

NEWSLETTER



This newsletter contains details of the upcoming events of the month, including Ash Wednesday, together with news about Lent and developments at Mill Road Cemetery, details of our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and of course the usual Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.

Highlights of March

Wednesday 1st March

ASH WEDNESDAY

Low Mass with ashing 10am & 12:30pm; High Mass with ashing 7pm

Wednesday 8th March

Monthly Healing Mass

10am, preceded by prayers for the sick at 9:45am in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome to this meditative service where personal prayer & anointing with oil are offered during the Mass.

Thursday 9th March

Lent Group I – 7:30pm in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 14th March

Forum Lunch for dementia sufferers and their carers; 12 noon in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 15th March

Lent Group II – 7:30pm in the Parish Centre

Saturday 18th March

‘Time Off in Tibet’ – Lecture in aid of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, given by Peter Granville Davis at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre

Monday 20th March

S. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Low Mass 12:30pm; Sung Mass 7pm followed by refreshments

Wednesday 22nd March

Lent Group III - 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Thursday 23rd March

Mothers’ Union

10:30am – Prayers in the Lady Chapel; 11am – Coffee in the Parish Centre

Saturday 25th March

Annunciation of the Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

High Mass 10am, followed by coffee and cake

Monday 27th March

Lent Group IV – 7:30pm in the Parish Centre

From the Vicar

S. Polycarp, bishop & martyr, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There's something pleasingly tidy about Lent beginning on 1st March. February has been more or less entirely kept in liturgical green and has formed a sort of self-contained pause-to-regroup after Epiphanytide. With the new month begins a new season and as the days begin visibly to lengthen so our march towards the light of Easter commences.

The word Lent comes from the word to lengthen and so that link between the season of preparation for Easter and the earlier sunrise and later sunset is not just coincidence – Christians from early centuries have discerned a connection between the growing hope of the natural world and the opportunity to begin our pilgrimage of faith afresh too.

There, however, is perhaps where the tidiness ends – the first of the month and the first day of Lent. It ends because Lent is anything but a linear route march to the Resurrection, beginning as it does with those words: 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.' Lent is a recognition that our lives are very *untidy* – a mess and pointing in the wrong direction: 'Turn away from sin,' we are told. It is amazing how we seem to need Lent every year as we find that bad habits and slack attitudes have crept back in to our lives. Sin, temptation and indifference cause chaos in our faith as well as other aspects of our existence, and so far from setting out on Lent with our eyes set on the horizon of the empty tomb, we may find our eyes cast down in sadness, looking about in confusion or set not on an empty tomb but on our empty hearts.

This untidiness is also a fact of Lent itself. We begin, as we should, with new disciplines and things we will take up or things we will give up: a midweek Mass, perhaps, and finally getting round to making sure we give away a tenth of our income. Alternatively it might be about giving up smoking, or leaving aside some treat and using the time and money saved for forty days for a good cause. Inevitably most of us will come unstuck and often quite quickly. So we pick ourselves up and start again. Lent for the majority of us does not have one tidy beginning on 1st March but will have several beginnings throughout the six weeks as we try to remain faithful.

None of this is a cause for despair, however, for it is exactly what the church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, invented Lent for. Initially it was a time for those who

had cut themselves off from the church through grave sin to prepare to be received back into communion at Easter. Rapidly, however, it became clear to everyone that all Christians would benefit from this season, regardless of the gravity of our sin or our distance from the church's life.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving form the backbone of Lent. Prayer – which is a sharing in the life of God Himself, entering consciously into the eternal exchange of love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit – should be at the heart of Lent. Giving some time each day simply to sit and be still and repeat a single prayer word – ‘Come, Lord Jesus’ or ‘Maranatha’ – is time incredibly well spent. Don't forget our Lent course as well: a prayerful study together of Paul's Letter to the Philippians which reaches far wider and deeper than simply understanding this portion of holy scripture better.

Fasting should certainly include giving up of something lovely and good as an act of thanksgiving for what Jesus has done for us and as a way of focussing the heart on what's important. Giving up chocolate, or whatever, is more than just a fiddling irritation if we use the times when we want that *pain au chocolat* as a chance for at least an arrow prayer to God asking Him to increase our hunger for Him (for example). Fasting can also include giving up of good things that have begun to dominate our lives – social media is an excellent example. Get off Facebook for Lent or look at Twitter only once a day or refuse to check your emails after 8pm. The time and energy freed up will be surprising and can be used for prayer, sleep or with our families or friends.

‘It's amazing how much stuff I don't need,’ a lady said to me very recently. Almsgiving is about discovering how we need less than we think and also about discovering that God has programmed into us a deep joy to be found in giving things away. Ask most philanthropists why they give and the answer will come back in some form along the lines of the astonishing pleasure it gives them. Everyone can give alms, from the richest Bill Gates to the poorest proverbial widow. We help a charity or someone in particular in need and yet we find – and this is so close to the heart of the gospel – that we really enjoy it too.

These, then, are just some of the ways in which we can recognise and start to address the mess that Lent points to and wants us to engage with and finally leads us to discover that it has all been taken on and defeated on the Cross. But first we must begin.

With my prayer for a holy and joyful Lent, therefore, I am,
yours ever in the Lord,
Fr Robert.

News of Mill Road Cemetery (where Little Saint Mary's has a plot)



Marking the outline of the old Cemetery Chapel

For many years, in the centre circle of the cemetery there was a mortuary chapel where the burial service was read. Built in 1858 and designed by the well-known Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, it was eventually demolished in 1954 when the chapel was no longer in use and it had become unsafe. Today, when the weather is dry the outline of the chapel

is clearly visible, and in November 2009 an archaeological investigation - see <http://mrcweb.org.uk/archaeology> - revealed its underground foundations.

Marking the cemetery as place of remembrance, the current project will highlight the chapel's outline in carved York stone. Around the east end, there will be 13 round stones, each bearing the name of one of the original 13 parishes with burial land in the cemetery. Along the sides, Sir George Gilbert Scott's name and dates, and the dates when the Chapel was built and demolished, will be inscribed. Around the door there will be a verse from Psalm 90: *Lord, Thou hast been our refuge: from one generation to another.* The hymn *O God our help in ages past*, a favourite at funeral and Remembrance Day services, is derived from this psalm.

The project is a result of collaboration with Will Hill, Deputy Head of Art at Anglia Ruskin University, whose student Siobhán Brown designed a special font named Cordelia Gothic, after Cordelia Whewell. Cordelia is buried in the cemetery, the wife of William Whewell of Trinity College and generous benefactor of the Chapel. Outlining the Chapel in stone was the preferred option for commemorating the Chapel when members of the public were invited to give their views at the Winter Fair some years ago. It is being paid for with Heritage Lottery funding.



Brief history of the chapel

By 1850, two years after the cemetery opened, 700 burials had taken place and the lodge was considered too small and cramped to accommodate larger funeral parties. As a result it was agreed to erect a chapel,

which had always been part of the original plan, and a fund-raising appeal reached £965. It was decided to appoint 'some architect of high standing' to design the chapel, and George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878), then well known for his Gothic Revival churches (but perhaps now best known for designing St Pancras station) was approached to prepare a design. His first 1851 plans would have cost £1,800, which was considerably more than funds available and so he resubmitted a less ambitious design, replacing the tall spire with a lead turret.

The Reverend Professor William Whewell (1794-1866), Master of Trinity College, wanted the chapel and cemetery to resemble a parish church and churchyard, however, and he made a generous donation to the fund, following the death of his wife Cordelia (who is buried in the cemetery). He initially donated £250 to pay for a tower and spire to be put on to Scott's 'reduced' design and then made a further donation for the internal fittings. The chapel was finally opened on 28 May 1858, almost ten years after the cemetery.

In the cemetery records, there are many references concerning the repair and upkeep of the chapel. In 1904 some parish areas of the cemetery were declared full and officially closed to new burials, except for family graves, so the chapel was used less frequently. In 1938 it was suggested for the first time by the Committee that the chapel should be closed rather than repaired. However, it was still used until 1949, when the remainder of the parish areas were closed to new burials, except family graves. The chapel's condition continued to deteriorate, and after substantial damage by a fire it was considered unsafe and demolished in 1954.

Calendar for March

Wed 1st **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Thu 2nd *S. Chad, Bishop & Missionary*
Fri 3rd
Sat 4th

SUN 5th 1st Sunday of Lent
Mon 6th *S. Tibb, Virgin*
Tue 7th *Ss Perpetua, Felicity, & companions, Martyrs*
Wed 8th *Edward King, Bishop*
Thu 9th
Fri 10th
Sat 11th

SUN 12th 2nd Sunday of Lent
Mon 13th
Tue 14th
Wed 15th
Thu 16th
Fri 17th *S. Patrick, Bishop*
Sat 18th *S. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor*

SUN 19th 3rd Sunday of Lent
Mon 20th S. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue 21st *Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop & Martyr*
Wed 22nd
Thu 23rd
Fri 24th *Óscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr*
Sat 25th ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BVM

SUN 26th 4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
Mon 27th
Tue 28th
Wed 29th
Thu 30th
Fri 31st

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death for March*

True penitence	1 st
Diocese of Lichfield	2 nd
Thanks for S. Dex's service to the LSM choir	<i>Ceta Cherry, Harold Auckland</i>
	3 rd
The bereaved	<i>Christopher Stephen Barnard</i> 4 th

Our Parish & People	5th
Our keeping of Lent	<i>Robert Knight</i> 6 th
Those persecuted and killed for their faith	<i>Geoffrey Hare Clayton</i> 7 th
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II	<i>Jessie Rolph</i> 8 th
The LSM Lent Groups	9 th
Increase in ministry to children	10 th
Those suffering in war zones	11 th

Our Parish & People	12th
The LSM PCC	<i>Elsie Kathleen Murrell, Helen Dex, Beryl Oliver</i> 13 th
Those suffering with dementia and their carers	14 th
Catechists	<i>Elizabeth Lampe, Violet Barnard, Michael Ogden, Alan Gustard</i> 15 th
Increase in practice of the Stations of the Cross	<i>Teresa Pike, Jean Gustard</i> 16 th
The Church in Ireland	<i>Richard Henry Boulind, Ann Robinson</i> 17 th
Christians in Palestine	18 th

Our Parish & People	<i>Mary McDougall, Eileen Barnard</i> 19th
The Universal Church and its unity	20 th
The Archbishop of Canterbury	<i>Constance Hennings, Margaret Florence Bottrall</i> 21 st
Evangelists	<i>Emily Glennie, Nellie Edwards, Merlin Rotherham-Brown,</i> 22 nd <i>Ken Topley</i>
Mothers' Union	23 rd
Those with a particular ministry to the poor	<i>George Head</i> 24 th
The Anglican Shrine at Walsingham	25 th

Our Parish & People	<i>Philip Gibbens Hall</i> 26th
Those preparing for Confirmation	27 th
The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project	<i>John Gilling, pr.</i> 28 th
The Guild of All Souls	29 th
Those who support charities	30 th
The terminally ill	<i>Pamela Horne</i> 31 st



Lent

*Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made,
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and
forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Lenten Time – *a poem by Daphne Foreman:*

We hunger and thirst and stumble in weariness;
Lonely, disheartened, through the drear wilderness;
Temptations assail us, strange, sharp and various:
Out of our wanderings, Good Lord, deliver us.

Dark is the night and full of strange crying;
All, all around us the darkness is lying;
Stricken by sin, writhes each soul in agony,
Alone on the hilltop of each soul's own Calvary.

Lone and forsaken, each broken soul lies,
Emptied and humbled; and silenced its cries;
But see straight ahead, there glimmers afar,
Through the night watches, a solitary star.

See how it pierces and chases and gloom,
See where the trees are all bursting in bloom,
See where the mist breaks, then lifts, rolls away,
Revealing in glory, a new Easter Day.

Is your name on the Electoral Roll?...

If it is, this will qualify you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to have a say in decisions affecting the church. The 2017 APCM is planned for Low Sunday, 23rd April, and the Electoral Roll must be revised and displayed in church for at least two weeks before that date.

If your name is not at present on the Roll, and you have been regularly attending LSM for six months or more, please complete an application form (available at the back of the church or from me).

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY ENROLLED ... The Electoral Roll must be kept up to date, so if you have changed your name, address, email etc., please let me know, if you have not done so already. The closing date for returning of completed application forms, to me or to the Vicar, is Passion Sunday, 2nd April.

Susan Coote (Electoral Roll Officer) smcoote23@hotmail.com

Summer Festival – Saturday 8th July

Please note the day in your diaries in good time!

Books...we shall have a sale of cheap and cheerful paperback books so please start saving any you may not actually want to keep.

Stalls...we hope to have all our usual favourites but would welcome any suggestions for new ones. If you have any other ideas we'd be thrilled to hear from you.

Please email Christine Tipple cstipple@gmail.com

Whitworth House moves forward

It will be recalled that a new team of trustees took over the charity in March last year. After a year of activity, the new form of the Friends of Whitworth House is taking shape. The Charity Commission has already approved a widening of the scope of the charity proposed by the trustees, and this remains to be ratified by the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6 April. The effect of the change will be to make more explicit the role of the charity in helping all homeless and vulnerable women in Cambridge, whilst retaining the close links with Whitworth House. The change has the support of the Whitworth family. A change of name to “The Whitworth Trust” will also reflect this wider role. This wider focus is being shown in some of our current activities. We have developed a small programme of grants to provide temporary accommodation for homeless women whom the regular agencies are unable to help while a more permanent solution is found for their problems. Provision of such grants is an area that we are taking steps to expand. We are also exploring other ways of giving help to homeless women.

The support that the charity offers to Whitworth House in particular continues. The Friends paid for residents to go out for a Christmas meal together, at which they all received a Christmas parcel of goodies including a store voucher. The WiFi facility for which the Friends paid is much used and appreciated. Our fund-raising initiatives are also ongoing, and the end of January saw a very successful Burns Night ceilidh at St Giles’ Church. Led by the University Ceilidh Band, this was both profitable and very enjoyable — so much so that we are planning to repeat it next year. There is to be a piano recital by David Earl in Pembroke College at 7:30pm on Saturday 29 April 2017. Tim Wheatley as Treasurer continues to be delighted at the flow of donations he receives, even though there has been no specific appeal. It is clear that there is a deep concern to help homeless women in Cambridge.

The Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6 April will be held at St Luke’s Church on Victoria Road at 5pm. The speaker will be Lord Best, a respected expert in the field of Social Housing. Details of all our activities can be found on our website at www.friendsofwhitworthhouse.org

The Annual General Meeting will also be seeing a change of officers. When Sarah Martin and her colleagues took over in March 2016 it was with the express intention of serving for one year while the charity was re-established. A fresh new team of officers will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting, consisting of Ruth Jackson as Chair, Jon Sanders as Secretary and Helena Phillips-Robins as Treasurer.

The old guard, many of whom have been around since the House was established 20 or so years ago, are delighted to hand over to this new generation. A booklet describing the development of Whitworth House has been updated, and is available on request.

Ruth Jackson & Tim Wheatley

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2018

Fr Robert writes:

Going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land is one of those things that I believe every Christian who can afford it should do. We will be having a parish pilgrimage there from 11th to 18th April 2018.



Our pilgrimage will include visits to Mount Tabor (the site of the Transfiguration), Nazareth (the town associated with the beginning of the gospel message) and Cana (the site of Jesus' first sign and where we will have the opportunity to renew marriage vows). Along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee we will go to sites associated with the call of the first disciples, the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount and the excavations of the ancient fishing village of Capernaum, not to mention the home town of Mary Magdalene. There will be a visit to the banks of the River Jordan to the site close to where Jesus was baptized by John and where we will be able to renew our own baptismal vows. We will travel through the hills of the Judaeian wilderness into Bethlehem to see the Shepherds' Fields and the Church of the Nativity. We then continue to Jerusalem and join St George's Anglican Cathedral for Sunday Mass. We will drive down into the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth's surface, and visit Qumran (the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered) before heading into Jerusalem. In Jerusalem we will drive up to the summit of the Mount of Olives with a breathtaking view of the Old City and its beautiful medieval walls and then retrace Jesus' Palm Sunday journey reaching the Garden of Gethsemane and the profoundly moving Church of the Agony. We will see sites associated with the Last Supper, St Peter's betrayal of Jesus and the Day of Pentecost. There will be a chance to see the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, and maybe even the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque. After this we will start the traditional Way of the Cross, culminating in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the place of our Lord's death and resurrection. It will be an amazing and faith-transforming week together.

The cost is £1,865 and this includes absolutely everything – flights, accommodation, transport, full board, all visits, entry fees, etc. Come!

Helen Keller School - Embrace the Middle East: Stamp Update

Julia Norman and Bill de Quick write:

Once again Bill and I would like to say a big THANK YOU for your recent contributions of used stamps in support of the work of the Helen Keller School near Jerusalem. Donations last year exceeded all expectations: we sent 15,500 stamps to Embrace the Middle East, as compared with 4,400 stamps in 2015. Our total now stands at 52,000 stamps since the collection began seven years ago - thanks entirely to the generosity of LSM, to family, friends and colleagues.

And the good news continues. After years of prayer, discussion and preparations, plans to transfer the Helen Keller School to local Palestinian Christian ownership were realised on 1 September 2016 when the school passed into the care of the Franciscans (Order of Friars Minor), who have had a presence in the Holy Land since the 13th century. The Franciscans operate nine outstanding schools across Israel and Palestine and have an excellent reputation for providing quality services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. They have committed to continue the unique mission of the HKS, which currently supports 65 primary-age children with varying degrees of visual impairment and additional physical and learning disabilities. Embrace is celebrating this positive development:

“Embrace’s relationship with the HKS will continue on what we believe is a much improved and more sustainable basis. We remain totally committed to the school.”

Funds raised from the donation of stamps will be as welcome as ever. All contributions of overseas and UK stamps, however small, are very much appreciated.



St Cyprian's, Sharpeville

St Cyprian's Anglican Church in Sharpeville is one of our overseas Christian links. We were introduced to the church in 2006 when the Rector, Fr David Dinkebogile, was on sabbatical in Cambridge, and he told us about his parish, and his own life and background. We sent money to pay for a building to house the Sunday school and Parish Centre.

St Cyprian's is an entirely African church in what used to be a township near Vereeniging, south of Johannesburg. It is in the Diocese of Christ the King, which was created to meet the needs of the vast number of people, many of them immigrants from Zimbabwe and Mozambique, who settled in the area which lies from the southern edge of Johannesburg down to the Vaal River.

Fr David was moved to another parish in 2015, and his successor is Canon David Mahlonoko who was instituted on the 1st May 2016. He has been very good about keeping in touch and sending news from the parish. He paints a picture of a growing and living church, and writes particularly of a strong youth ministry, with a thriving Sunday school for children, and young people meeting regularly for worship and Bible study. There are five women's and two men's guilds, which are enthusiastically supported. There is a strong emphasis on evangelism, and 36 people were confirmed in November. Baptism classes are being held throughout Lent. There is clearly also a strong social side, and Fr David sent pictures of a well-attended parish picnic last November. It is clear that they value the link with Little St Mary's and regularly support us in prayer.

The new Bishop of Christ the King is the Right Reverend William Mostert who was enthroned on the 25th February. The Diocesan website can be found at www.christthekingdiocese-anglican.org

Finally, 21st March is Human Rights Day in South Africa. It is the anniversary of the massacre in 1960 when police in Sharpeville fired on an unarmed crowd of demonstrators and killed 69 people. It is now kept as a day of remembrance and St Cyprian's will be at the centre of that.

Clive Brown