

Little St. Mary's, Cambridge

NEWSLETTER

December 2010, No. 426

Price: 25p



Services and Events

Saturday 4th: Advent Quiet Day: 10.30am-3.30pm (see pp 2 and 5)

Sunday 5th: Produce Stall after High Mass: Coffee at Emmanuel URC

Wednesday 8th: Conception of the BVM: Society of Mary AGM

Thursday 9th: Holy Hour 6.15pm (NOT Dec.2nd)

Wednesday 10th: 2010 Michael Ramsey Lecture 5.15pm

Monday 13th: Finance and Standing Committee 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th: Social Responsibility Group 7.30pm

Friday 17th: Carol Singing around the Parish: 7.15 for 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st: Feast of St Thomas: Act of Penitence at 7pm Sung Mass

Friday 31st: Vicarage At Home 10.30pm: Benediction 11.50pm

**FULL DETAILS OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY SERVICES
ON PAGES 5 and 6**

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Dear Friends,

I shall be conducting our Advent Quiet Day this year, and I've entitled it ADVENT ATTENTIVESS, basing the two addresses on **Saturday December 4th** on words from Isaiah 30 verses 20 and 21: *Your eyes shall see your Teacher, and your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it'*. Looking and seeing, listening and hearing. There is so much to occupy us in the weeks before Christmas, and it is the responsibility of the Church to encourage a good keeping of Advent, with its messages of watchful and expectant attentiveness to the Word of God. This year we're not travelling out to Mill Green House for the Quiet Day, but enjoying the hospitality of our neighbours at Emmanuel URC, which I hope will make it easier for some to attend...although we shall miss the roaring fire at Mill Green House! Here is the programme:

10.30am Coffee

11am First Address

12.15pm: Mass (in LSM)

Lunch: please bring your own, to eat in LSM or Emmanuel

2.30pm: Second Address

3.15pm: Closing Prayers

The regular pattern of Daily Office and Mass continues throughout Advent, to enable us to be attentive to God and His coming in Word and Sacrament, and in the Person of Jesus. Fr George Guiver's Michael Ramsey Lecture proved an excellent launching pad for the first session in our short Autumn series, in which we were considering the Daily Prayer of the Church, and reminding ourselves of the pattern which is followed at LSM day by day. Here is an extract from the lecture (copies of the full text are available in Church):

People now expect to make themselves. Many people (though not all, thank goodness) have an understanding of the human being as autonomous, in a pathetically exaggerated way that is stripped of all belonging, all mutual dependence, all faith in an inherited culture and tradition of life in the society of fellow human beings. Many young people live off a very slender base of individual questing for self-realisation. From the outside it looks so meagre, so much less than fully human. (I'm not going to mention the other side of the story – all the ways in which Christians benefit from the insights of the modern world – that's another story.) This has been a long time in the making, going back at least to the renaissance and the setting-free of the individual from trammels that limited our individuality. It affected Christian prayer, so that, more and more, prayer was seen as an individual activity, dependent on the experience of the individual. That led to an exaggerated emphasis on a personal relationship with God separated from any

sense of human belonging. If our prayer is purely private hotline to Jesus, then we will be praying to a false Christ. Christ is only known in the Body of Christ. When we pray, millions all over the world are praying with us, the departed are with us, and the saints in Heaven. We are never alone. Ultimately for Christians there is no such thing as private prayer. We all carry one another. Christian prayer presumes a strong sense of belonging in the Body of Christ: a sense of the Church. If we pray with a sense of the Church, then we will be closer to Christian prayer. Faith happens between people - it is not something I can turn on, or turn up, or improve by myself. It is a complete waste of time to try to screw more faith out of ourselves. Faith grows when we are in amongst others, in the Church, the faithful company of all Christian believers. For that is the place where we find Christ. (This may sometimes be despite the Christians – often the life of people outside the church has more of Christ in it than that of Christians themselves. That is why our prayer needs to be checked against our experience of daily life. Christ is best discovered in the dialogue between the two – not in prayer in a sealed balloon.) Therefore, one key implement that reflatates our deflating faith is this – setting our prayer, and our self-awareness as Christians, in the context of the Body of Christ. How do we do that? Knowing what the Church does (e.g. daily prayer), doing what the Church does (ditto), setting about our prayer and our daily life knowing that without the Body of Christ I am exposed and naked, but with it I am gloriously clothed, and I am held up on all sides, all the while myself holding others up. It is a sort of patriotism for the heavenly country, a patriotism for Christ: a love and a passion for it. For many non-church people today, this would be utterly incomprehensible. That illustrates the challenge: we have to stick to it through thick and thin, in the face of an uncomprehending culture...

I end with some practical suggestions. In order to pray in faith we need to make some common practices habitual. Praying in front of an icon: lighting a candle in front of it: having a corner in our house which is set up for prayer; praying in the church building: having a discipline of daily prayer that you stick to through thick and thin, especially the daily prayer of the Church of England or whatever church you belong to: finding a way of saying your daily prayer with others: regular silent prayer, sticking to it whether it is uplifting or boring: regular silent prayer in a group: daily reading of the Bible, especially the gospels...and always thinking of the church, the People of God, until it becomes second nature; nurturing our patriotism for Christ.

In addition to the regular pattern of Sunday and daily worship, we look forward to our Advent Carol Service on the 3rd Sunday in Advent, December 12th. There will be punch and mince pies in Church afterwards. Mince pies (at the Vicarage) should be on the menu again when we go out Carol Singing around the parish on Friday 17th,

raising money for Cambridge Mencap. As usual there will be a list for people to sign in Church, so that we have an idea of numbers for catering. Please note also the additional times for Confession before Christmas (*see page 5*), and the Sung Mass on the Feast of St Thomas, Tuesday December 21st, will again include a corporate reflection and act of penitence; this helps us to connect St Thomas' acclamation of the Risen Christ (*My Lord and My God*) with the summons to us to go with the shepherds to welcome the Christ Child, the Word made Flesh...*let us each our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

The Christmas and Epiphany programme of services (*see page 5*) follows the same pattern as last year, except that for obvious reasons we won't be able to hold our New Year's Eve Party in the Parish Room. If anyone would like to join me at the Vicarage from 10.30pm, however, they would be most welcome, and we'll make our way over to Church an hour later, so that we can once again mark the transition of the old year to the new with a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 11.50pm. We should be able to manage a celebratory drink in Church after that!

This reference to having a drink in Church prompts me to thank the many people who have worked so hard to keep 'after Church Coffee', Friday Lunch and other social gatherings running surprisingly smoothly during the works on the Parish Room; it really has involved a lot of effort and good humour! As for those ongoing works, everyone on the Electoral Roll, Friends of LSM and other regular members of the congregation should be receiving a letter during Advent encouraging a 'final push' to help us reach our financial target, so no more of that in *this* letter!

Three serving and two retired bishops of the Church of England have announced that they will be joining the Ordinariate, which will give them a place in the Roman Catholic Church; a new General Synod has been elected, and the issue of Women Bishops continues to be a concern to many. There is clearly much else of vital importance for Christians today, but at the suggestion of one reader I have included part of what I wrote in the Newsletter exactly a year ago on this matter (*see p. 14*).

It feels strange to acknowledge that this, my 17th Christmas and New Year at LSM, will be my last. But although the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us in a particular place and at a particular time, although He comes to us in the particular moments of celebrations of the Mass, the Word is God's eternal Word, and is not contained by the our timekeeping or our comings and goings. Wherever we celebrate Christmas this year, or next, may we behold *His* glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

With my prayers and best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas: Fr Andrew

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY 2010-2011

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: times for Confession

The Vicar:

Friday December 17th 12.05pm Saturday 18th 6.30pm
Tuesday 21st after 7pm Sung Mass Wednesday 22nd 12.05pm
Thursday 23rd 5pm or by appointment

- **ADVENT QUIET DAY: *Advent Attentiveness***

Saturday December 4th, in Emmanuel URC

10.30am-3.30pm

*There will be Addresses in Emmanuel URC at 11am and 2.30pm,
and there will be a Mass in LSM at 12.15pm.
Bring a packed lunch. Coffee and Tea provided in Emmanuel.*

- **3rd Sunday in Advent, December 12th: 6pm Advent Carol Service**
- **Friday December 17th: Carol Singing around the Parish**
*in aid of Cambridge Mencap: meet at 7.15 for 7.30pm start;
finish at the Vicarage*
- **Tuesday 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**

CHRISTMAS 1: St Stephen, First Martyr: Sunday December 26th

- **Usual Sunday Services**

Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th: Friday 31st

- **Low Mass 10am**
- **Friday Dec. 31st: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11.50pm**
- **Saturday January 1st: The Naming of Jesus: 10.30am Sung Mass**
- **Thursday January 6th: Feast of the Epiphany**
7pm: Blessing of the Holy House and High Mass
- **Sunday January 9th: Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord**
6pm Epiphany Carol Service and Epiphany Party

People for our Prayers

Our Newsletter editor, **Sue Munro**, is still uncertain about the diagnosis of coeliac disease, suggested a few weeks ago; in the meantime she has been in Addenbrooke's again with a broken wrist after a fall, and then with kidney problems. **Catherine Beesley** has had two short spells in hospital following severe angina attacks; then she fell at home and was in hospital again overnight. Joan **Watson** went into hospital expecting to have a major knee operation, but this, frustratingly, was postponed, until November 30th. Having finished her long course of chemotherapy, **Rosemarie White** had further surgery in mid-November; she is now home again, and the next stage of treatment will be radiotherapy. **Patricia Barnard** fell at home and broke her nose; after a weekend in Addenbrooke's she is in the Cambridge Nursing Centre temporarily. **Renata Sayers** (grandmother of one of our boat boys, William) will be undergoing an operation for cancer in the first week in December.

Thank-you...to all who have contributed used postage stamps to **Biblelands** this year. Since our collection began in November 2009, we've sent 5,000 stamps to support the Helen Keller Centre for visually impaired children, near Jerusalem. Please continue collecting next year, and save all your Christmas stamps for this Holy Land project.
Bill de Quick and Julia Norman

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

Wed.	1st	St Eligius, Bp
Thurs.	2nd	
Fri.	3rd	St Francis Xavier
Sat.	4th	commem.Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon: QUIET DAY (<i>see p.2</i>)
SUN.	5th	ADVENT 2: Coffee in Emmanuel URC today
Mon.	6th	St Nicholas, Bp.: confirmation of Bp Stephen's election
Tues.	7th	St Ambrose, Bp
Wed.	8th	CONCEPTION of the BVM: LM 10am HM 7pm
Thurs.	9th	Holy Hour 6.15pm (NOT on December 2nd)
Fri.	10th	
Sat.	11th	
SUN.	12th	ADVENT 3: Advent Carol Service 6pm
Mon.	13th	St Lucy, Martyr Finance & Standing Committee 7.30pm
Tues.	14th	St John of the Cross
Wed.	15th	Healing Ministry 9.45/10am Social Responsibility Group 7.30
Thurs.	16th	
Fri.	17th	O Sapientia: Carol Singing for Cambridge Mencap 7.30pm
Sat.	18th	O Adonai
SUN.	19th	ADVENT 4: O Radix Jesse
Mon.	20th	O Clavis
Tues.	21st	St THOMAS, Ap.: O Oriens LM 7.45am SM 7pm
Wed.	22nd	O Rex Gentium
Thurs.	23rd	O Emmanuel
Fri.	24th	<i>for Christmas Services, Confessions etc see pp.5-6</i>
Sat.	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY
SUN.	26th	CHRISTMAS 1: St STEPHEN, 1st Martyr
Mon.	27th	St JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist: LM 10am
Tues.	28th	HOLY INNOCENTS, MM. LM 10am
Wed.	29th	St Thomas Becket, Martyr: LM 10am
Thurs.	30th	in the Octave of Christmas: LM 10am
Fri.	31st	in the Octave of Christmas: LM 10am

Daily Intentions and Anniversaries for December

Stephen, Bishop-elect of Ely	<i>Douglas Bird</i>	1st
Emmanuel URC	<i>Anthony Morcom, Pr</i>	2nd
Christians in Japan		3rd
Our Quiet Day: Little Gidding Community	<i>Romo Gorrada</i>	4th
The Parish	<i>Michael Fisher, Bp</i>	5th
The Church's work with Children		6th
Parish Centre Project	<i>Michael Barnard</i>	7th
Society of Mary: Friends of LSM		8th
S. Cambridge Deanery Chapter	<i>Patrick Hankey, Pr., Charles Goodhart</i>	9th
TARIRO (Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe)		10th
Our Choirs		11th
The Parish		12th
Our Churchwardens and Treasurer	<i>Glyn Daniel</i>	13th
Spiritual Directors		14th
The Church's Ministry of Healing	<i>Gladys Stockbridge</i>	15th
Christian Unity		16th
Cambridge Mencap	<i>Jack Grist</i>	17th
Those working in the Post Office		18th
The Parish	<i>Eric Lawson</i>	19th
Local Shopkeepers	<i>Yvonne Masheded</i>	20th
A spirit of true penitence		21st
Those who are alone at this season		22nd
The Holy Land	<i>Ruth Wheatley</i>	23rd
The Children's Society		24th
Thanksgiving for the Word made Flesh	<i>Nelson Bleackley</i>	25th
The Parish		26th
St John's College	<i>Muriel Ellis, Leonard Beard</i>	27th
The Medaille Trust		28th
The Archbishop of Canterbury	<i>Leonard Askham, Pr.</i>	29th
Christian Aid		30th
Thanksgiving for God's blessings	<i>Muriel Brittain</i>	31st

ADVENT

and

CHRISTMAS

*Come then, O Saviour, and abide,
Our hearts to thee be open wide;
May all thy inward presence feel,
To all thy grace and love reveal.*

Papua New Guinea Church Partnership DVD

The LSM Global group has copies of *Following the Way* for sale. This 30-minute DVD shows just how colourful, exuberant and joyful Anglican life can be, in one of our own overseas links: the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

At £5 per copy, this is the ideal stocking filler for the LSMer who has everything. Buy now in time for Christmas. All proceeds go to support the work of our overseas links around the world.



Makeni - Sponsoring Children at the Aids Orphanage: Please would you help us continue?

A number of people in the congregation are currently sponsoring three children at the Aids Orphanage, Sandra, Solomon and Nicholas. Sandra is 15. Her father died of Aids, and her mother is unable to care for her, so she was taken into the orphanage for her own protection. Solomon is about 11 years old, and both his parents died of Aids.

Nicholas (see photo), is a toddler now, but was taken into the orphanage aged just seven months. His parents had both died of Aids, and he is HIV-positive. The tax recovered under Gift Aid from existing sponsors enabled us to send an additional £40 per month for 2010 towards the upkeep of Nicholas.



We send £40 per month for each child (£120 per month in total). At present, we have sponsors giving £85 per month, and with gift aid, Julia is able to make that up to £100. So, in order to continue supporting the three children, we need sponsors to cover an extra £20.

Would you like to help us sponsor these children, please? Just a small monthly sum of £3 or £5 would be very helpful.

If you would like to contribute towards the sponsorship fund, please contact Gillian Beard or Julia Wheatcroft.

Social Responsibility links

Please help...

*to make Christmas special for **Jimmy's Nightshelter***

Items needed include Christmas puddings, mince pies, dried fruit, cakes, biscuits, sweets, chocolates, crisps, peanuts, cheese biscuits, and crackers. No perishables please.

There will be a box for collection of these items near the font.

Please support the Children's Society...

with a contribution to the Collection after the LIGHT OF THE WORLD SERVICE at 5pm on Christmas Eve. Our young people will again be providing the accompaniment for the Carols

and Cambridge Mencap...

through the Carol Singing on Friday December 17th

A big 'thank you...

*to anyone who supported the **Friends of Whitworth House** Coffee Morning held on 18 November at the Arts Theatre. In total we raised £1,437, including £303 in donations by cheque. This figure is set to increase over the coming week. ...all a great boost to our Appeal Launch and forthcoming year of fundraising. The donated keys raised £28 (there were 187 in the jar). First prize went to Hanna Weibye for guessing 189! The runner-up guessed 196, with widely varied guesses above that figure. We hope to see you at our next event - a spectacular Ceilidh to be held at the Guildhall on 21 January, so please keep your diaries free for this important date after the Christmas and New Year break! Tickets are £10 (including hot supper; under-16s free with an accompanying adult) from Hanna Weibye on hanna@weibye.net*

The proposal of an Ordinariate...

to enable disaffected Anglicans to find a place in the Roman Catholic Church without losing something of what was described as their 'Anglican patrimony' was announced just over a year ago. Five bishops and a few priests of the Church of England have recently announced that they will be taking up this offer in the near future. Meanwhile, the newly elected General Synod will be dealing with the proposed legislation on Women Bishops over the next months and years. A year ago, in the Newsletter for December 2009, I wrote as follows:

My 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 Sacrament of Reconciliation*
- *dignity and beauty in worship which witnesses to a God who is both transcendent and immanent*
- *a sense of the liturgy as a gift 'received', rather than as something to be 'worked on' so as to get a better 'result' each 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, an extension of the Incarnation*

Clearly we have to continue to wait on the deliberations of the General Synod (not least over the proposed 'Code of Practice') 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 I have set out, without losing our energies in the 'politics' which so bedevil the 'Catholic movement'.

I am struck by the links between what I said last year and the themes of Fr Guiver's recent lecture, parts of which are quoted in my letter on pages 2-4, and which provided important material for our short autumn study course of patterns of prayer and discipleship. It is my hope that this Advent season will encourage us all to renew our commitment to the patterns and disciplines of Christian living which have long been encouraged at LSM. *Fr Andrew*

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*
(but 2nd Thursday in November)

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 at the west end of the Church 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