

*Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge*  
**NEWSLETTER**

*October 2017: No. 507*



*This newsletter contains details of the upcoming Feasts of the month,  
including Saint Luke and Saints Simon & Jude,  
together with Fr Gregory's column, news of the Passion Play,  
the All For Your Delight concert  
the Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.*

## Highlights of October

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October

### **Monthly Forum Lunch**

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

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

### **Monthly Healing Mass**

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

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

### **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

*Preacher at 10.30am High Mass: The Rev'd Charlotte Bradley,*  
*Chaplain to University College London*

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

### **Feast of S. Luke, Evangelist**

Low Mass at 10am; Sung Mass at 7pm.

*After 7pm Mass, over refreshments, Anton Dil will speak about the work of the Makeni Ecumenical Centre and the S. Nicholas AIDS orphanage in Zambia, a project supported by our parish. All welcome.*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October

### **All for your delight**

7pm Concert of Gilbert & Sullivan, Ballads and Songs from the Shows

*Provided by Rosemary Wheeler & Friends. Tickets £7, all profits for parish funds.*

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October

### **Society of Mary**

7pm Vespers & Benediction.

*Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Cally Hammond, Dean of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.*

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

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

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October

### **Feast of Ss. Simon & Jude, apostles**

Sung Mass at 10am followed by coffee and cake.

# From the Vicar

S. Michael & All Angels, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I don't know if you ever have those experiences where afterwards you're not entirely sure if the entire thing actually happened to you or not? I feel slightly like that after my ten days in Russia. It was such a packed programme and so incredibly spiritually intense that I'm still slightly pinching myself! Let me share with you some of my experiences and reflections.

The Russian Orthodox Church is keen to refresh intellectual and other links with the Church of England and last year sent some young clergy, seminarians and theologians to England for an initial visit. This was a success and so, through the Council for Christian Unity, a similar group was invited to Russia this year. We were four priests, four ordinands and three graduate students, mainly from Cambridge but also London and Bristol.

We spent six days in Moscow and four days in St Petersburg. The programme involved tours of churches, convents, monasteries, seminaries and church departments together with conversation and dialogue with those we met in each of these institutions. It also involved many guided tours of local areas, a lot of travel on the underground (where they have air-conditioning!) and much gracious hospitality wherever we went.

The first thing to say is that the Orthodox Church in Russia is growing. They are opening three churches every week! The number of priests has gone from 600 to 36,000 in 25 years! They now have 50 seminaries across the country and are having to run to keep up with demand for baptisms, catechism and ordination. Over 70 years of active persecution has truly been a seedbed for the church (as the church father Tertullian put it) – or, as Metropolitan Hilarion said to us, the church has been like a coiled spring which when released has just exploded into action and life. Something like 80% of the country say they are Orthodox. The government is still returning stolen property to the church and there is a near-continuous programme of rebuilding and repair. Churches that were turned into prisons, swimming pools and even milk factories during Communism are once again houses of prayer. Sergiev Posad, a monastery which was a school during the Soviet period now has over 300 monks. It was striking when we attended the Sunday Eucharist how large congregations are and how varied in age and background.

The second observation is that the language of miracle and martyrdom is very near the surface. This is hardly surprising when the KGB were still killing priests in 1996 and so many Russian Christians have martyred family members. One new church, built over a site where the KGB shot over a thousand people, has the east wall painted not only with the apostles but with those who died for the Faith in recent decades. The families of those people were invited to the church's consecration and could recognise their relatives on the wall because the painter had used their photographs when drawing the faces. That so many icons, frescos and people were preserved during terrible persecutions inevitably and rightly leads to talk of God's miraculous work. I was left with a powerful sense of the youth of the church as she grows after decades of suppression, a growth powered by the example and prayer of millions of Russian Christians who had died for their faith.

There were negatives, however. The first is that long and necessary compromises with the Communists have meant that the church has got into that habit rather too much. The closeness of the Patriarch to President Putin is not edifying and the church has allowed itself to be used to buttress the renewed nationalism of Russian politics. It was alarming how uncritical the Russian church is. Secondly, and more understandably, the fact that they have not been allowed to research or publish theology for almost 100 years means that on some subjects the church has little to say. It maintains an unthinking conservatism on every issue and is only now beginning to address the changes to society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. What I learned on this visit, however, is that it is not surprising that this is the case – as one priest said, they are still using 19<sup>th</sup>-century textbooks in the seminaries because there aren't any modern ones. We shouldn't be surprised that the Russian Church takes a different view on, say, gender and sexuality when no-one has written about it since before 1917...

This is a whistle-stop set of first reflections on my visit. I hope to be able to offer further thoughts in future newsletters and perhaps also an illustrated talk after Mass one day. For the time being I hope that gives you a flavour of the place and encourages you, as my visit encouraged me, to pray for our brothers and sisters in Russia and be inspired by their zeal and new life.

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

Fr Robert.

# **Cambridge Churches Homeless Project:** *a new season!*

**Homelessness in Cambridge** is rising year on year and continues to stretch the resources of the organisations in the city set up to help. Estimates last winter found twice as many people sleeping rough in the city centre as the previous year, and many more are “hidden” homeless sheltering in cars or squats, or dividing time between the streets and a friend’s floor. With the colder weather the situation becomes increasingly desperate as people struggle to find shelter and keep safe, dry and warm.

**The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project** works together with the City Council, Jimmy’s and other service providers and runs from **December to March** in eight churches and one synagogue, one venue for each night of the week. LSM has been at the heart of this project since its beginning, and we are looking forward to hosting again in this fifth season. Every Tuesday in December and January we will welcome around 15 guests for supper and a safe space to sleep: both in the parish room, and in the church itself! The project has a strong ethos of welcome and building trust and friendship, and our volunteers (and, sadly, guests) often return year on year.

**This winter we will be looking for** volunteers during the evening to cook a good hot supper, overnight to look after our guests (we have some sleep ourselves, too!) and “behind the scenes” to wash sheets and pillowcases so beds are comfortable and clean. If you can’t manage Tuesdays, that’s fine: we are helped at LSM by the other churches in the project, and it’s good to send them one or two people of our own on other days of the week! It is an immensely rewarding work and doesn’t need any previous experience in homelessness or social care.

**To find out more, you are warmly invited to supper on one of three evenings:**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** 7pm @ St Paul’s Church, Hills Road

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** 7pm @ Great St Mary’s Church

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** 7pm @ Little St Mary’s Church

*RSVP to [info@cchp.org.uk](mailto:info@cchp.org.uk) ... or talk to Franco Basso, Lucy McKitterick, Alexander Whiscombe or the Vicar for more details!*

# **Come and join us in ...The Passion, 2018**

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

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!

**We will be holding two reading and casting sessions** for anyone who would like to find out more:

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm**

- both in the Parish Centre, with tea and cake! These sessions will be very enjoyable and informal, and you don't need any acting experience to be involved. It would be wonderful to see all sorts of familiar faces from the LSM congregation among the cast: and equally wonderful to make some new friends, if you don't yet know LSM very well. So do come and join us: or let us know if you can't come, and we'll send you a script!

Lucy McKitterick      [irm26@cam.ac.uk](mailto:irm26@cam.ac.uk)

Heidi Thomas        [heidi@heidithomas.co.uk](mailto:heidi@heidithomas.co.uk)

# Calendar for October

**SUN 1<sup>st</sup> SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Guardian Angels

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> S. Francis of Assisi, deacon & religious

Thu 5<sup>th</sup>

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> S. Faith, martyr

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> of Requiem

**SUN 8<sup>th</sup> SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> *S. Denys, bishop, and companions, martyrs*

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> S. Paulinus, bishop & missionary

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> *S. Ethelburga, abbess*

Thu 12<sup>th</sup> S. Wilfred of Ripon, bishop & missionary

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> S. Edward the Confessor, king

Sat 14<sup>th</sup>

**SUN 15<sup>th</sup> EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> *Nicholas Ridley & Hugh Latimer, bishops & martyrs*

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> S. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> S. Luke, evangelist**

Thu 19<sup>th</sup> Henry Martyn, missionary

Fri 20<sup>th</sup>

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**SUN 22<sup>nd</sup> NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tue 24<sup>th</sup>

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> *Ss Crispin & Crispinian, martyrs*

Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Alfred the Great, king

Fri 27<sup>th</sup>

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Ss Simon & Jude, apostles**

**SUN 29<sup>th</sup> TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon 30<sup>th</sup>

Tue 31<sup>st</sup>

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

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>David Walser, pr., Lester Vellanoweth, Audrey Gulland</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
That we may call on our guardian angels		2 <sup>nd</sup>
The Cambridge Foodbank		3 <sup>rd</sup>
The Franciscan Order	<i>Magda Phillips</i>	4 <sup>th</sup>
New undergraduates	<i>John Wade</i>	5 <sup>th</sup>
St Faith's School	<i>Elizabeth Knight</i>	6 <sup>th</sup>
The faithful departed	<i>Irina Findlow, Peter le Huray, Derek Hulyer</i>	7 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>		<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
Shops & businesses in our parish		9 <sup>th</sup>
The Archbishop & See of York		10 <sup>th</sup>
The sick		11 <sup>th</sup>
The Society of S. Wilfred & S. Hilda	<i>Geraldine Adams</i>	12 <sup>th</sup>
The Sovereign		13 <sup>th</sup>
The emergency services	<i>Eric Horne</i>	14 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>Isabel Furley, Thomas Timmins</i>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>
Ridley Hall, its staff and ordinands		16 <sup>th</sup>
Stephen, our Bishop	<i>Bertie Clough</i>	17 <sup>th</sup>
Makeni Ecumenical Centre & S. Nicholas AIDS orphanage	<i>Fred Linsey</i>	18 <sup>th</sup>
Missionaries		19 <sup>th</sup>
Cambridge South Deanery: its parishes & people	<i>Percy Poulter, Alice Royston</i>	20 <sup>th</sup>
Ely Diocesan Synod	<i>Norman Crutwell</i>	21 <sup>st</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>Winifred Staples, Jennifer Moseley</i>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>
Medical research	<i>Frederick Waring, David Hall</i>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Christian unity	<i>Meredith Dewey, pr., Robert Wolverson, Freddie Webster, Patricia Nutbrown</i>	24 <sup>th</sup>
The peace of the world		25 <sup>th</sup>
Political prisoners & all unjustly imprisoned		26 <sup>th</sup>
Dignity for the elderly	<i>Margot Fynes-Clinton, Michael Jackson, pr.</i>	27 <sup>th</sup>
All who despair	<i>Patricia Chopourian, Donald Clough</i>	28 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>Beatrice Bicheno</i>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>
Our junior choir, choristers, choir and organists	<i>Edith Lock</i>	30 <sup>th</sup>
All who dabble in the occult	<i>Richard Crowden, Charles Holland</i>	31 <sup>st</sup>

## **Ss Simon & Jude, apostles**

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

*Almighty God, who didst build Thy Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord.*



Simon and Jude were named among the twelve apostles in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Simon is called ‘the Zealot’, probably because he belonged to a nationalist resistance movement opposing the Roman occupation forces. There is no indication in the Gospels whether Simon moved from the Zealot party to be a follower of Christ or, on the other hand, if after the Resurrection he became a supporter of that group, seeing it as a response to God’s call to proclaim the kingdom.

Luke describes Jude as the son of James, while the Letter of Jude has him as the brother of James, neither of which negates the other. It seems he is the same person as Thaddæus, which may have been a last name. ‘Thad’ means chest and so perhaps Jude was strongly built. Owing to the similarity of his name to that of Judas Iscariot, Jude’s prayers were rarely asked for and it seems likely that because of this, interceding through him was seen as a final resort when all else failed. He became known, therefore, as the patron saint of lost causes.

The two apostles are joined together on this day because a church, which had recently acquired their relics, was dedicated to their memory in Rome in the seventh century. Some ancient Christian writers say that Simon and Jude went together as missionaries to Persia, and were martyred there. If this is true, it explains, to some extent, our lack of historical information on them and also why they were put together in that church in Rome.

**Sung Mass 10am**

## October: month of the Holy Rosary

*Fr Gregory writes:*

Now that you have a Hungarian Assistant Curate, you should know that we Hungarians, in one way or another, made Europe pray a few times! When in the 9th century we decided to find for ourselves a new home in Europe, people were praying against us. Prayers were raised to God from various Christian communities. From the Litanies recited in Freising to the hymns sung in Modena, people asked God to save them from eternal death, plague, and from Hungarians and their arrows.

As time went by, we must have become better neighbours, because in 1456 Europe was again praying because of the Hungarians – but this time they were praying for us. While we were fighting the Ottomans at Nándorfehérvár, Pope Callixtus III asked Christian countries to pray for the Hungarians every day at noon and to ring the bells. And we won. And since in many countries, like England, news of the victory arrived before the Papal order, the ringing of the church bells at noon was transformed into a commemoration of this victory. The Pope never withdrew the order, so churches still ring the noon bell to this day...

The victory at Nándorfehérvár saved Europe from the Ottomans for 70 years or so. When we could not hold them back any more, Europe decided to help us out and the Holy League was created. The famous battle of Lepanto on the 7th of October 1571 was not fought and won by armies and ships only. The victory was attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose intercession with God Christians had implored through the use of the Holy Rosary. To commemorate this victory, Pope Pius V introduced a new feast which today is known as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1584 a Spanish Dominican friar wrote that this feast was indeed “in memory of and in perpetual gratitude for the miraculous victory that the Lord gave to His Christian people that day against the Turkish armada.”

Since the 16th century, therefore, October has traditionally been the month of the Holy Rosary. But other than to fight the Ottomans, why should we pray the Holy Rosary? Let me number just a few reasons for you to consider.

1) The Rosary is simple. The Rosary is so beautifully simple and accessible, that everyone can profit from it. Its almost “boring” simplicity clearly shows that the efficacy of prayer does not depend on our bravura or eloquence. In the Rosary not even the words are ours: God gave them to us through His Son and the Archangel Gabriel. Prayer is not about how much or how well we talk to God, but rather

about fixing our eyes and thoughts on Him, contemplating His marvellous deeds, repeating His love for us and ours for Him.

2) The Rosary helps to persevere in prayer. Perseverance is not typical of our age. We always look for what is new, more exciting – sometimes even in prayer and the Liturgy. So many churches spend the whole week coming up with “something new and fresh” for every Sunday... But perseverance is the first step towards learning to pray and having a sound spiritual life. Pope Pius XII wrote about the Rosary: “from the frequent meditation on the Mysteries, the soul little by little and imperceptibly draws and absorbs the virtues they contain, and is wondrously enkindled with a longing for things immortal, and becomes strongly and easily impelled to follow the path which Christ Himself and His mother have followed.” Little by little. Christian life is about perseverance, faithfulness in little things.

3) The Rosary is not “modern.” It is not only distaste for the simple but also rejection of suffering, and forgetfulness of heaven that characterise our modern society. The Rosary corrects these errors. The joyful mysteries propose the simplicity of Mary, show us how the incarnate Son of God was born and lived in simplicity, and call us to implement this simplicity in our own life. In the sorrowful mysteries, the suffering of Jesus is placed before our eyes. Our society rejects suffering and cannot see any value to it. But in the Rosary we look to Jesus who took on suffering for the salvation of all. Lastly the glorious mysteries reflect on Jesus’ defeat over death and ascension into heaven, and end with Mary’s glorification in her assumption and coronation as Queen of Heaven. Praying the Rosary makes us focus on the mysteries of Heaven and raises our eyes heavenward.

4) The Rosary forms and nurtures the whole family. From all that has been said, it is clear that the Rosary is a suitable prayer for all ages. It is easy to remember, everyone can meditate on the mysteries at a level proper to his/her age (small children can use pictures of the Mysteries). For this reason, the Rosary is an excellent choice when the family wants to pray together: it assembles the family in prayer and love. Adults can contemplate and follow the shining examples of Jesus and Mary, draw comfort from it, and learn to contemplate the heavenly things.

Children can learn “the main truths of the Christian Faith, making love for the Redeemer blossom almost spontaneously in their innocent hearts, while, seeing their parents kneeling before the majesty of God, they will learn from their very early years how great before the throne of God is the value of prayers said in common” (Pius XII) and prayer will become a natural part of their life through the authentic example of parents.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. I invite you all to join us at Little St Mary's where we will pray it during October every Wednesday at 9.30am. If you cannot be there with us physically, you can still join us spiritually by reciting the Rosary at home. If you would like to learn how to pray the Rosary I will very happily explain it (there are also good guides on line).

## People for our prayers

*Fr Robert writes:*

**William Sanders** very unexpectedly died last month. Having been much improved recently thanks to a live-in carer, William had been to visit Joanna in her care home and gone out for lunch on the day he died. His death was mercifully quick and a funeral according to his wishes was celebrated at Balsham Parish Church on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. We hope to offer a Requiem Mass for him at LSM soon. **Joanna** continues to improve and is now home. We keep her in our prayers too.



**Mandy Ray** is now out of hospital and in the Cherry Hinton Care Home and is receiving visitors (although check with her daughter Polly first). We keep her and her family very much in our prayers.

Don't forget our next Healing Mass – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 10am.

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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 Room.

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

**THIS IS NOT TO BE MISSED!**

## Churchyard Garden News

Having become increasingly aware of the mess that successive pieces of building and maintenance work have created in the wild garden (and being reminded, by a further donation from Sally Head's family to commemorate her birthday, that there is some money to spend on it) the Standing Committee decided to provide some assistance to the gardening team under Malcolm Munro's leadership. Malcolm and others met with Tessa Hobbs, a professional garden designer (and former member of the congregation who recreated the garden with Sally originally), to see what could be done.

As you will see the work has begun and, as winter approaches, it has been quite drastic. Do not worry – it will grow back! You may be pleased to know that we are reprinting the information leaflet about the garden and its history for sale at the back of the church.

There is of course some more to do and additional monies will be spent getting the rest of the garden on the Trumpington Road side of the church tidied as well. Peterhouse will clear a lot of the mess away from the south-west corner of the wild garden when their work is done and we can then think about replanting that area too. Not only is the beauty and tidiness of the gardens important but it will hopefully make these spaces safer for visitors and less easy for drug-takers, etc. to hide in.

There is more to do before the winter and anyone wishing to do a bit of bed clearing, etc. would be most welcome.

Please contact Malcolm Munro [suelmunro@btinternet.com](mailto:suelmunro@btinternet.com) if you are able to assist. Full instruction given!



## New Parish Administrator

*Fr Robert writes:*

A combination of being unable to find a new Pastoral Assistant (the number of schemes is now hugely more than when LSM launched its scheme 15 years ago and so candidates are much more thinly spread) and the growth in the administration of the parish and the Vicar's role as Rural Dean meant that the PCC agreed to appoint a Parish Administrator from this autumn. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs **Consuelo Moorsom** who began work on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Consuelo and her family have lived and worked in Cambridge for many years and it is wonderful to welcome her to the parish office. She will be working Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm. You can telephone her on 01223 366202 or email her [office@lsm.org.uk](mailto:office@lsm.org.uk) If you're in town do pop by and say hello. I hope very much that this will improve the running of our parish and allow me to spend more time as a priest and less time as an administrator. If there are hiccups in the first weeks do please be patient! I'm very grateful to the churchwardens for organising this appointment.