

Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge *November 2017: No. 508*

NEWSLETTER



This newsletter contains details of the upcoming feasts of the month, including Saint Andrew, together with news of the Passion Play, Homeless Project, Ride & Stride, the Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.

Highlights of November

Wednesday 1st November

All Saints' Day

10am Low Mass.

7pm High Mass.

Preacher: The Rev'd Nicholas Walters,
Assistant Curate of Primrose Hill, London.

Thursday 2nd November

All Souls' Day

7.45am & 12.30pm Low Masses of Requiem.

7pm High Mass of Requiem. *Preacher:* Fr Gregory Lipovsky, Assistant Curate

Monday 6th November

Michael Ramsey Lecture

5.15pm The Rev'd Canon Simon Oliver, Van Mildert Professor of Divinity at Durham University *speaks on* 'Creation, Priesthood and the Royal Priesthood'.

Wednesday 8th November

Monthly Healing Mass

10am *Eucharist with laying-on of hands and anointing, preceded by silent prayer at 9.45*

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday (3rd Sunday before Advent)

Preacher at 10.30am High Mass: The Rev'd Deiniol Morgan CF,
Defence Academy of the United Kingdom.

Thursday 16th November

Joint Meeting of the Catholic Societies of the Church of England

7.15pm Vespers of the Dead

8pm High Mass of Requiem *for departed members of the Catholic Societies*

Sunday 26th November

Christ the King

Parish Lunch after Mass to raise funds for Christmas tree, flowers etc.

Two courses plus wine for £10.

Thursday 30th November

Feast of Saint Andrew, apostle

Low Mass 7.45am, Sung Mass 7pm *followed by refreshments*

From the Vicar

All Saints' Tide, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You will probably know that for several centuries the church in the West has been in the habit of naming months – October is the month of the Rosary, July the month of the Precious Blood, June the month of the Sacred Heart, etc. as aspects of the Lord's life and the Church's Faith are given us to reflect on and ponder. November is the month of the Holy Souls – because it is when we celebrate All Saints and All Souls. Perhaps we might also say it is the Month of the Church. I say this because the two great festivals with which November begins remind us that salvation and the Christian life are not private, individual, autonomous things. All Saints' Day, when we celebrate 'that great multitude which no man could number' (as the Book of Revelation puts it) who are now made perfect in the Kingdom of Heaven; and All Souls' Day when we pray for our own beloved dead and all those not yet made perfect – those on the way to being saints – are both corporate events. It would make no sense to celebrate them if Christianity was just about my private, personal relationship with God.

We're commemorating this year, of course, the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. There are plenty of things for which to give thanks: worship in the vernacular, the Book of Common Prayer, married clergy, the removal of various abuses from the life of the church (most notorious being the sale of indulgences, whereby people believed they were buying their way into heaven). There are also, however, plenty of things not to give thanks for. Primarily among these is the violence (on both sides) with which those years of tumult were accompanied. Secondarily, but with longer term implications, the Reformation gave rise to individualism. If anyone can interpret the Bible, if corporate acts of worship such as the Sacraments are less important, if communal life in monasteries and convents is abolished, if the world to come is cut off from us without communication and Christianity consists largely in hearing and reading and responding to the spoken or written word, then it is not surprising that individualism found in Protestantism a fertile soil for growth.

It would be both silly and wrong to ascribe all the ills of the modern age to the Reformation, but I cannot get away from the fact that the countries where churchgoing and Christian culture seem weakest are the countries most affected by the Reformation: largely north-west Europe. It is right then to commemorate rather than celebrate the Reformation, for it was most definitely a mixed blessing.

Yet we ought also not forget that many of the things the Reformers demanded to be changed have now been changed in the Roman Catholic Church too. The Romans have a habit (like the Orthodox) of claiming that nothing has ever changed while quietly changing things! In some reactions to the Reformation's 500th anniversary in the RC Church you'd think they remain as they were on the eve of the 16th century! Yet the Romans had their Reformation too in the form of the Counter-Reformation, and many 'Protestant' things – Liturgy in the vernacular, the banning of the sale of Indulgences, Holy Communion in both kinds, etc. – eventually came to pass.

Perhaps the oddest thing about this anniversary is that the various programmes on television seem to be talking about a different world. By this I don't just mean a world where Christianity was thought more important by more people or a world where it was so tied up with the stability of the state that torturing people was felt to be necessary and even good. I mean where fellow Christians were looked upon as not fellow Christians at all but enemies – not only personal enemies but enemies of God. The Pope was the Antichrist; Protestants were schismatics who had abandoned the communion of the one true church and therefore were destined for hell. It's not to say that we don't have differences or there is no good reason to remain an Anglican or a Roman Catholic, but it is to say that these differences are between Christians and friends and are (I trust) held without rancour.

Half of the history of the Christian Church has been spent in formal division (Catholic and Orthodox) and a quarter of the history of the Christian Church has been spent in a further division (Catholic and Protestant). 500 years from now, given the ecumenical progress we have made in only a short time since the 1950s, it is not unreasonable to trust that we will be visibly united once again. Renewed prayer for that in this Month of the Church seems the best way I can think of to mark the anniversary of the Reformation.

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 centre 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 8th November 7pm @ St Paul’s Church, Hills Road

Thursday 9th November 7pm @ Great St Mary’s Church

Tuesday 14th November 7pm @ Little St Mary’s Church

RSVP to info@cchp.org.uk ... or talk to Franco Basso, Lucy McKitterick, Alexander Whiscombe or the Vicar for more details!

Calendar for November

Wed 1st ALL SAINTS' DAY
Thu 2nd ALL SOULS' DAY
Fri 3rd Richard Hooker, doctor. Anniversary of Dedication of LSM.
Sat 4th of the BVM

SUN 5th DEDICATION FESTIVAL (Fourth before Advent)
Mon 6th *S. Leonard, hermit*
Tue 7th S. Willibrord, bishop & missionary
Wed 8th Saints & Martyrs of England
Thu 9th *Margery Kempe*
Fri 10th S. Leo, bishop & doctor
Sat 11th S. Martin of Tours, bishop

SUN 12th THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT (Remembrance)
Mon 13th Charles Simeon, priest
Tue 14th *Samuel Seabury, bishop*
Wed 15th
Thu 16th S. Margaret of Scotland, Queen
Fri 17th S. Hugh of Lincoln, bishop
Sat 18th S. Elizabeth of Hungary

SUN 19th SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
Mon 20th S. Edmund, king & martyr
Tue 21st
Wed 22nd *S. Cecilia, martyr*
Thu 23rd S. Clement, bishop & martyr
Fri 24th
Sat 25th *S. Catherine of Alexandria, martyr*

SUN 26th CHRIST THE KING (Sunday next before Advent)
Mon 27th
Tue 28th
Wed 29th
Thu 30th **S. Andrew, Apostle**

Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death* for November

The Vision of Glory	1 st
The Faithful Departed	2 nd
Our Parish and people	3 rd
Houses of Parliament	<i>Stephen Roskill, Alfred Whitham</i> 4 th

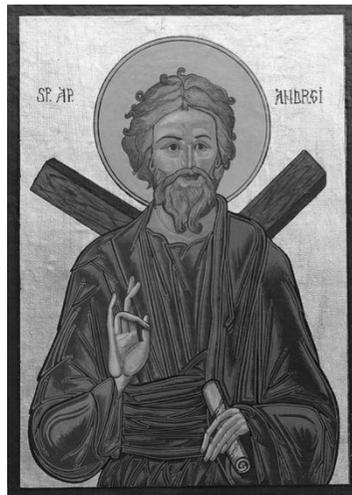
Our Parish & People	<i>Dorothy Roberts, Elizabeth Rayner, Sally Coni</i> 5 th
Michael Ramsey Lecture & Lecturer	6 th
Deanery Synod	7 th
The sick	<i>Joyce Wolton, Dick Richardson</i> 8 th
Friends of LSM	9 th
Pope Francis	10 th
Peace of the world	11 th

Our Parish & People	12 th
Students at LSM	13 th
The homeless	<i>Eleanor Fynes-Clinton</i> 14 th
Vocations to the sacred ministry	<i>Dorothy Marlow, Betty Barnard</i> 15 th
Catholic Societies of the C of E	<i>Alan Huskinson</i> 16 th
All Bishops	<i>Betty Clough, Dorothy Pickett, Ann Knight</i> 17 th
The Faithful Departed	<i>John Byrom, pr.</i> 18 th

Our Parish & People	19 th
Spiritual Directors	<i>Joyce Bones</i> 20 th
Deanery Chapter	21 st
Church Musicians	<i>Effie Hunter</i> 22 nd
Theologians	23 rd
Papua New Guinea Church Partnership	24 th
All persecuted for the Faith	<i>Jan Ellison, Robert Beesley</i> 25 th

Our Parish & People	<i>Val Mendel</i> 26 th
Unborn children & pregnant women	<i>Freda Jones</i> 27 th
Hospices & care homes	<i>Ronald Fletcher</i> 28 th
The Church's missionary work	<i>John Clough</i> 29 th
The Church in Scotland	<i>Ann Watson, William Thurbon, Harold White, Peter Smith</i> 30 th

Saint Andrew, apostle Thursday 30th November



*Almighty God,
who gavest such grace to Thy apostle Saint Andrew
that he readily obeyed the call of Thy Son Jesus
Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by
Thy holy Word,
and give us grace to follow Thee without delay and
to tell the good news of Thy Kingdom; 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.*

S. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter, and a son of John. He was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. Both he and his brother Peter were fishermen by trade; hence the tradition that Jesus called them to be His disciples by saying that he would make them ‘fishers of men’. At the beginning of Jesus’ public life, they occupied the same house at Capernaum. John’s Gospel states that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, whose testimony first led him to follow Jesus. Andrew at once recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and hastened to introduce Him to his brother. On a subsequent occasion, prior to the final call to be Apostles, they were called to a closer companionship, and then they left all things to follow Jesus. In the Gospels, Andrew told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes, while Philip told Jesus about the Greeks seeking Him, and was present at the Last Supper.

According to Hippolytus of Rome, S. Andrew preached in Thrace, and his presence at Constantinople is noted in the 2nd century apocryphal Acts of Andrew; Basil of Seleucia also knew of Andrew’s mission in Thrace, Scythia and Achaea. This diocese would later develop into the Patriarchate of Constantinople, of which Andrew is its patron saint, having installed its first bishop in AD 38..He is said to have been martyred at Patras (Patræ) in Achaea, on the northern coast of the Peloponnese, bound rather than nailed to a cross. The tradition that he was crucified on an X-shaped cross, or ‘saltire’, deeming himself unworthy of the same type of cross as Jesus (from where Scotland gets its flag) is later.

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL AID

Tim Wheatley writes:

The Social Responsibility Group has recently adopted Cambridge Central Aid as a Charity which it asks Little St Mary's to support. I became a trustee of this charity earlier this year.

For more than 100 years Cambridge Central Aid Society has been quietly helping vulnerable local people in times of crisis. They are supported with small grants for basic necessities like food, clothing, bedding and household equipment. The grants are awarded by a small team of experienced, expert trustees who come together every fortnight to consider applications. This means that decisions can be taken quickly to meet urgent needs. Most people who live in Cambridge are unaware of the desperate daily struggle that other residents are facing. These are hard times for many.

The Charity's task is to provide rapid emergency poverty relief to help to get those people through a crisis and - importantly - allow them to maintain their dignity. The immediate issue is helped with a small grant - usually up to a maximum of £150. Two of the other charities linked to LSM, the Friends of Fulbourn Hospital and the Whitworth Trust, work with Cambridge Central Aid using its expertise in directing the grants they give most appropriately,

Cambridge Central Aid is often the last resort for desperate people such as families and single parents caught in the poverty trap, women fleeing domestic abuse, and young people on the streets.

- *Annually more than 500 people are helped (2016 - 524)*
- *About 45% of people helped have mental health problems*
- *Around 100 victims of domestic violence are helped each year*

Grants are made on the basis of referrals from respected organisations such as Citizens Advice, Jimmy's and Cambridge Housing Society.

Cambridge Central Aid Society is experiencing unprecedented demand for its services. In the last 10 years applications have grown by about 300% - and the situation is set to worsen. Other avenues for support are drying up and there are changes ahead which could well push more local people into poverty.

Your help could make a difference. Good people are needed willing to donate their skills and time to help ensure that Cambridge Central Aid Society will still be here when local people really need it. If you'd like to support them in any way, please get in touch for an informal chat. They receive no government or local authority support and rely on the generosity of the local community for funding. Please visit the website to make a donation.

Cambridge Central Aid Society
c/o 66 Devonshire Road, CAMBRIDGE CB1 2BL
www.cambridgecentralaid.org
secretary@cambridgecentralaid.org

People for our prayers

Fr Robert writes:

Mandy Ray is still in the Cherry Hinton Care Home and is receiving visitor, although check with her first - mja630@yahoo.co.uk .

We keep her and her family very much in our prayers. **Margaret Lachlan** is unwell and would welcome our prayers; **Janet Crozier** is out of the Arthur Rank Hospice and back at home and much more comfortable; the family of baby **Francis Gandhi** are very grateful for our prayers and he is making a slow recovery (he was also baptized at the end of October). Please keep baby **Thomas Murray** in your prayers (son of ordinand Philip and Kirstie) who was taken to hospital with meningitis on the last weekend in October. I'm pleased to report that **Fr Zachary Guiliano** is making a recovery and was well enough to Deacon High Mass on All Saints' Day. We continue to keep him and Melissa in our prayers. Finally, I'm pleased to announce that on Saturday 18th November the 10am Mass will be of Requiem for **William Sanders**. Those who (like me) were unable to attend the funeral now have an opportunity to honour William and pray for his soul.



Don't forget also our next Healing Mass – Wednesday 8th November at 10am.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST



For many years members at LSM have taken part in this event on the second Saturday in September, originally a sponsored cycle ride but now including walking or driving. This year LSM was represented by Mary Ward and Jo Wibberley, who chose circuits around Cambridge and Ely Deanery.



Blessed with fine weather in the morning, there was rain, wind and a thunderstorm in the afternoon but they encountered a warm welcome in some of the churches, and others had left refreshment available for them. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit churches which one would not otherwise see and to appreciate the wide range of architectural features, as well as noting how some churches had adapted their building to improve their outreach to their community.

Since its foundation in 1983 the Trust has offered well over £2,000,000 in interest free loans and over £550,000 in grants for works of repair and improvements to places of worship across Cambridgeshire. At Mepal, Jo met Bishop David Thomson, the Chair of the Trustees, who was awarding them one of ten £100 prizes under their Engage Awards scheme to churches who have undertaken innovative building adaptation to meet the needs of the people of today – for replacing their church bell, which was a great encouragement for this small rural community.



Mary and Jo have raised about £800, half of which goes to LSM and half to the Historic Churches Trust. A big thank you to all who kindly sponsored them – it is much appreciated. Why don't *you* think about cycling or walking next year?

New Parish Administrator

Fr Robert adds to last month's comments:

Please forgive the various hiccups that there have been and will continue to be in these first weeks! Do also please note that because there is no Pastoral Assistant to unlock and lock for evening concerts and events we have put in place a new procedure for those hiring the church or parish centre, working in conjunction with Pembroke College porters' lodge (to whom we're immensely grateful). I hope this will prove successful. There is also now a minimum two-hour booking of the Parish Centre and tighter restrictions on which parts of the church can be used.

All for your delight!

Thank you to those who came to the wonderful concert given by Rosemary Wheeler and her friends on Saturday 21st October. Almost £300 was raised for parish funds. Thank you most of all to Rosemary and her fellow musicians who gave us an hour and a half of the highest quality entertainment – songs from the shows, traditional and folk melodies and favourites from Gilbert and Sullivan. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and we hope to repeat it in the not-too-distant future so more people can share the delight!

Maintenance & Building update

I hope you are all enjoying the warm church thanks to the installation by CPS of a **new boiler**, the first in at least 30 and possibly as many as 40 years. The net cost to the parish, after a large contribution from our insurers, was approximately £10,000. The radiators were replaced in 2007, and now with a new boiler we should get highly efficient heating, so not only will this hopefully reduce bills but we now have no excuse to be absent from church in the winter months!

I'm very grateful to Tessa Hobbs and Malcolm Munro and the garden team for their hard work in clearing a lot of overgrown material from the **front and back gardens**. This has been paid for through the generosity of those who contributed to the Sally Head Garden Fund. This will increase the security of the garden and the visibility of the church from the road and I hope this will provide proper space for plants to flourish and the original plan for the garden to be implemented. New volunteers to assist with gardening are always appreciated. Contact Malcolm Munro if interested.

Work to the **Lady Chapel** has begun. You can see a picture below of it after it had been cleared out! Seeing it bare made plain how dirty and unpleasant it had become over the years since its last redecoration in 1995.

The chapel now has scaffolding on the inside and outside. On the outside a maintenance hatch has been installed and various broken tiles and crumbling mortar replaced and repaired. Inside the chapel has been entirely rewired, the old fluorescent lights removed and the cracks in the ceiling raked out and filled, as have been the holes made by the installation of the new wiring.

The next – and longest – stage is the introduction of new lights and the painting of the ceiling and walls. The floor will then be cleaned and sealed and the reredos and statue of Our Lady repainted. The work should be completed for the end of the year.

