

*Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge* September 2017: No. 506

# NEWSLETTER



*This newsletter contains details of the upcoming Feasts of the month, including the Birth of the BVM, Holy Cross Day and S. Michael & All Angels, together with news of Whitworth House, building works, a Passion Play, the Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.*

## Highlights of September

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Low Mass at 12.30pm; Sung Mass at 7pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

**Monthly Forum Lunch**

12noon *lunch for sufferers from dementia and their carers. See Tim Wheatley for info.*

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September

**Monthly Healing Mass**

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Feast of the Holy Cross**

Low Mass at 7.45am; Sung Mass at 7pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September

**Feast of S. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist**

Low Mass at 7.45am; Sung Mass at 7pm

*Preacher at 7pm: The Rev'd Dr Matthew Bullimore, Vice-Principal of Westcott House*

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

**Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament District Festival**

12noon Sung Mass, 1pm Lunch & AGM, 2.30pm Vespers & Benediction

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September

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

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Feast of S. Michael & All Angels**

Low Mass at 12.30pm; Sung Mass at 7pm

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September

**Children's Afternoon for Michaelmas**

From 3pm: Angel-themed activities, Mass and then refreshments

# From the Vicar

S. Bartholomew, Apostle, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm writing this on the day that GCSE results are published. This year, marks A\*-U are replaced by numbers 9-1, with the aim of providing greater differentiation in the grading system. It reminded me of my own GCSEs in 1994, which was the first year the A\* grade came out – and further reminded me of all my schooling, when ours was the guinea pig year for so much innovation, not least the whole National Curriculum and SATs.

In recent decades education has been hotly contested, and all sides sense that what is going on in schools doesn't quite match with what is wanted and needed. The free market in exam boards meant that they competed by raising grades; the enthusiasm for knowing how pupils were progressing meant endless tests and so endless teaching towards passing exams rather than genuine learning. Yet the desire to know objectively how your child is doing and a concern that they actually learn facts and dates and solid material as well as engaging in wider social and emotional education is far from unreasonable.

The problems, however, come in part from the absence of God in the curriculum, in the sense that unless all assessment is undergirded by the knowledge revealed to us by God of our equal value and worth, we will place too much value on our academic results. More than that we will then feel how crushing it must be not to achieve and so we will not allow anyone to fail which then results in the endless creation of more grades as we attempt to counteract almost everyone now passing their exams. Further, because we only value one type of education, those with great gifts in technical and vocational work – being an engineer in Germany is more revered than being an engineer in the UK – will not receive the encouragement they deserve.

This, of course, brings us to the other concern – what is education for? As Christians we are compelled to say that it is about enquiring into and discovering the glory of God and His creation. This includes being able to read, write and add up, but is far from exhausted by it. Too much conversation about university education centres on the skills given to you and your earning potential according to which subject you study. Of course we need to earn a living, but if we reduce education to this we both cease studying some of the most inspiring and glorious subjects and we reduce students to economic units. It's why music, art, sport and so on have always been part of education because we established universal education at a time when Christianity was still the near-universal faith of the

nation. It is interesting to note that the only compulsory subject in the 1944 Butler Education Act is religious education, a recognition that education is only properly understood when set in the context of discovery about God.

But discovery in education for the Christian is not just learning about God, but coming close to Him and sharing His life. When Jesus says He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, He teaches us that whenever we share in truth and beauty and goodness we are participating in some way in God. We don't just discover about God, we discover God Himself.

As schools return and teenagers begin GCSE, A Level and other courses, there is no better time to be reminded that education need be no dry accumulation of facts, or mere collection of experiences, but rather it can be a journey into truth and so into God who both is that truth and is the source and ground of that truth too. To have this sense of journeying into mystery as we do our French vocab or times tables or read an apparently obscure and dull book not only provides fresh inspiration but helps us to see it all in right perspective: school is very important but it is not the last word. God is glorified not only in our knowledge of German but also in a repaired carburettor or an amazing penalty kick. George Herbert, as ever, puts it well:

Teach me, my God and King, in all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything to do it as for Thee.  
A man that looks on glass, on it may stay his eye;  
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass, and then the heaven espy.  
All may of Thee partake; nothing can be so mean,  
Which with this tincture, 'for Thy sake,' will not grow bright and clean.  
A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine:  
Who sweeps a room, as for Thy laws, makes that and the action fine.

With my love and prayers, I am,  
yours ever in Christ,

Fr Robert.

## Many a blow and biting sculpture...

*Fr Robert writes:*

We have appointed CPS Building Services to replace our boiler, and look forward to going ahead with this in the early autumn. The estimated cost is £20,000 and we have received £10,000 from our insurers which has softened the blow considerably. I pray that we can look forward to a tolerable winter, but will not count my chickens until the boiler is firmly in place and proved to working...

You may well have noted the absence of one of the trees down the path! One of them had begun to lean rather alarmingly as it tried to find the sun, and an autumn or winter gale could have sent it straight into the church wall. The city council were splendidly prompt and efficient at removing it and we now not only have a safer pathway but also a bit more light coming into church. When the former Dean of Pembroke, Fr Meredith Dewey, gave the trees in the 1970s I don't think he realised the size to which they would grow or the obscuring and darkening effect they would have on the church. Devoted though I am to trees, in an ideal world we'd lose a couple more...

I'm pleased to say that preparations for the work on the Lady Chapel are going well, and that currently looks likely to begin in the second week of October. The lectern microphone has been repaired and we are looking into the repair of the hearing loop.

Finally, I can report that we have now raised £25,000 for the Stations of the Cross 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.

## Coming soon...The Passion, 2018

**On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (two weeks before Easter), LSM hopes to present a Passion Play to Cambridge!**

*Lucy McKitterick writes:*

The Play will be performed in Church during these evenings and will be a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel story with strangers and friends, as well as encouraging our own devotional preparation for Holy Week and our growing together as the “family” of LSM. The performances will be free with a retiring collection, and we hope to draw in a wide circle of interest and discussion and grow in our faith and understanding of ourselves as participants in the Cross and Resurrection, people of the Cross and of Easter Day.

Our Passion Play is a new text, one to make our own, and building on the richly imaginative legacy of the medieval Mystery Plays (and more recent plays at LSM!) seeks to explore questions such as Why did Jesus die? How are we saved? What is grace? Why did Judas betray Jesus? and many more. There will be Cherubim and Seraphim, nails, darkness, singing, poetry, drunken Roman soldiers...and, we hope, you!

A working group meets this month to begin planning details of music and advertising, young people and stage lighting, fund-raising and drawing the Play into our Lenten pattern of prayer: later in the autumn we will be holding one or two afternoons or evenings for everyone who would like to find out more, to read the script together and find a cast. A Passion Play is not like other plays: anyone can be involved. Perhaps you have a favourite Apostle or have always wanted to try Pilate's wife or a Roman soldier – don't worry if you think you can't act, you can just be yourself! Just as we read the Passion narrative together in church on Palm Sunday, in the same way a Passion Play is not so much “acting” as an acting-out of a story which is already our own.

So for the mean time: save the dates, look out for further news, and of course please keep the Play in your prayers!

# Calendar for September

Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>S. Giles, Hermit</i>
Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Martyrs of Papua New Guinea
<b>SUN</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>S. Birinus, Bishop &amp; Missionary</i>
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	of Requiem
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Charles Fudge Lowder, Priest</i>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	
Tue	12 <sup>th</sup>	
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	S. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor
<b>Thu</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holy Cross Day</b>
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	S. Cyprian, Martyr
Sat	16 <sup>th</sup>	S. Ninian, Bishop
<b>SUN</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Mon	18 <sup>th</sup>	
Tue	19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>S. Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop</i>
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup>	John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop, & Companions, Martyrs
<b>Thu</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>S. Matthew, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>
Fri	22 <sup>nd</sup>	
Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup>	of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>SUN</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	S. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Thu	28 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S. Michael &amp; All Angels</b>
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>S. Jerome, bishop &amp; doctor</i>

## Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death* for September

S. Giles' Church, Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Those marrying today 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Our Parish & People** Ernest Cherry, Queenie Windeatt 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Whitworth House Richard Barlow Poole 4<sup>th</sup>  
 The Faithful Departed David Mossop 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Papua New Guinea Church Partnership 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Those starting a new year at school Ian Ledsham, Kimji Popat 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Midwives 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Catholic Societies of the CoE Helen Kinnier Wilson, Ivan Buchanan 9<sup>th</sup>

**Our Parish & People** 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Those suffering with depression Christine Stevenson, Joyce Bird, Joan White 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Deepening of our prayer life 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Society of the Holy Cross Patrick Theobald, Lilian Fletcher, Doris White, 14<sup>th</sup>  
 All Martyred Christians 15<sup>th</sup>  
 The Church in Scotland 16<sup>th</sup>

**Our Parish & People** Leslie Norman, Edith Butcher 17<sup>th</sup>  
 The homeless of Cambridge 18<sup>th</sup>  
 The Archbishop of Canterbury Rose Linsey-Bird, Hannah Dennett 19<sup>th</sup>  
 The Church in Melanesia Lily Wythe 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Evangelism in the UK 21<sup>st</sup>  
 The LSM Choir 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Marian Shrines Michael Rowett 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Our Parish & People** Ena Matheson, Nellie Harnwell, Ian Thompson, pr. 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Stephen Sykes, bp.  
 Appreciation for the KJV Bible Joan Wardill 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Prisoners Richard Bainbridge, Ian Paton 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Those exploring a call to the priesthood 27<sup>th</sup>  
 S. Stephen's House, Oxford 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Zeal in combating evil Derek Gibbons 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Biblical scholars 30<sup>th</sup>

## Saint Michael and All Angels

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

*Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as Thy holy angels always serve thee in heaven, so, at Thy command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the three named biblical angels, depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael, which in Hebrew means ‘Who is like God?’, is described as protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God and is perhaps best known as the slayer of the dragon in the Revelation to John. He is thus regarded as the protector of Christians from the Devil, particularly those at the hour of death.

A basilica near Rome was dedicated in the fifth century in honour of Michael on 30 September, beginning with celebrations on the eve of that day, and 29 September is now kept in honour of Michael and all Angels throughout the Western Church (the East keeps it on 8<sup>th</sup> November).

Gabriel means ‘God is my strength’ or ‘Might of God.’ He is the herald of the mysteries of God, especially the Incarnation (he is the angel who speaks with Mary) and all other mysteries related to it. He is often depicted holding a lantern with a lighted taper inside in his right hand, and, in his left hand, a mirror of green jasper. The mirror signifies the wisdom of God as a hidden mystery.

Raphael means ‘It is God who heals’ or ‘God Heals’ (Tobit 3.17, 12.15). Raphael is depicted leading Tobit (who is carrying a fish caught in the Tigris) with his right hand, and holding a physician’s alabaster jar in his left hand. The Guild of S. Raphael is the Church of England society committed to promoting the ministry of healing.

## People for our prayers



*Fr Robert writes:*

**Joanna Sanders** has been making steady progress and has moved from Addenbrooke's to a care home in Bottisham to recuperate before coming home. This is really encouraging news and we keep her in our prayers that her recovery continues apace. **Mandy Ray** had been making excellent progress in recent months but unfortunately her brain tumour has returned and she is presently in Addenbrooke's. We pray for Mandy as she comes to terms with this.

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](mailto:trishviola@icloud.com)).

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### **“All for your Delight”** *a night of glorious music*

Rosemary Wheeler and her friends will perform a selection of items from

### Gilbert & Sullivan Victorian Ballads Songs from the Shows

on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2017 at 7pm**  
in the Parish Centre.

Tickets available from Rosemary or the Churchwardens for £7.  
All funds in support of the parish church.

**THIS IS NOT TO BE MISSED!**

## **News from LSM Global** *our overseas mission group*

LSM has had links to overseas missions and churches for many decades, some established by former vicars and assistant curates who ministered overseas and others through members of the congregation with a particular link or prayer concern for an area. We have recently renewed our Global Group and are delighted to welcome Masha Cleminson as a new member (Masha has already been working with the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service) and Alexander Whiscombe as the new chairman. We pay especial tribute to Gillian Beard who is standing down after many years as chairman and to her daughter Sarah Hinton who has been a great encouragement to our work with the S. Nicholas AIDS orphanage in Zambia. Thank you too to Helen Thompson who used to look after our link with the Borneo Mission Association which has now closed and so is standing down as well. We are obliged to the three of you!

*Our links are now:* Papua New Guinea Church Partnership; Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service; Anglican Diocese of Peru; S. Cyprian's Sharpeville, South Africa; S. Nicholas AIDS orphanage at the Makeni Ecumenical Centre, Zambia.

Keep up to date with the latest news from around the Anglican Communion by going to the [www.anglicannews.org](http://www.anglicannews.org) website and subscribing.



We're delighted to report that the Assumptiontide Barbecue on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August was a great success. Not only was the weather sunny and dry but we sold out of tickets and raised £350 for the work

of the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership (see [www.pngcp.org.uk](http://www.pngcp.org.uk) for more information). Thank you to all who came and particularly to Vicki Farmer and her team for a wonderful and – apparently! – stress-free provision of a delicious lunch. Don't miss next year's celebrations.

## General Synod



General  
Synod

*Fr Robert writes:*

The Church of England is traditionally described as ‘synodically governed but episcopally led’. What this means is that the bishops – the episcopate – have a particular and unique role in guarding the Faith and guiding the church but beyond that provision there is a synod (or meeting) of laity, clergy and bishops which governs the general life of the Church of England. It is called General Synod. I tell you that because one of our congregation, Richard Morgan, has just been elected to General Synod. Richard, our PCC Secretary, was a close second in the last elections and the winner has just resigned so Richard (under Synod rules) automatically succeeds her. It is wonderful that Richard continues the tradition of LSM people on Synod (Shirley Dex, William Sanders and others) and please pray for him as he takes up his duties.