

Little St. Mary's, Cambridge
NEWSLETTER

August 2006, No. 376
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SERVICES & EVENTS IN AUGUST

Sun	6th	8th SUNDAY after TRINITY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Low Mass 7.45am Sung Mass 7.00pm Preacher: the Rev Canon Hugh Wybrew, <i>sometime Vicar of St Mary Magdalen</i>
Sun	13th	9th SUNDAY after TRINITY
Tue	15th	ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM PATRONAL FESTIVAL Low Mass 7.45am Sung Mass 7.00pm
Sat	19th	Assumptiontide Barbecue, 7.30pm, Church Garden
Sun	20th	10th SUNDAY after TRINITY
Thur	24th	ST BARTHOLOMEW Low Mass 7.45am Sung Mass 7.00pm
Sun	27th	11th SUNDAY after TRINITY

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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Alongside the reports from sub-committees and working groups, the PCC now has one main or special item for discussion on the agenda at each meeting. In September (when the meeting is on Thursday 7th) it will be the Pastoral Plan for the South Cambridge Area, which encourages informal partnerships between various churches: please talk to PCC members, who all have copies of the plan, about this. In July, it was our Mission Statement for 2006-7; we had a good discussion on this, and it was agreed that this should read as follows:

*The foundation and heart of our Mission as the People of God
is our Eucharistic and Sacramental life,
in which we are built up as a community in Jesus Christ,
seeking to worship God in the beauty of holiness,
and to serve Him in daily life.*

The PCC also agreed a number of particular objectives for 2006-7:

- **Worship**
To increase attendance at services, particularly Sunday High Mass
- **The life of Prayer**
To inaugurate monthly Compline and maintain a monthly meditation
- **Teaching**
To run an autumn course on 'Illuminating the Mass'
To explore the possibility of a Lent course to be shared with other local churches on the 'Use of the Bible today'
- **Young people**
To develop opportunities with young people in the life of our church
- **Music**
To plan a programme of recitals following the installation of the new Organ.
To complete the review of the Parish Choir.
- **Ministry to Visitors**
To improve communication and welcome material.
To have the Church history translated into other languages
- **Outside Concerns**
To continue support for local groups and our overseas church links,
and to develop the work of the Social Responsibility Group

· **Administration and Management**

To monitor housekeeping in our premises, including the garden

I hope very much that this list of objectives will help us all in our prayers and in our involvement in the life of the parish. On our long-term agenda is the possibility of a further extension of the Parish Room, which is bound to involve much imaginative and careful thought; at the moment we are considering the possibility of informal consultation with other architects.

Small amounts of money keep trickling in to boost the **Gift Day** takings; at the July PCC meeting, the Treasurer reported a net figure of £7,300.72, a very substantial increase on the 2005 figure of £5,471.92, largely accounted for by increased Gift Aid donations, and by the takings for 'Trial by Jury'. I would like to repeat and underline the thanks which I expressed in the July Newsletter to everyone involved not least those who laboured all day long on the stalls and in the kitchen!

These summer months are being overshadowed by the disquieting developments in the Middle East...and for us Anglicans and members of the Church of England by the divisions over the Ordination of Women to the Episcopate and over issues of sexuality. The roots of the Middle East's problems go back centuries, as we discover as we read the Old Testament stories of the relationship of the people of Israel with their neighbours; and one of the issues for some of the opponents of the proposed developments in our Church is that they will mean changes in positions which most Christians have held for hundreds of years. Clearly reflections on the significance of *time* in such matters as these are only a small part of the total story; I mention them only as a reminder both of some of the realities faced by the world and the churches, and of the need to be patient and persevering in *prayer*...not least for those in positions of responsibility. I need hardly say that we must also hold in our prayers the innocent people on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanon border, and in Gaza, who are suffering so much at the moment.

The disputes and conflicts which affect so many people, institutions and countries might well lead us to cynicism and even despair about the human condition. The celebration of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, which we keep as our Patronal Festival, on Tuesday August 15th, is one which reminds us of the potential of every human being, created in the image of God and *capax Dei*...capable of being filled with all the fullness of God, as Mary was. I look forward

to seeing you all at the High Mass that evening, and at our Assumptiontide Barbecue (in aid of the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership) on Saturday August 19th at 7.30pm.

with love and prayers: Fr Andrew

PATRONAL FESTIVAL 2006

Tuesday August 15th: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

- *Low Mass: 7.45am*
- *High Mass 7pm: Preacher: Fr Hugh Wybrew, sometime Vicar of St Mary Magdalen*
- *Buffet Supper after High Mass*

Saturday August 19th: Assumptiontide Barbecue

- *7.30pm, Parish Room and Churchyard Garden*
- *Tickets from Robin Osborne*
- *Profit to the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership*

PEOPLE FOR OUR PRAYERS

R.I.P

After a long illness, Marguerite South died in hospital on July 21st, 5 days after her 97th birthday, celebrated in hospital with a few friends. She had received Holy Communion a week before her death. Her association with Little St Mary's was established mainly through her membership of the Friends of LSM, but she appreciated our church's liturgy and sacramental life. Her earlier family associations were with St Andrew's Chesterton, where her ashes will be interred. She requested a Sung Requiem at LSM before her cremation. A teacher, she finished her career as Headmistress of the famous Dame Allan's School in Newcastle; many former pupils kept in touch with her during her long retirement in Cambridge. Until a few years ago, she was still teaching a Greek Adult Education course, and kept up her reading and wide interests in people and events until the end. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Sheila Duffy (an occasional worshipper at LSM following her move to Trumpington, and a member of the Friends) was taken into Addenbrookes on July 20th following a stroke. Her speech and her right arm have been affected, but she is making steady progress.



Calendar and Intentions

for

AUGUST

*The list of Thanksgivings and Intercessions offers a focus
for our daily prayer, both at the Offices and Mass,
and in our personal times of prayer.*

*The Vicar would be glad of suggestions for additions
to the list of daily intentions.*

Calendar for August

Tues.	1st	St Peter's Chains
Wed.	2nd	Finance and Standing Committee 7.30pm
Thurs.	3rd	
Fri.	4th	St John Vianney, Priest
Sat.	5th	St Oswald, Martyr
SUN.	6th	TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD: 8th after TRINITY
Mon.	7th	commem. J.M.Neale, Priest
Tues.	8th	St Dominic
Wed.	9th	
Thurs.	10th	St Laurence, Deacon & Martyr
Fri.	11th	St Clare of Assisi
Sat.	12th	
SUN.	13th	9th after TRINITY
Mon.	14th	St Maximilian Kolbe, Martyr
Tues.	15th	ASSUMPTION of the BVM: Patronal Festival: see page
Wed.	16th	
Thurs.	17th	
Fri.	18th	
Sat.	19th	Assumptiontide Barbecue 7.30pm
SUN.	20th	10th after TRINITY
Mon.	21st	commem. Richard Crashaw
Tues.	22nd	Guild of All Souls at Kettlebaston
Wed.	23rd	Parish Development: Buffet Supper & Presentation 7.30pm
Thurs.	24th	St BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle: LM 7.45am SM 7pm
Fri.	25th	
Sat.	26th	
SUN.	27th	11th after TRINITY
Mon.	28th	St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop: LM 10am
Tues.	29th	Beheading of St John Baptist
Wed.	30th	
Thurs.	31st	St Aidan, Bishop

Daily Intentions and Anniversaries for August

Prisoners of Conscience		1st
Our Parish Officers		2nd
Musicians	<i>Roma Gill</i>	3rd
Parish priests		4th
Province of York	<i>Geoffrey Lampe, Pr.</i>	5th
The Parish		6th
The ministry of spiritual guidance	<i>Olive Robinson</i>	7th
Dominicans		8th
Friends of LSM		9th
Deacons	<i>Eric Hindley, Pr., Mary Hindley, Norman Clift, Pr.</i>	10th
Vocations to the religious life	<i>Arthur Benjamin Dex, Pr., Geoffrey Smith</i>	11th
The Middle East	<i>Peter Chamier, Pr.</i>	12th
The Parish		13th
Council for Christians and Jews	<i>David Paton, Adrian Martinez</i>	14th
Thanksgiving for Our Lady		15th
Church's Ministry of Healing	<i>Ella Cassell</i>	16th
Northern Ireland	<i>Richard Wardill</i>	17th
CAMFED (Friday Lunch Charity)		18th
Papua New Guinea Church Partnership	<i>Eric Loinsworth</i>	19th
	<i>Blanche Poulter, Maurice Fretten</i>	
The Parish		20th
Our Servers		21st
The Departed	<i>John Robinson</i>	22nd
Christian Stewardship		23rd
Doctors and Nurses	<i>Margaret Hutchinson, Elizabeth Wymgard</i>	24th
Good use of the Bible		25th
Visitors to Cambridge		26th
The Parish	<i>Thomas Haynes, Bob Bishop</i>	27th
Theologians	<i>Sybil Fleet, Patricia Fleet, Ione Spalding</i>	28th
Courage in witness to the gospel		29th
Northern Ireland	<i>Helen Culverwell, Thomas Chalmers</i>	30th

Friday August 4th

*The Feast of St John Vianney,
Curé d'Ars*

Pray for all Parish Priests

*Heavenly Father grant that our priests be
strengthened and healed by
the power of the Eucharist they celebrate.
May the Word they proclaim give
them courage and wisdom.*

*We pray that all those whom they
seek to serve may see in them the
love and care of Jesus, our Eternal High Priest,
Who is Lord for ever and ever.*

Amen

Helen Smith's mother Mary has been in hospital after breaking a hip; apparently she receives a record number of visitors to her ward! Eileen Barnard, a faithful member of our 8am congregation, suffers severe problems with her balance and is now finding it very difficult to get about; she has joined our group of Home Communicants, along with Betty and Peter, her sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

Our thanks and best wishes to

Amy Merriman as she leaves us at the end of July for a month's break, before starting her new job as Chaplain's Assistant at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln; we shall miss her quiet presence and keen wit!

...and to **Anthony Hammill** for his commitment and interest during the month of his placement with us. We hope that we may see him occasionally during his next year at Ridley Hall.

Our Mission Statement (see page 2) is followed up by a list of objectives for 2006-7. The first of these reads:

Worship: to increase attendance at church services, particularly Sunday High Mass.

There has been a distinct falling-off in attendance in recent weeks...it would be good to have YOUR ideas as to how we can encourage the growth of the congregation at our principal service. Please contact Fr Andrew or the Churchwardens.

A disappointment also in recent weeks has been the low level of support for the Friday Charity Lunch! The lunch is excellent, and we support good causes...why not come along if you're shopping in Cambridge on a Friday...and bring a friend?!

AMY'S ADIEU

Ten months as Pastoral Assistant in LSM have given me much food for thought - and there's an understatement if ever I made one: I think I need a month on retreat to process everything! I came dealing with vocational issues - as well as numerous questions about the Church - but had decided that it was more important for me to do the job for its own sake. It has been a fruitful experience from that perspective, even without looking any further. Some of my questions have been answered, but most only partially... and I am usually coming up with more!

Rather bizarrely, given a relative absence of the 'traditional' aspects of parish ministry (e.g. Occasional Offices), LSM has many features that make it a helpful place to explore Christian vocation in its widest possible sense: the pattern of prayer, the daily mass, an inspiring Vicar, a wealth of social activities, loads of ordinands hanging around... I think the most valuable aspect of this job has been the permission to glimpse a vision of Christian ministry: through participation in all aspects of worship, through watching extremely closely, and through being allowed to do that close watching in some amazing – and hard – situations. However, it has also been good to learn 'on the job': not least being thrown in the deep end with (increasingly) short notice. Extremely terrifying, but also exciting – and, no doubt, experience beyond price!

Priceless is also the way I am tempted to describe working with Fr Andrew...! It has been a privilege, and his wise guidance combined with an ability to tolerate gloomy, not to say grumpy, questions first thing on a Monday morning have been very much appreciated.

I suspect that the place where I have unconsciously gained most insight has been through watching how the Eucharist is celebrated, and celebrated day after day. Through serving at Benediction, through the way the Office is said, through the Ministry of Healing, I have glimpsed, a very little more, the place – and cost – of intercession. Beyond the worship, I have found the ministry of hospitality, located in the Parish Room by the indefatigable Social Committee, inspiring. And beyond the immediate congregation, but nonetheless an important part of this community, the 12 o'clock group on a Monday has particularly touched, challenged and, I hope, changed me.

The post is a challenging one, physically as well as spiritually and emotionally; I think I found the first months, with their run up to Christmas, not particularly easy. That being said, it has been beyond doubt an enjoyable as well as informative ten months. I am deeply grateful to all those who have offered friendship and made supportive noises, to all those who have taught me in various capacities – and to any who offered me hospitality! I hope that Gemma, my successor, will experience a similar warmth, support and hospitality: I am sure that she will be a positive and exciting addition to LSM from the autumn.

Amy Merriman

SERVICES AT LITTLE ST MARY'S

Sundays

7.30am *Morning Prayer* 8.00am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *High Mass* 6.00pm *Solemn Eucharist & 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 *Sing 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, after the Low Mass on Fridays supporting both home and overseas charities.

LSM Social group/ mailing list

To join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LSMsocial/>

Mailing list only; blank email to: LSMsocial_subscribe@yahoo.com