

# LITTLE ST MARY'S

## *Newsletter*

### *Preachers at Sunday High Mass in May*

May 2nd:	Joel Love (Westcott House)
May 9th:	Fr Andrew Sloane (St Paul's K Street, Washington)
May 16th:	The Vicar
May 23rd:	Fr Simon Oliver (Nottingham University)
May 30th:	The Vicar

### *Feast Days in May*

<i>Saturday 1st: SS Philip &amp; James: Sung Mass 10am</i>
<i>Thursday 13th: Ascension: Low Mass 7.45am High Mass 7pm</i>
<i>Friday 14th: St Matthias: Low Mass 7.45am and 12.30pm</i>

### *May Devotion*

*Tuesday 18th at 7.30pm*

### *'More than smells and bells?'*

*Saturday 22nd 11am-4.30pm*

### *Friends of LSM Festival*

*on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday May 23rd  
Drinks after High Mass, Lunch and AGM*

### *Parish Centre Development Fund*

*'More Truth about Love'  
(Poetry, Prose and Music)  
Saturday 15th at 7.30pm*

Dear Friends,

At the time of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, the thoughts of many were possibly more on the forthcoming General Election than on who would be Churchwardens and PCC members for the coming year. Nevertheless, in the context of our life together at LSM these little local elections are extremely important; membership of the Church Council means collaboration with Parish Priest and people, and involvement in all aspects of our church life, our worship, our witness to the faith, in decisions about how we should best use our various resources. Nearly all members give extra time to serve on sub-committees or working groups So I ask your prayers for those who will be serving on the PCC in the coming year:

- Paul Huskinson, Christine Tipple, to serve again as Churchwardens. They will be sworn in for the coming year on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Soham
- Also *ex officio*: Peter Harland (General Synod), Sheila Bennett, Shirley Dex, Richard Morgan(Diocesan Synod), Sue Munro, Jo Wibberley(Deanery Synod)
- *to serve for three years*: Daniel Auger, Bob DeWolf, Lucy McKitterick, Chris Nevitt, Mary Ward
- *to serve for two years*: Rob Francis, Nick Jackson, Richard Martin, Janet Nevitt, Julia Wheatcroft
- *to serve for one year*: Clive Brown, Ian Douglas, Robin Osborne, Liz Smith, Olivia Will.
- The first meeting of the new PCC (Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>) will be asked to co-opt Sally Head, our Secretary

The special item at the Annual Meeting was a presentation from our 'Ave atque Vale' working group. This focused very effectively on the way in which LSM engages, and might engage better, with three groups of people: casual visitors, new worshippers and 'leavers'. Their recommendations include the provision of a new leaflet to present the life as well as the history of our church: the rationalisation and re-ordering of the information available at the west end: and the creation of a database of 'leavers' (not only students and ordinands who may have been with us for two or three years).

And what of the General Election? At this stage of the campaign (two weeks to go) it looks as though we may have a very intriguing result; the televised debates between the leaders of the three main parties may perhaps for some seem too 'presidential' an approach to British politics, but they do seem to be stimulating people's interest. Be that as it may, it is surely incumbent on all Christians to reflect

prayerfully about how to cast their vote (and should you not have voted before 6pm on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Holy Hour from 6.15pm offers you a good opportunity for prayer!); and there is no doubt that whoever forms the next government will need our prayers in the months ahead.

Aside from national politics, there is plenty to interest us in LSM's own calendar for May. Liturgically, we begin with a Sung Mass for the Feast of **SS Philip and James** on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>, and 8 days later comes **Rogation Sunday**, when, weather permitting, we shall beat the bounds of the parish, beginning in Church at 12.30pm. Our preacher at High Mass that morning is Fr Andrew Sloane, parish priest at St Paul's, K Street, in Washington DC, where they don't beat the bounds! Fr Sloane says that he's looking forward to the opportunity of doing so here. **Ascension Day** follows on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>; as we shall have a High Mass that evening at 7pm, **St Matthias** on the following day will have to be content with hymns at 12.30pm Low Mass. May is **Mary's month**, and on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> this will be marked with the exuberance of our **May Devotion** at 7.30pm...all welcome, and the refreshments afterwards are good too! Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the **Feast of Pentecost**, when once again we celebrate our Friends of LSM Festival with drinks for all after High Mass and lunch for those who buy a ticket (£8, U16 £4); the Friends AGM will take place after lunch. As our preacher that day we welcome back to LSM Fr Simon Oliver, now working in the Faculty of Divinity at Nottingham University; Fr Simon worshipped with us when at Westcott House, and also assisted us after his ordination, when he served as an NSM curate at St Andrew's Cherry Hinton. May comes to an end with the **National Pilgrimage to Walsingham** on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>.

Other events during May include an evening for our **Pastoral Visitors**, who are invited to supper at the Vicarage on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm as well as to a meeting to reflect on the progress of the scheme. In aid of the **Parish Centre Development Fund** we have 'More Truth about Love' on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm (see page 14); and the following Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, our day conference, '**More than bells and smells?**' (see page 5), on the history, theology and practice of Anglo-Catholicism; I'm very grateful to Fr Hughes and Fr Mackley for their help with planning this.

On a personal note, I found it a great privilege, after what seemed to be an exhausting Holy Week and Easter, to be able to spend 8 days in generally marvellous weather, walking St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to Holy Island, and then part of St Oswald's Way, from Holy Island to Alnmouth, in support of Romsey Mill and our own Parish Centre Development Fund. People have been extremely generous in their sponsorship, and we and we should have well over £6,000 to share

out after Gift Aid has been included. Thank-you very much indeed to all sponsors! I have produced a brief 'diary' of the walk (I'm sorry there are no pictures!)...you'll find it on pages 11 and 12 of this Newsletter. Clare, my second daughter, was due to give birth the day before I left Cambridge for the walk, but she waited another 10 days, until I was back; Freddie was born in the early hours of April 18<sup>th</sup>, and I was able to see him that afternoon.

I hope that it won't be long before we can announce that we have a new Director of Music, and after that a Lay Pastoral Assistant to succeed Kyle McNeil. It is still intended that Christian Rutherford's final Sunday with us will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, and Kyle is staying until August 15<sup>th</sup>. May I remind you that it is our custom to give the open plate collection on the Feast of Pentecost to our Assistant Priest and to the other clergy who generously help us to maintain our Daily Mass pattern throughout the year. There will be envelopes in the pews for this purpose from May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The days from Ascension Day to Pentecost are traditionally marked by prayer for openness to the Holy Spirit; come Holy Spirit, we pray, kindle in us all the fire of thy love!

*Fr Andrew*

### ***Rachel and Yazeed: a Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving***

On Easter Monday at 4.00pm the marriage of our daughter Rachel, to Yazeed Adams was blessed at Little St Mary's. Rachel met Yazeed whilst on an internship in the summer of 2008 at the Human Rights Commission in Cape Town, South Africa. Yazeed is a lawyer, as is his sister, and he mentored Rachel whilst she was working there.

We are very grateful to everyone at LSM who helped make the blessing so special and who gave so generously of their time at such an important time in the Church's year. The guests from South Africa felt at home and welcomed by the church community. Thank you particularly to Fr Andrew, who encouraged and supported the interfaith union, to Christian and the choir who gave so cheerfully of their time and talents to produce such glorious music, and to Mark and Lucy who provided such magnificent flowers. We have appreciated your prayers for the young couple who have just begun their married life. Thank you.

It is worth reflecting that in the days of apartheid such a union would have been illegal.

*Mary and Graham Ward*

*Note from Fr Andrew: Graham preached a most memorable sermon at this service; I hope that it has been published!*

*Saturday May 22nd: the Eve of Pentecost*

## **MORE THAN SMELLS AND BELLS?**

*An opportunity to explore  
the History, Theology and Practice  
of*

### **ANGLO-CATHOLICISM**

*in Little St Mary's Parish Room  
from 11am-4.30pm*

*with Fr Robert Mackley, Fr John Hughes  
and Fr Simon Oliver*

*Coffee, Lunch and Tea provided*

*The day will conclude with a*

**VIGIL MASS OF PENTECOST**  
*at 5pm*

*involving the children of our Parish*

**ALL WELCOME!**

### *People for our prayers*

It was very good that **Joan Waton** was able to be in church on Easter Day, after her 2 weeks in Brooklands Hospital. **Elaine Wheatley** was another recent Home Communicant who managed to receive Easter Communion in church (on Low Sunday). **Sue Munro** has also been back to church, though still feeling quite frail. **David Greason**, with Jane and Lizzie, was in church with us on Easter Day, having made the long journey from Wisbech; although he still has severe health problems, he was looking better than on his last visit, and the transfer of his dialysis from Cambridge to Kings Lynn has made a big difference.

The Vicar of St Andrew the Great (the Round Church), **Mark Ashton**, died on Holy Saturday after a long illness. The recently retired Bishop of Ely, Dr Anthony Russell, was due to come back to Cambridge for the services of celebration of Mark's life to be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We pray for Mark's family and friends and church community, and for all who mourn at this time, especially for Deirdre Price Thomas following the death of her sister; and we pray that all the departed may rest in peace and rise in glory.

### *Friday Lunch Charity for May and June*

We come back to our familiar charity for these months of the year, the **Northern Ireland Children's Holiday Scheme**. This remains important work of reconciliation in these days of fragile growth in the building of trust and co-operation in the Province. Do please support the Friday lunches when you can: minimum donation still just £2.50.

### *Further ahead: some dates for your diary*

- Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>: Parish and Society of Mary Pilgrimage to Walsingham. Some are going on the Friday afternoon. A list will be in Church before the end of May.
- Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Patronal Festival: Buffet Supper after 7pm High Mass
- Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>: 2010 Summer Fete and Gift Day.
- Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>: preacher at High Mass: the Rt Revd Peter Ramsden, Bishop of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Lunch and film afterwards
- Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>: Bbq for PNG Church Partnership 7.30pm
- Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>: Additional Curates Society Sunday: Preacher at High Mass: Fr Jonathan Baker, Principal of Pusey House
- Thursday 16th-Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September: visit of friends from Chant d'Oiseau, Brussels. Offers of hospitality please!

## Calendar and Intentions

for

MAY

*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*

## Calendar for May

Sat.	1st	SS PHILIP & JAMES, App. SM 10am
SUN.	2nd	5th of EASTERTIDE
Mon.	3rd	LM 10am Rehearsal 8pm
Tues.	4th	Pastoral Visitors Meeting & Supper at the Vicarage 7.30pm
Wed.	5th	
Thurs.	6th	The Gransdens MU visit at Noon: Holy Hour 6.15pm
Fri.	7th	
Sat.	8th	Julian of Norwich
SUN.	9th	6th of EASTERTIDE: Rogation: Beating the Bounds 12.30pm
Mon.	10th	Rogation Day
Tues.	11th	Rogation Day
Wed.	12th	Rogation Day
Thurs.	13th	ASCENSION DAY: LM 7.45am HM 7pm
Fri.	14th	St MATTHIAS, Ap. LM 7.45, and 12.30pm with Hymns
Sat.	15th	More Truth about Love': 7.30pm
SUN.	16th	7th of EASTERTIDE: after ASCENSION
Mon.	17th	PCC 7pm
Tues.	18th	May Devotion 7.30pm
Wed.	19th	St Dunstan, Bp., Ministry of healing 9.45/10am
Thurs.	20th	commem. Alcuin of York, Dn
Fri.	21st	
Sat.	22nd	'More than smells and bells?' 11am-4.30pm: Vigil Mass 5pm
SUN.	23rd	PENTECOST and Friends of LSM Festival, Lunch & AGM
Mon.	24th	commem. John & Charles Wesley
Tues.	25th	The Venerable Bede: Churches Together meeting: Wesley Church
Wed.	26th	St Augustine of Canterbury
Thurs.	27th	
Fri.	28th	
Sat.	29th	
SUN.	30th	TRINITY SUNDAY
Mon.	31st	National Pilgrimage to Walsingham

**Daily Intentions and Anniversaries for May**

All involved in the appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop	<i>Cicely Gibson</i>	1st
The Parish	<i>Richard Masheder, Pr.</i>	2nd
Those taking exams this term		3rd
Our Pastoral Visitors		4th
The Probation Service		5th
Those voting today		6th
Those newly elected to Parliament		7th
The Julian Shrine at Norwich		8th
The Parish	<i>Lois Rayner</i>	9th
Farmers and fishermen		10th
Those serving in local government	<i>Arthur Mickle</i>	11th
Friends of LSM		12th
Thanksgiving for Our Lord, crowned with glory	<i>Charles Perrin</i>	13th
Our Bishops		14th
Parish Centre Development project		15th
The Parish	<i>Sarah Marriott White</i>	16th
Come Holy Spirit!	<i>Constance Rosedale, Gwendolen Plumley, Elsie Dolby</i>	17th
Society of Mary	<i>Arthur Cuff</i>	18th
The Church's Ministry of Healing	<i>Helen Paton</i>	19th
Christian Unity		20th
Northern Ireland Children's Holiday Scheme	<i>Ethel Gibbons</i>	21st
Thanksgiving for the Anglo-Catholic tradition		22nd
Thanksgiving for the Holy Spirit: Friends of LSM		23rd
Methodists		24th
Churches Together in the Centre of Cambridge	<i>Hugh Maycock, Pr.</i>	25th
The Archbishop of Canterbury	<i>Edward Hardy, Pr., Margaret Verney</i>	26th
The People of Afghanistan		27th
Our Choirs	<i>Eileen Cope, Frank Hollick, John Bagley, Pr.</i>	28th
Visitors to Cambridge and LSM	<i>William John Dempsey</i>	29th
Thanksgiving for the Holy Trinity: the Parish		30th
The National Pilgrimage	<i>Liz Fretten</i>	31st

***A Prayer for the  
Coming of the Holy Spirit***

***COME HOLY SPIRIT,  
fill the hearts of thy faithful people,  
and kindle in us  
the fire of thy love.***

***COME HOLY SPIRIT***

### ***Fr Andrew's Walk...an edited diary!***

**Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>:** left home at 7.30am to walk to Cambridge Station in bright spring sunshine...an 'extra mile' of practice! Met at Alnmouth Station at 12.31 by John and Emma. Occasional drizzle as we drove north-westwards across Northumberland, then along the Tweed at Coldstream and Kelso to Melrose. A sandwich beside the ruins of Melrose Abbey before embarking on the first 7 miles of the walk, which begins with a very steep ascent of the Eildon hills...then through woodland and along quiet tracks and lanes to the banks of the Tweed at St Boswells. Another 'extra half-mile' to have tea with friends of Emma's. B-and-B in Newtown St Boswells.

**Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>:** Australian couple from Queensland for company at breakfast. Weather improved steadily as the day went on. Another 'extra mile' walking to St Boswells to spend an hour with a former colleague, Michael Kitchener, and his wife. Section 2 of the walk began with walking beside the Tweed opposite Dryburgh Abbey, before climbing past Maxton Church to join the ancient Dere Street track. Overtaken by an intrepid Geordie runner who'd started from Melrose that morning. Made good time on this section to the Harestanes Visitors Centre near Ancrum. An extra half-mile into Ancrum Village and beyond it to its attractive riverside cemetery. Fish and chips at the village pub, where a kind couple offered to drive me to the 4-mile distant B-and-B farmhouse (very high class...silver teaspoons for your bedroom tea cup!)

**Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>:** conversation over breakfast included the topic of Holy Trinity, Brompton and its ways. I was driven back to Harestanes to pick up the route again, past Monteviot House to the river...beautiful weather and easy walking to begin with. Later some steep slopes and a stretch of metalled roads past Cessford Castle to Morebattle. Brief halt at a pub before starting on the most arduous climb of the route, wonderful view being the reward; then a descent to Town Yetholm. Conversation at supper with a couple originally from Leeds who were going to Kelso races the next day. Despite always having been 'suited' by accommodation found through Tourist Information, they were going on to the internet next week. I hope they'll still be 'suited'.

**Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>:** not much sign of divine worship at Kirk Yetholm kirk as I set out on a perfect spring morning for another arduous ascent, crossing the Scotland/England border after an hour. Boggy sections on the moors, and a circuitous descent into Wooler. After 20 minutes peace in the Parish Church, I was misdirected to the Rectory...another 'extra mile'; but great hospitality; the Rector and his wife are friends of the Wheatcrofts. Reflections on retirement, the state of the C of E, and the Fatherhood of God!

**Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>:** a lovely morning again for the climb out of Wooler...then a missed waymark and some bungled map-reading meant an extra mile-and-a-half of walking! Mostly farmland and forest, and, after passing 'St Cuthbert's Cave', the first sight of Holy Island before descending to Fenwick. 90 minutes rest at my B-and-B before the 2 hour walk to Holy Island in glorious late afternoon sunshine. Excitement of 'phoning the signalman to be given permission to cross the East coast main line, and being held

back for a goods train to pass. After using the causeway for a time, I moved onto the sands...not very firm! Greeted by Fr Richard Ford, doing a month's interregnum duty at Holy Island Vicarage, first with G and T admiring the sunset over the mainland, and then with supper. Saved miles at last, by being driven back to Fenwick!

**Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>:** drizzle early on, which had stopped by the time I started walking, initially retracing my steps along St Cuthbert's Way...but the weather remained grey and chilly most of the day. After I'd joined the Northumberland coastal path, a trailer piled with huge bales of straw caused me to miss a waymark and do an extra mile-and-a-half! The coastal path stays inland until Belford, where I arrived in the early afternoon (a short section); so I did an extra two mile circuit in and around the village, involving another telephone call to a signal box. Watched the DVD of 'The Last King of Scotland' in the evening at my very comfortable B-and-B...a link with my recent visit to Uganda.

**Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>:** cloudy and chilly initially, but the weather improved steadily all day as I walked through Bamburgh (having clocked up extra miles again through another missed waymark) and Seahouses to Beadnell. Resisted fish and chips in Seahouses in favour of a giant teacake. A further walk around Beadnell after depositing my rucksack; the village has lots of new houses and caravans! Supper at a pub where three teenage girls were being surprisingly high-spirited about maths revision!

**Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Grey and chilly as I set out across the fields through another caravan park to the beach; half-an-hour's walk along it, before the path goes slightly inland, then runs by the shore again. The spectacular ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle appear on the horizon, as the path leads past what seems to be the lengthiest golf course in the world. Gleams of sunshine by the time I reached Craster with its smokehouses. I decided to leave my rucksack at my B-and-B, half a mile from the village, and complete my walk to Alnmouth that afternoon. A good section beside the sea again, though with seemingly inevitable golf course before arrival in Alnmouth. I rang the bell at the SSF Friary (*Pax et Bonum: please ring the bell*) but noone answered; but it was good to have a sight of the Blessed Sacrament lamp through the (locked) chapel window. So I compared the size of an Alnmouth teacake with Seahouses', before walking an extra mile(!) to Alnmouth railway station, where I caught a bus (carrying just two other passengers) back to my B-and-B. By now it was a beautiful evening, in which to walk around the village and consider whether or not to watch the party leaders' debate.

**Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>:** rewarded myself with a leisurely breakfast on a lovely morning. Caught the bus to Alnmouth, and found the train from Glasgow and Edinburgh packed with people, some of whom, presumably, were using it as an alternative to cancelled flights. Finished by walking from Cambridge Station to the Vicarage. The various extra miles had easily made up for the 'cheat' of that lift back from Holy Island.

***A wonderful experience! Thank-you to all my sponsors...can anyone else help to make the total up to the revised target of £6,000, 50% each for our Parish Centre Development Fund, and for Romsey Mill?!***

***Clive Brown at Sharpeville: cont.***

After the service (*the Mass at St Cyprian's Church described in the April newsletter*), Glenys and I stayed on for lunch which had been provided in the LSM Building. This is now virtually finished save for internal decorating. It is a two storey building. There are two large rooms on the top floor, one of which will be used by children for after-school study. Fr David would like to equip the other room with computers. There is another large room, a store-room, and lavatories on the ground floor. Lunch, which consisted of fish and salad, had been beautifully laid on tables on the ground floor. Over lunch Fr David showed me a message on his telephone from which it was evident that he had narrowly missed being elected as a bishop.

After lunch, Fr David first took us to see the Sharpeville Memorial on the site of the massacre. It was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Where the memorial now stands, there had then been open land where people had congregated at the instigation of the PAC to protest against the pass laws. The police station building is still there, a short distance away. A trigger-happy policeman started an event which left at least 69 people dead. Many more were wounded, and are suspected of having died; the 69 killed on the spot are commemorated at the memorial. Fr David said that this year's commemorations will not be easy as competing political entities are intent on making use of the event. Local people complain that once a year the site is cleaned up for the politicians, and that for the rest of the time they are neglected.

We were then taken to see a building which Fr David described as "very close to my heart". It was built as a day-care centre for the elderly by a charitable non-profit company, of which Fr David is the chairman, and which now runs the centre. It has a large hall, and a big, well-equipped kitchen. Several hundred old people are brought there to be fed and cared for. Nearby, there is another large building which was, evidently, the community centre in apartheid days. As was the case with many such places, it was wrecked during disturbances. It has remained derelict ever since, and, despite Fr David's requests that his charity be able to use it, it is still a disused shell because of the intransigence of the political classes.

Finally, we were taken to the cemetery where the 69 victims of the massacre are buried, and where there is another memorial. We then took Fr David home. He lives in a nice house in what was originally an all-white area. Fr David said it was a nice area in which to live until black people started to move in! A problem is that, evidently, a lot of properties are now let to students who have non-stop parties. Fr David has a delightful wife, Maria, and two nice teenage sons (Onie and Gau-pi) whom we met but did not have a chance to talk to other than briefly.

*Parish Centre Development Fund*  
**"MORE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE"**  
***Prose, Poetry, Music***  
*with*  
***Stephen Siddall, Mary Ward***  
***and friends***  
**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
**at 7.30 pm**  
***in the Church***  
***Cocktails & canapés***  
***Tickets £5***  
*([christinetipple@googlemail.com](mailto:christinetipple@googlemail.com) tel.350657*  
*or [k.g.mcneil@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:k.g.mcneil@dunelm.org.uk))*  
***Produce Stall***  
***after High Mass on***  
**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
***Making and baking welcome!***

## 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  
*1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.lsm.org.uk)

Deadline for June Newsletter: Sun 22nd May

## From the Vicar's Report at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

### ● the Parish Centre Development project: tantalisingly close...!

*thank-you*...to Christine Tipple and all who've assisted with the fund-raising events, not least to Kyle McNeil for his tremendous help with publicity and organisation, as well as to everyone who's supported the various events. **Thank-you** also to Clive Brown and his team, Bob de Wolf, Richard Martin and Chris Thorpe. Not only have they worked extremely hard to put together applications to grant making bodies, but they also produced for the March PCC the succinct paper on the financial situation which resulted in a vote of 20-0 with one abstention in favour of going to tender with a view to starting work this June.

*reminder*: that the project is not just about having more comfortable surroundings for Sunday coffee, better facilities for our own events, a sensibly situated office... it's also about being able to offer an improved space for the kind of work which is often called 'outreach'. We've been hearing from a regular attender at our Monday group of the *reduction* in provision for many in our community with mental health needs; so we shall need a person, or persons, with commitment and vision to explore the centre's potential for wider use in this way, with the help, for example, of local arts and minds workers. A reminder, then, that we shall need not only to work *for* the completion and funding of the project, but *with* the benefits and potential of it in the years ahead.

*warning*: if and when building does go ahead, we shall have to put up with many inconveniences; we shall have to be adaptable, patient and good-humoured!

### ● cantus firmus...

beneath the multifarious activities of LSM, is the steady pattern of the Daily Mass and the Offices, the rhythm of the Church's year with its feasts and fasts, and the joy of the Sunday liturgy. (*But why the decline in attendance at the very powerful Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday, when the Choir excelled themselves with their singing of the Reproaches and Crux Fidelis?*) Thank-you to Fr Mark and the many other priests who have helped us to keep the full round of services going. We mustn't, however, simply 'enjoy' the outward and visible signs; our day on the eve of Pentecost entitled 'More than smells and bells?' (on the history, theology and practice of Anglo-Catholicism) should help us to explore the foundations of our faith and practice.

- ***Mission Action Planning...***

The Parish Centre project and the Pastoral Visiting Scheme have been part of our MAP, and both have moved on in an encouraging way. MAP has also focused on the place of children and young people in the life of LSM, and a special Sunday afternoon Eucharist for Candlemass was one result. Other similar services are planned, and we have been kept aware of the children among us by a number of original offerings which they've made at Sunday Mass...alleluias shut up in a box at the beginning of Lent, and released on Easter Day, for example! The '*Ave atque Vale*' group (see page 2) is the latest addition to our list of aspirations. The MAP item which hasn't taken off is the idea of gatherings for the saying of the simple office in particular geographical areas. Where might we find new impetus for this, I wonder?

- ***Choir Director...***

The first quarter of 2010 also brought us the sad news of the ending of a particular era in our musical life. Christian Rutherford started out as our Organist and Choir Director in January 1998. Twelve years on, he feels that it's time to bid us farewell, enriched as we now are with an excellent Junior Choir, and various splendid traditions, such as the young people's band for the Candlelight service on Christmas Eve and the young people's concert on Gift Day. Christian has given most generously and cheerfully not only of his musical skills, but also of his gifts in working with people...and none of us are easy to work with all the time! Currently, we still expect that his last Sunday with us will be June 20th, and we shall hope to express our gratitude to him then in appropriate ways.

- ***Lay Pastoral Assistant...***

it looks as if we shall be committing ourselves once again to having a Lay Pastoral Assistant, a position which seems to work out well for us, and I hope for those who have held it. Kyle has given tremendous help with the Parish Centre fundraising events, but that certainly hasn't been his only sphere of operations. I'm personally very grateful for his support and enthusiasm, not just his administrative efficiency (something often lacking in me!) In times when the Church is often ridiculed, or appears to exacerbate its own difficulties, it is hugely encouraging to find that people like Kyle, or Chris who was with us last year, are wanting to commit themselves to ordained ministry. It's encouraging too for your Parish Priest to know of your prayerful support and good will. It really does make a difference after nearly 16 years here, and over 40 since Bishop Ian Ramsey laid hands on me in Durham Cathedral, to ordain me deacon!

***Thank-you all!***