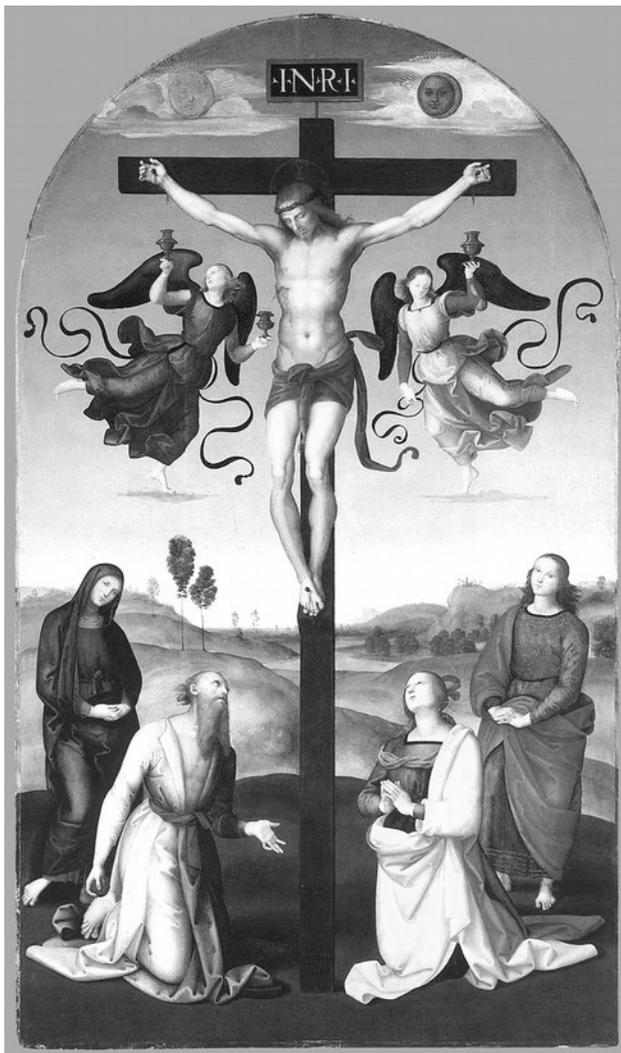


NEWSLETTER



This newsletter contains details of the upcoming events of the month, including Holy Week and Easter, and developments in our building, details of our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and of course the usual Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.

Highlights of April

Saturday 1st April

Cleaning Party & Passiontide Veiling 10:30am – 6pm

Tuesday 4th April

Lent Group V – 7:30pm *in the Parish Centre*

Saturday 8th April

Palm Sunday preparation and cleaning in Church 10:30am – 6pm

Sunday 9th April

Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins.

Please note the slightly earlier start: 10:15am opposite the Mill Pub.

Please see the separate page for details of Holy Week and Easter.

Wednesday 19th April

10am **Monthly Healing Mass with laying-on of hands and anointing** *(date transferred from Holy Week)*

Sunday 23rd April

Annual Parochial Church Meeting *(after the 10:30 High Mass)*

Monday 24th April

Feast of S. George, Martyr & Patron of England

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

Tuesday 25th April

Feast S. Mark, Evangelist

Low Mass – 7:45am; Sung Mass – 7pm, followed by refreshments

Thursday 27th April

Mothers' Union Prayers & Coffee Morning

Prayers in the Lady Chapel – 10:30am

Coffee in the Parish Centre – 11am

Sunday 30th April

Third Sunday of Easter

Fr Max's last Sunday at LSM, followed by cake and drinks in his honour!

From the Vicar

Eve of Passion Sunday, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the best things to be broadcast on TV in terms of sharing the Gospel in recent times has been *Mary Berry's Easter!* Daft as it may sound, not only did she speak of her own faith but through the various national Easter dishes and customs – a Polish cake here, an Orthodox dish there – we learned a lot about the spiritual meaning of the season. The low point, unfortunately, came when she interviewed the Archbishop of Canterbury and asked him about his favourite part of Easter. He answered that it was on the Sunday afternoon when church was done and he could sit down with his family and have something to eat and drink. While there is no denying the sense of relief the clergy feel when Holy Week is over – and we must make allowances that ++Justin may have been tailoring his answer to a famous cook – I confess to have been slightly disappointed that nothing about the Feast of Easter or the keeping of the week leading up to it immediately sprang into his mind.

Do you have a favourite part of Holy Week? I love the whole of Holy Week and, busy though it is, find it to be a faith-strengthening and joy-inducing seven days. If I had to name a favourite service it would be the Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter on Saturday night; if pressed to be even more specific I'd find it impossible to choose between the proclamation 'Christ our light' amid the pitch-black church at the beginning, as we pour in and light our candles, and the restoration of the Blessed Sacrament to the Aumbry after Communion when all seems right with the world again. Many of you will have if not favourite moments then a particular service that speaks to you.

This newsletter comes out on Passion Sunday and carries us through Palm, Easter, Second and Third Sundays of Easter. It's impossible in one newsletter to encapsulate all the emotions and truths and powerful experiences that the church lives and shares over this month. The best way is to be part of it. I cannot emphasize enough how Holy Week has the power to speak to us and transform us if we simply show up and take part. I want to note in advance, of course, my gratitude to clergy, servers, choir, sidespeople and volunteers who make this amazing week possible. Thank you.

I want to use the remainder of this Vicar's letter, however, to say farewell to Fr Max who has been appointed Precentor and Minor Canon of Canterbury. 30th April will be Fr Max's last Sunday with us, which will give him about a month to

move house and get himself ready to be installed at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 10th June. All Cathedrals are run by the Dean and Canons, together called the Chapter, and they usually appoint one or two Minor Canons (more junior clergy) to assist with particular tasks. A Precentor is a priest in a cathedral whose primary focus is the cathedral's worship. Fr Max's ministry, therefore, will centre on the daily round of Morning Prayer, Mass and Evensong together with special services throughout the year – not only officiating at these but making sure they happen, are well-organised and well-presented. Musicality, liturgical sense and administrative skills will be needed. Happily, they could not have found a better candidate than the one they have appointed!

Fr Max has been with us for three and a half years, and we have benefited enormously from his ministry with us. He is, as you know, a gifted teacher, preacher, liturgist and pastor who has strengthened our life together and managed to do all this while working full-time as an Administrator in the University of Cambridge Classics Faculty. Personally I have delighted in having a wise and congenial colleague who is able to share the daily offices and to whom I can talk about parish life. We will all miss him hugely. Our missing him will be tempered, however, by knowing that he is going on to such a suitable and rewarding role where he takes up a full-time post and will be of such benefit to the church.

We will say a big farewell to Max on his last Sunday and I hope to be able to present him with a gift as a token of our appreciation and to help with the task ahead in Canterbury. The Churchwardens or Treasurer will happily receive any donation you'd like to make towards this and we will present it to him on Sunday 30th. Do keep him in your prayers as he prepares to move house and job and into full-time ministry.

With my prayers for a holy Passiontide and joyful Easter, I am,
yours ever in the Lord,

Fr Robert.

PS. If you'd be interested in coming to Canterbury on 10th June then let the Churchwardens know and we'll see if we can organise a coach!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT LITTLE ST MARY'S

Palm Sunday (9th April)

10:15am Meet at Laundress Green (opposite Mill Pub)
6pm Evensong & Benediction

Monday – Wednesday (10th – 12th)

Low Mass & Address 7pm.

Holy Tuesday (11th)

8pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday (13th)

7pm High Mass of the Lord's Supper
with washing of feet, procession to the Altar of Repose,
stripping of the altar & Watch of the Passion.

Preacher: The Rev'd Marcus Walker,
Associate Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Good Friday (14th)

12 noon Preaching of the Passion

1:30pm Liturgy of the Passion

Preacher: The Rev'd Marcus Walker.

5pm Children's Way of the Cross

9pm Tenebrae

Easter (16th)

9pm **Saturday** Great Paschal Vigil & First Mass of Easter
8am **Sunday** Low Mass of Easter Day

10:30am High Mass of Easter Day

Preacher: The Rev'd Marcus Walker.

6pm Evensong & Benediction

Consummatum Est

An Easter poem by Daphne Foreman

The calm of the night has fallen
And the crowds have straggled away.
Close by the white-hewn sepulchre
The faithful women stay.
The torn and broken body
Lies in its place of rest;
Weep not, O weary watchers,
Consummatum Est!

Comes soft, the golden dawning
And purity of the light:
Over the empty sepulchre
Rolls like the stone, the night:
Blindly before Him, Mary
Pours out her one request:
O weep no longer, Mary,
Consummatum Est!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 23rd April 2017 after the 10:30am High Mass

Fr Robert writes:

The APCM is our annual chance to hear about and review the life of our parish – all that we've done over the past year, our overseas and social justice work, our plans for the building and for mission over the coming year, our parish finances; and I offer some of my reflections on our life together.

We also need to elect our Churchwardens and new representatives to our Church Council (the PCC) and to the Deanery Synod (the meeting place for the various Church of England parishes in south central Cambridge). Any member of the church's electoral roll can stand and I hope if you have not before you will think seriously about this means of assisting in the running of our church and working together for God's glory. See me for more information.

Calendar for April

Sat 1st

SUN 2nd FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (*Passiontide begins*)

Mon 3rd

Tue 4th

Wed 5th

Thu 6th

Fri 7th

Sat 8th

SUN 9th PALM SUNDAY

Mon 10th in Holy Week

Tue 11th in Holy Week

Wed 12th in Holy Week

Thu 13th MAUNDY THURSDAY

Fri 14th GOOD FRIDAY

Sat 15th HOLY SATURDAY

SUN 16th EASTER DAY

Mon 17th in Easter Week

Tue 18th in Easter Week

Wed 19th in Easter Week

Thu 20th in Easter Week

Fri 21st in Easter Week

Sat 22nd in Easter Week

SUN 23rd SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (*End of Easter Octave*)

Mon 24th S. George, Martyr & Patron of England

Tue 25th S. Mark, Evangelist

Wed 26th

Thu 27th

Fri 28th S. Peter Chanel, Missionary & Martyr

Sat 29th S. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church

SUN 30th THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death for April*

Christian Poets *Arthur Murrell, Michael Farmer* 1st

Our Parish & People 2nd
The victims of the London terror attack 3rd
The Lent Group *Ruth Daniel, Owen Balls* 4th
The future of the CCHP 5th
The people of Yemen *David Hand, Bp.* 6th
The LSM choir *Elise Jones* 7th
Thanksgiving for the gift of Lent 8th

Our Parish & People 9th
Greater humility *Eva Camps* 10th
Greater charity *Mary Linsey* 11th
Greater faith 12th
Those betrayed and the repentance of betrayers 13th
Thanksgiving for God's unending mercy *Patricia Morris* 14th
Our Lord's promise of eternal life 15th

Our Parish & People *Sidney Cade, pr.* 16th
The gift of joy *Iris Bushell* 17th
The gift of friendship *Lucy Barlow-Poole, Edna Shipp* 18th
The gift of love 19th
The gift of hope *Philip Pare, pr., Trevor Huddleston, bp., Lydia Siddall* 20th
The gift of peace *Angel Waddington, Elizabeth Bagley* 21st
The gift of the Sabbath 22nd

Our Parish & People *Michael Ramsey, bp., Charles Roper* 23rd
The Church in England *Ruth Mott* 24th
Thanksgiving for the Gospels 25th
Our priests 26th
Mothers' Union *Patrick Morris* 27th
Missionaries *Richard Lore* 28th
Christianity in Europe 29th

Our Parish & People *Frederick Thorling* 30th

Resurrection of Our Lord

*Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of Thy Son
hast overcome the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in Him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to Thee in Jesus Christ,
may reign with Him in glory;
to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. Amen.*

In the New Testament all four Gospels conclude with an extended narrative of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, and His resurrection. In each Gospel these five events in the life of Jesus are treated with more intense detail than any other portion of that Gospel's narrative. The reader receives an almost hour-by-hour account of what is happening. The death and resurrection of Jesus are treated as the climax of the story, the point to which everything else has been moving all the while.

After his death by crucifixion, Jesus was placed in a new tomb which was discovered early on Sunday morning to be empty. The New Testament does not include an account of the "moment of resurrection". The major resurrection appearances of Jesus in the canonical Gospels (and to a lesser extent other books of the New Testament) are reported to have occurred after His death, burial and resurrection, but prior to His ascension.

After they found the empty tomb, the Gospels indicate that Jesus made a series of appearances to the disciples. He was not immediately recognizable, according to Luke. E.P. Sanders concluded that although Jesus could appear and disappear, He was not a ghost. Writing that Luke was very insistent about that, Sanders pointed out that "The risen Lord could be touched, and He could eat". [Lk. 24:39–43] He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, but she did not recognise Him at first. The first two disciples to whom He appeared walked and talked with Him for quite a while without knowing who He was (the road to Emmaus appearance). [Lk. 24:13–32] He was made known "in the breaking of the bread". [Lk. 24:35] When He first appeared to the disciples in the upper room, Thomas was not present and wouldn't believe until a later appearance where he was invited to put his finger

into the holes in Jesus' hands and side. [Jn. 20:24–29] Beside the Sea of Galilee Jesus encouraged Peter to serve His followers [Jn. 21:1–23] His final appearance is reported as being forty days after the resurrection when He was “carried up” into heaven where He sits on the right hand of God. [Mark 16:19]

At a later time, on the road to Damascus, Saul of Tarsus, then the arch-persecutor of the early disciples, was converted to Christ following an extraordinary vision and discourse with Jesus which left him blind for three days. [Acts 9:1–20] (Saul later became known as Paul the Apostle.) [Acts 13:6] He became one of Christianity's foremost missionaries and theologians . [1 Cor. 15:6]

In Christian theology, the resurrection of Jesus is a foundation of the Christian faith. Christians, through faith in the working of God, are spiritually resurrected with Jesus, and are redeemed so that they may walk in a new way of life. As Paul the Apostle stated: “If Christ was not raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your trust in God is useless”. [1 Cor 15:14]

Paul wrote that: “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile”. [1 Cor 15:13–14, 17] Many scholars have contended that in discussion on the resurrection, the apostle Paul refers to a rabbinic-style transmission of an early authoritative tradition that he received and has passed on to the church at Corinth. For this and other reasons, it is widely believed that this creed is of pre-Pauline origin. Geza Vermes writes that the creed is “a tradition Paul has inherited from his seniors in the faith concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus”. The creed's ultimate origins are within the Jerusalem apostolic community having been formalised and passed on within a few years of the resurrection. Paul Barnett writes that this credal formula, and others, were variants of the “one basic early tradition that Paul ‘received’ in Damascus from Ananias in about 34 [AD]” after his conversion.

Hopefully this provides you with a little more background information on the New Testament's understanding of our Lord's Resurrection.

Alleluia!

Building for Mission

Fr Robert writes:

At the moment we have several building projects under way. All of these are not just about upkeep but about making our church fit for mission – which is to say making LSM a beacon that will transform visitors into pilgrims and aid regular congregants in our journey to the Lord.

Lady Chapel

From the beginning of May the Lady Chapel will be sealed off for repair and redecoration. The roof and external walls will be repaired and repointed, the internal walls will be repaired, replastered and painted, the floor cleaned and sealed, the reredos and statue of Our Lady touched up, the fitted oatmeal carpet removed and replaced with a Turkish rug, the strip lights replaced with pendant lights and the ceiling painted blue with gold stars. This is the place where visitors light candles and where the daily offices are prayed and Mass is celebrated on a majority of days – that it is a place of prayerful beauty is vital and the PCC's hope is that these works will achieve that.

Stations of the Cross

We now have the Diocesan Advisory Committee's approval for our improvement to our Stations of the Cross. The present tiles, while beautiful, are too small for practical use (as witnessed by the present framed prints hanging in front of them). The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop have produced a beautiful, hand-carved design and we have one sample Station for exhibit, which will be available for viewing throughout April. We will hold a launch event during Eastertide and hope that people will want to donate towards a project that will be of practical use in church, will be a major piece of public sacred art and will be a fitting permanent physical memorial to Fr John Hughes (former Pastoral Assistant and Honorary Associate Priest who was killed in a car accident in June 2014).

Crypt & general works

The crypt is an intimate and prayerful space where the early Masses on Tuesday and Thursday are celebrated. We are working with the conservator Matthew Beesley (who will be painting the Lady Chapel ceiling) to monitor a damp problem there and, once we have discerned its extent and cause, we will be able to treat and repair the various affected parts of the Crypt.

Summer Festival Saturday 8th AND Sunday 9th July

This year the Festival excitements will continue for two days! On Sunday 9th July at 2:30pm there will be a concert in church given by the St Neots Concert Band. This will be followed by afternoon tea in the Parish Centre.

A concert band comprises the same forces as a military band, i.e. woodwind, brass and percussion, and the repertoire covers a wide range of styles. A programme typically includes original compositions for concert band (e.g. by Holst, Vaughan Williams and contemporary composers such as Philip Sparke), arrangements of classical repertoire and arrangements of lighter music such as music from the shows. The St Neots Concert Band was founded in 2005 by the musical director Anne Templer and her deputy Claire Rawson. The band consists of about 25 members (including a member of our congregation) who meet weekly to rehearse and perform three or four concerts per year. This will be an exciting and enjoyable concert, perfect for a summer's afternoon. Tickets and more information will be available in June.

Cambridge Churches Homeless Project: thank you!

31st March brought the last night of the CCHP's winter season 2016-17, with a total of 1,709 bed spaces provided by 400 volunteers (40 from LSM) to 56 guests over four months. Each of these figures is a new record!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the work of caring for our guests, by cooking, hosting, staying the night, laundering, driving, adding extra change to the coffee donations on Sundays, and most importantly, by your prayers. Our guests have once again been hugely appreciative not only of the food and safe shelter but also of the interest and concern for their well-being they've found among us, and for the sense of a "family" the project has given them. We hope they know how much they have given us, too!

In many ways the end of the winter season is only the beginning of another work: helping guests find accommodation, assisting with furnishing and equipping it (thank you to everyone who has given to this!) and helping them find the support they need to stay there. It is an unsettled and anxious time, enormously encouraging for people moving into a real home for the first time in months, and as enormously distressing to those who feel that once again they have "failed". Please do continue to pray for our guests this Easter, and for the work of the project in supporting them: and watch this space for more opportunities to be involved in this vital work in 2017-18.