

Little St. Mary's, Cambridge

NEWSLETTER

December 2007, No. 392

Price: 25p

SERVICES & EVENTS IN DECEMBER

*See pages 2-3 for details of
Advent, Christmas &
Epiphany Services*



The Annunciation
John William Waterhouse

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ADVENT, CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY 2007

Eve of Advent Sunday: Saturday December 1st:

Gift of Life Workshops at LSM and Emmanuel URC: page 6

Advent Quiet Weekend: December 7th-9th:

to be led by Fr Anthony Moore: full details on page 3

Advent 3: December 16th: Advent Carol Service 6pm

Wednesday December 19th: Carol Singing around the Parish
in aid of Cambridge Mencap: meet at 7pm

Advent 4: December 23rd : Services as usual

CHRISTMAS EVE:

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

Wednesday 26th-Saturday 29th inclusive: Low Mass at 10am

Sunday December 30th: services as usual:

Monday December 31st: Social gathering from 11pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **11.50pm**

Tuesday January 1st: The Naming of Jesus:

10.30am: Sung Mass, followed by Refreshments

Sunday January 6th: Feast of the Epiphany

10.30am: Blessing of the Holy House and High Mass

Sunday January 13th: Baptism of Our Lord

10.30am: Christian Giving Review Sermon

6pm: Epiphany Carol Service, and Epiphany Party

ADVENT QUIET WEEKEND

'THE HEALING WORD'

Conductor: Fr Anthony Moore, Chaplain of St Catherine's College

Friday December 7th 8.45pm: 1st Address, Silence and Compline
This follows 7pm Sung Mass and Refreshments

Saturday December 8th: ***at Mill Green House***
10.30am: Coffee
11am: 2nd Address
12.30pm: Midday Office
Please bring a packed lunch: drinks provided
2.30pm: 3rd Address
3.30pm: Closing Prayers, Tea and Depart
(6pm in LSM: Evensong and Proclamation of Sunday's Gospel)

Sunday December 9th 10.30am: Fr Moore will preach at High Mass
12.45pm: Lunch in the Parish Room

*Please sign the list in Church to give us numbers for
Saturday transport and for Sunday lunch*

Personal and Corporate Preparation for Christmas

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

by appointment with Fr Andrew or with Fr Ian Thompson: or...

Fr Andrew: Wednesday December 19th 12.30pm

Friday December 21st 12.05pm

and after 7pm Sung Mass

Saturday December 22nd 6.30pm

Monday December 24th 2pm

Fr Ian: Tuesday December 18th 12.30pm

Saturday December 22nd 2.30pm

Corporate Act of Penitence: *on the Feast of St Thomas*

Friday December 21st: during 7pm Sung Mass

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends:

The first two pages of this December Newsletter set out the details of much of our programme for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. There is always a tremendous sense of anticipation, thanksgiving and celebration about this season. But our current 'exploration series' on the Incarnation and the 'Bodies of Christ' began with an emphasis on the fact that it is the **whole story** of Jesus, his birth, life and teaching, his passion and resurrection, which effects our participation in his being. Although we rightly focus at Christmastide on the significant moment of the *birth* of Jesus, that greatest of gifts to our world, we can never forget that as baptized members of the Church who gather to celebrate the Eucharist we are not simply looking back to some sort of 'magic moment', but 'soaked' (*Rowan Williams*) in the whole being of Our Lord who lived out a life of perfect obedience, was plunged into the waters of death and was raised to be the sign and the means of life freed from the imprisoning power of what we call 'original sin'. This realisation is the proper antidote to any sentimentalising of 'the Christmas story', and holds us in this 'festive season' to the true nature of discipleship.

One of the best aids to renewal of our baptismal commitment and to rediscovery of life in the Body of Christ is honest reflection on the state of our relationship with God and with one another. As always, there will be specific times for personal confession in the presence of a priest in the days leading up to Christmas; and on the Feast of St Thomas we shall once again be offering a corporate act of penitence within the Sung Mass at 7pm. Fr Ian Thompson and I would be pleased to offer help to anyone wishing to make good use of these opportunities.

With Christmas preparations and celebrations at the forefront of our minds in December, we may not find it all that easy to look beyond the New Year; but I do want to commend to your attention and your prayers the fact that, thanks largely to the very early Lent and Easter in 2008, our annual **Renewal of Christian Giving** will get under way on **Sunday January 13th**, when I shall be preaching a sermon at High Mass to launch that review. On page 14 you will find a piece on this subject by Clive Brown, our Christian Giving Adviser. Something else which is being launched early in the New Year is an ecumenical project entitled **HOPE 08**. An opening service is to be held in Great St Mary's at 7.30pm on Saturday January 19th; an open-air Passion Play is planned for Holy Saturday (March 22nd), and on Saturday May 3rd it is hoped that church people in their own communities will come together to offer 'Hope where you live' in practical ways which meet the needs of others.

The origins of Hope 08 lie largely in the evangelical churches, but there is a real energy about the project, and a genuine desire to draw Christians together at least in some aspects of our discipleship and for the sake of our city and local communities. It may be that not many of us at LSM will find ourselves deeply involved, but I hope that we shall seek to keep ourselves informed, and to hold developments in our prayers.

A word of thanks to David Neaum for his work on the current 'exploration course'; the opening two sessions have drawn nearly 30 people on each occasion, and we are already benefiting from comments made by participants. You might be interested to know that the final two sessions (November 28th and December 5th) will be led by John Hughes and Gemma Burnett-Chetwynd respectively.

I expect that as always many of you will be away for Christmas, but we shall do our best to rejoice in our celebrations of the Saviour's birth despite your absence! This comes with my prayers and best wishes for a holy Advent and Christmas, wherever you may be spending these powerful seasons of the Church's year.

Fr Andrew

CHURCHYARD BOOKSTALL

Many thanks to all who have, to date, supported and encouraged the bookstall. Since Gift Day we have raised £188 for church funds. We would be very grateful to receive more books to sell – all subjects have their buyers. Small amounts of books can be left in the Parish Room for collection or we will happily collect them from your home. Please contact us on C.264094
Mandy, Adrian and Polly Ray

For our prayers:

It has been good to see **Michael Farmer** at the early Mass on a number of weekdays recently. For the time being he is home from the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Clive Brown's mother, Moya Gordon-Brown, was due to have surgery towards the end of November... very daunting for someone of her age (92).

Both **Bishop Bill Godfrey** in Peru and **Fr Francis Woolley**, Parish Priest at Balsham, have had major surgery recently and are recovering slowly.

Hugh Munro has now regained his target weight. He sits in his chair and is able to move his arms if distressed. He now looks hard at people but there is still no means of communication with him. He will be moving to a specialist care home in West Norwood after Christmas.

THE GIFT OF LIFE WORKSHOPS, 1st December

There is still time to book for this creative Saturday, 1st December, from 10.00am to 1.30pm. Forms are available to fill in for which workshops you would like to follow.

A light lunch of soup and the bread which has been made during the morning will be available at the end of the event. Participants will be able to take part in two of the five workshops.

The morning will begin with a short time of worship in LSM, then at 10.15am the first workshops will begin. There will be a break for coffee at 11.15am and workshop 2 will begin at 11.20am and finish at 1.05pm when lunch will be available. The workshops will be led by members of both congregations.

The five workshops are:

- A. Making *Chrismons - decorations for a Chrismons Tree
- B. Pottery
- C. Poetry for Advent
- D. Singing Workshop
- E. Bread making (Wkshp1)/**Kipferl biscuits (Wkshp 2)

This will be an opportunity for us all to get to know each other better and, through the sharing in creative tasks, to give thanks to God for His great Gift of Life. Do try to find the time to support this event, even if you feel able to attend only one of the workshop sessions.

**Chrismons* are Christian symbols, used to decorate a tree for Christmas and to remind us of the true meaning of the festival. We hope to make enough Chrismons so that both our churches can hang some on their trees. Further information will be available to participants.

**Kipferl biscuits are eaten in several European countries during the Christmas season. They have their origin in the wars of the Austrians against the Turks, hence the crescent shape.

Sue Munro



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

- Sat. 1st St Eligius, Bp: Gift of Life Advent Workshops
- SUN. 2nd 1st in ADVENT
- Mon. 3rd St Francis Xavier
- Tues. 4th commem. Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon
- Wed. 5th Exploration Course (5) 7pm
- Thurs. 6th St Nicholas, Bishop
- Fri. 7th St Ambrose, Bishop: Eve of CONCEPTION of the BVM:
SM 7pm: Quiet Weekend: Compline & Address 8.45pm
- Sat. 8th CONCEPTION of the BVM: LM 8am: Quiet Weekend
- SUN. 9th 2nd of ADVENT: Quiet Weekend concludes
- Mon. 10th
- Tues. 11th
- Wed. 12th Finance & Standing Committee 7.15pm
- Thurs. 13th Prayer for the Sick and Carers 6.15pm
- Fri. 14th St John of the Cross
- Sat. 15th
- SUN. 16th 3rd of ADVENT: Advent Carol Service 6pm
- Mon. 17th O Sapientia
- Tues. 18th O Adonai
- Wed. 19th O Radix Jesse: Healing Ministry 9.45/10am: Carols 7pm
- Thurs. 20th O Clavis David
- Fri. 21st O Oriens: St THOMAS, Apostle: LM 12.30pm SM 7pm
- Sat. 22nd O Rex
- SUN. 23rd 4th of ADVENT
- Mon. 24th *for all Christmas services including the Octave, see p2*
- Tues. 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
- Wed. 26th St STEPHEN, 1st Martyr
- Thurs. 27th St JOHN the EVANGELIST
- Fri. 28th HOLY INNOCENTS
- Sat. 29th St Thomas Becket, Martyr
- SUN. 30th CHRISTMAS 1
- Mon. 31st in the Octave of Christmas

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries* for December

Gift of Life events		1st
The Parish	<i>Anthony Morcom, Pr.</i>	2nd
Vision for our Parish: thanksgiving for past worshippers		3rd
Lay Christian Communities	<i>Romo Gorrada</i>	4th
Our exploration course	<i>Michael Fisher, Bp.</i>	5th
The Church's Ministry with Children		6th
Our Quiet Weekend	<i>Michael Barnard</i>	7th
Society of Mary		8th
The Parish	<i>Patrick Hankey, Pr.</i>	9th
Addenbrookes Hospital		10th
South Cambridge Deanery Chapter		11th
Friends of LSM		12th
Christian Unity	<i>Glyn Daniel</i>	13th
Spiritual Guides	<i>Charles McBurney</i>	14th
Local shopkeepers and businesses	<i>Gladys Stockbridge</i>	15th
The Parish		16th
Those who work in the Post Office	<i>Jack Grist</i>	17th
Those who hear Confessions	<i>Eric Lawson</i>	18th
The Church's Ministry of Healing		19th
The Holy Land: Palestinians and Israelis	<i>Yvonne Mashedor</i>	20th
Our devotional preparation for Christmas		21st
The homeless		22nd
The Parish		23rd
A good keeping of Christmas: our Home Communicants		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 who suffer abuse		28th
Archbp of Canterbury: the Anglican Communion	<i>Leonard Askham Pr.</i>	29th
The Parish		30th
Thanksgiving for God's blessings over the past year	<i>Muriel Brittain</i>	31st

DECEMBER

***Advent preparation for celebration
of the
INCARNATION***

***God our Redeemer,
who prepared the
Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of thy Son:
grant that,
as she looked for his coming as
our Saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who livest and reignest with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN***

PCC/OPEN MEETING REGARDING NEW PARISH ROOM

Monday, 10th December, 7.30pm

There will be an Open Meeting about the proposal for the new Parish Room to assist the PCC in coming to a decision about the acceptability of the plans provided by Chris Cowper on Monday 10th December at 7.30pm. The meeting, at this stage, will not be about the financial implications. The first set of plans are still on display in the Parish Room. If you have not yet had a look at them, please take the opportunity to do so before the meeting takes place; but please note that there have been some adjustments. The final plans will be available before 10th December.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS – WHO GETS THE MONEY?

The UK consumer watchdog group Which? has warned British consumers to look out for charity Christmas card cons in the high street, amid concerns that publishers and retailers are making excess profits out of such schemes.

The group's research suggests that the public are unaware of what is going on. Some 84% of 1,060 people surveyed in a professional poll think that more than 40% of the price of charity Christmas cards should be donated to good causes, but, in reality, this can be as low as 4% according to the Charities Advisory Trust. The average is around 10%, with enormous variables.

Analysts say that Harrods, Cards Galore and Next are the most miserly, donating on average less than 10% of the price from all charity packs. John Lewis also has a large proportion of packs with donations of less than 10%

The most charitable is Waterstone's bookstore, which donates 50% of the price of certain packs of cards to Unicef, though purchasers are advised to check carefully.

Neil Fowler, editor of Which?, said "If you really want to make a difference, buy directly from the charity or its own shops - or if you do buy from another retailer, make sure you check the small print."

Fair Trade campaigners point out that it is far better to buy cards and gifts directly from organisations that ensure the benefits go to producers, and to bypass big stores for local producers and those that put the planet and people before profits.

STUCK FOR THAT AWKWARD CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

Why not support Little St Mary's by buying some of the merchandise that is currently available from the Church or from the Friends of Little St Mary's:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Notelets: | £2 for a pack of five |
| Pens: | £1.50 each |
| Light blue polo-shirts with the LSM logo:
(sizes S, M, L) | £11.50 each |
| The Life and Times of LSM: A Living History: | £15 per copy |

Please see Helen Smith (contact details on p15) if you would like to buy any of the above items.

A SHORT TALK ON THE DIOCESE OF CHRIST THE KING, SOUTH AFRICA

By The Ven. David Dinkebogile,
Archdeacon of Christ the King

Sunday, 2nd December
7.15pm

the work of the church in and around the
Archdeacon's home in Sharpesville and
the diocese of Christ the King

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING IN DECEMBER:

Silent prayer for the sick and carers: **Thursday December 13th 6.15pm**
anointing and laying on of hands at the 6.30pm Mass

Wednesday December 19th 9.45am

anointing and laying on of hands at the 10am Mass

Please note that there will be NO Monday Meditation in December.

COMPLINE will be said at the start of the Quiet Weekend (page 3)

TALES OF A VISIT TO SOME SUFFOLK CHURCHES

Recently, with a group from the Art Fund, I visited four churches in Suffolk: St Mary, Walsham le Willows; St Mary Rickinghall Superior; St Mary, Thornham Parva and St Peter & St Paul, Eye, all within a short distance of each other. Not far from the A14 and A143 was the Forge Tea Rooms where a good choice of reasonable food can be had.

The church at Walsham le Willows is a spacious 15th C church with a Suffolk-style tie beam and hammer-beam roof, with mediaeval glass in the East window. Rickinghall Superior church is now redundant and in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. 14th C with 15th C additions it has a West tower with beautiful flushwork.



St Mary's, Walsham le Willows



St Mary's, Thornham Parva

Thornham Parva was the most interesting, with a thatched roof (last thatched with Norfolk reed in 1978) and, even more unusual, a thatched tower. However, the greatest treasure was the retable behind the altar; research shows it was painted for the Dominican Monastery at Thetford. After the dissolution of monasteries it was kept in a private chapel of a Roman Catholic family at Rookery Farm, Stradbroke. It was given back to St Mary's Church in 1929 by Lord Henniker, when, having been bought with the contents of the farm, it was rediscovered in a stable loft on his estate. Another treasure are the 14th C wall paintings of the infancy of Christ, and a very rare life-cycle of St Edmund, King and Martyr.

St Peter and St Paul Church in the market town of Eye was one of the first churches to be influenced by the ideas and ceremonies of the Oxford Movement in the 19th C. The building is remarkable for the splendid 101 foot high 15th C west tower, panelled in flint and stone art with octagonal buttresses, described by Pevsner as "one of the wonders of Suffolk". The inside is spacious and includes a beautiful 15th C rood screen with 10 images of saints, kings and bishops. The rood loft, font cover and east window are by Sir Ninian Comper and date from the 1920s.



St Peter & St Paul, Eye

Richard Barlow-Poole

CHRISTIAN GIVING RENEWAL

Everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Giving is an important part of our Christian discipleship, and it is therefore appropriate for each of us regularly to review what we give, and to renew our undertaking for the forthcoming year.

We shall be asking everyone to do so next month: on Sunday, 13th January, envelopes will be handed out at services containing information about Christian Giving, and forms which you will be asked to complete and return over the following three weeks. Any remaining envelopes will be posted out the following week.

As in the past, we shall not only be asking you to consider what you should give financially, but also ways in which you can use your time and talents to contribute to the life of the Church.

Financial giving forms will be returned directly to the Treasurer, Julia Wheatcroft, who is the only person who knows who gives what. We do ask everyone to return a completed financial giving form, even if they are not making any changes to their giving: completing the form, and returning it, is in itself a response.

Stewardship Group

(Clive Brown, Janet Nevitt, David Goode, and Lucy McKitterick)



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Designs from earlier years are still available.

New ones: contact Diana Galletly on Sunday mornings

Glory to God in
the highest, and on
earth peace, good
will toward men.
Luke 2:14

The members of LSM wish
Fr Andrew, Fr Mark,
Deacon David, and their families,
the peace, blessings and joys of
Advent, Christmas and Epiphanytide

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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, min. £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

LSM website

www.lsm.org.uk

Deadline for January Newsletter : **Sunday 16th December**

(early copy date: no late items, please!)