

LITTLE S. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE

July 2023: No. 613

NEWSLETTER



This newsletter contains:

Etheldreda's Peculiar; Visiting Priest from Calcutta; A Note from your Retiring Editor; Garden News; plus the usual Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.

Notable dates in July

Thursday 13th July

Deanery Synod

7.30pm LSM hosts the gathering of clergy and laity in south Cambridge to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Wednesday 19th July

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Thursday 20th July

Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

7.30pm meet at S. Mary's, Haverhill for Office & Benediction.

All welcome, including non-servers.

Friday 21st July – Wednesday 26th July

Visit of the Rev'd Asa Kiran Parichha to LSM

Saturday 22nd July

Feast of S. Mary Magdalene

10am Sung Mass

Monday 24th July – Thursday 27th July

Summer Club for Children

10.30am – 12.30pm informal club organised by parents at LSM.

Tuesday 25th July

Feast of S. James, apostle

7pm Sung Mass

Advance Notice

Sunday 6th August

Feast of the Transfiguration

Fr Ed Green's first Sunday with us.

8am & 10.30am Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Ed

From the Vicar

5th July 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

I'm writing this letter on the twentieth anniversary of my ordination as a Deacon in God's Church, so my mind is filled with memories (almost all of them good, actually) of the last two decades ministering in London, Liverpool and Cambridge. I could never have imagined what I'd experience as a deacon and then a priest in the Church, and these last twenty years have been rich and rewarding, demanding and stretching. The old Jewish proverb – if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your future plans – comes strongly to mind! Man proposes but God disposes. Yet in all the ups and downs (sadly the downs have predominated in the last four months) I can say with confidence that God has been there and carried me through; I certainly feel I have a deeper faith now than when I was ordained in S. Paul's Cathedral on 5th July 2003 aged 25.

Such an anniversary is a great reminder to take the long view and not to allow the short term to govern everything. The combination of a close friend's suicide and then a close colleague's infidelity in just four months has been a great blow, of course, but in the long light of history and the church it is not the worst thing in the world (that happened at 3pm on Good Friday) and is (without wishing to belittle or diminish what has happened) a comparative blip. A day to God is like a thousand years to mankind, the Book of Genesis reminds us, and there is no sin that cannot be forgiven. Mother Anna is with the Lord and He is cleansing, purging and healing her, using our prayers to assist in that work; Fr Philip's affair is ended and he is with Kirstie and the children, working hard to rebuild his marriage and be a better husband, father and priest again in the future. We continue to pray for them and (of course) for the woman he had an affair with. I know Fr Philip and Kirstie are enormously grateful for your cards, letters and emails. The disciplinary aspect should be concluded by the end of the month and I'll be able to write and let you know how things have ended up in August.

Even in these times of trial there are things to look forward to and things to give thanks for. I look forward very much to being joined by Fr Ed Green as our Assistant Curate from the beginning of August. It was a joy to be at

Ely Cathedral to assist at his priestly ordination by Bishop Dagmar on Saturday 1st July, and his first Sunday with us will be the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, 6th August. We pray for him and Katie as they negotiate this further transition. They currently live in their own house in St Ives and so Fr Ed will commute in. Having spent his Deacon's year at S. Bene't's he will come to us as a Priest and spend two years here. He will be Assistant Curate and so this is very much a training position: I'll be seeking to give him as wide a variety of experience as possible so that he is prepared for being a parish priest himself in due course. After the upsets he has endured at S. Bene't's I pray we will be able to provide some loving stability for him.

I'm also looking forward to welcoming a priest from the Diocese of Calcutta, India, to spend five days with us later this month (20th-25th). Have a read later in this Newsletter to find out more. I cherish our link with the church and cathedral relief service there and we enjoyed having Bishop Paritosh and his team visit last year. I hope lots of you will be able to meet Fr Asa and help him learn about the Church of England and us to learn more about ministry in the Church of North India.

There are also occasions for thanksgiving too. First, to you for your many messages of support over recent months; secondly to all of those who so kindly came to support my installation as an Honorary Canon of Ely on 24th June; thirdly to many clergy (I must name – among several – Fr Jim Robinson, Mother Arabella Milbank and Mother Lizzie Murgatroyd-Shipp) for their assistance at the altar in recent weeks when we have been very short-staffed. I also want to extend particular thanks to Bob DeWolf, who is stepping down as the coordinator of our Forum Lunch Club for the elderly after many years. Thank you to him for a lot of organising, cooking, entertaining, and Christian love. Finally, a big thank you to Rosanna Moseley-Gore who is stepping down as editor of this newsletter. Taking it on just before Covid, little did she know what she was in for, but she has worked very hard and we've enjoyed a wonderful depth and range of content. If this is something you think you might be able to take on, please speak with Rosanna or with me.

With love and gratitude for our share together in the Gospel, I am, yours
ever in Christ,

Fr Robert



Etheldreda's Peculiar *(that is not a statement, but my topic)*

by Charles Moseley

The day when Fr Robert was being – so to speak – canonised in Ely, close to where the shrine of St Etheldreda once stood, we were in Ely Place, off Holborn, where once stood the London residence of the Bishops of Ely.



It is a peculiar. With its gated boundaries, it was for centuries subject to the jurisdiction ecclesiastical and secular not of the Crown nor of the London magistrates, but of the Bishop as Etheldreda's successor as Prince of the Isle of Ely. Vestiges of that jurisdiction endured into the 1960s, when the tiny pub, the Mitre (where Boswell and Johnson drank and to whose pretty barmaid Oliver Goldsmith wrote a charming little poem) was still licensed by the Cambridgeshire magistrates and not those of London. We were there for the patronal festival of the church of St Etheldreda, which was built as the private chapel of his London residence by Bishop Hotham of Ely in the 1320s. As a result of my new book on the saint, I had been invited to speak at the celebrations.

The day began with a solemn High Mass (in Latin) with a setting (*Ego Flos Campi*) by Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla (1590-1664), a motet by Victoria and voluntaries by Juan Battista José Camabilles (1644-1712). The choice of Spanish music was deliberate, for in the reign of James I the Spanish Ambassador, the Conde de Gondomar, had arranged with a not unsympathetic King for the Roman rite to be celebrated in that church. The building had a narrow escape from the total demolition the rest of the Palace suffered at the hands of a speculative developer – yes, the Georgians had them, too – and was returned to the Roman Catholic community in 1878. The ancient connection with the Embassy was remade and maintained, and Gondomar’s current successor, His Excellency Señor José Pascual Marco, came for the day’s celebrations.

The festival continued with friendly (and generous) drinks in the little garden under an ancient fig tree and red umbrellas – necessary in that hot sun, if not exactly creating *la vie en rose* – advertising quite decent champagne. Then came my talk, and then a very good lunch – paella, naturally, with *crema catalana* for afters – for about fifty afterwards in the crypt. My lovely publishers were present, and sold a lot of books.

Talk flowed, as it does, new connections were made, new discussions started, and the afternoon wore on. We got to talking about relics, and how I had seen the fully accredited relic of St Boniface which King Offa had given to the great church at Brixworth in the 780s. We talked about the pillaging of Etheldreda’s shrine, and the cruel scattering of her body to the four winds, and how one of her hands had somehow been squirrelled away, to turn up, with a credible provenance, in the 1820s. Most of it is in the Roman Catholic church in Ely. But part of the palm is in Ely Place, and Fr Tom offered to display it to a few of us – my publisher and her daughter, the churchwarden, and Rosanna and myself. Into the empty church, still holding something of the morning’s incense, then, and a wait... then Fr Tom returned, reverently holding the reliquary, a silver hand with a crystal let into the palm to reveal the relic.

It was an odd moment: curiosity, certainly; awe, yes, at its age, and how it connects “now” with a very different “then” and puts both in a perspective that is unsettling. And, yes, reverence. I felt called to say to the others, “Well, I hope I have not let her down in the book.”

Inadequate. My medieval ancestors would have been on their knees. As Fr Tom left us to replace the relic in its secret place, Michael the warden said to me, “I am not very sure how I feel about relics.” Indeed: how does a 21st-century person relate to the culture that for us was so rudely terminated, on some grounds which were arguably sound, at the English Reformation?



We came out into the hot, dazzling light of the weekend-quiet City and caught a hot bus to Liverpool Street. For in the end the jam-packed train to Cambridge, full of very hot people, many (who shouldn't have been) wearing very little, had to be faced. I was quite grateful that Rosanna had persuaded me that in the great heat of that day I really could dispense with my customary tie.

But, alas, we had missed Fr Robert's collation. So Rosanna wrote him an affectionate note, and, over two glasses of wine, we settled down to watch it on YouTube. Lots of familiar, beloved, faces from LSM seasoned the congregation, and we wanted to join in when the choir started Parry's *I was glad*, that wonderful setting of Psalm 122 which we had both sung last year at a choral weekend in Milton Abbey. We saw Fr Robert and Bishop Peter swear their vows, and then just as they made their way towards the where the ancient shrine had stood...

Well, power cuts happen. So we had another drink.

Sponsored bike ride

by Jeremy Musson

... in aid of our sister parish of St Cyprian's, Sharpeville, South Africa, on **Tuesday 8th August 2023.**

All are welcome, but please let us know as soon as possible, to help with planning. The ride is led by Mary Ward maryjward@btinternet.com, Chair of our Social and Global Responsibility & Justice Group, and Churchwarden Geoffrey Howe. A small group from the LSM congregation will meet for Morning Prayer at LSM, then set off to cycle 25 miles to Ely Cathedral, the cross-country (or rather cross-fen) route - National Cycle Route 11 & 51, via Wicken Fen.

We will meet for prayers with a cleric from the cathedral at Prior Crauden's Chapel, and have been given permission by the Dean to have our picnic lunch in the famous Deanery Orchard, with a splendid view of the east end of the Cathedral. Then we cycle back on the reverse route to the door of LSM.

It takes about two and half to three hours each way, with a bit of sightseeing, and will be done on ordinary bicycles rather than "racers". Helmets to be worn. There are amazing views of different kinds, with the skies continually changing; views of the fens, including Wicken Fen; of the villages, and the river; and especially dramatic views of the cathedral as you get close.

St Cyprian's Sharpeville is a vibrant and growing congregation, but the parish faces challenges with poverty and hardship. But it remains committed to outreach and support, with food parcels and blankets for those in need, and supporting child-headed family units, and other vulnerable individuals.

See www.lsm.org.uk/groups/lsm-global for more information, and the opportunity to see one of the moving services at this church.

Visiting priest from Calcutta



The Revd Asa Kiran Parichha, who is the Assistant Presbyter of St Paul's Cathedral in Kolkata, will be visiting Cambridge, and on attachment to Little St Mary's, from the 21st to the 26th July (the Presbyter is broadly equivalent to the Dean in an English Cathedral). He will then go on to a similar five-day placement at St Peter's in the City, Derby.

Fr Asa Kiran states that: "I am so grateful to God, for giving me this opportunity through his servant, my Bishop, who has guided and encouraged me. The main purpose of my exposure to the two churches is to explore and experience the different patterns of worship, including music, tradition, Eucharistic and sacramental life, and the ministry of the Church. I hope and pray that this visit will help me to become acquainted with new thoughts and ideas to implement in my future ministry in the Church and in society at large. I look forward to visiting you in person for His glory."

The placement is at the request of the Rt Revd Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, who visited us and preached at LSM last September; and it is in furtherance of the link between LSM, St Paul's Cathedral, and the Cathedral Relief Service.

Please introduce yourself to Fr Asa, and make him welcome while he is with us. He writes the following to introduce himself:

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I, the Revd Asa Kiran Parichha, was born and brought up in Odisha, India. Being born into a Christian family, I have a strong faith and commitment to the Lord and His work. Serving the Lord and ministering to His people in

different areas of life presents the challenge of being faithful. I have done my secular studies in the Bachelor of Commerce stream and my Theological studies in the Bachelor of Divinity. At present I am serving as an assistant Presbyterian in the Parish of St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata, India. St. Paul's Cathedral is under the Diocese of Calcutta (Church of North India) with Anglican background, dedicated to Paul the Apostle.

As a student of Theology I studied in the Senate of Serampore College, which was established by the Revd Dr William Carey, the English Christian missionary who came to India from England for the work and mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was inspired by his life, contributions and his works towards the ministry of the church and society.

Therefore I am so grateful to God for giving me this opportunity through his servant, my Bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, who has guided and encouraged me for the exposure to your Churches, namely Little St Mary's Church in Cambridge and St Peter's Church in Derby in England. The main purpose of the exposure is to explore and experience the different patterns of worship elements, including music, traditional holding, Eucharistic and sacramental life, and the ministry of the Church. I hope and pray that this visit will help me to become acquainted with new thoughts and ideas to implement in my future ministry in the Church in particular and society at large.

I look forward to visiting you in person for His glory.

Thanks and regards,

The Revd Asa Kiran Parichha
Assistant Presbyterian
St Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata, India
Email: asakiran27@gmail.com

Bird feeders?

There are four bird feeders of varying design in our west churchyard. No bird larger than a thrush can use them, which also applies to squirrels, rodents and other riff-raff. Not even mice. They draw in little songbirds,

among God's more attractive creatures, in every season of the year. So, they empty pretty fast, and in that condition lose their point. As I know, they are easy to refill and thanks to a very generous bequest we are supplied with seeds and peanuts on demand. These go first to the Peterhouse lodge and are found in an unlocked shed behind the memorial garden.

At times I can't give the feeders my attention and if you would like to assist please let me know and we'll arrange a short tour of the system. No more is required because the feeders themselves tell us when to intervene. They become visibly empty, or nearly so.

Rod Tipple
rrtipple@gmail.com or 01223 350657

A note from your retiring editor *by Rosanna Moseley Gore*

This is my 45th monthly newsletter, which, sitting alongside the 31 weekly News Sheets during the tough pandemic year of 2020, makes for quite a lot of thinking about LSM and our wonderful community. I think that editing the newsletter has taught me more about the church – or our church – as the Body of Christ than many other things And for that I am truly grateful.

You see, I'm always interested in individual human beings and what they have to say. When Fr Robert asked me to take over editing, at a time when he was very overloaded with work, I was happy to say yes, partly because I knew I could use it as an opportunity to get to know more people in the congregation. And also, I hoped, to help you all – the readers from whom I occasionally hear back – to know more, and more about, our congregation. People matter, community matters, but for that to be real, we need to have some content and context. Generalised loving of our neighbours, while obviously a hugely important ideal to aim towards, seems to me to need help sometimes. And so, hearing what others might have to say, in a book review, or a description of church-crawling travels, or a thorny spiritual issue grappled with, helps (well, helps me, certainly) to love those particular neighbours a little bit better. And finding a way to acknowledge some of the tireless “back room” work done by PCC members, as well as

celebrating the unglamorous unsung heroes and heroines of coffee rotas, readers' rotas and the like – well, it definitely made me feel more grateful.

Fr Robert gave me pretty much *carte blanche* with the newsletter, but his one definite admonishment was “No recipes!” I got round that particular stricture by including many recipes in the weekly lockdown news sheets. That, if ever there was one, was a time during which the need for connection to our community felt urgent. So, if it meant recipes, or photos of our gardens, well so be it – an inadequate substitute for chatting after Mass over coffee or in the LSM garden.

I'm aware that I'm retiring from this editorship at another time when Fr Robert is overloaded with work (though my notice was given before that became so). But I believe in doing things when I have energy and enthusiasm for it (currently lacking owing to much work on other projects being necessary). And I also know from experience that, nature abhorring a vacuum, my pulling back will allow someone else to step forward. I look forward to reading future editions.

Garden News

The June evening working party focused on watering, weeding and tidying, especially in the new roses area; we had several new recruits and celebrated with a customary pint at the Mill, sitting out by the Mill Race on a beautiful sunny evening. There had previously been a day of proper “cutting back” by the professional gardener Tom Jones, who also removed the greater part of cut down foliage from site. This followed the great spurt of spring growth, when the cow parsley is no longer in flower, and alkanet, ground elder and butterbur need restraining – an important moment in managing the churchyard garden highlighted in the garden plan thinking. Among other things, it helps to give back a sense of depth and views to the historic setting of the garden, and to preserve a through visibility which has been demonstrated is necessary for the safety and enjoyment of the garden. It also helps to show how the plan we initiated in 2023, focuses on a more cultivated feel along the Little St Mary's Lane Border, and then shades into progressively more semi-wild character as we progress southwards towards the Calvary Bed and the Peterhouse Border.

We have been advised to take great care of a rare moss which occurs on the flat tombstones on the Peterhouse side of the churchyard. We are learning more about the plants all the time, and also welcome new observations (please always treat any plants with caution and respect for all the obvious reasons). Keep a look out for the next garden working parties, which in July will be on the **29th** (as usual the last Saturday in the month) and on a weekday evening (**Tuesday 11th**). Please also note the **Garden Fundraising Event on Saturday 22nd** – a special one-off walking tour with an eminent Cambridge geologist looking at the rich variety of stones used in the building and repair of LSM, with tea in the parish room to follow.

Contact garden@lsm.org.uk
Jeremy Musson or Christine Tipple



Fundraising event for the LSM churchyard garden

Saturday 22nd July 3-5pm

Refreshments provided

Geology expert Dr **Nigel Woodcock**'s guided walk-and-talk tour around the building stones of Little St Mary's Church, with architectural historian Jeremy Musson.

Dr Nigel Woodcock is Emeritus Reader of the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, and Emeritus Fellow of Clare College. This one-off event in aid of the LSM churchyard garden is a lively on-site “walk-and-talk” about the various stones of this historic church, those used in its original building and in its repair over the centuries. Prepare to be amazed with stone facts!

Dr Woodcock says: “Since my retirement from teaching in 2019, I have developed my longstanding interest in the history of building stone use in Cambridge; a heritage city with exceptional variety and longevity of its stone record. Every building with significant stone components has been examined, their stone identified and their use dated as far as possible. The Cambridge study has been broadened out, and work is under way to look at all medieval churches in South Cambridgeshire. So far about 130 churches have been examined. The emerging results are fascinating, and throw new light on the widespread medieval transport of stone from the Lincolnshire limestone belt to Cambridge through the tortuous network of waterways across the Fens.”

Calendar for July

Sat	1 st	Of the Precious Blood
Sun	2nd	FOURTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	3rd	S. Thomas, apostle
Tue	4 th	
Wed	5 th	
Thu	6 th	Ss Thomas More & John Fisher, bishop, martyrs
Fri	7 th	of the Sacred Heart
Sat	8 th	of the BVM
Sun	9th	FIFTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	10 th	
Tue	11 th	S. Benedict, abbot
Wed	12 th	
Thu	13 th	of Requiem
Fri	14 th	John Keble, priest
Sat	15 th	S. Swithun, bishop
Sun	16th	SIXTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	17 th	
Tue	18 th	Elizabeth Ferrard, deaconess
Wed	19 th	Ss Gregory of Nyssa, bishop & Macrina, religious, drs
Thu	20 th	<i>S. Margaret of Antioch, martyr</i>
Fri	21 st	
Sat	22nd	S. Mary Magdalene
Sun	23rd	SEVENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	24 th	
Tue	25th	S. James, apostle
Wed	26 th	Ss Joachim & Anna, parents of the BVM
Thu	27 th	<i>Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop & doctor</i>
Fri	28 th	
Sat	29 th	Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Sun	30th	EIGHTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
Mon	31 st	<i>S. Ignatius of Loyola, priest</i>

July Daily Intentions & Anniversaries of death

Fr Edward Green

James Dyson

1st

Our Parish & People

Deepening of faith

Daniel Golding, Eunice Francis

2nd

Tom Forte

3rd

Trust in the Lord's Precious Blood

Jack Hunter, Alfred Francis, Sally Head

4th

World peace

James Owen, pr.

5th

Christians in Politics

6th

Friends of Fulbourn Hospital

Dorothy Oakley

7th

Priests

8th

Our Parish & People

Friendship

Matthew Richards, Peter Waring, George Howe

9th

Eileen Thorpe

10th

Benedictine Order & S. Bene't's

Robert Runcie, bp., Sally Theobald

11th

The sick

John Rose, John Conrad-Turner

12th

The Faithful Departed

Audrey Styler, Laurence Fletcher

13th

The Catholic movement in the Church of England

14th

Climate change response

Joyce Fletcher, Miranda Long, Gillian Beard

15th

Our Parish & People

Christianity in schools

Jim Campbell, Elisabeth Barnes

16th

Deacons

Winifred Eakhurst

17th

Our Parochial Church Council

John Gibson, Gordon Roe, bp.

18th

Those persecuted for the Faith

19th

Cambridge Aid

Marguerite South, Simon Hallam

20th

Evangelism

John Butterfield

21st

Our Parish & People

Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service

Amanda Copley, John Bunting

22nd

Pilgrims

Pat Morgan

23rd

Parents

Rita Fearing, Christine Benton

24th

Westcott House

Kathleen Waring, Savitri Perera

25th

PNGCP

Phyllis Price, Neville Woods

26th

Our friends

Diana Goodheart

27th

Our Parish & People

Greater use & understanding of Ignatian spirituality

Theresa Taylor, Elizabeth Wylie

28th

29th

30th

31st