

Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge

August 2017: No. 505

NEWSLETTER



This newsletter contains details of the upcoming events of the month, including the Assumption of Our Lady (our Patronal Festival), a new monthly column by Fr Gregory and news of our overseas mission projects together with the usual Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.

Highlights of August

Sunday 6th August

Transfiguration of the Lord

High Mass 10.30am

Preacher: Fr Gregory Lipovsky, Assistant Curate

No Forum Lunch Club in August

Wednesday 9th August

Monthly Healing Mass

10am *Eucharist with laying-on of hands and anointing, preceded by silent prayer for healing*

Tuesday 15th August

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Low Mass 7.45am

High Mass 7pm

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Simon Jones, Chaplain of Merton, College and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford

Sunday 20th August

Assumptiontide BBQ

At the Vicarage after the 10.30am High Mass

(Tickets £10 available from Vicki Farmer or Christine Tipple)

All profits go to support the church in Papua New Guinea.

Thursday 24th August

Feast of S. Bartholomew, Apostle

7.45am Low Mass

7pm Sung Mass

Saturday 26th August

Marriage of Simone Kotva & Simon Jackson

11am Nuptial Mass

Thursday 31st August

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

From the Vicar

Ss. Anne & Joachim, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let me recount the host of lovely things that July saw in the life of our parish. On Sunday 2nd we welcomed Fr Gregory as our Assistant Curate and he asks me to express his thanks to you all for your kind and generous welcome. It has been very good to have another priest colleague again.

The following weekend, 8th and 9th, was our Parish Festival and Gift Day which proved to be popular and successful. We raised £4,500 for parish funds and had a splendid weekend. The children's concert, the art display and the concert band performance, together with Choral Evensong, glorious refreshments and some marvellous games and stalls were all highlights. I want to note particularly the hard work put in by so many to make it a success – not just financially, but also in terms of our outreach to the public and our enjoyment of each other's company. It couldn't happen without their labours. The Festival is certainly a fund-raiser but it is also an opportunity to deepen our fellowship and open ourselves to passers-by and the people of Cambridge generally. I was delighted to welcome the Mayor, Councillor George Pippas, who happily recalled the hospitality he and the Greek Orthodox community received here when they first arrived in the 1970s. On the Sunday morning, after Mass, we had the formal launch of the appeal for the Stations of the Cross in memory of Fr John Hughes and were honoured to welcome John's parents and to be able to reveal we had raised £20,000 for the Stations already. Please see later in the newsletter for more information on that.

The following Saturday a number of us were present next door at Emmanuel URC for the welcome of their new Minister the Rev'd Dr John Bradbury. There are exciting times ahead for our friends over the road because by 2020 they intend to have merged with S. Columba's URC on Downing Street to form a new United Reformed Church congregation on the S. Columba's site. Pembroke College have bought Emmanuel's site and I gather hope to use it as a college auditorium. Our friendship with Emmanuel will remain undimmed but what it will mean for our practical connections (Palm Sunday, occasional shared coffee after Mass or shared Lent Groups) remains to be seen.

The pattern of weekday Sung Masses across the year, when we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Apostles, and other saints, is one of the joys and highlights of life here. There are two things I want to say about them. First, in July we introduced a Latin setting of the *Missa de Angelis* – the setting we sing at Sung Masses. We've been singing it in English for years and it has never quite worked and so finally we have returned to the original Latin. There is sheet music for every member of the congregation and I hope it proves more singable for all concerned. A happy by-product of this is a greater sense at the Mass of our communion with the wider Western church not only across space but also through history. Secondly, for the last couple of years we have welcomed the Confraternity of S. James to LSM for the Sung Mass on S. James' Day. It is a confraternity of those who have walked the Camino to the Shrine of S. James at Compostela in Spain. Several members of our own congregation have made that pilgrimage and it was a lovely additional dimension to the Mass to be joined by Christians from across Cambridge who had shared in that spiritual journey. One in particular, Petra, produced wonderful Spanish refreshments for us after the service. Thank you to her. I hope this mutual hospitality continues for many years.

I use my Vicar's Letter to note all this as a way of calling us, amid the trials and hysteria of contemporary living, to a spirit of thanksgiving. So much is being done, so much is being contributed in life, that we cannot be downhearted. Yet the pattern of living today is one which seems especially designed to inculcate anxiety and depression. Spending time recalling all that has been done and all the blessings of life is never time wasted therefore – for it can transform our present experience and open our hearts to God's presence in all things. In August we celebrate God's work in the Mother of his Son as he brings her at the end of her Christian pilgrimage to the glory of heaven. The thankfulness of July should spur us towards that goal whose completion in Blessed Mary we celebrate in August: heaven. May Mary's prayers help us to keep our eyes on her Son, whose life is the life of heaven and in whose Body we are journeying home even now.

With the assurance of my prayers too, I am
ever yours in Christ,

Fr Robert.

PS: I delightedly announce a new monthly newsletter column by Fr Gregory!

Building for Mission

Fr Robert writes:

There continues to be both good news and bad news on the construction front! Having thought we had identified and fixed the source of the water getting into the apsidal wall of the Parish Centre, a fresh quantity of heavy rain has revealed that we haven't... The guttering is fixed but fresh damp has now been picked up by Chris Nevitt who is monitoring the wall and so we need to look again. Do keep this project in your prayers.

My thanks to Richard Martin for his labours in sorting out a new boiler for the church. We finally have three quotations and a sizeable contribution from our insurer and look forward to going ahead with this in the early autumn. The radiators were replaced about seven years ago I think and it will be wonderful (in a sense) to complete the work by now replacing the boiler too. It should produce a warmer, cheaper and quieter system. I hope...

Something most of you happily will not have seen is the ongoing problem we have with pigeons at the side of the Sacristy. The Churchwardens are working with Peterhouse and our surveyor to address the problem. Like the damp in the Parish Centre, this was something we thought we had solved but has returned with vengeance!

The Churchwardens are also investigating repairing our sound system. The Loop and the Lectern microphones are both broken and we are looking in to how these might be fixed or if not then replaced entirely. I'm conscious how inconsistent the sound is at Mass on Sundays and hope we might finally be able to sort this out.

Finally, I was able to report at the launch of the Stations of the Cross Appeal on Sunday 9th July that we have already raised over £20,000 for the project. My sincere thanks to all those who have donated. 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. Further, those who donate £1,000 or more will be invited to a private tour of the Kindersley workshop. Do speak to me if you'd like more information.

Calendar for August

Tue 1st S. Peter's Chains

Wed 2nd

Thu 3rd

Fri 4th *S. John Vianney, Curé d'Ars*

Sat 5th S. Oswald, King & Martyr

SUN 6th TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Mon 7th *John Mason Neale, Priest*

Tue 8th S. Dominic, Religious

Wed 9th Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union

Thu 10th S. Laurence, Deacon & Martyr

Fri 11th S. Clare of Assisi, Religious

Sat 12th of Requiem

SUN 13th NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Mon 14th *S. Maximilian Kolbe, Religious & Martyr*

Tue 15th ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Wed 16th

Thu 17th

Fri 18th

Sat 19th

SUN 20th TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Mon 21st *Richard Crashaw, Priest*

Tue 22nd

Wed 23rd

Thu 24th S. Bartholomew, Apostle

Fri 25th

Sat 26th of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SUN 27th ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Mon 28th S. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop & Doctor

Tue 29th Beheading of S. John the Baptist

Wed 30th John Bunyan, Doctor

Thu 31st S. Aidan, Bishop & Missionary

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death for August*

The liberation of those wrongly imprisoned	1 st
For clergy on holiday	<i>Vera Harman</i> 2 nd
The gift of friendship	<i>Roma Gill</i> 3 rd
Priests	4 th
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II	<i>Geoffrey Lampe, pr.</i> 5 th

Our Parish & People	6th
Anglican hymn-writers	<i>Olive Robinson</i> 7 th
The Order of Preachers	8 th
The Mothers' Union	<i>Irene Morris, Michael Cook</i> 9 th
St Laurence's Church	<i>Eric pr, & Mary Hindley, Norman Clift,</i> 10 th
The Order of the Poor Clares	<i>Arthur Dex, pr., Geoffrey Smith</i> 11 th
The Faithful Departed	<i>Peter Chamier, pr.</i> 12 th

Our Parish & People	<i>Gwen Woolfenden</i> 13th
Modern day martyrs	<i>David Paton, Adrian Martinez</i> 14 th
	15 th
The homeless of Cambridge	<i>Ella Cassell</i> 16 th
Those living with mental illness	<i>Richard Wardill, Geoffrey Smart</i> 17 th
Travellers	18 th
Couples getting married	<i>Eric Loinsworth, Blanche Poulter, Maurice Fretten, Edwin Windeatt</i> 19 th

Our Parish & People	20th
Christian Poets	21 st
The LSM Choir	<i>John Robinson</i> 22 nd
Those dealing with bereavement	23 rd
The Church in Armenia	<i>Margaret Hutchinson, Elizabeth Wyngard</i> 24 th
Families	25 th
The Anglican Shrine at Walsingham	26 th

Our Parish & People	<i>Thomas Haynes, Robin Bishop</i> 27th
Greater study of Augustine's works	<i>Sybil Fleet, Patricia Fleet, Ione Spalding</i> 28 th
The repentance of tyrannical rulers	29 th
Spiritual writers	<i>Helen Culverwell, Tom Chalmers, David Hume</i> 30 th
The Holy Island of Lindisfarne	31 st

Pelicans and Blood

Fr Gregory begins his new monthly article:

July, the month consecrated to the Precious Blood of Jesus, has just ended, and it is worth meditating briefly on a curious image very dear to medieval piety: Jesus as Divine Pelican. In Edward Caswall's beautiful translation of St Thomas Aquinas' hymn:

O loving Pelican! O Jesu, Lord!
Unclean I am, but cleanse me in Thy Blood;
Of which a single drop, for sinners spilt,
Is ransom for a world's entire guilt.

Even if the Pelican was an unclean animal in the Old Testament law, excluded from the sacrificial rites of the Temple, and the great theologian Origen considered it being the image of petulant, ill-natured persons (because of its sharp beak), the pelican however became a popular Christian symbol rather soon. Probably it all started with S. Jerome who writes: "The pelican of the wilderness feeds on poisonous animals, such as snakes and crocodiles..." This view of the pelican eating snakes – eternal symbol of the Devil – contributed to its identification with Christ who triumphed over the ancient enemy.

According to the prophets Isaiah (34.10-11) and Zephaniah (2,14), the pelican lives in the wilderness, on the ruins of destroyed cities. Perhaps for this reason, in the Psalms it appears as symbol of languishment: "I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop." (102,6-7) Christian piety soon interpreted it as Christ abandoned even by His disciples during His Passion.

But it was a widespread legend that finally confirmed the pelican as symbol of Christ. In one version of the legend, snakes or the pelicans themselves would could kill their young and then bring them back to life with their blood. In the more widespread version, pelicans were so devoted to caring for their young that, if there was no food, they would peck at their own breast and feed their blood to their children.

A 12th-century English illuminated manuscript resumes one of the versions of the antique legend in these words: "On the third day, however, the mother-bird, with a blow to her flank, opens up her side and lies on her young and lets her blood pour over the bodies of the dead, and so raises them from the dead. In a mystic sense,

the pelican signifies Christ. The pelican lives in solitude, as Christ alone condescended to be born of a virgin without intercourse with a man. It is solitary, because it is free from sin, as also is the life of Christ. It weeps ceaselessly for its young, as Christ wept with pity when He raised Lazarus. Thus after three days, it revives its young with its blood, as Christ saves us, whom He has redeemed with His own blood.” (The Aberdeen Bestiary)

Of course, today we know that pelicans do not offer their blood to their young. Nonetheless, the pelican has remained a beautiful symbol of the loving sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And finally a little fact: since the image of pelicans became linked to the feast of Corpus Christi, both Corpus Christi Colleges (in Cambridge and in Oxford) have the pelican in their coat of arms!

People for our prayers

Fr Robert writes:

Joanna Sanders collapsed from exhaustion a week or so ago and was admitted to Addenbrooke's. After an initial decline Joanna has been making steady progress and looks set to be moved out of intensive care soon. We keep her in our prayers and pray too for William (her husband) and James (her son). **Mandy Ray** had been making excellent progress in recent months but unfortunately her brain tumour appears to have returned and she is exploring what treatment is suitable. We pray for Mandy as she discerns this and for successful medical care.



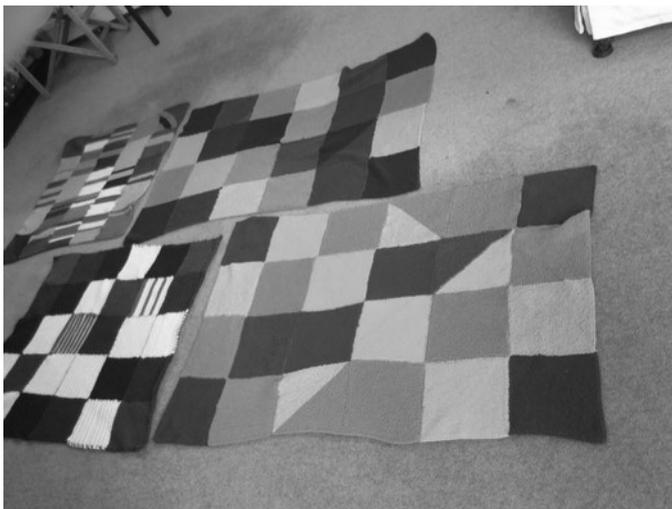
Don't forget that at 10am on the second Wednesday of every month there is a Mass for Healing (including the laying-on of hands and anointing with oil) which is preceded by fifteen minutes of silent prayer for the sick at 9.45am. Please come if you can and if you have a name for prayer please email Patricia Davies - trishviola@icloud.com

Knitting Blankets for the Addis Ababa Hospital

Drs Reginald and Catherine Hamlin came to Ethiopia to work in 1959. They were pioneers in performing surgery for women suffering from obstetric fistula. Once they began this work, the need became so great that in 1974 they established the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital specifically for women with childbirth injuries. Dr Reg. Hamlin died in 1993 but Dr Catherine Hamlin never doubted that the work had to continue. The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital is an organisation that cares for women with childbirth and related injuries. These women come destitute, in nothing but their urine-soaked clothes, and more often than not, barefoot. Distanced by their relatives we are their only hope; therefore all care, treatment and surgery is completely free of charge.

The Hamlins first came to Birmingham in 1967 on a fund-raising tour. Dr Reginald Hamlin lectured at the University of Birmingham, which has a Medical School with an outstanding record as a teaching hospital. The Charity was formed immediately after this visit to support them in their wonderful healing work.

As a Church, Little S. Mary's has also been hard at work in support of this worthy cause – knitting squares for blankets that are so necessary to keep the women treated warm and healthy. If you'd like to help out please contact Christine Tipple (cstipple@gmail.com). Here are some examples of the great work parishioners have done:



News from Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (CRS)

Masha Cleminson writes:

After 18 months of gestation and development, the Nari Dana project has entered an exciting new phase. This initiative builds on CRS's women's empowerment programme which offers skills courses in tailoring and embroidery. Some of the successful graduates of this training have been selected to work for Nari Dana, which has been set up as a social enterprise. The women make goods for sale. They are paid a fair wage and have the pride that comes with independent earning to support their families.

All this came about through a collaboration between Veronica Karlsson-Doresamy, UK-based designer and product manager, and the UK Friends of CRS. Veronica runs an online business, Tabitha Living, selling products produced by women in Asia set free from poverty, trafficking, forced labour or prostitution. Nari Dana will be one of the suppliers of elegant home accessories for sale on the website. Nari Dana has received financial support from the UK Friends of CRS as well as Anglican Overseas Aid Australia, the German Consulate in Kolkata and the multinational corporation, Larsen & Toubro. Nari Dana now has its own production centre with 11 new high-efficiency industrial Juki sewing machines on which the women are receiving further training and learning Veronica's designs. The opportunity to work *in situ* on professional equipment is significant to maintain the quality of production. Also, as one employee, Bijoli Bala, explains, "It is nice working together here at Nari Dana, as it is boring stitching alone at home."

Over the past two years the team, including production manager Rituparna Ghosh, the staff in the CRS office in Kolkata, and some 30 women from underprivileged backgrounds, have been working hard to set up the business and bring the quality of production up to a high enough standard for the international market. Meanwhile sales on the local market have already taken off, with items being sold year-round from the cathedral office in Kolkata and at fairs and exhibitions. Nari Dana is not only giving impoverished women a livelihood, but also a network providing professional development, mutual support, and, ultimately, empowerment. Bijoli continued, "I hope that in future more women will be involved in Nari Dana and we will progress as a team."

CHCT Ride & Stride – 9 September

Bob DeWolf writes:

The 2017 Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust “Ride & Stride” is on 9th September. Why not participate this year? Obtain sponsorship and then cycle - or walk, or drive - visiting as many churches as possible on the day, raising money for the Trust, which provides grants to churches in the county for repairs and improvements? Information and sponsorship forms can be found at the back of the church, or on line at <https://www.camhct.uk/ride/>

Volunteers are also needed to welcome visitors to LSM on the day with refreshments. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of the church.

The Blessed Virgin Mary

On **Tuesday 15th August** we celebrate our Patronal Festival, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the day when Mary completed her earthly life and entered fully into the glory of heaven.

There is a Low Mass at 7.45am and then a **High Mass at 7pm** followed by sparkling wine. We're delighted to welcome back as our preacher a former ordinand on attachment, the Rev'd Dr Simon Jones, Chaplain of Merton College and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford. We're also delighted that the Rev'd Dr Kathryn Waite, another former placement ordinand and now Assistant Curate of S. Andrew's, Chesterton, will return to Deacon the Mass. Don't miss this celebration of our Patron and of our life together as a parish.

Then on the **Sunday (20th)** after the High Mass we have our **Assumptiontide Barbecue** in the vicarage garden in aid of the Church in Papua New Guinea (with whom we have long-standing links). £10 will obtain both wine and two courses! See Vicki Farmer or Christine Tipple for a ticket.

Walsingham

With our day pilgrimage (29th July) complete and in anticipation of our Assumption (15th August) celebrations, we offer Daphne Foreman's poem from her first visit to Walsingham in 1948:

Four hundred years of silence lay o'er the holy fane,
Yet angels watched and whispered that she should rise again,
And the thousands of souls that long ago had worshipped and adored
Must have rejoiced to see once more the holy shrine restored:
Here amid green meadows, far from the city's brawl,
Is the replica of the cottage, the house that is home to all;
And the peace of its sanctuary lies softly all around,
And none tread therefore who can but feel that this is holy ground.

And here the pilgrim finds his God is very real and near,
And falls upon his knees in ecstasy of love and fear;
The stillness of eternity falls upon him like a balm;
No sense or sound of discord can rise beneath her calm:
And here the restless heart finds peace and empty hearts are filled,
And the throbbing fears of a God-sick world are suddenly, wonderfully
stilled.

Far from the fast-despairing world of suffering and of loss,
She weaves around her precincts the story of the Cross:
The world seems very distant, like a tangled, troubled dream,
And time is lost in timelessness and sight in things unseen:
And here a thousand candles breathe on the holy air
A constant adoration of voiceless, wordless prayer;
And once more men may speak with pride, as in an earlier age,
That they have been to Walsingham, and made their pilgrimage.