

Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge

December 2015: No. 485

NEWSLETTER



This month we have information from the Calcutta Cathedral relief service, news from the Historic Churches Cycle Ride, information about the Angel Tree Project and the Vicar's letter, usual prayers, intentions...

Highlights of December

Wednesday 2nd December

Advent Group: the Story of the Patriarchs – the Old Testament & Faith

7pm Mass, 7:30pm Group, 8:30pm Compline

Sunday 6th December

6pm Advent Carol Service *followed by refreshments.*

Tuesday 8th December

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Low Mass 12:30pm, Sung Mass 7pm *followed by refreshments (& SoM AGM)*

Wednesday 9th December

Monthly Mass of Healing (with anointing and laying on of hands) *10am*

Preceded in the Lady Chapel by prayers for the sick at 9:45am.

Advent Group: the Prophets – discerning the signs of the times

7pm Mass, 7:30pm Group, 8:30pm Compline

Sunday 13th December

Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)

Preacher at 10:30am High Mass: The Rev'd Victoria Johnson, Canon Pastor of Ely.

Wednesday 16th December

Advent Group: John the Baptist – the Gospels & pointing to Jesus

7pm Mass, 7:30pm Group, 8:30pm Compline

Sunday 20th December

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight *followed by refreshments.*

Wednesday 23rd December

Advent Group: the Blessed Virgin Mary – bearing Christ to the world

7pm Mass, 7:30pm Group, 8:30pm Compline

Christmas Eve (Thursday 24th December)

5pm Children's Candlelit Service, **11:30pm** Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (Friday 25th December)

8am Low Mass, **10:30am** High Mass, **5pm** Evening Prayer

From the Vicar

27th November, 2015.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Although this newsletter covers the month of December I am deliberately not going to talk about Christmas because I want us to focus on Advent first. As I will say in my sermon on Advent Sunday, the key word of Advent is: awake! If Christmas conjures up either the baby asleep in the manger or you asleep in a chair after a good festive lunch, the season that precedes it is not about slumbering but the opposite; it cries – ‘wake up!’

I urge all of us not to allow Advent simply to be about preparing for Christmas in the sense of shopping and card-writing and sorting out who is going where on Christmas and Boxing Day. These things are necessary (of course) but as Christians we have an incredibly important task to deepen and broaden our Advent: Advent is a season in its own right and not simply Christmas with a smaller number of fairy lights.

The call to awaken chimes wonderfully with this time of year when the nights continue to draw in and twilight seems to be a large part of every day. We cannot see quite so much and we are tired and our senses are dulled. Advent speaks of the coming of Jesus Christ both at the end of time and in the manger and urges us to be alert and to be renewed in our attentiveness that we may recognise Him in His many comings, not least in those whom we see day by day but may have grown irritated by, indifferent to or take for granted. The spiritual air of Advent is like the air on a crisp bright winter morning – it is bracing, wakening and refreshing and promises much.

Our Advent course this year is precisely about deepening our faith and in particular our understanding of the scriptures. In exploring the Patriarchs we look not only at the opening books of the Bible but also at their setting out in faith and the nature of God’s promises to them. When we come to the Prophets we look at the single largest genre of scripture in the Old Testament and also at how they discerned the signs of the times and so how we might too. As we pass over to the New Testament, John the Baptist is the herald of Jesus and by pondering him we ponder how the Gospels each point to Jesus too. Finally, as Christmas does approach we look at Our Lady and how her vocation in the New Testament of bearing Christ to the world is ours as well. Each evening will end with Compline and I hope lots of you will come and take part. Mass is at 7pm and the course begins at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

Changing gear somewhat, I should let you know that from May 2016 the Bishop of Ely has appointed me Rural Dean of Cambridge (South). Many of you will remember that Fr Greany also had this role and so it is a familiar one to us at Little Saint Mary's. For those of you interested, just as a diocese is divided into archdeaconries so archdeaconries are divided into rural deaneries and each deanery contains a number of parishes (fifteen in this case) and one priest is Rural Dean. The Rural Dean's task is to chair meetings of the clergy of the deanery, to assist the clergy wherever possible and to be a link between the bishop and archdeacon and the parishes. From what I have been able to discern, it will take up between one and two days each week for me. This will mean that I may be away slightly more often on a Sunday (covering vacancies in neighbouring parishes) and that various parish committees which I presently attend may have to meet without me. It will also mean that slightly more visiting of the sick will need to be done by the other clergy and our Pastoral Assistant. Do please keep me in your prayers: I loathe administration and meetings and so this role is not one I would have sought in any way. The vacancy of half the parishes presently meant that there were few clergy for the Bishop to choose between when the present Rural Dean retired. The lot fell on me! While I complete revisions to my doctoral thesis, I'm very grateful that the Rev'd Tim Harling (Chaplain of Queens' College) is to be acting Rural Dean with immediate effect until 30th April.

I shall, therefore, have to be much more awake next year to cope with new responsibilities together with the work we are doing together here at Little Saint Mary's. Your alertness to the presence of Christ in the world is reflected in twenty-four of you volunteering for the homelessness project which begins on 1st December. There are few better ways of being attentive to Jesus than serving Him in His brothers and sisters in need. Thank you. May God bless us all as we seek to be alive and awake to Him this Advent.

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

Fr Robert.

Stamps for the Helen Keller Centre

from Julia Norman and Bill de Quick

Bill and I would like to say a big THANK YOU for your many contributions of used stamps this year in support of the work of the Helen Keller Centre near Jerusalem.

From time to time we receive a stamp acknowledgement from Embrace the Middle East, the most recent of which reads:

"We are extremely grateful to receive your kind donation of stamps....In 2014 the Stamp Fellowship raised nearly £4,000 and all funds raised from the sale of stamps goes towards funding the important work at the Helen Keller School....The HKS is nationally recognised for its excellence in teaching visually impaired children by providing holistic education, caring for medical, psychological, social and educational needs for up to 70 children aged between 3 and 13. We are extremely appreciative of your continued support through collecting stamps which helps make a real difference to these young children. Thank you!"

During 2015, thanks to LSM, family, friends and colleagues, we sent 4,400 stamps to Amersham, making a total of 36,500 stamps since our collection began exactly 6 years ago - that's not including generous gifts of albums, and many kilos of stamps from the Mothers' Union! All contributions of overseas and UK stamps, however small, are gratefully received. Please endeavour to save your Christmas stamps for us!

On a personal note: may I say thank you for your prayers, cards, kind thoughts and good wishes during my recent spell of ill health. I am pleased to say that I am making good progress.

With best wishes for Advent and the Christmas season,"

Volunteers are needed in the parish garden on **Saturday, 19th December from 9:30am onwards**. Contact Sue Munro.

A young person's introduction to the organ

Studying the piano at the moment? Interested in musical instruments? Ever thought about playing the organ? This is your chance. Come along to Wesley Church, Christ's Pieces, Cambridge for 2pm Saturday 30th January 2016. Demonstration of the large pipe organ in the church by Nigel Kerry, Director of Music at Our Lady and the English Martyrs Church, followed by an opportunity to try the organ yourself. How does it all work? Learn about the different sorts of organ pipes, what the stop knobs mean, how the keys are connected to the pipes. Your questions answered and advice given on organ tuition. Members of the Cambridge Organists' Association look forward to seeing you. Any further details from: Fr Anthony Wibberley, anwibbs@hotmail.co.uk

Historic Churches Cycle Ride

On Saturday 12th September, three intrepid LSM cyclists set off separately to do their annual tour of churches for The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and LSM. Although we all did different routes, sometimes we could see that one of the others had been to a church before us and Kingston proved a stumbling block for both Bob DeWolf and Jo Wibberley who, at different times left their sponsor forms behind and had to return to collect them. The welcomer there was particularly enthusiastic about showing us some of the historic features of the church; such discoveries are one of the delights of doing this ride year after year. Bob, Mary Ward and



Jo are very appreciative of the support given by members of the congregation which has enabled us to send £600 + gift aid to the CHCT, and £300 will come back to LSM. Thank you so much for your generosity which makes it all worthwhile.

Kingston angels



Calendar and Intentions

for

December 2015

Calendar for December

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

Tue 1st Eligius, Bishop

Wed 2nd

Thu 3rd *Francis Xavier, priest & missionary*

Fri 4th *Nicholas Ferrar, deacon*

Sat 5th

SUN 6th SECOND SUNDAY in ADVENT

Mon 7th Ambrose, bishop

Tue 8th Conception of the BVM LM 7.45am, SM 7pm

Wed 9th

Thu 10th

Fri 11th

Sat 12th

SUN 13th THIRD SUNDAY in ADVENT (Gaudete)

Mon 14th John of the Cross, religious & doctor

Tue 15th

Wed 16th

Thu 17th O Sapientia

Fri 18th O Adonai

Sat 19th O Radix Jesse

SUN 20th FOURTH SUNDAY in ADVENT

Mon 21st O Oriens

Tue 22nd O Rex

Wed 23rd O Emmanuel

Thu 24th Christmas Eve

Fri 25rd CHRISTMAS DAY

Sat 26th Stephen, deacon & martyr LM 10am

SUN 27th FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS

Mon 28th The Holy Innocents LM 10am

Tue 29th John, apostle & evangelist LM 10am

Wed 30th In the Octave of Christmas LM 10am

Thu 31st In the Octave of Christmas LM 10am

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death* for December

All Bishops	<i>Douglass Bird, Brian Jordan</i>	1 st
Advent groups	<i>Anthony Morcom, pr.</i>	2 nd
Missionaries		3 rd
Increase in vocations to the Diaconate	<i>Romo Gorrada</i>	4 th
Those in spiritual darkness	<i>Michael Fisher, bp.</i>	5 th
Our Parish & People		6 th
Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project	<i>Michael Barnard</i>	7 th
The Society of Mary		8 th
The sick	<i>Cyril Hankey, pr., Charles Goodhart</i>	9 th
Westcott House		10 th
The LSM Choir & our Director of Music		11 th
Those who struggle to pray		12 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Glyn Daniel, Dennis Peck</i>	13 th
Poets		14 th
Parents	<i>Gladys Stockbridge</i>	15 th
Peterhouse & Pembroke College		16 th
Nursing homes	<i>Jack Grist, Diana Galletly</i>	17 th
Parish Priests		18 th
The bereaved	<i>David Lawson</i>	19 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Yvonne Masheder</i>	20 th
Theologians	<i>Joan Garrett</i>	21 st
All who are lonely		22 nd
A sense of God's closeness	<i>Ruth Wheatley</i>	23 rd
Openness to the light of the Incarnation		24 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Nelson Bleackley</i>	25 th
A good keeping of Christmas		26 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Muriel Ellis, Leonard Beard</i>	27 th
The unborn		28 th
All working over Christmas	<i>Leonard Askham, pr., Peter Walker, bp.</i>	29 th
The diocese of Ely		30 th
The Queen	<i>Muriel Brittain</i>	
31 st		

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12 noon-4 pm

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

St. Bene't's Church, Benet St., Cambridge

12 noon-4 pm

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

St. Giles' Church, Castle St., Cambridge



Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service

The latest initiative of the Friends of CRS is to start a “Freedom Business” in Kolkata. This will involve forming a company to employ women from the slums who have been trained in sewing and embroidery to make textile products for sale both in India and in the UK.

The new company will be called Nari Dana which means “women’s wings” in Bengali. A core of 30 women are already working under the leadership of Ritu Ghosh, the production manager, and after a year of training they are already producing excellent wares. This is an exciting new project which will give many poor women a new beginning and protect them from the alternatives which are often grinding domestic service or prostitution. It will provide a livelihood for the women and also enable funds to be generated for CRS.

We have a selection of Nari Dana products such as cushion covers, bags and scarves which were made by the women, and as part of our commitment to help the Cathedral Relief Service, we shall be holding a stall after 10:30 Mass on every Sunday in December to sell these items.

The items are intricate, of great quality, and reasonably priced between £12 and £20 each. Ideal for Christmas presents!

Please come and visit the stall; we promise you won’t be disappointed.

The Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree supports prisoners in their family relationships by providing a way for them to give Christmas presents to their children. Local Prison Fellowship volunteers raise funds and work with churches and prison chaplains to buy and deliver the presents. As long as they are allowed access to their children, prisoners are given the opportunity to apply for a gift to be sent to them. Each gift is sent as though it is from the parent in prison and is accompanied by a personal message written by the parent for their child.

There are around 200,000 children in England and Wales with a parent in prison. 7% (around 1 in 15) of children will experience their father's imprisonment before they leave school.

Angel Tree is a very simple and incredibly rewarding way to help prisoners keep contact with their families, which has been shown to reduce reoffending.

Cambridge Churches Homeless Project

The CCHP, an ecumenical project offering shelter and a hot supper to up to 12 homeless guests every night December-February, begins this month with a different church (and one synagogue) hosting on each night of the week. LSM will be welcoming guests mostly on Tuesdays and we are joined by a number of volunteers from other Cambridge churches to make up our teams.

Please do keep the project in your prayers this winter: and don't be alarmed if you see a delivery of blankets outside church early on a Tuesday morning! It is wonderful to be able to use the church and Parish Centre for the project and to witness in so practical a way to the Gospel message "Every time you did this for the least of My brothers and sisters, you did it for Me".

This winter the project has c.300 volunteers, new host churches and additional funding from the City Council to support our work. You can follow progress via our website, www.cchp.org.uk or for more frequent updates on Facebook or Twitter @cchpnews

Thank you to everyone at LSM volunteering this year!

easyfundraising



Turn your online shopping into donations for LSM!

Do you shop online? Did you know that every time you buy something you could be raising money for LSM? Over 2,700 well known retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco will donate a small percentage of what you spend to LSM. It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

- Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- Select Little St Mary's, Church Cambridge
- Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

Install the Find & Remind toolbar to ensure you don't miss out on valuable donations. The Find & Remind toolbar works by showing you a little reminder every time a donation is available while you're shopping. It's completely safe and secure, has no adverts and it's free to download and use.

**So far we have 19 supporters who have raised £536.09
Please join this select group by signing up TODAY.**

Also use Easysearch as your search engine and ½ p is donated at each search - it soon mounts up! Our supporters regularly make over £1 a week. **Currently we have recorded 20,832 searches amounting to £147.67.**

register at www.easysearch.org.uk

Put the icons on your desktop so they are handy.

Mothers' Union

By Jo Wibberley



As many of you were unable to attend the Wednesday group in early November when I spoke about the work of the Mothers' Union, those attending were impressed and Fr Robert has asked me to précis my talk.

The Mothers' Union is an international mission charity whose aim and purpose is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action through the transformation of communities worldwide. It works in all 83 countries with people of all faiths and none to promote stable marriage, family life and the protection of children through praying, enabling and campaigning.

This organisation is not only for mothers but membership includes men and women who are single, married, divorced, parents, grandparents, the young and the not so young. It provides for all 4 million members a network through which they can serve Christ in their own communities through prayer, financial support and actively working at grassroots level in programmes that meet local needs; a fellowship that goes around the world providing a wealth of friendship, opportunity to learn, to deepen their spiritual life, to serve and to grow.

Praying: Everything the Mothers' Union does is underpinned by prayer. Dioceses are linked in a Wave of Prayer; each group of dioceses is allocated 3 days in the year when members pray especially for them. Ely diocese is linked with Lusaka in Zambia, Shyogwe and Kigali in Rwanda, Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria and Karimnagar in India and their allocated days are 10th – 12th December. Midday prayers are said each weekday at the Headquarters, Mary Sumner House in Westminster, and by members particularly when they are meeting at that time, at which the linked diocese for the day are prayed for. In Ely diocese, Thursday prayers for half an hour are held in the Cathedral one Thursday a month and it is proposed to start this in Cambridge next January. There is also an emergency prayer circle, and an Indoor Members' Prayer Circle for those who are housebound. Once a month members attend a chapel service at Littlehey prison.

Enabling: The 43 dioceses in the UK have an extensive diverse range of projects which meet the needs of local families. In Ely diocese, our diocesan projects include:

- Away From It All Holidays in a caravan in Hunstanton for needy families
- Support for the chaplaincy in Littlehey prison including a monthly coffee morning for prisoners who have no visitors
- Baby feeding and changing tents at the County show and two other shows
- Supporting the Women's refuge, Women's Aid and Timestop, Peterborough by providing items from a "wish list" of needs
- Knitting projects for Christian Hope International and other outlets
- Providing a recipe leaflet for food banks
- Involvement in Ely Child Contact Centre

Locally, branches offer support within their own parishes, e.g. running toddler groups, help with marriage and baptism preparation, wedding fairs and baptism follow-up. Financial support is given for programmes organised from Central Office which aim to help people to help themselves, e.g. a Literacy & Development programme in several African dioceses, and to a relief fund for areas struck by natural and man-made disasters._

Campaigning: The Mothers' Union supports:

- **16 days of Activism:** to raise awareness of gender-based violence from 25th November – 10th December. A silent vigil will be held in Ely Cathedral on Thursday 26th November from 11:30am – 12:30pm and there will be prayer trees in some churches in the diocese.
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- **Bye buy childhood campaign** aims to empower families to challenge the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood through positive action
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- **Faith & Policy Watch** is a monthly newsletter available on the website, for the latest information on their campaigns, responses to consultations, and comments on government policy.



The Mothers' Union is represented on the United National Women's Forum.

www.mothersunion.org

www.elydiocese.org/who-we-are1/mothers-union/