

# NEWSLETTER



*This month we have an update on the children of the Makeni Orphanage, an upcoming PNGCP conference, a reminder on Christian Giving, a plethora of weekend concerts and as usual the Vicar's Letter, Prayers, Intentions and Highlights.*

## Highlights of May

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

**Feast of Ss Philip & James, Apostles**

Low Mass 7:45am, Sung Mass 7pm

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May

**Pulpit Swap with our neighbours!**

Fr Robert preaches at Emmanuel URC & Lance Stone preaches at LSM.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

**May Devotion to Our Lady** *organised jointly by LSM and the Society of Mary*

7pm *Preacher:* Bishop Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

**Feast of S. Matthias, Apostle**

**10am Healing Mass** *with laying on of hands and anointing (silent prayer at 9:45am)*

**7pm Pontifical High Mass & Confirmation** *of five members of the congregation*

*Celebrant & Preacher:* Bishop Lindsay Urwin OGS, Assistant Bishop of Ely

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**6pm Evensong sung by Choros Gregorianos**

Music of the Transfiguration for Eastertide

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

7:45am Low Mass, 7pm High Mass

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth**

10am Sung Mass

*On the Front Cover:*

*Christ as Redeemer of Man, watercolour on paper, 1808, William Blake  
Museum of Fine Arts Boston, MA*

Do you have something to add to the May Newsletter? Then please contact

[melissaguiliano@gmail.com](mailto:melissaguiliano@gmail.com)

by **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

# From the Vicar

Easter Friday 2014.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! is the quintessential greeting of this season as we luxuriate in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. No liturgy is complete without at least a few utterances of the word, and at the Sunday Masses over the Great Fifty Days of Easter we explore the various resurrection appearances of Our Lord and what these mean for us.

Joy therefore – which is not the same as cheeriness or happiness, necessarily – should be the foundation of our Christian life, for the Resurrection and the defeat of death are the foundation of the Christian faith. Making that so is no easy task – joy, perhaps paradoxically, needs discipline to be present. Most of us did not come to faith through joy and, like C.S. Lewis, may well have been surprised by the joy we found. Some of us come to faith through Good Friday-like suffering or experiences of waiting and companionship as on Holy Saturday. Wherever we start from or are, however, our destination is joy. The liturgies of the church in this season remind us of this fact; they provide an external structure of formal joy (as it were) to support and surround us regardless of our own feelings and sensibilities. The final truth is joy, whether we realise it or not, and for fifty days the Church isn't going to let us forget it!

In the past week or so there has been a lot of debate about whether we are a Christian nation or not. Although we enjoyed bumper numbers in Holy Week (well over 200 on Easter Day) we should not con ourselves into thinking this is entirely replicated across the country or that even if it was it would mean the vast majority of people were in church. Committed churchgoing (like most political, civic and communal commitment today) is a minority pursuit. In that sense, the fifty signatories to that letter objecting to the Prime Minister's designation of Britain as Christian are surely right.

Yet census after census – even at the end of the most godless century on record – record large majorities of the population identifying as Christian (c.60% at the last assessment), which is no small thing. What it means to be a Christian and not come to church is a question we can leave for another occasion ('not a lot' would be my brusque answer...) but given the cultural pressures to avoid any religious commitment, six out of ten people is considerable.

More profoundly, as many have said, is the way our language, traditions, laws and architecture are all shaped by Christianity. You have to go somewhere culturally very different indeed to realise just how Christian the air we breathe here is. Even our atheism is Christian, most of the standard atheist claims and ideas being responses to various early modern debasements of Christianity. In these various implicit ways Britain is still deeply Christian.

Despite our growing congregation here and in several churches across the city, there is much work to be done. There are still empty seats at Mass on Sunday and if we continue to grow we need to consider whether to start another Sunday Mass here (as was the case until the early 1970s) or 'plant' a congregation in a place where the church is failing or not present at all. It is in this context that we launch our annual Christian Giving Renewal appeal on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May. A lot of our growth in recent years has been among younger people, which is wonderful, but they do not have the income to support LSM in the same way that perhaps older people do. If we're going to continue to reach out to them and do all the things we want, we are going to need to raise more money. We have run a deficit for the last four years and our reserves are now exhausted. It would be a tragedy if all the good spirit, energy and heart we have at the moment ran into the buffers of financial disaster.

The joy, beauty and transfiguring of suffering that the Christian faith and life brings us is something we want to share with the world, that future censuses will show even greater numbers of Christians and more churches will need to be built. Our annual Christian Giving Renewal is a chance to be a part of making this a reality.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With my love & prayers, I am yours in the Lord,

Fr Robert

# Thanks Given by Grade 12 Pupils at Makeni Orphanage

*from Sarah Hinton*



Four Grade 12 children from St Nicholas Children's Home who will soon be integrated with their extended families have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors who have supported them during their stay and education at St Nicholas Children's Home, which Makeni Ecumenical Centre runs. This included mention of Little Saint Mary's.

The four are David Mtonga (18), Gloria Chisenga (17), Patrick Mwamba (18) and Gift Machaya (19). They came to the Children's Home in 2001 young and vulnerable, aged between five and seven. Now they are grown up and looking forward to joining wider society and contributing to the best of their abilities. Each gave short personal notes of thanks, here are some extracts:

The youngest, soft spoken, shy but assertive and intelligent Gloria, stated, "Thank you for your sponsorship and your help. Without your help I wouldn't have reached where I am...it is not everyone who finds this opportunity to complete grade 12." Gloria now wants to study Cardiology.

Gift said, "I would like to thank you for your support and sponsorship. You have shown me that people still care for the less privileged." Gift wants to study Electrical Engineering.

Patrick said, "I greatly honour you for helping me get through my secondary school education." Patrick hopes to study Civil Engineering.

And David said, "I would like to say thank you for your sponsorship. I am madly grateful and thankful for your kindness and love." David wishes to be an auto mechanic or a teacher.

Thank you very much.

!

## A Letter about the PNGCP

Dear all,

I'm pleased to say that tomorrow I shall attend a PNGCP supporters' day conference at a church in Lambeth.

To quote from the invitation:

“You will be able to meet our new chairman, Jonathan Meyrick, Bishop of [King's] Lynn, and hear about his two visits to PNG. You will also hear up-to-date news of what your committee has been doing since supporters last met. Most importantly, we shall hear from Mercinta Maras and Jessica Ingen (during their visit to Norwich Diocese) about the work they are doing in PNG on Gender Empowerment... We also want to hear from you: your ideas, criticisms, hopes and expectations, along with offers of help for the future of the charity...”

I've also had an encouraging letter from the vice-chair, in reply to mine. Sorry I haven't shared it yet. I will write again after the conference.

Best wishes  
Ian Douglas

Our Christian Giving Renewal will be launched on Sunday 4th May. You will be invited to review and renew your giving to the Church, and you are asked to consider the contents of the envelope you will be given carefully and prayerfully.

The rich church life of Little Saint Mary's has been made possible by the generosity of its people, not only financially, but also by the gift of time and ability. It is our prayer that this spirit of generosity will continue and be manifest again this year.

*Christian Giving Renewal Team*



## **Calendar and Intentions**

**for**

**May 2014**

*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 May

LM-Low Mass, SM-Sung Mass, HM-High Mass

**Thu. 1st Ss. Philip & James, Apostles:** LM 7:45am; SM, 7pm  
Fri. 2nd S. Athanasius, Bishop  
Sat. 3rd

**SUN. 4th THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER**

Mon. 5th  
Tue. 6th  
Wed. 7th  
Thu. 8th Julian of Norwich  
Fri. 9th  
Sat. 10th

**SUN. 11th FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

Mon. 12th  
Tue. 13th  
**Wed. 14th S. Matthias, Apostle:** LM 10am; HM & Confirmations 7pm.  
Thu. 15th  
Fri. 16th  
Sat. 17th

**SUN. 18th FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

Mon. 19th S. Dunstan, Bishop  
Tue. 20th Alcuin of York, Deacon & Abbot  
Wed. 21st *S. Helena, Protector of the Holy Places*  
Thu. 22nd  
Fri. 23rd  
Sat. 24th John & Charles Wesley, Priests

**SUN. 25th SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER: Rogation Sunday**

Mon. 26th S. Augustine of Canterbury  
Tue. 27th  
Wed. 28th *Lanfranc, Archbishop & Religious*  
**Thu 29th ASCENSION DAY:** LM 7:45am; HM 7pm

Fri. 30th  
**Sat 31st The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elisabeth:**  
SM 10am.

# Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death for May*

Those called to be priests	<i>Cicely Gibson</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>
For those who have left the Faith		2 <sup>nd</sup>
Social Responsibility Group	<i>Richard Masheder, Pr.</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Our Parish & People		4 <sup>th</sup>
Archbishop of Canterbury		5 <sup>th</sup>
LSM Overseas Committee		6 <sup>th</sup>
First Wednesday Group		7 <sup>th</sup>
For the love of God to be known by all		8 <sup>th</sup>
Northern Ireland Children's Holiday Scheme	<i>Lois Rayner, Dn.</i>	9 <sup>th</sup>
Westcott House		10 <sup>th</sup>
Our Parish & People	<i>Arthur Mickle</i>	11 <sup>th</sup>
Medaille Trust		12 <sup>th</sup>
Society of Mary	<i>Charles Perrin</i>	13 <sup>th</sup>
Our Confirmation candidates		14 <sup>th</sup>
Peace in Ukraine		15 <sup>th</sup>
Students preparing for exams	<i>Sarah White</i>	16 <sup>th</sup>
Shrine at Walsingham	<i>Constance Rosedale, Gwendolen Plumley, Elsie Dolby</i>	17 <sup>th</sup>
Our Parish & People	<i>Arthur Cuff</i>	18 <sup>th</sup>
LSM Choir	<i>Helen Paton</i>	19 <sup>th</sup>
Archbishop of York		20 <sup>th</sup>
Stavrovouni Monastery	<i>Ethel Gibbons</i>	21 <sup>st</sup>
Those suffering with alcoholism	<i>Herbert Burrell, Pr.</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Local Councillors		23 <sup>rd</sup>
Evangelists		24 <sup>th</sup>
Our Parish & People	<i>Francis Maycock, Pr.</i>	25 <sup>th</sup>
Canterbury Cathedral	<i>Margaret Verney</i>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Lay Readers		27 <sup>th</sup>
Benedictine Order	<i>Eileen Cope, Franck Hollick, John Bagley, Pr.</i>	28 <sup>th</sup>
All people to acknowledge Christ as Lord	<i>William Dempsey, Roy Abraham</i>	29 <sup>th</sup>
Friends of Little S. Mary's		30 <sup>th</sup>
Protection of unborn children	<i>Liz Fretten</i>	31 <sup>st</sup>

## The Parish Centre



As well as being a valuable addition to the church building for the congregation, the Centre could be a benefit to the community around us and of financial benefit to us. It is used a little in this way at the moment but there is more spare time when it is not being used. If you would like to book it for an event or know of anyone else who might please speak to the Pastoral Assistant or a Churchwarden. It would be very useful to raise a little money in this way to help with its running costs. For charities and members of the congregation it costs £12.50 an hour; ordinarily it is £25 per hour.

### **Words and Music: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm** *(Note the change in time!)*

This one will celebrate spring. By then we can expect that the weather will be warm and inviting, much like the church (for the performance) and the parish centre afterwards (for wine and nibbles).

The performance will run for about 70 minutes and we hope you will give generously to a retiring collection so that we can hand over a good sum to the Cambridge Foodbank.

The faces and voices performing will be familiar – and so will our guest (who has often been one of us in the pulpit and congregation) – **Rowan Williams**. He will be reading a few of his own poems, as well as some other verse and prose.

Tickets are available before and at the door from Steve Siddall or Scott McCombe  
For more information, please contact Steve, [stevesiddall@gmail.com](mailto:stevesiddall@gmail.com)

## **Easter Term Concert Series** *from Assistant Organist, Matthew Blaiden*



We were delighted to welcome Anita Datta, Senior Organ Scholar at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, to launch the Easter Recital Series 2014 at Little Saint Mary's.

Anita regularly accompanies the world-famous chapel choir at Sidney Sussex College, working closely with their respected Director, Dr David Skinner, and has performed on tour across the UK and Europe, and in the USA. She has studied the organ with Stephen Farr and John Scott Whiteley and will soon take up the sought-after post of Director of Music at St Mary's Church in Woodford.

Her programme included music by J.S. Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude, between which were three great English Renaissance composers including William Byrd.

### **LSM's Easter Recitals continue on Saturdays at 1pm throughout Easter Term:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** – Hugh Benson & Beverley Vong (voices), with Richard Hall (piano)

**17<sup>th</sup> May** - Greg Morris (organ)

**24<sup>th</sup> May** – Matthew Blaiden (organ)

**31<sup>st</sup> May** – Niamh Fitzgerald (soprano), with David O'Shea (piano)

**Admission is free.**  
**Retiring collection in aid of the LSM Music Fund**

## Lunchtime Concert with David Christophersen

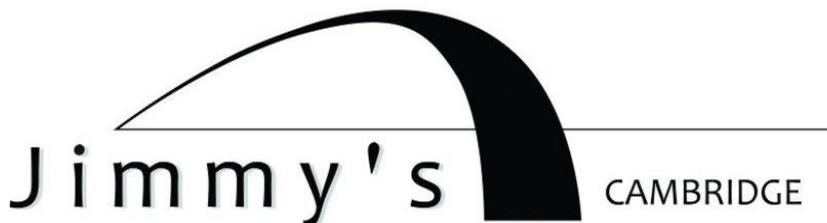
*from Jane Phillips*

David Christophersen continues his series of lunchtime piano recitals at LSM on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 1:15pm. He will be performing Granados' Valses Poeticos and Schumann's Sonata in G minor, op. 22. Tickets are available on the door, £8 adults, £4 concessions; the recital will last 45 minutes.

A few notes from David on the programme:

“In his *Valses Poeticos*, a sequence of eight lyrical waltzes, Granados explores a variety of styles, contrasting wit and virtuosic display with moments of melancholic reflection and profoundly Spanish colour. The composer's unselfconsciously beautiful melodies make these dances an engaging and charming concert cycle.

“Schumann's G minor sonata of 1835 is a substantial four-movement work with impassioned and ecstatic outer movements and one of his most successful lyrical explorations, the sonata's exquisitely tender and yearning slow movement. Its teasing carnival-like Scherzo is quintessential Schumann - bounding, playful and poised. The Finale exists in two versions, and on this occasion the polished and effective version preferred by Clara Schumann (and subsequently published) will be performed. The rejected Finale, which was published after Schumann's death, also has great appeal, and I am hoping that in the near future a performance of the sonata with this alternative ending can be arranged.”



A great “thank you” has been extended to all from LSM who donated generously an astonishing amount of hot cross buns to Jimmy's Night Shelter.