

# NEWSLETTER



*This newsletter contains details of the upcoming events of the month, including the Summer Fête, the monthly forum lunch & monthly healing mass, and our day pilgrimage to Walsingham, together with news of our building works and of course the usual Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.*

## Highlights of July

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July

**S. Neots Concert Band** *at 2pm*

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July

**Monthly Forum Lunch**

*12 noon lunch for sufferers from dementia and their carers.*

*See Tim Wheatley for more information.*

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

**Monthly Healing Mass & PCC**

*10am Eucharist with laying-on of hands and anointing,*

*7pm Low Mass, 7.30pm PCC.*

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

**2.30pm Installation of the Rev'd Dr John Bradbury at Emmanuel URC**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

**S. Mary Magdalene**

*10am Sung Mass*

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

**S. James, Apostle**

*7.45am Low Mass; 7pm Sung Mass*

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July

**Mothers' Union Meeting** *at 10.30am & Coffee at 11am.*

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July

**DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM**

*See Fr Robert, Fr Gregory, or Yaro for more details. Sign-up sheet at the back of Church.*

We're delighted to welcome Fr Gregory Lipovsky as our new Assistant Curate. He was licensed and welcomed to the Diocese at Ely Cathedral on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July and we welcomed him to the parish on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Gregory is looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know our parish and people. Do keep him in your prayers.

# From the Vicar

S. Thomas, Apostle, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

‘What new things are you doing in your parish?’ The enquiry, coming in a questionnaire I received from some national church institution the other week, set me thinking. ‘Well, we’re receiving a Stipendiary Assistant Curate, we’re redecorating the Lady Chapel, we’re fund-raising to produce some amazing Stations of the Cross’ I immediately thought. Quite a few new things. Given the source of the questionnaire, however, I suspect the enquiry was more about how are we getting more people to come to church, the present, anxious, singular obsession of the dear old Church of England.

It’s a fair question, of course, but it raises two points for me. The first is that in this present age of anxiety, terrorism, division and uncertainty, we severely underestimate the achievement that is simply carrying on. ‘KBO, Keep Bugging On’, Churchill used to say to his aides and colleagues during times of depression or trial. To put it more theologically, the great virtue of our age may well be Faithfulness. The New Testament is full of warnings of getting distracted and turned away from the narrow road; Our Lord in His Parable of the Sower notes those whose faith is choked by the cares and concerns of this life, and S. Paul, Peter and James in their letters warn against being distracted by senseless controversies.

Part of the business of faithfulness in this age of massive distraction is the business of rhythm and pattern in our lives – getting into good habits. More particularly we get into habits of doing things and only secondarily worry about how we feel. ‘How intense is my belief in God today?’ Who knows, but come to church. ‘I’m not sure if I believe at the moment.’ Never mind, come to church. We worry too much about our spiritual bowel movements and our feelings and don’t take the long view. The life of Faith is like a marriage – it has its ups and downs, passions and prosaicisms but we bear with it because of our first love and the promises we have made, knowing that this week’s feelings are not the last word. Further, our body must teach our soul. The flesh, said the Church Father Tertullian, is the hinge of salvation: in other words our kneelings and standings, crossings and genuflections, in fact our physical getting out of bed and driving to church, help to form our minds and hearts and – when we’re feeling out of spiritual sorts – are our acts of faith and commitment, even if we’re not sure what we think.

All of which is an encouragement to you to keep with your patterns of devotion and rules of life and, if you don't have those, to encourage you to establish them. Don't forget we have a simple daily prayer card and produce a weekly sheet to go with it for you to have a discipline of prayer and bible reading at home or on the train or at work. Just ask me or Yaroslav if you can't find those sheets at the back of church.

I said that question raises two points for me. The second is about the cult of novelty these days. The Dean of St Edmundsbury, preaching for our May Devotion to Our Lady, observed that these days we are often being invited to 're-imagine' things. Yet, she argued, we do not need to 're-imagine' the church or faith or priesthood or whatever else we're presently being encouraged to do. We need simply to *imagine* these things. The Gospel is for ever fresh and has unfathomable depths. The belief that in order to be Christians today we need to take everything we've ever believed and practised and throw it up in the air as we operate in a state of perpetual revolution is not at all conducive to faithfulness and implies that the inheritance we have is shallow, uninspiring and has little to say to our lives today.

Tradition, in which a parish like LSM is steeped, is not a dry collection of rules and regulations, increasingly worn out hand-me-downs or like Prince Albert's bedroom, left untouched by Queen Victoria from the moment he died. Rather, tradition is the life of the Holy Spirit in the church, a large, a gracious room and landscape in which to dwell and a well from whose depths we are continuously refreshed and the bottom of which we will never plumb. Most especially to the point, it is only by dwelling profoundly in the tradition of the church that we can find the energy and inspiration to do the truly new things – once I understand the Faith deeply, then I can see how we might present it afresh to a new generation. Otherwise I am – at best – just reinventing the wheel.

Praying that the Lord would lead you to new things through dwelling deeply in His ancient paths, I am,

ever yours in Christ,

Fr Robert.

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# Calendar for July

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> *Henry, John, & Henry Venn, priests*

**SUN 2<sup>nd</sup> THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> S. Thomas, Apostle**

Tue 4<sup>th</sup>

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>

Thu 6<sup>th</sup> *S. Thomas More & S. Bishop Fisher, Bishop, Martyrs*

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> of the Sacred Heart

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**SUN 9<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 10<sup>th</sup>

Tue 11<sup>th</sup> S. Benedict, Abbot

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>

Thu 13<sup>th</sup>

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> John Keble, Priest

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> S. Swithun, Bishop

**SUN 16<sup>th</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 17<sup>th</sup>

Tue 18<sup>th</sup> *Elizabeth Ferard, Religious & Deaconess*

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> S. Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop, & S. Macrina, Religious,

Doctors

Thu 20<sup>th</sup> *S. Margaret of Antioch, Martyr*

Fri 21<sup>st</sup>

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> S. Mary Magdalene**

**SUN 23<sup>rd</sup> SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 24<sup>th</sup>

**Tue 25<sup>th</sup> S. James, Apostle**

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thu 27<sup>th</sup> *Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop & Doctor*

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> of Requiem

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus

**SUN 30<sup>th</sup> SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> *S. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest*

# Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death for July*

The work of the Church Missionary Society

*James Dyson*

## **Our Parish & People**

*Daniel Golding, Eunice Francis 2*

The Church in India

*Tom Forte*

Those suffering with mental illness

*Jack Hunter, Alfred Francis, Sally Head*

A deepening of our prayer life

*James Owen, pr.*

Ecumenism among the English Churches

Students leaving Cambridge

*Dorothy Oakley*

The LSM Summer Fête

## **Our Parish & People**

*Matthew Richards, Peter Waring*

New Assistant Curates in the Church of England

*Eileen Thorpe 10*

Those living under Rule of S. Benedict

*Robert Runcie, bp., Sally Theobald 11*

Dementia sufferers and their carers

*John Rose 12*

Westcott House, Cambridge

*Audrey Styler, Laurence Fletcher 13*

Greater appreciation of the Oxford Movement

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Winchester Cathedral, its Dean & Chapter

*Joyce Fletcher, Miranda Long 15*

## **Our Parish & People**

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The homeless of Cambridge

*Jim Campbell, Elizabeth Barnes 17*

Deaconesses of the Church of England

*Winifred Eakhurst 18*

Greater study of the Cappadocian Theologians

*John Gibson, Gordon Roe, Bp.*

19<sup>th</sup>

Pregnant women

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Her Majesty the Queen

*Marguerite South, Simon Hallam 21*

Greater appreciation of penitence

*John Butterfield 22*

## **Our Parish & People**

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Ridley Hall, Cambridge

*Amanda Copley 24*

The Church in Spain

*Pat Morgan 25*

Parents and the wellbeing of their children

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The Mothers' Union

*Kathleen Waring, Savitiri Perera 27*

The Faithful Departed

*Phyllis Price, Neville Woods 28*

The love of siblings for one another

*Diana Goodhart 29*

## **Our Parish & People**

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The Society of Jesus

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## S. Mary Magdalene

*Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to His resurrection: forgive us our sins, we beseech Thee, and heal us by Thy grace, that we may serve Thee in the power of His risen life; who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Mary Magdalene was a Jewish woman who, according to texts included in the New Testament, travelled with Jesus as one of His followers. She is said to have witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Within the four Gospels she is named at least 12 times, more than most of the apostles.

The Gospel of Luke says that seven demons had gone out of her, [Lk. 8:2] and the longer ending of Mark says that Jesus had cast seven demons out of her. [Mk. 16:9] She is most prominent in the narrative of the crucifixion of Jesus, at which she was present, and the witness in all four Gospels of the empty tomb, the central fact of Jesus' resurrection. She was also present two days later, immediately following the Sabbath, when, according to all four canonical Gospels she was the first to testify to the resurrection of Jesus. John 20 and Mark 16:9 specifically name her as the first person to see Jesus after His resurrection.

Mary Magdalene has the reputation in Western Christianity of being a repentant prostitute or loose woman; however, these claims are not supported by the canonical Gospels. The identity of Mary Magdalene is believed to have been merged with the identity of the unnamed sinner who anoints Jesus' feet in Luke 7:36–50. Mary Magdalene, the anointing sinner of Luke, and Mary of Bethany, who in John 11:1–2 also anoints Jesus' feet, were long regarded as the same person. Though Mary Magdalene is named in each of the four Gospels in the New Testament, none of the clear references to her indicates that she was a prostitute or notable for a sinful way of life, nor do they link her with Mary of Bethany.

# People for our prayers

*Fr Robert writes:*

You may have heard of the death of the Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell. Bishop Geoffrey was a very good friend to Little S. Mary's over many decades. Worshipping here first while an undergraduate at Corpus Christi in the 1960s (he had been deeply inspired by the then-vicar Fr Edward Maycock) he returned to LSM many times over the succeeding years to preach and to deliver two Michael Ramsey lectures, the more recent one only two years ago. When I was appointed as Vicar in 2012 Bishop Geoffrey wrote to me with a lovely letter which I still treasure speaking of how significant LSM was to so many clergy and what he had learned while worshipping here, and assuring me of his prayers.



Bishop Geoffrey was a great church historian and an acknowledged specialist on the Anglican tradition and especially the Oxford Movement, his book about which (*The Vision Glorious*) remains the standard introduction to the subject. With two other scholar bishops (Rowan Williams and Kenneth Stevenson) he edited *Love's Redeeming Work*, an anthology of Anglican writing on spirituality and the quest for holiness. It is proving to be one of the great reference works. He was part of a now extinct breed of priest and bishop in that he had never been a parish priest. He was ordained to be Assistant Chaplain at New College, Oxford, and after four years became Chaplain of Keble College, a post he then held for 22 years! He was made Bishop of Basingstoke on that back of that ministry and in 2001 was made Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe where his scholarly enthusiasm for ecumenism and the great churches of East and West could be put to proper use. When he retired in 2013 it meant that the House of Bishops no longer had any bishop who had taught in a university theology faculty, a fact that saddened him and said much about both the priorities of the contemporary Church of England and also the nature of modern academia. In retirement he continued his ministry – giving the 2015 Michael Ramsey Lecture here – but sadly contracted bladder cancer. One of his great devotions and scholarly passions was the Trinitarian nature of God. It was fitting then that he died in the early hours of Trinity Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

# Building works

*Fr Robert writes:*

There is good news and bad news on the construction front! I'm delighted to report that Offord and Camp have completed their work on the Parish Centre. When it was built in 2011 someone drilled a small hole in the guttering by accident and it took until last year for the water that had been dripping into the building to make itself known on the walls and around the window at the apsidal end of the parish centre. It is now repaired and the plaster has almost dried out so we hope to be able to repaint the Parish Centre later in the summer.

Matthew Beesley, the multi-talented painter, restorer and conservator, has installed damp monitoring equipment in the crypt so that we can see from where the water is coming in and what it is doing. He has also designed some wonderful stars for the Lady Chapel ceiling and it presently preparing the warm, yellowy stone colour for the walls.

Reference to the Lady Chapel brings me to the bad news. The Diocesan Chancellor took so long to grant us a Faculty for the works to the Lady Chapel (we submitted an application at the end of February and it was not approved until 5<sup>th</sup> June!) that our builders, Lodge & Sons, not unreasonably felt they needed to take other work. Now we have the Faculty – the Church of England is exempt from secular planning processes and has its own specialist legislation, called the Faculty system – the builders hope to be able to begin their work in October. We cross our fingers that it will all be done for Christmas... In the meantime, we will return to using the Lady Chapel from mid-July. My continued thanks to those who donated towards the work – it will happen, I promise!

Finally, I can report that we have already raised over £15,000 for the Stations of the Cross in memory of Fr John Hughes and that is before the formal launch of our appeal on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you to those who have already donated and don't forget that if you donate £5,000 (or £4,000 with Gift Aid) you can dedicate an individual Station and have your dedication inscribed on the reverse and set in the walls of the church for ever. This is a very special thing to be able to offer. Do speak to me if you'd like more information.