

LITTLE S. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE

August 2023: No. 614

# NEWSLETTER



*This window of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding forth her Son and a pomegranate (a symbol of Resurrection) is at the very top of the Kempe Window at the east end of the church; the picture was taken by the Vicar from the scaffolding during the redecoration of the church, summer 2020.*

## Notable dates in August

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August

### **Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord**

Fr Edward Green's first Sunday with us

*He celebrates and preaches at all services.*

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August

### **Sponsored Bike Ride to Ely**

*Setting off after 8.20am Morning Prayer in Church,  
with picnic in the Deanery Orchard*

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

### **Monthly Healing Mass**

10am with the laying-on of hands and anointing with oil

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

### **Guild of All Souls**

3pm Vespers & Benediction at S. Mary's, Newmarket.

*See Bill de Quick for information*

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August

**Standing Committee** 7pm at the Vicarage

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August

### **Patronal Festival - Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7.45am Low Mass; 7pm High Mass *followed by refreshments*

*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Cally Hammond, Dean of Gonville & Caius College

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August

### **Assumptiontide BBQ** *at the Vicarage*

Tickets £10 in aid of the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August

### **Feast of S. Bartholomew, apostle**

Low Mass 7.45am

Sung Mass 7pm followed by refreshments

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Memorial Service for Derek Beales** 2pm

# From the Vicar

S. Peter's Chains 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last Thursday I had the joy of celebrating a teaching Mass for the children at the conclusion of their Summer Club in church. You can read what one child who attended, Hester, thought later in this newsletter. I'm enormously grateful to Hanna, Katie, Mother Arabella and Catherine for their work in organising this event, which is now sure to become an annual fixture. It was really good to provide them with some nourishment in the Faith beyond our Sunday worship.

I'm delighted to welcome the Rev'd Edward Green as our new Assistant Curate this month. Please do make him (and his wife Katie, whom you will know already as an altar server) welcome. Purely selfishly, it is good to have a colleague again and not to have to do too many somersaults or call in too many favours to keep the Mass/sermon roster going! Since my predecessor, Fr Andrew Greany's departure, the parish clergy have lacked a G&S enthusiast in their number. In Fr Ed's arrival I note this is remedied.

Which reminds me to record my pleasure at Andrew Reid's arrival as our Director of Music. We're already enjoying the glorious hymn accompaniment and organ voluntaries and I know the choir are thrilled with his presence and work with them. What many of you may not know is that Andrew has been doing all this while commuting from the northeast. I think he and his wife Louise are about to purchase a house just outside Cambridge and then he might not end up quite so exhausted, but I'm pleased to record my gratitude to him for his work when my mind has been somewhat elsewhere.

Which brings me to the last thing I want to tell you: that the Clergy Discipline Measure process following Fr Philip's admission of an extramarital affair is now complete. The Bishop has found him guilty (by Philip's own admission) and the penalty he has issued is to be inhibited from exercising public ministry for two years. Fr Philip ceased to be our Associate Vicar from 12<sup>th</sup> July (the date of the Bishop's judgement), therefore. The Parochial Church Council were unanimous in wishing to allow the Murray family to remain in their current accommodation until the end of the year to provide them with some stability as they negotiate the future (and to provide that accommodation rent

free until Fr Philip is earning again). I am pleased to report that Fr Philip has found employment and will be returning to the world of academic law (where he worked before ordination) from the autumn.

This brings to an end a sad and difficult time in the life of our parish. We continue to remember Fr Philip, Kirstie, Thomas and Hilda in our prayers (and also pray for the woman with whom he had the affair). We pray for healing for them and for the renewal of their marriage and family life and also for ourselves, recognising our own pain and loss in all this, both individually and as a parish. Many of you have spoken to me both about your sense of betrayal and disappointment but also guilt and hypocrisy when recognising (in one form or another) “there but for the grace of God go I”. I pray that God gives all of us things to learn and grow in as we begin to move on.

It has been said that there is no such thing as a Christian tragedy because tragedy is not the last word for the Christian Faith. If you had told that to Our Lady and the disciples on Good Friday they might well – amid their tears and devastation – have raised a distinctly sceptical eyebrow. It is good then that this month also sees our Patronal Festival, that is to say the great Feast Day of the patron of our parish, the Blessed Virgin Mary. On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August we celebrate her Assumption, her being carried Body and Soul into heaven on her death, as the first fruits of the Resurrection of Jesus. For one who had known the unutterable loss of seeing her Son murdered before her eyes, she is the one who always encourages us to trust that beyond Good Friday there is always Easter Day. I hope lots and lots of you will join me in church at 7pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, not least because our preacher is the wonderful Mother Cally Hammond, Dean of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, and a good friend to the parish over many years. I look forward to hearing what she has to tell us. The following Sunday I’m delighted to be hosting at the vicarage the Assumptiontide BBQ in aid of the work of the church in Papua New Guinea. Tickets (including wine) are a bargain price of £10 and the event is not to be missed: the dahlias in the garden should be in full bloom by then. I look forward to sharing my home with you as we rejoice in our parish’s life together.

With love and looking to our home in heaven with Mary, I am,  
yours ever in Christ,

Fr Robert

## Stones that speak



*Christine Tipple writes:*

Despite the rainy weather on 22nd July hardy people came to join Dr Nigel Woodcock's tour of the outside walls of the church as he pointed out the strange mixture of materials used to built the church in 1352 and others used for repairs over the centuries.

After the talk afternoon tea was served in the Centre. It was a joy to welcome some guests who had not been inside LSM before, and £320 was made for the garden fund.

With thanks to Dr Woodcock for braving the weather too.

*The Vicar adds:* Thank you to Rod Tipple for the generous donation of a wheelbarrow for work in the garden!

# Children's Holiday Club at LSM (24th-27th July)

*by Hester, aged 8*



*Some of the parents at LSM decided to arrange a holiday club for the children of the parish. The theme was Pilgrimage. This is what we did:*

## **Monday**

On Monday it was Mother Arabella's turn to lead and we wrote a pilgrim prayer. We also made pilgrim badges and labyrinths. The labyrinths were made out of salt dough and used marbles to make the path of the labyrinth. We did some singing with Daddy [James] and then went on a mini pilgrimage in the garden.

## **Tuesday**

It was Saint James's Day and we did some songs from Spain with Cat and used loads of percussion instruments. We learned about Santiago de Compostela and why people visit there to walk the pilgrimage route. After a snack we heard Peter [Banks] tell us about the Northern Saints, St Cuthbert and St Aidan. He had recently been on a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, where St Cuthbert used to live.

## **Wednesday**

Hanna helped us to make a Temple out of Duplo [Lego bricks] and used it to help us retell the story of Jesus getting lost in the Temple. We then made pilgrimage bracelets with Mummy [Katie] out of scallop shell beads and other pretty beads. Peter took us into church and we did an I Spy quiz to see what we could spot. He explained a few of the important things in church and showed us the thurible.

## **Thursday**

This was our last morning and two of us went into church and practised reading the Gospel for the service. We had a quick sing to check the little ones knew the Alleluias. After a play in the garden we went into church and Fr Robert told us how to put on his robes for church. You remember the name of the alb as it's similar to a name in Harry Potter – Albus Dumbledore (a good wizard). Fr Robert taught us some of the things that he has to do as a priest in a church, including how to do the blessings, what the different prayers mean, how to say the words for the communion. After the service we had our last lunch together and as a special treat we all had an ice lolly – even Fr Robert!

Thank you to Fr Robert, Peter Banks, Mark in the office and all the parents for organising this special time for us. We are looking forward to having a pilgrimage to Walsingham now we know about pilgrimages.

## Calendar for August

TUE	1 <sup>st</sup>	S. Peter's Chains, Lammas Day
WED	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
THU	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
FRI	4 <sup>th</sup>	S. John Vianney, Curé d'Ars
SAT	5 <sup>th</sup>	S. Oswald, king & martyr
<b>SUN</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>
MON	7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>John Mason Neale, priest</i>
TUE	8 <sup>th</sup>	S. Dominic, religious
WED	9 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union
THU	10 <sup>th</sup>	S. Laurence, deacon & martyr
FRI	11 <sup>th</sup>	S. Clare of Assisi, religious
SAT	12 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
MON	14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>S. Maximilian Kolbe, martyr</i>
TUE	15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM</b>
WED	16 <sup>th</sup>	
THU	17 <sup>th</sup>	
FRI	18 <sup>th</sup>	of Requiem
SAT	19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
MON	21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Richard Crashaw, priest</i>
TUE	22 <sup>nd</sup>	
WED	23 <sup>rd</sup>	
THU	24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>S. Bartholomew, apostle</b>
FRI	25 <sup>th</sup>	
SAT	26 <sup>th</sup>	of the BVM
<b>SUN</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
MON	28 <sup>th</sup>	S. Augustine of Hippo, bishop & doctor
TUE	29 <sup>th</sup>	Beheading of S. John Baptist
WED	30 <sup>th</sup>	John Bunyan, doctor
THU	31 <sup>st</sup>	S. Aidan, bishop & missionary



# August Daily Intentions & Anniversaries of death

Farmers		1 <sup>st</sup>
Our Parish & People		<i>Vera Harman</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Deepening of faith		<i>Roma Gill</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Parish Priests		4 <sup>th</sup>
World peace		<i>Geoffrey Lampe, pr.</i> 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>		<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
Church Musicians		<i>Olive Robinson</i> 7 <sup>th</sup>
Dominican Order & all preachers		8 <sup>th</sup>
The sick	<i>Irene Morris, Michael Cook, Andrew Wardill</i>	9 <sup>th</sup>
Deacons	<i>Eric Hindley, pr., Mary Hindley, Norman Clift, pr.</i>	10 <sup>th</sup>
Poor Clares	<i>Arthur Benjamin Dex, pr., Geoffry Smith</i>	11 <sup>th</sup>
Whitworth Trust	<i>Peter Chamier, pr., Susan Yealland</i>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>		<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
Bravery in Christian witness	<i>David Paton, Adrian Martinez</i>	14 <sup>th</sup>
Our Parish & People	<i>Anthony Wibberley, pr.</i>	15 <sup>th</sup>
Our home communicants	<i>Ella Cassell</i>	16 <sup>th</sup>
Increase in giving to the parish	<i>Richard Wardill, Geoffrey Smart</i>	17 <sup>th</sup>
The Faithful Departed		18 <sup>th</sup>
Holy Matrimony	<i>Edwin Windeatt, Maurice Fretton, Blanche Poulter, Eric Loinsworth</i>	19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>		<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>
Christian Unity	<i>Derek Myson</i>	21 <sup>st</sup>
Heavenly-mindedness	<i>John Robinson</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
S. Cyprian's Sharpeville		23 <sup>rd</sup>
Those suffering from skin diseases	<i>Margaret Hutchinson, Elizabeth Wyngard</i>	24 <sup>th</sup>
Those on holiday	<i>William Sanders</i>	25 <sup>th</sup>
The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham		26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>		<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>
Theologians	<i>Thomas Haynes, Robin Bishop</i>	28 <sup>th</sup>
Those persecuted for the Faith	<i>Sybil Fleet, Patricia Fleet, Ione Spalding</i>	29 <sup>th</sup>
Spiritual seriousness	<i>Helen Culverwell, Tom Chalmers, David Hume</i>	30 <sup>th</sup>
Evangelisation of England		31 <sup>st</sup>

# Introducing our new Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Edward Green

*Fr Ed writes:*

I first came to Cambridge in 2010 to train as a teacher, and then worked for several years in the field of Special Educational Needs in various schools across East Anglia, and at the time I left teaching I was Head of English in a school near Ely. During my years as a teacher I also studied interfaith relations at the Woolf Institute, and this still retains an active interest for me.

Little St Mary's is not really a "new" parish for me, as I was a regular worshipper here from 2013 to 2019, only leaving when I began training for ministry and went on placements to other churches. I studied at Westcott House for three years, and I have just finished serving as a deacon at St Bene't's Church.

I was married (here at LSM!) in 2016 to Katie, who is a longstanding altar server here, and now we live together in St Ives. One of our shared interests is theatre, and we met during a production of *Princess Ida*, the first of many Gilbert & Sullivan operettas we have done together over the years. We are fond of coastal walks and spend a lot of our holiday time in Cornwall and Wales.

I am excited about my return to Little St Mary's and look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming weeks and months.



Fr Ed

[fr.edward@lsm.org.uk](mailto:fr.edward@lsm.org.uk)

# The Roles of Servers at Sunday Mass: or, what on earth are all those people in black and white doing?

*Edmund Racher writes:*

Four things to note: first, I shall write the guide as if one were watching a High Mass on a Sunday without any additional festivals or ceremonies.

Secondly, there is a fair degree of work - lighting candles, putting up hymn boards, changing altar cloths - that is done by all the altar servers no matter their purpose on any given Sunday.

Thirdly, some altar servants will carry chalices during the administration of Communion. These will be experienced and Confirmed members of the serving team trained in this task. Finally, all the altar servants by nature of being prominently dressed and placed can give a clear model of action to the congregation - kneel *now*, stand *now*. Of course, they are not doing precisely the same thing as those in the pews, but they can give a few good prompts.

Also, I should note that there are assorted roles that only need to be filled at particular occasions: banner bearers, additional torchbearers, canopy bearers - these I will not touch on for the sake of brevity. So then, to begin:

## Torchbearers

***They enter:*** behind the processional cross.

***They sit:*** on stools set in line with the back of the choir stalls on the north side of the Church - that is, behind the pulpit.

***Their function:*** in addition to providing a further escort to the processional cross, the torchbearers have one main function - the elevation of lights during the Liturgy of the Sacrament. This echoes and amplifies the movements of the priest at the altar as he elevates the Host, making his actions more readable to those at the back of Church.

This is therefore a role that could be performed as soon as a member of the congregation is able to lift a tall brass candlestick for a minute and half. The Acolytes can perform this function, but it is useful that they not have to

worry about this. However, it is ideally suited for newcomers to the serving team. With only a few tasks to perform, a torchbearer can get used to the movements of people and objects in the sanctuary and accustomed to wearing and working in a cassock.

**A quick note** - the Children's Candles copy the function and placement of Torchbearers. In this, the young of the congregation get a chance to see the work of the altar close-up and partially participate.

## Crucifers

***They enter:*** third from the front of the procession.

***They sit:*** in the choir stalls nearest the altar, possibly in the confessional chair if the choir is in good strength.

***Their function:*** to carry the processional cross as the altar party enters and leaves, and during the Gospel reading. Holding the cross steadily and prominently during the reading requires a certain degree of strength, especially during the longer passages. The image of the crucified Christ over the Gospel reading has some obvious strength, and together with the candles carried by the acolytes, makes what might be thought of as a little temporary shrine in the centre of the nave.

Aside from this, a crucifer is well placed to keep an eye on those bearing the Children's Candles and direct them if necessary.

## Acolytes

***They enter:*** behind the incense.

***They sit:*** on the south side of the altar, near the credence table just by the priests.

***Their function:*** Acolytes enter carrying candles, and carry them for the Gospel reading. They receive and briefly carry some of the elements brought forward during the Offertory. They pass altar vessels to priests at the appropriate moment and receive them again later. Both assist in the washing of hands at different times; one rings a set of bells at a crucial moment.

These actions are mostly intended to make life more useful for the priests saying Mass, providing an extra set of hands at a crucial moment. This is

not to say that there is no joy to be felt in these assorted tasks, but they lack the distinct features of the roles played by a Crucifer or Thurifer.

## Thurifers

***They enter:*** at the front of the procession.

***They sit:*** in the choir stools on the south side of the altar, next to the vestry door.

***Their function:*** to look after the thurible, take it out and tend to it (more coals, more incense, assorted poking and raking). The thurifer must have the thurible in the right place at the right time for incense to be put onto the coals and the whole assembly blessed. During a High Mass, the thurible will often be wielded by a priest to cense the altar or the Gospels - but the thurifer will have ample opportunity to cense the congregation at the procession. Later, during the Liturgy of the Sacrament the thurifer will swing the thurible and produce clouds of incense to witness the elevation of the Host.

In addition to all this, thurifers lead the procession in and out: no-one wishes to be directly in front of a swinging pot of hot coals. Therefore, they set the pace for the rest of the altar party entering and leaving.

Incense, in addition to its frequent use by the Israelites in the Old Testament, is a superb symbol of the prayers of the faithful - in the way it raises heavenward, in its scent, in the way it catches and displays the light within the Church in crepuscular fashion.

The Thurifer may be accompanied by:

## Boatbearers

***They enter:*** at the front of the procession.

***They sit:*** in the choir stools on the south side of the altar, next to the vestry door.

***Their function:*** to carry a little lidded vessel - a “boat” of incense - alongside the thurifer. Thurifers can (and sometimes will) carry this themselves, but it is useful to have a free hand occasionally. This is a junior role - hence the (sometimes used) terms *Boat boy* and *Boat girl*; a *Boatman* would be unusual, even in a church by the Thames. It is therefore a role

ideal for a youth that has grown beyond the Children's Candles but is not quite ready to act as a Torchbearer.

## **Master of Ceremonies**

**Enters:** behind the Torchbearers, in front of the priests in the altar party.

**Stands:** by the credence table.

**Function:** The MC will organise and lead the altar party, coordinating their activities before and after the service. It is the MC who provides several cues for the rest of the serving team to follow and offers periodic direction to them.

Beyond these functions, much like an acolyte the MC will perform a variety of tasks: placing the legilium for the Second Lesson, holding the Gospel during the Gospel reading, ringing a set of bells during the Sanctus and putting the altar rail in place - among other things. There is no one obvious symbolic function to the MC's actions during a Mass, but it can reasonably be thought that the role of coordination is absolutely necessary to the smooth running of a service. Given that an MC must be able to provide direction for any given member of the serving team at any moment during the service, the position is suited for those who are accustomed to filling every role in the serving team.

*Can we tempt you to join us? More servers are always needed! See Bill de Quick.*