

*Little St. Mary's, Cambridge*

## NEWSLETTER

*December 2006, No. 380*

*Price: 25p*



### **ADVENT, CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY 2006**

**Advent Sunday: December 3rd** Advent Lunch (Tickets £6/£3)

**Advent Quiet Weekend: December 8th-10th:**  
to be led by Br Reginald SSF: full details on page 3

**Advent 3: December 17th:** Advent Carol Service 6pm

**Wednesday December 20th:** Carol Singing around the Parish  
in aid of Cambridge Mencap: meet at 7pm

**Advent 4: December 24th:** usual morning services  
**5pm CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** all welcome  
our young people provide musical accompaniment for carols  
and children assist with the forming of the crib

**11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS and Blessing of the Crib**

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY:**

8am: Low Mass                      10.30am: Procession and High Mass  
5pm Evening Prayer, Carols at the Crib & Benediction

**Tuesday 26th-Saturday 30th inclusive:** Low Mass at 10am

**Sunday December 31st:** services as usual:  
in addition: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **11.50pm**

**Monday January 1st: The Naming of Jesus:**  
10.30am: Sung Mass, followed by Refreshments

**Saturday January 6th: Feast of the Epiphany**  
10am: Blessing of the Holy House and High Mass

**Sunday January 14th:** 6pm: **Epiphany Carol Service**

## SERVICES & EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Fri	1st	Compline 9.00 pm
Sun	3rd	<b>1st SUNDAY in ADVENT</b> Advent Lunch, (by ticket) Candles for sale after High Mass
Wed	6th	Autumn Course: "Illuminating the Mass" (5) 7.00pm Bring-and-Share Supper
Fri	8th	<b>CONCEPTION OF THE BVM</b> Low Mass 12.30 am      Sung Mass 7.00 p.m. Commencement of Quiet Weekend, see opposite led by Br Reginald SSF, Address & Compline 8.45pm
Sun	10th	<b>2nd SUNDAY in ADVENT</b> , Quiet Weekend 10.30am Preacher: Br Reginald SSF, Shared Lunch
Wed	13th	Finance and Standing Committee, 7.15pm
Thur	14th	Parish Development Supper, 7.30pm
Sun	17th	<b>3rd SUNDAY in ADVENT</b> Advent Carol Service 6.00 pm
Mon	18th	Meditation in the Crypt, 1-1.30pm
Wed	20th	Carol Singing round the Parish, meet 7.00pm
Thur	21st	<b>ST THOMAS</b> , Apostle Low Mass 7.45 am      Sung Mass 7.00 pm
Sun	24th	<b>4th SUNDAY in ADVENT</b> <i>For Christmas Services see front page</i>
Tue	26th	<b>ST STEPHEN</b> , Martyr      Low Mass 10.00 am
Wed	27th	<b>ST JOHN</b> , Apostle & Evangelist      Low Mass 10.00 am
Thur	28th	<b>HOLY INNOCENTS</b> , Martyrs      Low Mass 10.00 am
Fri	29th	St Thomas Becket      Low Mass 10.00 am
Sat	30th	Low Mass 10.00 am
Sun	31st	<b>1st SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS</b>

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## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The first page of our Newsletter outlines many of the principal services and other events for the coming weeks of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and I hope that they will help us to experience once again something of the glory and wonder of Almighty God who embraced our humanity and, in the person of Jesus, revealed its potential. Attentiveness to the 'God who comes' in the midst of our many activities and celebrations is of enormous importance in these coming weeks; and that is why at the beginning of this letter I want to expand on two items on the front page: the **Quiet Weekend**, and what is described as **Personal and Corporate Preparation**.

First, the Quiet Weekend: we are extremely fortunate that **Br Reginald**, a member of the Society of St Francis and a former Vicar of St Bene't's, has agreed to come to lead our Advent Quiet Weekend. This is the programme:

Friday December 8th	Conception of the BVM 7pm Sung Mass with Address, followed by Coffee and Refreshments
Saturday December 9th	8.45pm Address and Compline at Mill Green House, near Linton Please bring a packed lunch, coffee & tea provided 10.30am Arrival and Coffee 11.00am Address 12.30pm Mass 1.00pm Lunch 2.00pm Address 3.45pm Closing Prayers 4.00pm Tea 6.00pm (in LSM) Evening Prayer & Proclamation
Sunday December 10th	of the following day's Gospel Br Reginald will preach at 10.30am High Mass. Lunch in the Parish Room*

The mixed pattern this year (Friday and Saturday evenings at LSM and Saturday out in the country (at Mill Green House near Linton) is offered in response to views expressed after last year's Quiet Weekend, when many people found it difficult to use the Parish Room as a place of quiet throughout the Saturday.

As before, some people may not feel able to participate in the whole of the weekend, but I do encourage you to set aside some, if not all of this time if you possibly can; it should be a real gift to us in the midst of the usual December frenzy!

Second, personal and corporate preparation: once again, I shall be offering within the **7pm Sung Mass** on the Feast of St Thomas (**Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>**) some suggestions for corporate penitential reflection. Earlier in the month, on Advent Sunday, I shall be preaching about the wonderful gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (personal confession in the presence of a priest), inspired not least by Fr Malcolm Guite's use of a poem by Geoffrey Hill in the meditation which he led for us in November. The Oxford Movement's revival of sacramental confession within the Church of England was, it seems to me, as important as its recovery of beauty and dignity in worship, and it is sad that there seems to be little awareness of it or willingness to use it. As always, there will be additional times for hearing of Confessions in the week before Christmas, and Fr Ian Thompson and I would be glad to help if people have questions about how to set about preparing for personal Confession. If the times set out here are not convenient for you, do please get in touch to make an appointment; Fr Ian's telephone number is 331248.

*Fr Andrew:*

Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> 12.05pm: Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>: 6.30pm

Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>: 5pm: Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>: 2.30pm

Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> 12.05pm: Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup>: 5pm

*Fr Ian:*

Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>: 2.30pm: Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>: 12.30pm

Other occasions for stillness and reflection in December are offered through **Compline** at 9pm on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the monthly **Meditation** in the Crypt, to be led by Gemma, our Lay Pastoral Assistant, on Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The New Year has plenty of excitement in store for us. We hope that the new **Organ** will be installed during January (if anyone else would like to 'buy a pipe', please take a form from the bookstall in Church, or contact Robin Osborne). In May we shall celebrate the new instrument with its liturgical Dedication and a series of recitals and concerts. Our **Stewardship Renewal** will begin on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and I hope that some time early in the year our new **Website** will be up and running, but retaining a link to the current one.

No Church Christmas Card this year, I'm afraid...but my prayers and good wishes for a very happy and holy Christmas.

*Fr Andrew*

### **THE DEPARTED**

It was a great shock to hear of the sudden death of **Betty Clough**, who died at home on November 17<sup>th</sup>. With her husband Donald she has been a regular worshipper at LSM on Sundays and Wednesdays for many years; just two days before her death she was at the Wednesday 10am Mass which included laying-on of hands and anointing. Earlier this year, she had enjoyed a river trip with family and friends to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Donald and Betty lost their son John, at the time the assistant organist at St Albans Abbey, to cancer some years ago. They bore this loss with faith and dignity, and remained a quietly devoted Christian couple. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Donald and his family in their loss, and pray for the repose of Betty's soul.

One of our former worshippers, and a member of the Friends of LSM, **Winifred Staples**, died in October; her funeral took place in Barton Church, where she worshipped after she was no longer able to come into Cambridge.

We offer our sympathy to **Barbara Crawley** following the death of her sister **Rosemary**, and to **Jill Biddle**, following the death of her mother **Irene Davies**.

We pray that all the departed may rest in peace and rise in glory.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Earlier this year, the PCC appointed us to form a Stewardship Group. Following our first meeting, we recommended that the stewardship campaign, which is usually held in Advent, be moved to the three weeks before Lent. This is because Advent is an extremely busy time, and the stewardship campaign has tended to become lost.

The plan is to launch a three-week campaign on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, and we shall be writing to each of you in more detail then, showing how we need your help to enable LSM to balance the budget. Christian stewardship is about giving time and talents as well as money. The campaign will be an opportunity for us all to review our various contributions and commitments, so enabling us to progress together spiritually in our life and worship at LSM. *Clive Brown (Convenor), Sheila Bennett, David Goode, Janet Nevitt.*

## PEOPLE

**Matthew and Sally Vernon** are moving to Coventry at the beginning of December; Matthew has a post at the University of Warwick. We wish them well, but shall miss them both, and especially Sally's enthusiastic involvement in the work of the Overseas Church Link Group; many will remember the presentation which she gave with Catriona Mackay following their visit to the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service.

Congratulations to **Neil Hartman** on his appointment as Head of Nuclear Medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. This means that he will be moving from the Cambridge area in the New Year, and he has therefore resigned from the PCC. We are very grateful for his contribution to our life at LSM, and particularly in connection with the LSM/Chant d'Oiseau link; indeed, he hopes to be able to join us in Brussels after Easter.

## THE SICK

**Ken Topley**, who joined the congregation with his wife Barbara earlier this year, has just been in Addenbrookes for the removal of a tumour; he will now have to have a course of radiotherapy. **Hugh Munro** shows small persistent signs of recovery. All his senses have been identified as functioning and he is expected to move to a special neurological unit in early December. Immediately after **Maggie and Derek Hulyer** moved from Ely to their new house off Milton Road, **Maggie** had a nasty fall on the stairs and was admitted to Addenbrooke's with a blood clot; following surgery for this, she had a number of other complications, but is now safely home again, recovering slowly, and able to enjoy the new house. It was good to see her back at LSM on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Merciful God, we remember before you

all who are sick this day.

Give them courage

to live with their illness.

Help them to face and overcome their fears.

Be with them when they are alone

or rejected.

Comfort them when they are discouraged.

And touch them with your healing Spirit that

they may find and possess eternal life,

now and forever. Amen.



## **Calendar and Intentions**

**for**

**DECEMBER**

*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 December

Fri	1st	St Eligius, Bishop: Compline 9pm
Sat	2nd	
SUN	3rd	ADVENT 1: Advent Lunch (by ticket)
Mon	4th	commem. Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon
Tues	5th	
Wed	6th	St Nicholas, Bishop: 'Illuminating the Mass' (5)
Thurs	7th	St Ambrose, Bishop
Fri	8th	CONCEPTION of the BVM: LM 12.30pm, SM 7pm
		Quiet Weekend: Address and Compline 8.45pm
Sat	9th	Quiet Weekend: day at Mill Green House
SUN	10th	ADVENT 2: Quiet Weekend: Sermon and Lunch
Mon	11th	
Tues	12th	St Jane Frances de Chantal
Wed	13th	St Lucy, Martyr: Finance and Standing Committee 7.15pm
Thurs	14th	St John of the Cross: Parish Development Supper 7.30pm
Fri	15th	
Sat	16th	
SUN	17th	ADVENT 3: Advent Carol Service 6pm
Mon	18th	O Adonai: Meditation in the Crypt 1-1.30pm
Tues	19th	O Radix Jesse
Wed	20th	O Clavis: Carol Singing around the Parish: meet 7pm
Thurs	21st	St THOMAS, Apostle: LM 7.45am SM 7pm: O Oriens
Fri	22nd	O Rex
Sat	23rd	O Emmanuel
SUN	24th	ADVENT 4 <i>for Christmas Services see page</i>
Mon	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY
Tues	26th	St STEPHEN, Martyr: LM 10am
Wed	27th	St JOHN, Evangelist: LM 10am
Thurs	28th	HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs: LM 10am
Fri	29th	St Thomas Becket, Martyr: LM 10am
Sat	30th	in the Octave of Christmas: LM 10am
SUN	31st	1st of CHRISTMAS



**Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries* for December**

The Leprosy Mission		1st
Our keeping of Advent	<i>Anthony Morcom, Pr.</i>	2nd
The Parish		3rd
Little Gidding	<i>Romo Gorrada</i>	4th
Diocesan Spirituality Advisory Group	<i>Michael Fisher SSF, Bp</i>	5th
Ministry to Children		6th
Christian Unity	<i>Michael Barnard</i>	7th
Br Reginald SSF and participants in the Quiet Weekend		8th
Mill Green House and its work	<i>Hal Oakley, Charles Goodhart</i>	9th
The Parish		10th
Peacekeepers: the United Nations		11th
South Cambridge Area Chapter		12th
Friends of LSM	<i>Glyn Daniel</i>	13th
All who suffer with depression	<i>Charles McBurney</i>	14th
The People of Iraq	<i>Gladys Stockbridge</i>	15th
Those working in local shops and Post Offices		16th
The Parish	<i>Jack Grist</i>	17th
Charities for the Homeless	<i>David Eric Lawson</i>	18th
Those who hear Confessions		19th
Cambridge Mencap	<i>Yvonne Masheder</i>	20th
‘My Lord and My God’: good preparation for Christmas		21st
Those who are lonely or in distress at this season		22nd
Our Sacristan, sacristy assistants and flower arrangers	<i>Ruth Wheatley</i>	23rd
The Parish: those travelling today		24th
Thanksgiving for the Incarnation	<i>Nelson Bleackley</i>	25th
Those persecuted for their faith		26th
St John’s College	<i>Muriel Ellis, Leonard Beard</i>	27th
Children and young people who suffer abuse		28th
The Church of England: Archbishop Rowan	<i>Leonard Askham, Pr.</i>	29th
Christian communities in the Holy Land		30th
The Parish: thanksgiving for God’s blessings over the past year		31st

*Preparation for the  
Coming of the Lord*

*Heavenly Father,  
who didst send thy Son to redeem the world  
and wilt send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the purity of his first coming  
that when he shall come again,  
we may be found ready to greet him  
with joyful love and steadfast faith;  
through Jesus Christ Our Lord:  
AMEN*

## CHANT D'OISEAU VISIT

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2007

We continue to enjoy our link with the Roman Catholic Parish of  
Chant d'Oiseau, Brussels,  
and to benefit from this ecumenical contact.

Help to sustain and develop the link by participating in our next visit  
to Chant d'Oiseau after Easter!

We are accommodated by members of the Chant d'Oiseau congregation,  
and are given very generous hospitality

- **In the late 1980s...**our twinning began after a visit to LSM by Cardinal Daneels
- **Every two years since then...**we've gone there or they've come here!
- **2000, 2002, 2004, 2006...**'gap year' meetings on neutral territory!
- **2003...**our Choirs join the party in Chant d'Oiseau for the first time
- **2007...**the Choirs are invited again (and will give a concert on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>)

***SO...sign up on the list in Church as soon as possible to indicate your interest,  
or e-mail Fr Andrew: [andrew.greany@lsm.org.uk](mailto:andrew.greany@lsm.org.uk)***

*We shall be travelling by coach, and leaving Cambridge at 9.30am  
(provisional)  
on Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup>:  
returning Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, late evening*

*COACH FARE: £70 approx.(provisional, depending on numbers)*

## **DAWKINS ANTI-RELIGION SCHOOL CRUSADE**

The plan by science communicator turned anti-religion campaigner Professor Richard Dawkins to take his crusade into schools has been met with concern and scepticism by some of his peers and allies – and by one leading charity.

According to media reports, Professor Dawkins is seeking charitable status for a foundation with the purpose of “flooding schools with anti-religious literature.” The initiative will also attempt to divert donations from the hands of “missionaries” and church-based charities. It will attack the teaching of creationism and promote “rational and scientific enquiry”. However the plan has been described as “a decidedly mixed bag” by some who otherwise sympathise with his non-belief, as well as his commitment to science education. Professor Steven Rose, the distinguished biologist, commented: “I worry that Richard’s view about belief is too simplistic, and so hostile that as a committed secularist myself I am uneasy about it.”

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has made it clear that creationism has no place in school science classrooms.

Professor Dawkins is the author of many widely-praised scientific bestsellers. His latest book is *The God Delusion*, a strongly worded polemic against religious faith of any kind. He also says that his foundation will maintain a database of charities free of “church contamination”.

This produced an expression of concern from the widely-respected development and advocacy agency Christian Aid, which, though supported by the churches, has always had a strong policy of avoiding proselytising, working with people of all faiths and none. Others have suggested that “flooding” schools with propaganda for or against religion is equally wrong and that the new foundation will score an own goal if it goes down the tit-for-tat confrontation route.

With thanks to Ekklesia, [www.ekklesia.co.uk](http://www.ekklesia.co.uk) which published the article from which this excerpt is taken.

*Has Richard Dawkins not heard that where people are forbidden to exercise religious beliefs, there is usually a strong underground swell of belief and practice, as in Russia and China. Our Head of English recently commented to me that students studying English Literature miss many allusions, references and themes in texts because they have no knowledge of the great Christian stories. Apart from church funded schools, where does all this religious teaching Professor Dawkins abhors take place? Sue*

## PLANTING OF OAK TREE IN CHURCHYARD

Most people will by now know that the large sycamore tree had to come down but it might be consoling to know that it was found to be in a much more dangerous state than appreciated from the ground, it was within a couple of inches of splitting open from the crown, and would have done untold damage in whichever directions it fell. Though it is sad that it has gone, leaving a huge gap in our familiar skyline, a replacement has happily been provided.

On November 16th there took place a commemorative tree planting to celebrate 800 years of having a Mayor in Cambridge. Two oak trees were planted that day by the 800th Mayor of Cambridge, Councillor Robert Dryden accompanied by the Mayor of our twin city of Szeged, (in Hungary) Dr Lazlo Botka. The sites chosen reflect the medieval city at the time of the institution of a Mayor. LSM is near one of the city gates, Trumpington Gate and next to the oldest College in town, Peterhouse, around 720 yrs old. The other tree was planted on Castle Hill, the fortified gateway to the North. The trees were provided by the City Council.

Despite rather gruesome weather we had a good turnout from LSM matching in size the visiting party. We had coffee in the Parish room and amongst other things learnt that Szeged is the 4th largest town in Hungary and that they have had a Mayor for around 500 years.

*Tessa Hobbs*

*The 2 Mayors  
planting the tree*



### A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Many thanks to all whose faithful giving enables us to meet our obligations in the Parish and Diocese. We usually have a stewardship campaign in Advent, but have postponed it to Lent when we hope people are less busy. That should not prevent anyone wishing to review their giving now from doing so. We seem to have plenty of money for big projects like the new organ and the heating system, but the day-to-day bills come out of the general fund from which money goes out as fast as it comes in. This year we have had to pay £2000 extra for gas and electricity; to free up Fr Andrew's time to be Area Dean we are employing a parish administrator 8 hours a week, and our ministry share (the sum we pay to the diocese for the stipendiary ministry and clergy housing) is going up next year from £59104 to £60767 a year. We also have to find an extra £1575 to pay for Gemma our lay pastoral assistant's accommodation at Wesley. May I remind tax payers that giving under the Gift Aid scheme increases giving by 28% quite painlessly. Also, it makes a huge difference to us if people give regularly even if they do not attend regularly. A yellow leaflet which explains all this is available at the back of the church.

*Julia Wheatcroft*

#### DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER

*Please note the EARLY deadline: 12th December*

#### THANK YOU

*With grateful and heartfelt thanks to all the clergy for their dedication and hard work on behalf of this church, the community and the members of the congregation of LSM.*

*We all wish you*

*the Blessings and Joys  
of Christmastide*



*Personal contact details removed  
from web version.*

## SERVICES AT LITTLE ST MARY'S

### Sundays

7.30am *Morning Prayer*      8.00am *Holy Communion*  
10.30am *High Mass*      6.00pm *Solemn Evensong & 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, 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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LSMsocial-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)