

Little St. Mary's, Cambridge
NEWSLETTER

December 2009, No. 415

Price: 25p



SERVICES & EVENTS THIS MONTH

- Thur 3rd Holy Hour, 6.15pm
- Fri 4th – Sun 6th ADVENT QUIET WEEK-END (p6)
- Sun 6th **2nd SUNDAY in ADVENT**
 The High Mass is followed by lunch in the Parish Room
- Mon 7th Finance & Standing Committee, 7.45pm
- Sun 13th **3rd SUNDAY in ADVENT**
 6.00pm Advent Carol Service
- Mon 14th St John of the Cross
- Wed 16th Prayer Group 9.45am: Healing Ministry 10am Low Mass
- Fri 18th Carol Singing around the Parish: meet 7.15pm at Vicarage
- Mon 21st St THOMAS, Apostle
 7.45am Low Mass, 7.00pm Sung Mass/Corporate act of penitence

FOR DETAILS OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SERVICES SEE p6

- Sat 26th St STEPHEN Low mass 10am
- Sun 27th **St JOHN, Evangelist**
- Mon 28th HOLY INNOCENTS Low Mass 10am
- Tue 29th Low Mass 10am
- Wed 30th Low Mass 10am
- Thursday 30th Low Mass 10am

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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,
 The recent invitation from the Vatican to 'disaffected Anglicans' has generated many columns in the Church and national press, and I have no great desire to add to them. But it is clear, I think, that not a few Roman Catholics, as well as Anglicans, are concerned about the implications of the 'offer', and it was interesting to read that the Archbishop of Westminster has said that the existence of a legal structure does not necessarily mean that anything will actually happen. 'I haven't a clue', he said, 'as to when it will'. Of course, individual Anglicans, clergy or laity, are free to 'convert', 'pope', 'cross the Tiber' (whatever your favoured terminology might be) as they always have been (and indeed to make the journey in the other direction); but it does seem to me that there are enormous obstacles and problems in the way of any sort of 'group' movement. My own concern is that the Church of England should not lose its creative balance, with the Catholic tradition being terminally weakened; and I long for priests and people in the Church of England to sustain:

- sacramental life (including the value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- dignity and beauty in worship which witnesses to a God both transcendent and immanent
- a sense of the liturgy as gift received (rather than as something to be 'worked on' so as to get a 'better result' every week)
- the value of daily corporate prayer
- a prayerful readiness to work with scripture, tradition and the reality of the present day in responding to the complexities and floundering of contemporary life
- a profound understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ, extension of the Incarnation

Clearly we have to wait on the deliberations of General Synod, and pray for its members, but in the meantime it must be incumbent on us in a church like LSM to be faithful in the ways which I have set out, without losing our energies in the 'politics' which so bedevil the 'Catholic movement'.

These reflections, it seems to me, lead us well into the Advent season. The Advent Quiet Weekend, the corporate Act of Penitence on the Feast of St Thomas, the additional opportunities for personal Confession in the presence of a priest, the chance to make a 'Church New Year commitment' to attendance at a weekday Mass or Office, all undergirded by the wonderful biblical poetry and hymnody of the season, are an invitation to be renewed in our Catholic spirituality. 'Round and round, like the Israelites circling the

walls of Jericho', said Fr John Hooper in a sermon years ago in 'Mary Mags' on an Advent Sunday, 'round and round with the liturgical year go the people of God with their confessions and their communions and their prayers'. But is it so? I often feel that this 'invitation to be renewed in our Catholic spirituality' is unheeded, as regular Sunday commitment declines, there is little take-up for (as examples) the Advent Quiet weekend – it's not too late to sign up, though - or the suggestion that some might be able to be at Evening Prayer, or a weekday Mass, on just one day in the week. However, full details of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services will be found on page 6. So far as the Advent Quiet Weekend is concerned, please don't worry about transport to Mill Green House on the Saturday; we're sure to be able to arrange that! I'm delighted that Anna Rowlands, a Roman Catholic laywoman who is now based with the Margaret Beaufort Institute will be giving the addresses, one on the evening of Friday December 4th, and two at Mill Green House on Saturday 5th; she will be preaching at High Mass on Sunday 6th. We are asked for a contribution of £5 per person towards the use of Mill Green House.

What are the questions raised by the new parking restrictions in Trumpington Street, mentioned in last month's Newsletter?

- Do they stop people coming to the 8am Low Mass?
- Should we begin the Mass earlier, perhaps at 7.45am?
- What messages do difficulties over parking give to City Centre churches?

More co-operation over the giving of lifts? Or...?

I would be interested in your answers! In the meantime, I point out that the east side of Trumpington Street, where the meters are, is still available on Sundays (without drivers having to pay at the meters, that is).

At the PCC meeting in November, the view was expressed by one member that the fairly small number of 'personal donations' from members of the current congregation is evidence that 'the congregation is not behind the project'. The majority of the other PCC members disagreed; and certainly the amount of 'bringing and buying', the positive atmosphere at Peter Davies' presentation on his walk to Santiago de Compostella and the energy of various working groups (on grant applications, on planning events and on other ways of fundraising) suggests that the majority is right; and I would guess that getting on for 100 people have in fact 'donated' in one form or another. I remain convinced that the project is something of enormous importance for the future of Little St Mary's; but I would admit that this does feel like an uncertain time in some ways...a time of waiting for final details and specifications, waiting for fundraising to 'take off'. But maybe we should

see this as an *Advent* time, a time of expectation and excitement...and of God's judgment on our life and our ways and our priorities. We must all be very grateful for the donations that have been made (just before that PCC meeting we heard of a personal donation of £2,500), and for the work that has gone into the events so far; and we look forward to the Ceilidh on January 16th, and maybe to more generous personal donations to encourage us before Christmas! A little money might be generated, I've heard it suggested, by reducing the number of Christmas cards we send to one another; that's a decision which individuals will make for themselves, and for some, sending cards will remain an important way of remembering others with affection and prayer. Christmas is a strange time at LSM, in the sense that a high proportion of our 'regulars' are away; that makes it all the more important that we pray for one another at this season, that we may share the vision of the glory of Him who was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

With my prayers and best wishes for Advent and Christmas: Fr Andrew

People for our Prayers

Elaine Wheatley has been added to our 'Home Communion round'; she is affected by a number of health problems, and mobility is not easy at the moment. **Gwen Randall** is still in James Ward at Addenbrooke's, and we continue to remember **David Greason** and his family; journeys to Addenbrooke's from Wisbech three times a week for dialysis still have to be made, alongside the other complications from which David suffers. We also remember our Lay Pastoral Assistant **Kyle McNeil** who has an ongoing kidney problem which has been giving cause for concern. **Freddie** (Tom and Catherine (Pickstock) Harrison's second son) has been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, so this is an unsettling time for the family. **Stephen Barnard** was taken into hospital on November 23rd...we await more news of his condition.

R.I.P.

The Barnard family have been worshipping at LSM since 1927, so there was a real awareness of a link broken when we heard that Betty had died, at the age of 97, on the morning of Sunday November 15th. With Peter, the oldest of her brothers (now housebound himself), in later years she attended 8am Mass faithfully on Sundays, although in earlier days she was in the 'Ladies' Choir' which used to sit in the front rows on the south side for Sung Mass. Peter and Betty also attended the Wednesday 10am Mass, Saturday 8am, and Sung Mass in the evenings on weekday festivals, until a severe stroke a few years ago left Betty disabled. Thereafter she received Holy Communion every month in Hinton Grange Nursing Home. Past worshippers sometimes

say that 'nothing has changed' when they revisit LSM; Betty will have seen plenty of change there (including the building of the Lady Chapel, disapproved of, we are told, by her mother!); but what we may confidently say did *not* change for Betty was her quiet faith in Jesus Christ whom she met countless times at God's altar in a church which became a second home to her.

Effie Hunter died at the age of 99 on November 22nd. She discovered LSM through the Friday 12.30pm Mass, and the lunch afterwards, when she came to Cambridge in old age to live with her cousin Oliver Soskice and his wife Janet. After a time, it became too difficult for her to get to church, and she received Holy Communion at home, where Oliver and his family and friends looked after her devotedly. Effie was a quiet and gentle person, always deeply appreciative of others, and of the care she received. 'Thank-you *so much*' were words always on her lips!

We give thanks for Betty and Effie and for their Christian faith, and pray that they may rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray too for the repose of the soul of **Marilyn Quash**, mother of Professor Ben Quash, and for Ben and his family in their bereavement.

PARISH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Thanks to all the hard work which has gone into the Bring-and-Buy sales and other events, a significant number of people from both within and beyond the congregation have been now been involved in our fundraising, and the figure is now around the £125,000 mark. More personal donations would be welcome, however...and please remember:

- personal donations made between the launch on September 20th and Christmas Day attract an additional 10% thanks to a very generous offer from a member of the congregation
- many grant-making bodies are more likely to help if they see that there has been a good 'local' response
- if there is to be any possibility of starting work (as we hope to do) in June 2010, we need to be much further on the way to our target by Easter
- to pledge a sum over a number of years allows your donation to be 'staggered'

Donation forms will be found at the back of the Church...or contact our Treasurer, Julia Wheatcroft.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY 2009-2010

Advent Quiet Weekend: December 4th-6th

The Addresses will be given by Anna Rowlands (Margaret Beaufort Institute)

- *Friday 4th 8.15pm: Compline and Address*
- *Saturday 5th: 10.30am-4pm: at Mill Green House*
There will be two addresses and a Mass during the day (Cost £5)
- *Sunday 6th: lunch in the Parish Room after High Mass and Sermon*

3rd Sunday in Advent, December 13th: 6pm Advent Carol Service

Friday December 18th: Carol Singing around the Parish

in aid of Cambridge Mencap: meet at 7.15pm, finish at the Vicarage

Monday December 21st: Feast of St Thomas

corporate act of penitence at 7pm Sung Mass

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 and Benediction

Saturday December 26th: Feast of St Stephen: Low Mass 10am

Sunday December 27th: Feast of St John the Evangelist: services as usual

Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st: Low Mass 10am

Thursday December 31st: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11.50pm

Friday January 1st: The Naming of Jesus: 10.30am Sung Mass

Wednesday January 6th: Feast of the Epiphany

7pm: Blessing of the Holy House and High Mass

Sunday January 10th: Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

6pm Epiphany Carol Service and Epiphany Party

Personal Preparation for Christmas

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: times for Confession

The Vicar: Friday December 18th 12.05pm

Saturday 19th 6.30pm, Monday 21st after 7pm Sung Mass

Wednesday 23rd 12.05pm, Thursday 24th 2.30pm

or by appointment

also by appointment with Fr Anthony Moore: tel.338346



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

Tues.	1st	St Eligius, Bishop
Wed.	2nd	
Thurs.	3rd	St Francis Xavier: Holy Hour 6.15pm
Fri.	4th	commem. Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon Advent Quiet Weekend 8.15pm
Sat.	5th	Advent Quiet Weekend: Mill Green House
Sun.	6th	2nd in ADVENT
Mon.	7th	St Ambrose, Bishop: Finance & Standing Committee 7.45pm
Tues.	8th	CONCEPTION of the BVM: LM 7.45am, HM 7pm.
Wed.	9th	
Thurs.	10th	
Fri.	11th	
Sat.	12th	
SUN.	13th	3rd in ADVENT: Advent Carol Service 6pm
Mon.	14th	St John of the Cross
Tues.	15th	
Wed.	16th	Prayer Group 9.45am: Healing Ministry at 10am LM
Thurs.	17th	O Sapientia
Fri.	18th	O Adonai: Carol Singing around the parish 7.15pm
Sat.	19th	O Radix Jesse
SUN.	20th	4th in ADVENT: O Clavis
Mon.	21st	St THOMAS, Ap.: O Oriens LM 7.45am SM 7pm (with corporate act of penitence)
Tues.	22nd	O Rex
Wed.	23rd	O Emmanuel
Thurs.	24th	Candlelight Service 5pm: Midnight Mass 11.30pm
Fri.	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY LM 8am HM 10.30am Evensong 5pm
Sat.	26th	St STEPHEN: LM 10am
SUN.	27th	St JOHN, Evangelist
Mon.	28th	HOLY INNOCENTS: LM 10am
Tues.	29th	St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr: LM 10am
Wed.	30th	in the Octave of Christmas: LM 10am
Thurs.	31st	in the Octave of Christmas: LM 10am

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries* for December

Vacancy in See Committee		1st
Parish Centre Project	<i>Anthony Morcom, Pr</i>	2nd
Christians in Japan		3rd
Little Gidding	<i>Romo Gorrada</i>	4th
Advent Quiet Weekend	<i>Michael Fisher, Bp</i>	5th
The Parish		6th
Churchwardens and Treasurer	<i>Michael Barnard</i>	7th
Society of Mary		8th
Friends of LSM	<i>Patrick Hankey, Pr., Hal Oakley, Charles Goodhart</i>	9th
South Cambridge Chapter		10th
Bhopal Medical Appeal		11th
Our Choirs		12th
The Parish	<i>Glyn Daniel</i>	13th
The People of Afghanistan	<i>Charles McBurney</i>	14th
The Homeless: Jimmy's	<i>Gladys Stockbridge</i>	15th
The Church's Ministry of Healing		16th
Christian Unity	<i>Jack Grist</i>	17th
Cambridge Mencap		18th
Those working in the Post Office	<i>Eric Lawson</i>	19th
The Parish	<i>Yvonne Masheder</i>	20th
A spirit of true penitence		21st
Local shopkeepers		22nd
Those who are alone at this season	<i>Ruth Wheatley</i>	23rd
The Holy Land		24th
Thanksgiving for the Word made flesh	<i>Nelson Bleackley</i>	25th
Those who are persecuted for their faith		26th
The Parish: St John's College	<i>Leonard Beard, Muriel Ellis</i>	27th
The Children's Society		28th
The Archbishop of Canterbury	<i>Leonard Askham, Pr.</i>	29th
Christian Aid		30th
Thanksgiving for God's blessings	<i>Muriel Brittain</i>	31 st

December 27th

*Feast
of
St John the Evangelist*

*The Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us;
and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth
(St John 1.14)*

*Merciful Lord,
we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light
upon thy Church,
that it being enlightened by the doctrine
of thy blessed apostle and evangelist St John
may so walk in the light of thy truth,
that it may at length attain
to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

AMEN



THE WAVE
COME TOGETHER TO STOP CLIMATE CHAOS
LONDON 5.12.09

On Saturday 5th December, ahead of the crucial UN climate summit in Copenhagen, tens of thousands of people from all walks of life will flow through the streets of London to demonstrate support for a safe climate future for all. The Wave is organised by the [Stop Climate Chaos Coalition](#).

We want the UK Government to

- [Quit Dirty Coal](#),
- [Protect the Poorest](#) and
- [Act Fair & Fast](#).

What's the Plan?

- Assemble: 12 noon, Grosvenor Square
- Climax: 3pm Encircling of Parliament
- Dress code: Blue!

Look forward to meeting you!

The [Stop Climate Chaos Coalition](#) is the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on climate change and limiting its impact on the world's poorest communities. The combined supporter base of more than 11 million people spans over 100 organisations, from environment and development charities to unions, faith, community and women's groups.

Together they demand practical action by the UK to prevent global warming rising beyond the [2 degrees C](#) danger threshold.

Dates to put in your diary

LSM Ceilidh

With

The Red Rock Ceilidh Band

Caller: Sally Vernon (née Clough)

16th January 2010

7.30 pm

**Archdeacon's Wine Tasting
Evening
6th February, 2010**

**AUCTION
OF
PROMISES & OTHER ITEMS
13th March, 2010**

THE CHRIST OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

(from the painting by Salvador Dali)

He sees the world, a chasm at His feet;
Yet ever high above the turmoil and the din,
The everlasting arms are stretched wide, shelteringly;
And love looks down in yearning, pitying sin.

He hears the myriad cries of earth's distress;
A ceaseless clamour, rising cry on cry;
The hungry, lonely, sick and those that mourn:
Yet ever Love, they by their sins do crucify.

He sees the fisher-folk and men that sail the seas,
Leaving their well-known coasts to brave the unchecked deep,
And hears the cries when high the storm-wind breaks,
And keeps their feeble craft safe while they sleep.

He sees men fight with men for right or wrong,
And hears the call of those by war bereaved;
Yet His the hands dragged by the weight of sin not His;
His broken Heart that never sin conceived.

He sees the woes and follies of all of men,
But too He sees the hands that lift in prayer;
A murmuring grows, like thunder rolls,
Assails the heart of Him who listens there.

With broken heart, torn hands and bleeding feet,
Hangs the Eternal Man on the Eternal Rood;
The Sinless Man, bearing the sins of all the world,
Hangs between men and the just wrath of God.

He sees the world, a chasm deep and wide;
He sees the Kingdoms, Nations, Captains; rise and fall;
Yet ever hangs, for man's deliverance,
That Great Compassion over-sheltering all.

Daphne Foreman

THE DELICIOUS FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Many thanks are due to Lucy McKitterick, Alan Ashton and Kathy Brent for the truly magnificent lunch they provided for the select few who attended on Sunday, 22nd November. It was a feast for a king in all senses of the word with a wonderful selection of colours, flavours, textures and aromas, and it is sad that so many missed out this year for whatever reason. Thanks again to the magnificent three! Over £150 was raised towards Christmas decorations.
Sue Munro

AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE TO USE IN ADVENT

Sit quietly and consider each question honestly. You might like to keep a written note of your thoughts so that you can take whatever actions you feel may be necessary.

Am I faithful to God and do I make time for daily prayer?

Do I participate fully in the sacraments?

Do I actively work on strengthening my relationship with God?

Am I supportive to my family members and friends?

Do I feel free to speak about God and my faith?

Do I let my family and friends know that they are loved no matter what they may do?

Do people feel welcomed in my home?

Do I help others cope during difficult times?

Do I show respect to others?

Do I share what God has given me with others?

Am I jealous of what others have?

Do I ask others for forgiveness when I've wronged them?

Do I forgive others who have hurt me or do I hold a grudge?

Do I offer my time and talents to my community?

Does my life reflect my love for God?

SERVICES AT LITTLE ST MARY'S

Sundays

7.30am *Morning Prayer* 8.00am *Low Mass (BCP Lections)*
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 & 6.30pm *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 *Low Mass* 6.00pm *Evening Prayer*
1st Thursday of the month: 6.15pm Holy Hour

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Weekday Festivals

7.00pm *Sung Mass*
Low Mass as announced

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Friday at Noon Saturday 6.30pm
or 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. £2.50, after the 12.30pm 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: **Sun 13th December**