

LITTLE ST MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE

October 2019: No. 531

NEWSLETTER



*This newsletter contains; Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer;
Garden News; Know your PCC; Many Ministries at LSM;
Ideas from the new Editor; plus the usual Vicar's letter, daily
intentions for prayer and more.*

Highlights of October

Tuesday 8th October

Forum Lunch Club – for the elderly and their carers

12 noon onwards. *See Bob DeWolf for more information*

Wednesday 9th October

Monthly Healing Mass

10am *preceded by silent prayer for healing from 9.45am.*

Thursday 10th October

Society of Mary

7pm Vespers and Benediction

(Preacher: The Rev'd Tim Harling, Dean of Queens' College)

Friday 18th October

S. Luke, evangelist

Low Mass 12.30pm, Sung Mass 7pm.

Sunday 20th October

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am High Mass

(Preacher: The Rev'd Annabel Shilson-Thomas, Chaplain, Westcott House)

*Sunday 27th October – Clocks go **back** one hour!*

Monday 28th October

Ss Simon & Jude, apostles

Low Mass 12.30pm, Sung Mass 7pm

Advance Notice:

Cambridge Symphonic Winds

concert at Little Saint Mary's at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th November.

Further details and tickets will be available soon

from Richard or Patricia Davies (trishviola@icloud.com)

Do put the date in your diary for a most enjoyable musical evening.

From the Vicar

Lancelot Andrewes, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the forms I have to fill in for the national Church of England statisticians each year asks how many people have joined and how many people have left our worshipping community in the last twelve months. I always write ‘unknown’ because it is impossible to tell! If we were a small country church it would be an answerable question, but I don’t think there has yet been a Sunday in my seven years in this parish when there hasn’t been a visitor or stranger or someone whom I think of as a stranger who turns out to have been worshipping here every few months for several years but I’ve just missed them. Cambridge is a place of constant change and her churches are not immune from that.

That said, we’ve lost some very visible people in recent weeks. First, Emma Bourne and then Fr Gregory. Emma was our Administrative Assistant – now ably replaced by Elaine Shield – but also someone very involved in the life of our parish. We have ‘lost’ Ed Green and Nell Whiscombe to Westcott House; and in the coming months I know we face further changes as other people move on.

Nonetheless, we are used to upheaval and so these changes are nothing out of the ordinary. Pondering the country and the world more generally, however, we seem to be in a time of especial trial. Some of it we can opt out of very easily by deleting our social media accounts! Some of it, however, is more genuine and more profound. The 2016 referendum has revealed (and subsequent events have deepened) great splits and chasms in the life of our country; globalisation and climate change are doing much the same for our world.

As all this toxicity – to use a fashionable word – washes up against us (with the usual consequences of encountering what is toxic) how are we to cope? Indeed, how are we to do more than cope?

‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever’ the Letter to the Hebrews tells us. He is our rock and the still point in a turning world. Amid all the turbulence, it is His reassuring solidity to which we cling. As so much changes around us, there has never been a more important time to build some structure and discipline into our lives, lest we be like a body without a skeleton and just flop all over the place...

I’m enormously encouraged by those who have kindly responded to my request for company praying Morning and Evening Prayer in church each day. Since Fr Gregory’s departure I have said the Office on my own only once. Do please consider if you could add even just one Office a week in church with me to your diary and pattern of prayer. We pray for members of the electoral roll every day, and over two months every single regular member of the congregation is prayed for. Come and join us!

You’ll see some new things in this month’s newsletter and I’m very grateful to Rosanna Moseley Gore for agreeing to take on the considerable task of editing it. I have done it for five years and it is a vital role, but not one that needs a priest and much better done by someone with more of a focus on it so that new writings and things of interest can be covered. Do let Rosanna have your thoughts.

This leads me to my final point: it is in our commitment to the local and little communities – to our neighbour – that resistance to dissolution, chaos and evil takes root. The greatest and most profound such community is of course the Church. Do think and pray again, therefore, about getting more involved and living out your baptism and confirmation more deeply. I’d be delighted to chat with you about how you might do that – I hope that our community at LSM provides plenty of ways of contributing; ones that suit every vocation and need.

Assuring you of my love and prayer, I am,
ever yours in Christ,

Fr Robert.

Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer

by "Peregrine" - An introduction to a series:

O LORD, we beseech Thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom Thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by Thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'Lord, teach us to pray'. I am very bad at prayer. I am not even sure what it is and what to expect. I try, not knowing what I try. But then just so were the disciples, otherwise they would not have made that request. And yet, as good observant Jews, they must have performed the daily prayers in due form from their youth up. But they sought something, at once confessing their need, admitting that there was something they wanted, and acknowledging an authority they did not understand: 'Lord': the Keeper of the Loaf, *Hlaford*, in the Old English; '*Dominus*', the Master of the Household, the Family, in the Latin; *Κυριος*, the Master, the wielder of power, in the Greek – all translations fall short of what they could not say.

We have all met those strange people who seem to have some inner strength, inner knowledge and wisdom, authority – well, call it charisma, for it is, in the sense of the Greek, a special gift some have and some have not. 'You have that in your face which I would fain obey', says Shakespeare's disguised Kent to Lear. Not all have – not all need to have - the same gifts. That charisma challenges. Before such people our genius is rebuked, as 'tis said Mark Antony's was by Caesar. Some love at first sight, and would follow to the ends of the world and beyond. Some people, I think, turn away, pretending to scorn, even to hate, but in fact in fear – of what? But fear – awe – of such authority is proper, and if it is lost something has gone out of the light of the sun. That authority challenges, makes all our cleverness of words seem mere chatter, a tinkling symbol of that



which cannot be said. It makes us afraid for our status in our own eyes – and that challenge to our pride is disconcerting, frightening even. We cannot meet the gaze.

By all accounts such was the quality that Jesus possessed *par excellence*. He did not have to say anything, just to be. His silence challenged Pilate – and what one would give to have Pilate's story! He divided: nobody seems to have been able to be neutral about Him (nor can they be now). Such people seem possessed of a quality we long for but can know only in the longing. They have something we want, and did not know we wanted until we met them. 'Teach us'. Our desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord is itself a prayer, I think, inarticulate and lost as it is – by definition it places us *outside* those courts, looking in. But desire is not enough. To say to a lover 'I love you, I desire you' is to say everything but to say nothing. For love seeks not an object but an indwelling, a sympathy – literally a 'feeling together', where we find our self in the other and the other in our self. No wonder the commonest of metaphors used by the great mystics of the Peoples of the Book for that fulfilment in prayer is sexual: earthy, material, animal, transcendent, the clod of wayward marl become immortal

diamond. (Is writing about that of which I cannot clearly speak itself a sort of prayer?)

And so Jesus taught His pupils: for that is what ‘disciple’ means, those who learn, *discere*. ‘When you pray...’ He assumes not ‘if’, as an option, but a regularity: ‘when’. Something to be done as regularly as washing your face. And that routine can be hard, like – very like! - washing in cold water on a winter’s morning. But love is like that: it’s not all roses and trumpets. It’s also putting the cat out and washing socks, and those bleak times when there seems nothing to say to each other, and only habit keeps you going.

But ‘My words fly up, my thoughts remain below’. How well I know what Claudius felt! Perhaps one should not worry, just keep doggedly putting one word after another, and just tell one’s conscience, ego, whatever it is, to be quiet: ‘Peace, prattler’, in good George Herbert’s words. One can be too self-critical.

But like Jacob and the angel, it is a struggle – sometimes a wordless agony. And – oh too rare! - a wordless ecstasy.



Calendar and Intentions

for

October 2019

The list of Thanksgivings and Intercessions offers a focus for our daily prayer, both at the Offices and Mass, and in our personal times of prayer.

The Vicar would be glad of suggestions or additions to the list of daily intentions.

Calendar for October

TUE 1st *S. Remigius, bishop & missionary*
WED 2nd Holy Guardian Angels
THU 3rd
FRI 4th S. Francis of Assisi, deacon & religious
SAT 5th of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SUN 6th SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

MON 7th
TUE 8th of Requiem
WED 9th *S. Denys, bishop & companions, martyr*
THU 10th S. Paulinus, bishop & missionary
FRI 11th *S. Ethelburga, abbess*
SAT 12th S. Wilfred of Ripon, bishop & missionary

SUN 13th SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

MON 14th
TUE 15th S. Teresa of Ávila, religious & doctor
WED 16th *Nicholas Ridley & Hugh Latimer, bishops & martyrs*
THU 17th S. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr
FRI 18th **S. Luke, evangelist**
SAT 19th Henry Martyn, missionary

SUN 20th EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

MON 21st
TUE 22nd
WED 23rd
THU 24th
FRI 25th *Ss Crispin & Crispinian, martyrs*
SAT 26th Alfred the Great, king

SUN 27th NINETEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

MON 28th **Ss Simon & Jude, apostles**
TUE 29th James Hannington, bishop & martyr
WED 30th
THU 31st

October's Daily Intentions & Anniversaries of death

France *David Walser, pr., Lester Vellanoweth, Audrey Gulland* 1st
That we may ask our Guardian Angels for assistance 2nd
Whitworth Trust 3rd
Franciscan Order *Magda Phillips* 4th
All those who pray the Rosary *John Wade* 5th

Our Parish & People *Elizabeth Mary Knight* 6th
CamTrust *Irina Findlow Peter le Huray, Derek Hulyer* 7th
The Faithful Departed 8th
The sick 9th
Conversion of our land 10th
Vocations to the religious life 11th
Catholic Tradition in the CofE *Geraldine Adams* 12th

Our Parish & People 13th
Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service *Eric Horne* 14th
Deepening of our spiritual life *Isabel Furley, Thomas Timmins* 15th
Ridley Hall 16th
Christian Unity *Bertie Clough* 17th
Medicine *Frederick Linsey* 18th
Ely Diocesan Synod *Dale Reed* 19th

Our Parish & People *Percy Poulter, Alice Royston* 20th
Ordinands on placement *Norman Cruttwell, pr.* 21st
Peterhouse and Pembroke Colls *Winifred Staples, Jennifer Moseley* 22nd
Those persecuted for the Faith *Frederick Waring, David Hall* 23rd
Meredith Dewey, pr., Robert Wolverson, Freddie Webber
The housebound *Patricia Nutbrown* 24th
Shops and businesses in the parish 25th
The Queen and the Royal Family 26th

Our Parish & People *Margot Fynes-Clinton, Michael Jackson, pr.* 27th
Those who despair *Patricia Chopourian, Donald Clough* 28th
Bishops *Beatrice Bicheno* 29th
Brexit negotiations *Edith Lock* 30th
All who dabble in the occult *Richard Crowden, Charles Holland* 31st

Know your PCC

LSM has a large number of its congregation who are actively involved in the Parochial Church Council. Each month we will feature some of them.

JO WIBBERLEY:



Having served on PCCs in four previous parishes, I was honoured to be elected to serve at LSM in our early years in Cambridge. I have held many positions, including secretary of the Finance & Standing Committee and being one of the parish's Diocesan Synod representatives. I became interested in Diocesan matters after becoming a trustee of the Diocesan Mothers' Union not long after arriving at LSM.

Some years ago, I was elected a deputy churchwarden to help with the coordinating of maintenance work in the church and garden, attend funerals at the back of the church, etc. This eventually led to my becoming the Health & Safety Officer on the PCC, ensuring that our Health & Safety policy is reviewed annually. As a clergy daughter with secretarial qualifications, my working life took me into the church, charity, educational and social work sectors.

MARY WARD:



I'm on the PCC as a member of the South Cambridge Deanery Synod, and I chair the Social Responsibility Group. For the second year running I will be organising the rota of volunteers to help at the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project at LSM during December and January (see separate piece).

I am a member of LSM Parish Choir and I also run the Junior Choir for children up to the age of 7-8 and their families. This meets at 5pm every Friday. New families are always welcome.

Outside of LSM I recently retired after 18 years as teacher in charge of the school at the Phoenix Centre, an NHS Unit for young people with eating disorders, and I have marked A-level English Literature papers for many years. I also sing in Cambridge University Symphony Chorus.

Over the past ten years I have developed a practical understanding of Islam, as my three grandchildren are being brought up in the Islamic faith in Cape Town. It is a great privilege to experience first-hand, and practically, many aspects of Islamic life.*

**There will be a piece by Mary telling us more in the next issue.*

RICHARD MORGAN:



As PCC Secretary I take minutes of meetings, help discuss and shape future agendas, and compile contributions to the annual report for the Easter Vestry Meeting. As Deanery Lay Chairman I co-chair the tri-annual meetings of the deanery synod with the Rural Dean; attend archdeaconry liaison; and participate at inductions of new clergy in our deanery. As one of three lay members of General Synod for Ely Diocese I attend two sessions a year, in Westminster and York, as a legislator in passing measures, and canons, improving liturgy, and regulating relations with other churches. I am the third generation of my family to be a member of General Synod and its forerunner Church Assembly.

Outside of church I work for a British multinational groceries and general merchandise retailer in Cambridge; I am a trustee of various charities; and serve as a city councillor in Ely, chairing the assets and acquisitions committee.

HELEN THOMPSON:



I have been coming to LSM for 13 years, and have been a member of the PCC since becoming responsible for the Sunday morning children's group. Quite simply I lead the group, normally once a month, and create the rota for leaders and volunteers - easier when we have lots of names for the rota!

The children are a vital and active part of the church family, engaging them and teaching them about the Gospel is a privilege and joy. We could however do a lot more if we had the resources and that is one of the things the PCC will be looking at for the future.

Outside of LSM, I'm an optician working for Boots Opticians - until recently managing the large Cambridge practice. I have just taken on a new role within the company, focusing on the contact lens business. This means working with a team in Nottingham head office and the job will take me to many different practices across the country, making for an exciting new challenge.

Cambridge Churches Homeless Project

This year, Little Saint Mary's will again be hosting the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project at LSM overnight on Tuesday evenings, during the months of December and January. This will include New Year's Eve, but not Christmas Eve as CCHP is at OLEM that week. This year **all volunteers, both existing and new, must attend one of the training evenings**. The evening will include some training on dealing with guests with mental health issues. Safeguarding will also be covered. The dates are:

- **Wednesday 30 October, 7.30pm** - Castle Street Methodist Church, Castle Street, CB3 0AH
- **Friday 1 November, 8pm** - Community Centre, Our Lady & the English Martyrs, Hills Road, CB2 1JR
- **Monday 4 November, 7.30pm** - Christ Church, Christchurch Street, CB1 1HT
- **Tuesday 12 November, 7.30pm** - St Barnabas' Church, Mill Road, CB1 2BD
- **Thursday 14 November, 7.30pm** - Great St Mary's, Senate House Hill, CB2 3PQ

We hope the evenings will prove useful so that volunteers feel more confident in welcoming the guests. Please see Mary Ward for any further information, or contact maryjward@btinternet.com

Garden News

**Our next Garden Coffee & Cake Morning
Saturday 12th October, 10.30am**



Through the summer we have been trying to keep the extremely wild flowers under control and have begun to do some cutting down and clearing. Many plants seem to have peaked early this year with the warmth and not much rain

It is important to get the beds ready for the snowdrops and other spring bulbs. Keeping the garden looking cared-for and loved encourages visitors into it and sometimes also into the church. All offers of help are most welcome.

Please join us if you can!

Christine Tipple
cstipple@gmail.com

Many Ministries at LSM

Each month we focus on someone in our community whose ministry makes a difference to our church lives.

STEVE SIDDALL – Coordinating the Readers for Services



From my background of teaching and directing plays, I have learned that eliciting good readings at LSM can be rather like encouraging actors/pupils to deliver their best ‘performance’. The brain has to decide how to deliver the reading as a way of sharing something important with the congregation. The voice delivers the words, so the brain needs to work in conjunction with the voice. Easier said than done. Then there is the element of

anxiety – a bit of adrenaline helps (after all, reading aloud in public is very different from chatting in normal life), but if it becomes an inhibiting terror, then the reading is better done by someone else.

Reading from the Bible is like acting in the sense that clear story-telling is fundamental. Names need highlighting; and as most readings contain a mixture of narrative, description, comment and direct speech, slight changes of gear can help the movement from one to another. Pauses, or even patches of silence, can be helpful for clarity and enable the audience to keep up. Actors and readers are sometimes alarmed by silence, but used well they draw the listener in.

At LSM we are lucky to have some excellent readers. I am hugely grateful to them for their willingness to share in the work, and to ‘perform’ with great skill.

Ideas from the new Editor

Taking on the task of editing the LSM monthly newsletter was one I found I'd apparently agreed to, thanks to a persuasive vicar and the PCC bush telegraph. But I'm more than happy to do it, as I'm really interested in the wonderful community at LSM.

Since coming to my first LSM service in January 2016, I have been touched by the genuine feeling of a large group of people dedicated to a shared endeavour. I have watched, from two thirds of the way back on the right-hand side, and I have seen friendships, kindness, humour, devotion, ritual, carefully choreographed theatre, and a constant sense of occasion unfold before me every week. Not to mention the music, the coffee and biscuits (and wine and cake), and the seasons of the church and of the year beautifully reflected inside, and in the garden.

What I would really like to see more of, within this newsletter, is anything that makes this church and this community show itself for what it truly is – a varied group of good people, all striving to do their bit in their own way, to make being in and around LSM better. Be that as clergy, servers, members of the choir, PCC members, sides-people, churchwardens, readers, people on the coffee rota, children's group leaders, volunteers at the fête and in the garden, people who change light bulbs. Be that simply coming in at the back, anonymously, and slipping out at the end. The list goes on.

So over the months to come, I hope to include pieces on the different ways ministry happens here, as well as small profiles of members of the congregation giving an insight into what brought you here and what keeps you here. And if you're not yet a member of the congregation but have happened upon this newsletter by chance or design, perhaps reading this might make staying for a cup of coffee and a chat more appealing, or less daunting. It certainly took quite a few weeks before I took that step!

I'd also like to hear from you things like: your favourite hymn, prayer, part of the Mass, verse from the Bible – I told Fr Robert that, as an

acupuncturist, the column in my professional body magazine I enjoyed most was the one in which one acupuncturist writes about their favourite acupuncture point and how they use it. I always learn a lot, and it's really interesting seeing familiar things from another perspective. I'd like to bring something of that flavour into this newsletter, so that we can get to know some of our fellow members of the congregation better, and perhaps find inspiration taking our understanding and our faith in new directions.

Please do come and have a chat with me, bring me your thoughts and ideas. Or send me an email on wisewomanwalks@gmail.com

Rosanna Moseley Gore

