

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Those who were at High Mass on January 25th will have witnessed the lighting of our 'Ely 900' candle, linking our commitment to Mission in this year of thanksgiving to the life of the whole Diocese; our Sacristan has kindly converted it to 'oil power', and so we shall be able to use it every Sunday until the celebrations close with the visit of the Archbishop of York in November. You will find the 'Ely 900 prayer' printed on page 11. I remind you that our own 'Mission Action Plan' has three elements: the furthering of our attempt to share Daily Prayer (and I hope that in the next few weeks we might manage to establish at least one 'home meeting' for the saying of an evening or daytime Office); the establishment of our Pastoral Visiting Team (a meeting about this was to take place on Tuesday January 27th); and continuing progress on our plans for the development of the Parish Room into a 'Parish Centre'; the PCC at its meeting on January 21st was encouraging about this last item. Archaeological and ecological surveys have to be carried out over the next few weeks, but it may not be long before the architect advises us that we are in a position to apply for planning permission. If we move ahead on this, the working group on the scheme and its implications is suggesting that we set the fund-raising ball rolling at the Feast of Pentecost (May 31st: Friends of LSM Festival), and launch our campaign formally when the Bishop of Huntingdon comes to preach on Sunday September 20th. I should emphasize that the group intends that the campaign should by no means be directed only to the present congregation!

Candlemas and Christian Giving Review

February begins, and the Christmas and Epiphany seasons end, with Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple; the High Mass at 7pm on Monday February 2nd will begin with the Candlemas ceremonies, which are built upon Simeon's words in what we know as the *Nunc Dimittis*: 'a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel'. On the previous day, our Christian Giving Review is launched with a sermon from Fr Mark and the distribution of the material prepared by our Christian Giving Group; as you will see from my letter enclosed with that material, I see in the response of Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna to God's generosity made manifest in Jesus a model for *our* responses to that same generous gift.

An Open Meeting on our worship...and Lent 2009

Ash Wednesday falls on February 25th, and so this Newsletter contains details of our Lent programme, which includes the Sunday morning sermons, Wednesday evening talks and Monday lunchtime Bible studies.

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You and your partner are invited to
A Candle-lit

Valentine's Day Dinner

On Saturday 14th February 2009

7pm for 7:30pm

Carriages at 10:30pm!

At Great Wilbraham Hall Farm Barn

Mill Road, Gt. Wilbraham, Cambridge CB21 5JP

To include

- A Three Course Buffet Dinner
- Followed by Coffee and Chocolates
- Live music and
- A red rose

Dress code: Smart

Double Tickets: £50 if bought in January

(£55 if bought in February)

Tables available for 2, 6, 8, 10 & 12 Please specify when you book

Please bring your own drinks

Tickets can be purchased from: The Rectory, Fulbourn CB21 5EY

(Rhiannon.Jones@ely.anglican.org) or C.880337

Or from Mrs Sarah Hackett on C. 841356

The evening is organised in conjunction with the Diocese of Ely Vellore Group as part of the 900th Anniversary Celebrations of the Diocese of Ely. All Profits from the evening will help to build a Primary school in the Diocese of Vellore, our link Diocese, in India

But before I say a little more about that, I want to let you know that, as suggested to our recent PCC meeting, we shall be having an Open Meeting about the pattern and presentation of worship at LSM, and about the relationship of theology, liturgy and the aesthetic in the context of our church building. This will be on the first Saturday of Lent, February 28th, from 10.30am-3pm, in the Parish Room. Many people, I believe, are content with the way things are done at LSM, with the style of the liturgy, the times of our services and the ways in which the church is adorned, but I think that it is good from time to time to air these very important subjects. It might be helpful to have written comments about these matters before the meeting, whether or not you are able to attend it.

Bible Studies: Monday lunchtimes

To turn now to our Lent programme, the Bible studies will be on the gospels set for the six Sundays in Lent in the Common Worship calendar, and as we shall be looking each week at the gospel for the *following* Sunday, our first meeting will be on Monday February 23rd, from 12.45-1.45pm in the Parish Room. I hope that this timing might encourage people who don't like coming out for evening events to include these daytime meetings in their Lenten 'rule of life'. I suggest that participants bring sandwiches, and coffee and tea will be supplied.

'Glimpses of the Sacred?': Wednesday meetings

As you will see from the programme, we have assembled an interesting and distinguished set of speakers for the Wednesday evening gatherings, which have the general title of 'Glimpses of the Sacred?'. Stephen Siddall, who taught English at the Leys School (to Fr Mark among others!) for many years, and also directed a Shakespeare play annually at the Arts Theatre until recently, is a member of our congregation. Adrian Barlow, a member of the Kempe Society and an authority on Kempe and his stained glass (of which there are three notable examples in LSM) is a lecturer in English and Architecture for the Institute of Continuing Education (Madingley Hall); one of his particular research interests is Victorian stained glass and ecclesiology. A.N. Wilson is a well-known journalist and author (often controversial!), who has journeyed away from faith and back towards it, worshipping these days at St Silas, Kentish Town. Sir David Willcocks, internationally renowned choral conductor, organist and composer, was Director of Music at King's College from 1957-74; before that he had been Organist successively of Salisbury and Worcester Cathedrals, and later he was Director of the Royal College of Music. You will notice that the Feast of the Annunciation falls on one of the Wednesdays in Lent; that day we expect to have the Bishop of Ely with us to baptise and confirm at the 7pm

February

Looking towards Lent

*Almighty God,
who hast given thine only Son
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully
receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour ourselves
to follow the blessed steps
of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
AMEN*



Calendar and Intentions

for

FEBRUARY

*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 February

SUN.	1st	4th of Epiphany
Mon.	2nd	PRESENTATION of CHRIST: CANDLEMAS LM 7.45am, HM and Ceremonies 7pm
Tues.	3rd	St Anskar, Bishop: 8pm: CBS 8pm: Children's Group helpers
Wed.	4th	St Gilbert of Sempringham: Overseas Churches Link Group
Thurs.	5th	St Agatha, Martyr
Fri.	6th	St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Sat.	7th	
SUN.	8th	3rd before LENT: SEPTUAGESIMA
Mon.	9th	Finance and Standing Committee 7.30pm
Tues.	10th	St Scholastica
Wed.	11th	St Radegund, Abbess: Healing Ministry 9.45/10am
Thurs.	12th	Medaille Trust Talk Noon-2pm, at St Columba's URC Healing Ministry 6.15/6.30pm
Fri.	13th	
Sat.	14th	SS Cyril and Methodius: Garden Working Party 10am
SUN.	15th	2nd before LENT: SEXAGESIMA
Mon.	16th	
Tues.	17th	Society of Mary 8pm
Wed.	18th	
Thurs.	19th	
Fri.	20th	
Sat.	21st	
SUN.	22nd	NEXT before LENT: QUINQUAGESIMA
Mon.	23rd	St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr: Parish Centre Group 8pm
Tues.	24th	Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Party 6.30pm
Wed.	25th	ASH WEDNESDAY: LM 10am, SM 7pm Imposition of Ashes at both services
Thurs.	26th	
Fri.	27th	commem. George Herbert, Priest
Sat.	28th	Open meeting on our worship: 10.30am-3pm

Daily Intentions and Anniversaries for February

The Parish: Christian Giving Renewal	1st
Thanksgiving for Jesus Christ, light to all people	2nd
Churches of the Porvoo Communion	3rd
Our overseas links	4th
All who suffer for their faith and convictions	5th
Christian communities in the Far East	6th
Wisdom in economic affairs	7th
The Parish	8th
Finance and Standing Committee	9th
Care in the community <i>Ronald Moorhouse, Bill Thomas</i>	10th
Friends of LSM: ministries of healing <i>Mary Jones</i>	11th
The Medaille Trust <i>Elizabeth Barnard, Margaret Webber, Enid Maycock</i>	12th
Sue Ryder Homes <i>Alich Nilsson</i>	13th
The European Union	14th
The Parish	15th
Cambridge City Council	16th
The Departed	17th
Israelis and Palestinians: the Holy Land	18th
Christian Unity <i>John Lyon, Pr., Audrey Sparrow</i>	19th
Afghanistan	20th
Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham	21st
The Parish: Fairtrade Fortnight	22nd
Parish Centre Development <i>Mary Dawson</i>	23rd
The grace of true penitence	24th
Our keeping of Lent	25th
Candidates for Baptism and Confirmation	26th
Parish Clergy	27th
Ely 900 celebrations	28th

Mass. I have begun confirmation preparation with two candidates, one adult and one youngster; if others are interested, do please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

God with us...in places of work

The Sunday morning sermons give us the opportunity to hear preachers who are all priests, but who spend much of their time in what might be called the secular world; our general title for the series, 'God with us', invites them, I think, to reflect on how God is to be discerned and served in the world outside the walls of our churches.

Fairtrade Fortnight

As always there will be other ways in which, during Lent, we may make a distinctive response to God's call; I hope to be talking about this at High Mass on February 22nd, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. That same day is the launch of the 2009 Fairtrade Fortnight; this is something to which we might be giving particular attention this year since we have agreed to be a 'Fairtrade Parish'. This means that coffee and tea used for church events should be 'fairtrade', and we shall also usually have a supply of fairtrade biscuits as 'back-up' for what those on coffee duty on Sundays may bring themselves. These we should be able to obtain through Emmanuel United Reformed Church, who have a Fairtrade stall; I would hope that individuals might go over sometimes after Church on Sundays to buy from that stall. Emmanuel, I understand, will be putting on events and displays during Fairtrade Fortnight, so do look out for details.

Elsie Duncan-Jones: in memoriam

Long-standing members of the congregation will remember Elsie Duncan-Jones, a great English scholar (and daughter-in-law of a Dean of Chichester!) She died in 2003 (her Requiem was at LSM), and some years before that she had written a request 'to be put with my will' that 'if any money is available a set of vestments (preferably not Sarum) should be provided for Little St Mary's for use in Lent'. Her son Dr Richard Duncan-Jones has now kindly made a substantial sum available, and I hope that I have interpreted her wish sufficiently accurately by ordering a set of High Mass rose-coloured vestments for use on Refreshment Sunday, the 4th in Lent. Our violet High Mass set is comparatively new and in good condition, whereas the rose set was, I understand, fashioned many years ago out of a kind parishioner's curtains; so it seemed best to secure a worthy replacement for them and we are very grateful to Dr Duncan-Jones for making this possible. I for one remember his mother with great affection. In addition to this specific gift, we have received three 'unrestricted' legacies in the last two or three years,

CLEANING

Although we employ a cleaner for the church and parish room, the vestries and office are cleaned by a team of volunteers who each undertake a 2 month block. It would be helpful if we could have 2 more volunteers for this useful but not too onerous task for which a new, lightweight vacuum cleaner has just been provided. If you would like further details or can offer to help, please let me know.

Jo Wibberley

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

Did you know that the diocese now has a brand new diocesan newsletter? They are available on line, which you can find at www.ely.anglican.org/mailman/listinfo/Diocesan-newsletter.ely

For those who do not have access to them in this way a few will be printed and placed on the table. Those placed there in January disappeared very quickly! If you haven't yet had an opportunity to see this then please make time to have a look. It is full of information and will no doubt contain more news each time as parishes get used to providing information. It is once again very good to have this means of sharing information between the churches of our diocese, to keep abreast of what's happening where and when and also to see how other churches approach tasks and ideas and find new opportunities to interact with those in their parish who are not church attenders.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to all those who have enquired about my cataract operation. I am pleased to say that all went well although bright lights still bother me a little, but this is lessening and will disappear before long. However, you may imagine that using a computer is currently not very easy so please accept my apologies as this copy of the Newsletter has been quite difficult for me to prepare and may have more mistakes than usual!

Sue Munro

THE FRIDAY FRACAS

Four thirty on a Friday afternoon signals the arrival of myself and Jane, on attachment from Ridley, in the Parish Room. On goes the kettle, out comes the hot chocolate and off we go! Over the course of the hour the door opens to reveal a motley crew of young people, in search of somewhere to 'hang out' before choir practice starts. Hot chocolate is doled out, biscuits rapidly eaten and a variety of conversations ensue! These range from what's happened over the past week to deep and meaningful topics in theology. Some frantically finish homework to keep the weekend clear, others look at magazines to keep their minds clear! For many of the young people it's the only opportunity to spend time all together so the conversation pace is rapid!

Before we know it half-past five is upon us and Granny Barbara bursts in, closely followed by children and parents, ready for a drink and a biscuit or two before they join Mary for the Pre-Junior Choir. Upon Mary's arrival Granny Barbara sweeps into action and gets the children ready to sing away and have fun learning new songs! Out go the older ones to choir practice and off Mary goes with the choir! Upon our return from the calm of evening prayer Jane and I are met with a Parish Room brimming with activity! Parents' converse with one another, little people, and some not so little people, play games and others have refreshments before Christian has to call time and the whole of the choir assembles for practice. What a couple of hours!

Chris Pickles, Lay Pastoral Assistant

THE MEDAILLE TRUST

For the past two years the PCC, on the recommendation of the Social Responsibility Group, has made donations towards the work of the Medaille Trust, which provides help, support and sheltered housing, for women who have been trafficked into this country, usually for sexual purposes. The charity is led by a number of Roman Catholic religious orders, and LSM, along with a number of other churches in Cambridge, of all denominations, supports this work.

Sr Ann Teresa will be addressing a meeting of the Trust at 12.30pm on Thursday 12th February 2009 at St Columba's Church. A light lunch will be available. Sr Ann Teresa is an interesting and moving speaker.

Tim Wheatley, Social Responsibility Group

from the estates of Fr Geoffrey Styler, Derek Gibbons and Richard Barlow-Poole. We are very grateful to these and countless other benefactors of past years; the start of a Christian Giving Review is perhaps a good moment at which to remind ourselves of the way in which legacies contribute to the continuing life of a church.

After Easter with our Belgian 'link'...

Names are coming in steadily for our visit to the Abbaye du Mont des Cats in Northern France, where we shall be spending April 16th-19th with some of our friends from Chant d'Oiseau in Brussels. The cost for three days' full board is 107 euros, good value even with the fall of the value of the pound against the euro. It would be good to have definite numbers by the end of February, so that we can sort out travelling arrangements.

With my prayers and best wishes as we approach another Lent: Fr Andrew

People for our Prayers

Our Lay Pastoral Assistant, Chris Pickles, will be attending a Bishops' Selection Conference for ordained ministry (now known as BAPs...Bishops' Advisory Panels) from February 23rd-25th...what a way to prepare for Lent and keep Ash Wednesday! We assure him of our prayers and good wishes.

Many will still remember Mary and Maurice Rayner, long-standing members and servants of LSM, now living in Norfolk. Mary, who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis, has just had to have a partial hip replacement following a fall at home; in March she will have to have surgery for an ovarian cyst. Maurice now has Parkinson's Disease, and so life is very difficult for both of them at the moment; it is a great help that their son Michael and his wife live close by. The Vicar of St Andrew the Great, Mark Ashton, has been diagnosed with liver cancer; at the moment he is able to continue with his ministry, but the prognosis is not good. Diana Galletly's father Gerard was taken to hospital shortly after the death of his wife Marjorie, whom we remember among those who have died recently. Our Newsletter editor Sue Munro is getting over a cataract operation, but life is not made easier by her mother Margaret Gatward's continuing physical problems. Miranda Long, Gillian Beard's daughter, was due to have further scans in the last week of January.

LENT 2009 AT LITTLE ST MARY'S

Sunday 10.30am Sermons: 'God among us'

March 1st: God among us: ministry in the University:

The Revd Christian Heycocks, Chaplain to University Staff

March 8th: God among us: ministry in the legal profession:

Fr Mark Bishop, Barrister, and Chancellor of Diocese of Lincoln

March 15th: God among us: ministry in the workplace:

The Revd Chris Savage, Chaplain to people at work

March 22nd: God among us: ministry in the school:

The Revd Stephen Young, Chaplain of Dulwich College

Wednesday evening course:

7pm (Bring-and-Share Supper) for 7.40pm

'Glimpses of the Sacred?'

March 4th: Glimpses of the Sacred? English Literature:

Stephen Siddall

March 11th: Glimpses of the Sacred?

Kempe's Annunciation window in LSM

Adrian Barlow

March 18th: Glimpses of the Sacred? The conflicts of Journalism

A.N.Wilson

(March 25th: Feast of the Annunciation:

High Mass, Baptism and Confirmation at 7pm:

The Bishop of Ely)

April 1st: Glimpses of the Sacred? My life in Music

Sir David Willcocks

Monday Bible Study: 12.45pm - 1.45pm (bring sandwiches)

The Gospels for the following Sundays:

February 23rd: St Mark 1.9-15

March 2nd: St Mark 8.31-38

March 9th: St John 2.13-22

March 16th: St John 3.14-21

March 23rd: St John 12.20-33

March 30th: St Mark 11.1-11

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday, 6th March 2009

St. Andrew's Street
Baptist Church

10.30am

... year's service,

In Christ there are many members yet one body,

is prepared by the women of

Papua New Guinea so

will be of particular interest to members of LSM.

All are welcome to attend the service, including men.

LSM WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER REPRESENTATIVE

Little St Mary's, Emmanuel URC and St Mark's are part of a larger group of city churches.

After twenty years as LSM Representative I am now standing down. I have always considered it important for LSM to be represented in ecumenical organisation and hope very much that a volunteer will come forward to continue our links with this annual service

Joan Waton

THE ELY 900 PRAYER

Faithful God, we give you thanks that we are your people and you are our God, in times of fruitfulness and times of need¹ in times of opportunity and times of challenge.

As you have been faithful to us, may we continue in faithfulness to you, in witness to your love, and in expectation of your promises, by the power of your Spirit, and through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

