

Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge
NEWSLETTER

August 2016: No. 493



This month we have an update from S. Cyprian's Sharpeville, Evensong & Benediction changes, a farewell from our Pastoral Assistant and the usual Vicar's letter, calendar and events.

Highlights of August

Saturday 6th August

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sung Mass 10am *followed by coffee*

Saturday 13th August

Guild of All Souls Summer Meeting

3pm Vespers of the Dead & Benediction at S. Mary's, Southery, Norfolk

Sunday 14th August

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Patronal Festival

Holy Communion 8am

High Mass 10:30am *followed by drinks*

Solemn Evensong & Benediction 6pm

12:30PM BARBECUE AT THE VICARAGE
(£10 including wine – tickets from Vicki Farmer)
in aid of the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership.

Thursday 18th August

Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

8pm Office & Benediction at S. Peter's, Ely

Wednesday 24th August

Feast of S. Bartholomew, apostle.

Low Mass 10am, Sung Mass 7pm *followed by refreshments.*

From the Vicar

Commem. Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hesitate to write anything for fear of its being entirely out of date by the time you read it, given the speed of news at the moment. Worse than the speed of the news is the content, and we seem to have had nothing but terror attack after terror attack (or if not a terror attack then some simple act of wicked violence) almost every day recently.

I know you will have been as shocked as I was by the murder of Fr Jacques Hamel in Rouen on 26th July. Fr Hamel, aged 86, was killed immediately after celebrating the Eucharist in his parish church. There can be no doubt that this was a martyrdom, surely the first martyrdom of a priest in the western church this century? This fact ought not to blind us of course to the many priests of the eastern rite martyred in Iraq and Syria in recent years. We do not know their names but their witness and their heavenly prayers are as powerful.

How do we respond to this? At a national level I'm sure additional checks and security measures are already in place. From a Christian perspective, however, our response is unchanging: to go to church, pray, go to Mass, frequent the Sacraments, ask for faith, and so on. We must pray for the two lunatic young men who killed Fr Hamel for they surely need our prayers more than the priest who is 'this day in paradise'. You'll recall the Old Testament lesson a week or so ago when Abraham asks God for mercy if there are 50, then 45, then 40, then 20, then 10 and so on righteous men in Sodom: he is discovering the extent of God's mercy. That same stretching of mercy is what is called for from us. Can we really respond to all this hate with forgiveness rather than revenge?

The day after the attack I may have imagined it but I seemed to receive far more 'hellos' from people in the street and shops as I walked round Cambridge in my clerical collar than I normally do. France has prided itself (falsely in my view) on its strict secularism yet that has not prevented

people from being especially shocked by the murder of an innocent, elderly priest while offering the sacrifice of peace that takes away the sins of the world. France has been reminded that behind and beneath what it thinks of as Enlightenment values of peace and liberality is the Christian faith that gave birth to them and without which faith, they will falter. We might ask Fr Hamel's prayers not only for the repentance of his attackers and the ISIS monsters but also for the people of France that they might be inspired to return to those Christian wellsprings of love, forgiveness and self-sacrifice which are necessary to make any nation great or even civilised.

This month sees some happy celebration to make up for the miseries we are enduring in the news. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patronal Festival as a parish, is an occasion to celebrate God's victory in one as obscure and humble and faithful as Fr Hamel who believed that what was promised her would be fulfilled. Fr Hamel is only beginning to discover now the fullness of God's love but Our Lady has already experienced it body and soul, as she is the first-fruits of Christ's resurrection and a pledge and reminder to us of the glory that will be ours at the end of time. From this year on we will be transferring it to the nearest Sunday (as we do with our Dedication Festival in November) in order that the largest number of our congregation can celebrate it and that we might also have the opportunity to hear some teaching on the place of the Blessed Virgin in Christianity which those who aren't able to make it to weekday celebrations rarely hear. I hope you'll be able to be present.

In closing this letter I want to echo the spirit of our Patronal by offering thanks: thanks to all those who gave so generously at the Summer Fête; thanks to our departing Pastoral Assistant, Hannah McManus, who has worked very hard for us these past two years; thanks to the various priests whose kindness means I can go away on holiday; and thanks to each of you for our share together in the gospel and for your prayers for LSM and for your priests.

With my prayers for you, I am,
yours ever in the Lord,

Fr Robert

St Cyprian's, Sharpeville

from Clive Brown

The Anglican Church of St Cyprian's, Sharpeville (about 60 miles south of Johannesburg) is an overseas link which we have supported since the Rector, Fr David Dinkebogile, was on sabbatical in Cambridge a number of years ago. We helped fund a building to house a community centre and Sunday school which was named the 'Little St Mary's Building'. St Cyprian's gave us a painting of it which hangs in the parish centre.

At the beginning of 2015 Fr David was asked by his Bishop to move to another parish which had no church building and was in dire need of leadership. Fr David left behind a flourishing church at Sharpeville which we continue to support, although we also remain in touch with Fr David. I am pleased to report that a new Rector was appointed at St Cyprian's and installed by Bishop Peter Lee on the 1st May. He is the Reverend Canon David Mahlonoko (another Fr David!) who wrote to me the day after his installation to introduce himself. It is clear that St Cyprian's values the link with Little St Mary's, not just for the relatively small financial support we are able to send from time to time, but more particularly for the bond of prayer and friendship.

St Cyprian's is in the Diocese of Christ the King which was formed in 1990 and covers the area south of Johannesburg down to the Vaal River. It covers many former African townships and embraces some extremely poor communities. Poverty in the area has been made worse by numbers of immigrants from neighbouring countries, such as Zimbabwe and Mozambique, who have come seeking work.

The Right Reverend Peter Lee was consecrated as the first bishop of the Diocese, and he continued to serve there until he finally retired on the 30th June this year. The elective assembly was unable to agree on the person to replace Bishop Peter, and a decision will now be made by the House of Bishops, probably in September. In the meantime, the Archbishop will be appointing a Vicar-General. Please pray for guidance of the members of the House of Bishops in making their decision and that a worthy successor to Bishop Peter will be found.

I would encourage you to look at the Diocesan website which can be found at www.christthekingdiocese-anglican.org There is a description of Fr David Mahlonoko's installation, and Bishop Peter's farewell address on the 19th June is both interesting and moving. The website gives a good insight into what is happening in the church in South Africa.

Fr Robert adds: Fr Geoffrey Clayton, Vicar of LSM in the early 1920s, ended up as Archbishop of Cape Town and was influential in opposing the beginnings of apartheid. Our link with South Africa goes back a long way, therefore.

Summer Fête Thanks!

Fr Robert writes:

Friends, thank you so much for your hard work and generosity at this year's Summer Fête and Gift Day. We raised what is certainly the highest amount in many years: **£8,798.39!** It might even be a record!

I want to thank Christine Tipple for masterminding the event together with Simon Jackson and the choir for their stunning (and lucrative!) concert; thanks must go to Vicki Farmer and her catering team; to Malcolm Munro and his fellow artists; to *Katie's Jumping Fleas* whose playing drew in the crowds, as did Fr Max's salesmanship at the gate; to the various stall holders, bakers of cakes, donators of gifts and bottles, Matthew Smith and his team of volunteers and all who assisted in any way. It truly was a team parish effort and this year paid off handsomely.

The two things we can't control - the weather and individual donations - both were good this year and the latter amounted to £4,765 (over half our total for the day). The rest we have some influence over and I felt this year's Fête was not only the best in my four years here but also a very happy occasion. Thanks be to all of you, and to God for his great goodness to us.



Calendar and Intentions

for

August 2016

*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 or
additions to the list of daily intention.*

Calendar for August

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

Mon	1 st	S. Peter's Chains. Lammas Day.
Tue	2 nd	
Wed	3 rd	
Thu	4 th	<i>S. John Vianney, Curé d'Ars</i>
Fri	5 th	S. Oswald, King & Martyr
Sat	6 th	Transfiguration of Our Lord, SM 10am
SUN	7th	ELEVENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	8 th	S. Dominic, Religious
Tue	9 th	Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union
Wed	10 th	S. Laurence, Deacon & Martyr
Thu	11 th	S. Clare of Assisi, Religious
Fri	12 th	
Sat	13 th	Jeremy Taylor, Bishop & Doctor
SUN	14th	ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM <i>PATRONAL FESTIVAL</i>
Mon	15 th	
Tue	16 th	
Wed	17 th	of Requiem
Thu	18 th	
Fri	19 th	
Sat	20 th	S. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor
SUN	21st	TWELFTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	22 nd	
Tue	23 rd	
Wed	24th	S. Bartholomew, apostle, LM 10am SM 7pm
Thu	25 th	
Fri	26 th	
Sat	27 th	S. Monica
SUN	28th	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	29 th	Beheading of S. John the Baptist
Tue	30 th	John Bunyan, Doctor
Wed	31 st	S. Aidan, Bishop & Missionary

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death for August*

Those wrongfully imprisoned		1 st
Spiritual Directors	<i>Vera Harman</i>	2 nd
Our Churchwardens	<i>Roma Gill</i>	3 rd
Parish Priests		4 th
The Church in the North East of England	<i>Geoffrey Lampe, pr.</i>	5 th
That all may be drawn to the light of Christ		6 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Olive Robinson</i>	7 th
The Dominicans		8 th
Ely Diocese Mothers' Union	<i>Irene Morris, Michael Cook</i>	9 th
The sick	<i>Eric Hindley, pr., Mary Hindley, Norman Clift, pr.</i>	10 th
Poor Clare Sisters	<i>Arthur Benjamin Dex, pr., Geoffrey Smith</i>	11 th
LSM Servers	<i>Peter Chamier, pr.</i>	12 th
Bishops of the Church of England	<i>Gwen Woolfenden</i>	13 th
Our Parish & People	<i>David Paton, Adrian Martinez</i>	14 th
The homeless		15 th
Permanent and transitional Deacons	<i>Ella Cassell</i>	16 th
The Faithful departed	<i>Richard Wardill, Geoffrey Smart</i>	17 th
Those addicted to drugs		18 th
Theologians	<i>Eric Loinsworth, Blanche Poulter, Maurice Fretten, Edwin Windeatt</i>	19 th
Increase in vocations to the Religious Life		20 th
Our Parish & People		21 st
Our overseas mission links	<i>John Robinson</i>	22 nd
Peace		23 rd
Evangelists	<i>Margaret Hutchinson, Elizabeth Wyngard</i>	24 th
Increase in young vocations		25 th
The Choir		26 th
Victims of abuse	<i>Thomas Haynes, Robin Bishop</i>	27 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Sybil Fleet, Patricia Fleet, Ione Spalding</i>	28 th
Persecuted Christians		29 th
Christian Pilgrims	<i>Helen Culverwell, Tom Chalmers</i>	30 th
Stephen, Bishop of Ely		31 st

The Transfiguration of the Lord

6th August

Father in heaven,
whose Son Jesus Christ
was wonderfully transfigured
before chosen witnesses
upon the holy mountain,
and spoke of the exodus
He would accomplish at Jerusalem:
give us strength so to hear His voice
and bear our cross
that in the world to come
we may see Him as He is;
who liveth and reigneth with Thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



The Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus Himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth. The Transfiguration not only supports the identity of Jesus as the Son of God (as in His Baptism), but the statement ‘listen to Him’, identifies Him as the messenger and mouthpiece of God. The significance of this identification is enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses, for it indicates to the apostles that Jesus is the voice of God *par excellence*, and instead of Elijah or Moses, He should be listened to, surpassing the laws of Moses by virtue of His filial relationship with God.

II Peter 1:16–18 echoes the same message: at the Transfiguration God assigns to Jesus a special ‘honour and glory’ and it is the turning point at which God exalts Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions Him as ruler and judge. The Transfiguration also echoes the teaching by Jesus that God is not ‘the God of the dead, but of the living’. Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before (II Kings 2:11), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life can apply to all who face death and have faith.

The Assumption

Tears glistened in their shining eyes,
As on May fields the morning dew,-
The Seraphim attentive stood
Till silently “The Twelve” withdrew.

Enraptured choirs of angels sang,
Bearing their Queen through realms of space,
And lauded at the Starry Throne
The glorious gladness of God’s face!

Father and Son and Spouse rejoiced
That Mary Queen of Heaven should reign!...
And Thomas saw white roses bloom
Within the tomb where she had lain.

By *Rev. Paul A. Stauder, August 1942.*

15th August was the Festival of Our Lady in Jerusalem by the fourth century. In some places, such as Spain and Latin America, the Feast is simply referred to as *Lady Day* or *The Immacolata*. The Church of England follows this baroque instinct in simply referring to 15th August as ‘The Blessed Virgin Mary’. It was in the year 2000 that the Church of England restored 15th August to its calendar, having removed it at the Reformation. Our Lady’s Conception, Nativity, Annunciation and Purification were all kept in the Book of the Common Prayer and with the addition of her Dormition (as the Eastern Orthodox call it) on 15th August we can proudly say that the full extent of her life is once again covered in Anglican prayer and worship.

In 2005 the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission published *Mary: grace and hope in Christ* exploring our common understanding and teaching on the Blessed Virgin. It wrote that the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church “affirm together the teaching that God has taken the Blessed Virgin Mary in the fullness of her person into His glory as consonant with Scripture, and only to be understood in the light of scripture.”

Don’t miss our celebrations on Sunday 14th August as we transfer it to (given that it is our Patronal) to the nearest Sunday.

Farewell to our departing Pastoral Assistant

Hannah McManus writes:

Dear all,

I can't really believe it has been two years since I started at LSM. My time here has been wonderful, interesting, challenging and incredibly special to me so do forgive me if I'm a little teary-eyed on my last Sunday. My first Sunday only seems like a week ago and believe it or not I was so incredibly nervous! I have to say that wore off very quickly, there's too much going on at LS. to have time to be nervous about things!

When I was in Walsingham, we used to have a practice after every big event that we would pick our "high spots, low spot" and choose two things we loved and one thing that we found challenging, so I'm going to continue that little tradition here.

My first high spot has to be the Choir tour. I was so lucky to have been asked to chaperone, as Prague is such an incredible city, and I was so proud of the Choristers I helped to look after, they sang beautifully and coped with the stifling heat and busy schedules with great enthusiasm. It was great fun to be the Choir "groupie" and cheer them on at their concerts and performances.

My low spot would have to be when I have had to unlock Church on a Sunday morning – I'm rubbish at early starts and I'm such a grouchy morning person – however once I'd woken up and set up for the morning, there was something beautiful about the stillness and quietness of the Church before the usual busy, bustling Sunday. So I guess it's not all bad.

My other high spot would have to be getting to know so many of you in my time here. I consider myself very lucky to have been welcomed so warmly to LSM and having been treated as not just someone who works here for a while, but as part of the Church family. I have had incredible support in everything I have done be it preaching, serving or leading the offices, and have gained so much valuable experience.

The next year is a little uncertain for me, but I will be pursuing my call to Ordained ministry whilst experiencing a bit more of the broader Anglican Church (and of course wedding planning, so hours of colour co-ordinating, dress browsing and hymn picking is coming my way)! I will be popping back to see you and to worship at LSM, though I'm sure you'll understand that I want to let Yaroslav settle in first.

I just really want to say a huge thank you to you all for your kindness, love, support and friendship while I have been Pastoral Assistant, it has meant so much to me! LSM and all of you will always have a very special place in my heart. I will keep you all in my prayers.

With love, Hannah

About the cover art

'The Assumption of the Virgin Mary' or 'Assumption of the Holy Virgin', is a painting by Peter Paul Rubens, completed in 1626 as an altarpiece for the high altar of the Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp, where it remains.

In Rubens' depiction of the Assumption of Mary, a choir of angels lifts her in a spiralling motion toward a burst of divine light. Around her tomb are gathered the twelve apostles – some with their arms raised in awe; others reaching to touch her discarded shroud. The women in the painting are thought to be Mary Magdalene and the Blessed Virgin Mary's two sisters. A kneeling woman holds a flower, referring to the lilies that miraculously filled the empty coffin.

The Cathedral of Our Lady opened a competition for an Assumption altar in 1611. Rubens submitted models to the clergy on 16th February 1611. In September 1626, 15 years later, he completed the piece.

Evensong & Benediction

The Vicar writes: Sunday begins with Morning Prayer (usually led by our Pastoral Assistant), reaches its high point with our celebration of the Eucharist, and concludes with Evensong and Benediction. This is our parish's complete offering to the Lord on his day.

I recognize that with the pressures on time very few of you will be present at Morning Prayer and that not all of you can be present for both Mass *and* Evensong every Sunday but I do urge you to make the quiet and contemplative hour that is Evensong and Benediction at least part of a fortnightly, monthly or quarterly pattern of public prayer.

Reflecting with the Church Wardens and Director of Music I have come to the conclusion that there are some minor amendments we can make to our evening worship to make it a better and more attractive experience both for newcomers and for those who come every Sunday.

Some of these changes have already taken place: the provision of Evensong ring-binders with everything in it in the right order for each member of the congregation to make participating in the service a lot easier; together with the purchase of melody editions of the hymn book so that people have the tunes to the hymns.

Now we are introducing three further amendments. The following are presently sung: versicles and responses, psalm, office hymn, *Magnificat*, *Nunc Dimittis*, *O Salutaris Hostia*, *Tantum Ergo*, Psalm 117 after Benediction and two hymns. This is a lot of singing and so to reduce it slightly and to aid a more contemplative move to Benediction, from the beginning of August the hymn after the sermon will be replaced with a brief organ improvisation while the altar is prepared. Secondly, each Sunday the tunes for the Benediction hymns (*O Salutaris* and *Tantum Ergo*) will be displayed on the hymn board. Thirdly, the ring-binders and hymn books will be placed at the crossing (where one turns right to the Lady Chapel) to encourage people to sit slightly further towards the front to assist more unified singing.

I hope in the coming months to explore the addition of a second cantor to lead the people's singing and also to hear your reflections on what else we might consider doing to make this beautiful worship enjoyed by more people.