers, and ask ours; it's good to be reminded of such friends, and to realise that in all the muddle and sadness of the churches (not least the Anglican Communion) today we are at a deep level one in Christ. And we certainly miss their New Year parties! (Incidentally, if you read this before December 31st 2005, we hope that our short devotions just before Midnight and into the New Year will be the prayerful filling between appropriate partying in the Parish Room!)

The approach to Christmas promises to be exciting for me on the domestic front; Clare, who was married in LSM in July 2004, is expecting her first baby on December 19th (I'm writing this on the 12th), and Kate is expected back in the UK on Christmas Eve, after 3 months in Niger where she's been evaluating a project concerned with women's education. John has now left the army, and is working with the Brooke Charity, which runs projects designed to encourage proper care of horses and mules in several countries, including India, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Jordan. Sarah is working for an antique dealer (pistols and armour!) in London, and Rosie and Thomas (now two and a quarter) are settled in Waterbeach. So...that's my Christmas and New Year 'round robin' which I hope you will accept in lieu of Christmas Cards. I do thank you for the many I've received and for your support and prayers, and for the great privilege of having been part of LSM for another year.

with love and prayers for Epiphany and for 2006

Now available: 'Life and Times of LSM: A Living History', £13 inc P&P

ROBERT BEESLEY R.I.P.

Robert Beesley died on November 25th after many months of increasing frailty, which he bore with great patience. He was born in Nottingham into a Baptist family and was educated at a Quaker school before going into his family's lace making business. His upbringing and education surely played a part in making him the gentle and courteous person that he was, even when he was very weak and disabled, he wanted to get up whenever a visitor entered the room! After war service with the RAF, Robert worked in the Civil Service. Soon after his first wife died, after a marriage of over 30 years, he met Catherine Loinsworth, and they were married at LSM in 1998. As they used to say, 'God had made them for each other' at this late stage in their lives. Catherine introduced Robert to LSM, and he was confirmed shortly before their wedding, he became a regular communicant, and continued to receive the Sacrament regularly when it became necessary for him to go into residential care. We give thanks for God's grace in his life, and pray that he may rest in peace and rise in glory, and we offer our prayers and sympathy to Catherine, and to all who mourn at this time.

CALCUTTA CURRY EVENING -

With great enthusiasm, Catriona Mackay and Sally Clough shared something of their experiences of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service following their recent visit with a party of 'Friends of CRS'. They showed slides and photographs, and examples of sewing and embroidery done by members of the 'Women's Empowerment Groups' which are a very important part of the work of CRS. Over £300 was raised during the evening for CRS, and this will be added to the money raised during November and December through the Friday lunches.

PEOPLE FOR OUR PRAYERS

There's better news of **Joyce Fletcher** who is making steady progress at home after her time in Addenbrookes, and then in respite care, following her fall. Please pray especially for those who are lonely and isolated in these winter months, for those in residential care, and for our Home Communicants: **Betty and Peter Barnard, Joan Wardill, Vera Harman, Marguerite South** and **Fr Geoffrey Styler**.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ISSUES

When I was naked and you clothed me, hungry and you fed me... Homelessness is a big problem, particularly amongst young people and it is our responsibility as Christians to help those in need, but knowing where to start can be difficult.

86% of young homeless people have been forced to leave home rather than chosen to, and 1 in 3 of the homeless have severe mental health problems. In Cambridge, two approaches to alleviating this are Whitworth House in Chesterton Road, a hostel for 13 vulnerable young women mostly under 20 years of age, and the Cambridge Cyrenians. The 'Friends' of Whitworth House have a number of committee members standing down at the AGM in March and are **looking for volunteers** to take their place. The charity is **supported by members** of LSM congregation and has twice been the beneficiary of the Friday charity lunch. If you are interested, please contact Elaine Wheatley on 01223 362332, or email her at Tim.wheatley@btinternet.com

Cambridge Cyrenians provide direct access accommodation, long stay houses and bedsits, and outreach and resettlement for those with mental health problems. To find out more about them, speak to their fieldwork co-ordinator on 472861 or contact 4 Short Street, Cambridge CB1 1LB

On a national scale, Church Housing Trust (CHT) is a charity dedicated to the rehabilitation and resettlement of homeless people of all ages and backgrounds. By tackling the longer term issues that perpetuate homelessness, rather than providing quick fixes, it offers new beginnings for homeless people of all ages. CHT recently joined with the Foyer Federation (FF) to provide a Foyer in Cambridge. The FF works for rehabilitation and resettlement by providing a stable and secure community, help with finding appropriate employment, training or education, training in basic skills and independent living skills, and help with finding permanent accommodation and ongoing support for disadvantaged 16-25 year olds who are homeless or in housing need.

You can help raise money for CHT simply by browsing the web. Make www.everyclick.com/uk/churchhousingtrust your home page. Everyclick donates half its income to charity and it doesn't cost you a penny.

THREATS TO CAMBRIDGE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Cambridge and Peterborough Mental Health Trust have announced that they are being forced to make £2m cuts in services to help make up NHS deficits. This equates to a 10% cut in the local budget which will severely limit the delivery of services to those most in need of help and support. Psychiatrists and those who work in the field say the cuts pose a risk to mental health patients, families and neighbours.

It is so easy to forget the mentally ill. Many are stuck at home, afraid to go out, or chained to their homes by the debilitation of depression, or just confused by daily life itself. These are people unable to fight for themselves and it is up to professionals and other concerned bodies to act on their behalf.

CHARITY DONATIONS FOR YEAR 2005

Carol singing Dec 2004	CamMind	210.00
Friday Lunch Nov/Dec 2004	Bishop Caldwell School	281.37
Friday Lunch Jan/Feb	Chaplaincy to people at work	288.00
Friday Lunch March/April	LArche	222.00
Friday Lunch May/June	NICH5	252.00
Friday Lunch July/Aug	Leprosy Mission	222.00
Friday Lunch Sept/Oct	Prison Fellowship	224.00
Annual alloc'n of 5 of income	Borneo Mission Society	250.00
Annual alloc'n of 5 of income	Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service	150.00
Annual alloc'n of 5 of income	Makeni Ecumenical Centre	150.00
Annual alloc'n of 5 of income	PNG	130.00
Annual alloc'n of 5 of income	USPG	500.00
Annual alloc'n of 5 of income	Additional Curates Society	50.00
	Additional Curates Society	250.00
	Bishops Lent Appeal	225.00
Christmas 2004	Cambridge Cyrenians	402.00
Good Friday	Cambridge Samaritans	110.00
Christmas 2004	Childrens Society	402.00
	Christian Aid (Niger)	330.00
	Christian Aid (Pakistan earthquake)	1520.00
	Christian Aid (Tsunami Appeal)	1515.00
	Christian Aid (week)	583.00
	Christian Aid (Zimbabwe)	330.00
	New Church at Cambourne	200.00
	PNG (Barbecue)	103.00
	PNG (cost of sending books)	287.86
St Luke's Day	St Luke's Hospital	100.00
	USPG (from overseas box)	995.00
TOTAL		13304.23

Threats to Cambridge Mental Health Services cont'd

The cuts also include half the inpatient dementia beds in Cambridge and a therapeutic facility for young people. Also under threat is the Care in the Community Drop-in Centre in Trumpington Street of which Fr Andrew is an honorary chaplain. Facilities like these are vital. Not only will the sick suffer more and longer, but their relatives and those who share their lives with them will also be put under additional stress. There are few people these days that have not had contact with someone suffering from some kind of mental illness and all will know the distress this can cause to sufferers and carers. Trying to gain access to help is already a long winded process and further delays will cause further and deeper suffering to those caught up in the web.

SERVICES AT LITTLE ST MARY'S

Sundays

7.30am *Morning Prayer* 8.00am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *High Mass* 6.00pm *Solemn Eensong & Benediction*

Weekday Services

Monday

7.15am *Morning Prayer* 7.45am *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

7.15am *Morning Prayer* 7.45am *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*

Wednesday

9.00am *Morning Prayer* 10.00am *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*

Thursday

7.15am *Morning Prayer* 7.45am & 6.30pm *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

7.15am *Morning Prayer* 7.45am & 12.30pm *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*

Saturday

8.00am *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*

Festivals

7.00pm *Sung Mass*
Low Mass as announced

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Friday at Noon Saturday 6.30pm
or at other times by appointment

Coffee is served in the Parish Room after the 10.30am High Mass on Sundays and after the Low Mass on Wednesdays.

There is a Charity Lunch (£2 minimum) after the Low Mass on Fridays supporting both home and overseas charities.

There is a monthly Meditation on the Word, offering time for prayer and reflection, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Lady Chapel, as announced.