

LITTLE S. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE

*October 2021: No. 555*

# NEWSLETTER



*This newsletter contains:*

*The licensing of Fr Philip; Opera and the Ordinal;  
Hamlin Fistula, Ethiopia; V is for Vocation;  
Garden News; plus the usual Vicar's letter, daily  
intentions for prayer and more...*

## **Notable dates in October**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

### **Concordia Club**

*Meeting open to all for companionship, chat, coffee & cake. Meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the Parish Centre.*

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

### **Return to normal pattern of Sunday Worship.**

**Mondays 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Faith & Food Student Group**

*Our group for students and young adults will meet on Mondays 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October (and 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November). 7pm drinks, 7.30pm Supper, 8pm talk, 9pm Compline.*

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

### **Monthly Healing Mass**

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October

### **Funeral of Cherry Dainty - all welcome at 12 noon**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October

### **S. Luke, evangelist**

Low Mass 12.30pm, Sung Mass 7pm.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

### **Funeral of Ian Robins - all welcome at 11.30am**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October

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

Low mass 12.30pm, Sung Mass 7pm

*Sunday 31st October – Clocks go back one hour!*

# From the Associate Vicar

1st October 2021

Dear friends,

Greetings from the Associate Vicar's study, at the top of the very long sacristy passage staircase! Fr Robert is taking a well-deserved holiday, which means that this month's Vicar's Letter has transformed into the Associate Vicar's Letter.

The personal benefit of this is that it gives me an opportunity to convey my thanks to all of you for the jolly welcome Kirstie, Thomas, Hilda and I have received to the parish, from the abundant hamper that greeted us on the day we moved from Teesside to the countless greetings and offers of help, we feel well and truly at home in our new parish. Just a few days ago we were trundling up Little S. Mary's Lane after walking Lupo, our Springer Spaniel, on Coe Fen. On seeing LSM Thomas, with all the enthusiasm of a three-going-on-four-year-old, proclaimed "Look, there's my new church!", which captures how much he and all of us are already feeling at home.

A particular "Thank you" must go to everyone who came along to my licensing on S. Matthew's Day, and especially those of you who contributed refreshments. The buffet was so generous that, stairs to the Associate Vicar's study notwithstanding, I'm already making arrangements for my cassock to be taken out a few inches.

October brings with it that clear sense of a new season, not only with cooler days, darker evenings and the changing colours of the trees, but also, in a university city like ours, the beginning of a new academic year and all the promise that brings. That sense of a new beginning is particularly acute for us at LSM this year as, after the disruptions inflicted by the Coronavirus pandemic, we will finally be returning to some sense of normal from Sunday, 10th October. At Michaelmas Fr Robert wrote to each of you explaining how our ordinary pre-pandemic arrangements will be restored. The usual pattern of Sunday services (8 o' clock Holy Communion, 10.30am

High Mass, 6 o' clock Evensong & Benediction), with full sung liturgies, the Chalice, children's group and refreshments will go back to how they used to be. Weekday services will also be back to their pre-pandemic pattern, with a 7pm Mass each Wednesday, specifically tailored to the needs of the clinically extremely vulnerable for whom Sundays might still prove difficult.

All of this means, hopefully, that that sense of a new beginning will be felt in our spiritual lives, corporate and individual, too. Sustaining a regular pattern of prayer and worship has been difficult for many of us during the last 18 months. But now we're to be given the opportunity to refresh and return to some semblance of normality. Let us pray that each of us will be strengthened by God's grace to deepen on relationship with Him in this new season.

I end this month's letter with notices of the recent deaths of two longstanding parishioners and their respective funeral arrangements. The funeral of **Cherry Dainty**, who entered into her rest on 8th September, will be celebrated at LSM on Thursday, 14th October at 12 noon. Cherry's death was followed, sadly, by the death of **Ian Robins** on 20th September. His funeral rites will be held at LSM on Tuesday 19th October at 11.30am. Please pray for the repose of their souls, and for their families and friends in their grief. May Cherry and Ian rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

*Fr Philip*

**Sung Mass on the Feast of Saint Matthew,  
apostle & evangelist, with the Licensing of the  
Rev'd Dr Philip Murray as Associate Vicar**  
*by Richard Morgan*



We gathered on the evening of Tuesday 21st September for this important occasion in the life of the church and of LSM and Fr Philip's family.

Amongst the dignitaries present were the Very Rev'd Mark Bonney, Dean of Ely; the Rev'd Fr Bill Braviner, vicar of S. Peter's, Stockton-on-Tees (Fr Philip's training incumbent); the Rev'd Fr Nick Quanrud, curate of S. John the Divine, Kennington; the Rev'd Deacon Will Lyon Tupman, curate of S. Mary the Virgin, St Neots and Cllr Richard Morgan, Deanery Lay Chairman.

The first reading from Proverbs 3.13-18 “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding, for the gain from it is better than gain from silver or gold” was read by Fr Philip’s mother, **Canon Heather Murray**, priest-in-charge of St Mary Magdalene, Belmont, Durham.

The Gospel, read by Fr Robert Mackley, vicar, was from S. Matthew 9.9-13 “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

The Sermon, which was based on the first reading from Proverbs, was preached by the **Venerable Alex Hughes**, Archdeacon of Cambridge. He asked “What is wisdom, and what wisdom is on offer for us today, and for Fr Philip?” Wisdom is about knowing yourself and knowing your place in the world. [The text of the sermon follows this piece.]

The Archdeacon then called Fr Philip forward and read aloud the Declaration of Assent. Fr Philip swore to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and to pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Ely. He then led the congregation in prayer.

Fr Robert presided at the consecration, and Fr Philip distributed communion.

In his notices, Fr Robert wished to thank all those who had attended the evening’s festivities, particularly those who had travelled from afar. He thanked the Archdeacon for his help, advice and support concerning this new appointment; and he asked the congregation to remember in their prayers the late Professor Michael Waring, without whose munificence none of this would have been possible.

The congregation departed to the parish centre for a reception

The Licensing can be watched here <https://fb.watch/8a4PAXrw6L/>

# **Sermon preached by the Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge, at the Licensing of the Rev'd Dr Philip Murray, on Saint Matthew's Day 2021**

*Lections: Proverbs 3.13-18; Psalm 119.65-72; Matthew 9.9-13.*

‘Happy is the man who finds wisdom,’ says the proverb. But what is wisdom? And what wisdom is offered to us today? And what does it mean for this man – Philip

Wisdom is about knowing yourself and your place in the world. It tells you who you are and what you’re worth. It gives you a stance, an attitude towards life. And the Christian stance and attitude, the Christian wisdom, is set forth in today’s readings.

In the Gospel we meet Jesus the Rabbi, the religious teacher, dispenser of wisdom. Ever alert to the queries and concerns of the people around Him, His ears prick up at the sound of a question. Why does the teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? The question is not innocent, of course; we know that. It is an attempt to trip Him up and disparage Him. The Pharisees who ask it are not looking for wisdom. They already have an understanding of how the world works, and of everyone’s place in it; and they know that the place of a wise teacher is not among the tax collectors and sinners – the social outcasts. Their wisdom is about separation and protection. In their minds, holiness is vulnerable to contamination by association. Sin rubs off. So, the Pharisees begin from a pure centre and think outwards, considering where to erect their defences. That’s their stance, their attitude to the world.

But Jesus, as so often, turns everything around. He starts at the margins and seeks to bring them in. Or rather, He doesn’t so much bring the margins in as encompass them; He makes them central. ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’ Jesus, wisdom personified, locates truth in weakness, for that is the true human

condition. Despite the pretension of the Pharisees, no-one stands at the pure centre. We are all the sick and the sinful. This is our reality. This is our truth. And God is not afraid of it. As Pope Francis said recently, you cannot understand catholicity without the idea of a field hospital with no borders. We are all the walking wounded. To know this is wisdom – a place to start out from in life; and, Philip, a place to start out from in ministry.

Though priests are set apart and anointed to dispense the medicine of immortality, they are set apart *within* the body of the church; they are not set apart *from* it. Priests are called from among the laity – the common people of God – and their special position is not a spiritual advantage to them. One of the theological benefits of the eastward-facing celebration of the Mass is its reminder that priest and people all stand together on the same side, all turning to God for help and strength.

As preacher and pastor, the priest is just one hungry person telling other hungry people where to find food. As president of the Eucharist, the priest consumes the Bread of Life first, not least as a sign that he or she is as much in need of spiritual nourishment as the person in the back pew. The spirituality of priesthood is the discipline of learning that we have nothing to offer and trying not to make it more.

So, Philip, let me give it to you straight: you may be a doctor, but you are not the Physician! You are not the answer to anyone's prayers. You are not the Bread that will satisfy their hunger. They may call you father, but you will remind them that there is only one Father, who is in heaven. The fruitfulness of your ministry largely depends on your pointing people to God then getting out of the way. 'For,' as St Paul says, 'we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ'.

The call of S. Matthew was the occasion for a wonderful insight into the truth of reality. Against the conventional religious wisdom of the day, which put people like Matthew the tax collector outside the sphere of God's grace, Jesus revealed that God is no further from us

at our worst than in our best moments. God in Christ meets us where we are, encircling us with mercy and forgiveness. God in Christ teaches us who we are – the sick and the sinful – and what we're worth – His own life for us on a cross. This is the evangelical wisdom Matthew discovered that day and set down in his Gospel.

‘Happy [indeed] is the man who finds wisdom ... for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her.’

*Your Editor could not resist including some photographs of the refreshments after the service – LSM is really getting back to a recognisable normal!*





## Calendar for October

FRI	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>S. Remigius, bishop &amp; missionary</i>
SAT	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Guardian Angels
<b>SUN</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>EIGHTEENTH after TRINITY</b>
MON	4 <sup>th</sup>	S. Francis of Assisi, deacon & religious
TUE	5 <sup>th</sup>	of Requiem
WED	6 <sup>th</sup>	S. Faith, martyr
THU	7 <sup>th</sup>	
FRI	8 <sup>th</sup>	
SAT	9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>S. Denys, bishop &amp; companions, martyr</i>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NINETEENTH after TRINITY</b>
MON	11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>S. Ethelburga, abbess</i>
TUE	12 <sup>th</sup>	S. Wilfred of Ripon, bishop & missionary
WED	13 <sup>th</sup>	S. Edward the Confessor, king
THU	14 <sup>th</sup>	
FRI	15 <sup>th</sup>	S. Teresa of Avila, religious & doctor
SAT	16 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Nicholas Ridley &amp; Hugh Latimer, bishops &amp; martyrs</i>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>TWENTIETH after TRINITY</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S. Luke, evangelist</b>
TUE	19 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Martyn, missionary
WED	20 <sup>th</sup>	
THU	21 <sup>st</sup>	
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>TWENTY-FIRST (LAST) after TRINITY</b>
MON	25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Ss Crispin &amp; Crispinian, martyrs</i>
TUE	26 <sup>th</sup>	Alfred the Great, king
WED	27 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>THU</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S. Simon &amp; Jude, apostles</b>
FRI	29 <sup>th</sup>	James Hannington, bishop & martyr
SAT	30 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY before ADVENT</b> <b>(Vigil of All Saints - Hallowe'en)</b>

# Daily Intentions & Anniversaries of death in October

*David Walser, pr., Lester Vellanoweth, Audrey Gulland* 1<sup>st</sup>  
That we may invoke angelic assistance 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Our Parish & People** 3<sup>rd</sup>  
The Franciscan Order *Magda Phillips* 4<sup>th</sup>  
The Faithful departed *John Wade* 5<sup>th</sup>  
The sick *Elizabeth Knight* 6<sup>th</sup>  
Ordinands on placement *Irina Findlow, Peter le Huray, Derek Huller* 7<sup>th</sup>  
Peter house & Pembroke Colleges 8<sup>th</sup>  
Conversion of our Land 9<sup>th</sup>

**Our Parish & People** 10<sup>th</sup>  
Reconciliation between the nations *Lauren Patterson* 11<sup>th</sup>  
HM prisons *Geraldine Adams* 12<sup>th</sup>  
Westminster Abbey 13<sup>th</sup>  
Home communicants *Eric Horne* 14<sup>th</sup>  
Contemplatives *Isabel Farley, Thomas Trimmings* 15<sup>th</sup>  
Riley Hall 16<sup>th</sup>

**Our Parish & People** *Bertie Lough* 17<sup>th</sup>  
All doctors and surgeons *Frederick Lindsey* 18<sup>th</sup>  
The Church Missionary Society *Dale Reed* 19<sup>th</sup>  
The GSS *Percy Poulter, Alice Styron* 20<sup>th</sup>  
Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament *Norman Cromwell, pr.* 21<sup>st</sup>  
Political prisoners *Winifred Staples, Jennifer Moseley* 22<sup>nd</sup>  
The Society of Mary *Frederick Waring, David Hall* 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Our Parish & People** *Meredith Dewey, pr., Robert Wolverine, Freddie Weber,*  
*Patricia Nut brown* 24<sup>th</sup>  
Persecuted Christians 25<sup>th</sup>  
HM The Queen *Laurence Marsh, pr.* 26<sup>th</sup>  
The sick *Margot Fines-Clinton, Michael Jackson, pr.* 27<sup>th</sup>  
The spiritually lost *Patricia Manchurian, Donald Lough* 28<sup>th</sup>  
The Province of Uganda *Beatrice Lichen* 29<sup>th</sup>  
Shrine of OLW *Edith Lock* 30<sup>th</sup>  
**Our Parish & People** *Richard Crow den, Charles Holland* 31<sup>st</sup>

# Opera and the Ordinal

*by Fr Simon Asquith*



I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to God while I have being.  
*Psalm 146:2*

This verse may resonate with anyone who has been a chorister, who has sung in a parish choir, or enjoys singing hymns in the congregation. Think back to the days we processed outside church as Ovid restrictions were being lifted, finally to be able to sing a hymn and the *Regina Coeli* together.

This verse resonates particularly for me because it was in the choir stalls that I was led to faith; where I could be myself with God and where I could thank him for his many gifts.

Before embarking on my training for the priesthood I also enjoyed a career in opera production. It sounds glamorous, and lots it was. Being one of the many cogs of the opera machine was exhilarating, and full of passion and beauty...and drama, both onstage and backstage - in season and out of season (to draw a comparison with the ordinal). However, a great deal of time was also spent in airport lounges, finance offices and hotel lobbies. The long process of programming and producing an opera usually starts 18-36 months before the premiere. Yet from the first audition to the final curtain call, your job, everyone's job, is to produce something beautiful.

For me the most inspiring part of working in opera wasn't the grandiose opera houses (although problem-solving in the houses of Venice and Versailles does rather take the edge off!) Nor was it the jubilant choruses or the heartbreaking arias of the scores and libretto. No, it was working with awe-inspiring singers and orchestral players who dedicate their lives to rendering this world more beautiful. The life of an opera singer can be a lonely one, living out of a suitcase away from family. It is also an immensely demanding one, physically and emotionally. My job was to aid them, in whatever way I could, in their beautiful quest.

- At the Ordination of Deacons, the bishop asks:  
“Will you be a faithful servant in the household of God?”
- “By the help of God, I will.”

Just as the opera singer transports an audience to a more beautiful place, so I feel called to serve in the household of God. For as S. Paul writes: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 12:2*

In Baroque opera, Cybele descends from the clouds in pursuit of love (Jean-Baptiste Lully, *Ats*) and Diane protects Polytechnic and Arise from a violently jealous queen and unites them (Jean-Philippe Rameau, *Polytechnic et Aricie*). In Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *David et Jonathas*, Jonathas laments: *A-t-on jamais souffert une plus rude peine?* (Has anyone ever suffered pain so deep?) as he is bound to choose between loyalty to his father Saul, and the love for his companion David. Opera has the power to lead us to the most profound corners of our psyche and our soul and to transform us, in beautiful love and empathy.

A fellow parishioner at Southwark (albeit a few centuries before me) once said: "All the world's a stage". To this, I boldly add: "All of God's creation is an opera house!" We are called to render this world more beautiful than we found it. As deacons, as Christians - faithful servants in the household of God - we do this by caring for our brothers and sisters in whatever way we can, by seeking Christ's beauty in everyone, with empathy and love for all, as we discern what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Beautiful as that all is, it would be dishonest to deny that a calling to vocation does not come without its challenges, indeed I dare say that following Christ, for all of us, is not always plain sailing. During the discernment process the bishop told me that I was doing very well, but had to deepen my understanding of the "prophetic nature of the priest".

"I beg your pardon bishop?", I thought. In order to begin to understand what this meant, I turned to the prophet Jeremiah:



Marc Chagall, *The Calling of Jeremiah*, 1958

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” *Jeremiah 1:4-8*

Those years spent in opera, I must admit felt a lot like “I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth”. Jeremiah is tormented, suffers

torture and imprisonment, because he dared to speak out against the king and speak the words of the Lord. Jeremiah can be a role model for us all. Following Christ takes courage, but always in the knowledge that God is with us.

For more guidance we may look to Saint Paul:

Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. *1 Corinthians 14:1*

St. Paul's advice to pursue love does not only provide a segue from Chapter 13 (popularly known as the "love chapter" that you will have heard at many a wedding); it teaches us that love does not happen automatically. It takes work. After establishing the centrality of love, he continues:

Now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how shall I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves; if you in a tongue utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning; but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves; since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. *1 Corinthians 14:6-12*

"Building up" is one of S. Paul's preferred expressions, he making use of it six times in this chapter alone. Music is one of God's great gifts, and the Psalms are packed with references to singing and playing musical instruments, but should not be treated idly. Singing in the choir stalls is one of the ways we can understand the spiritual gifts God bestows upon us. Playing the piano for friends builds a communion between us. Joining in congregational hymnody builds up the Church as we sing our praises to God.

The music at Little Saint Mary's, the beautiful liturgy, the care and dedication we show such a church is a thing of beauty that nourishes faith and builds up the Church. My time at LSM helped me to understand the true gift of beauty in church.

At the opera house my job was to produce something beautiful for an audience, and I continue to have the utmost admiration for opera singers and orchestras. In the church our **joy** is to love one another and build up the church; to sing praises to our God while we have our being.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the peoples I will sing praises to Thee among the nations. For Thy steadfast love is great above the heavens, Thy faithfulness reaches to the clouds. *Psalm 108:1-4*

*After training for ordained ministry at Westcott House and enjoying two years on attachment at LSM, Simon was ordained Deacon at Southwark Cathedral on 26th June, and is serving his title curacy post at Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon.*

## **An A-Z of Interesting Things: V is for Vocation**

A vocation is literally a calling – a summons to a particular path of life, or if not a summons then a gradually discerned strong sense that a certain life, particularly in Christianity a religious life, is right and needs to be followed. This may be entry into the priesthood or into a religious order.

More generally, a vocation within Christianity can be seen to be a call to 'live well in the present' (like St Thérèse of Lisieux' 'Little Way'), focusing on the importance of following simply and honestly the aim of saying your prayers, loving your neighbour, bearing your sufferings, with a loving and generous heart.

## Hamlin Fistula, Ethiopia



For the first time since the Ovid virus, struck, blankets are being packed up this month in Birmingham to be sent to Hamlin Fistula, Ethiopia.

Each patient who comes to one of the Hamlin Fistula hospitals for restorative surgery and each new mother is given a blanket before they leave. It is extremely cold there at night.

Another collection of blankets is going to be sent after Christmas, so we need to get knitting again. The 6-inch(15cm) squares need to be knitted in washable double knitting yarn on 8-inch (20cm)needles.

For more info email [cstipple@gmail.com](mailto:cstipple@gmail.com)

## Papua New Guinea

The latest newsletter from the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea is available on the LSM Global page on this site. If anyone does not have internet access and would like a copy, please contact Richard Chevis via the LSM Office and he will send you a colour copy.

## Garden News



One Saturday, when a few of us were clearing some summer growth, a small group of people appeared and started staring at the west wall of the church. Their leader (from the CU Geology Society) began talking about its construction, and we were spellbound.

There are bricks from here and there, near and far; tiles left-over from something else, even some Roman contributions. It is a fascinating mish-mash and it seems we could and should know much more about its history.

We were asked about the church tower. We knew LSM once had a tower over the north porch, but what do we know about its origins and its fall?

*Christine Tipple*  
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*If anyone has more information on any of these questions raised by Christine, please get in touch with your Editor.*