

LITTLE S. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE

October 2023: No. 616

NEWSLETTER



This marvellous watercolour was painted by architect Hang Zhou after a recent visit, who says “I’ve created a watercolour painting capturing my favourite view of Little St Mary’s Church. It’s my way of preserving the beauty of this remarkable place.”

Notable dates in October

Thursday 5th October

Guild of All Souls 7.30pm Vespers of the Dead and Benediction

Monday 9th October

Food and Faith, our parish Young Adult Group, meets for the first time of the new term. All students and other adults in their 20s and 30s are welcome. 7pm in the parish centre. *Guest speaker:* Fr Dragos Herescu, Principal of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies

Saturday 14th October

A Conversation with Heidi Thomas & Stephen McGann

3-4.30pm. An opportunity to hear candid insights and see exclusive behind-the-scenes images of *Call the Midwife*. This is a fundraising event for Whitworth House and Camtrust; tickets are available via Eventbrite or the QR code on the poster in Church.

Wednesday 18th October

Feast of S. Luke the Evangelist

Low Mass 10am

Sung Mass 7pm with the laying-on of hands and anointing with oil.

There is no Healing Mass on Wednesday morning 11th October.

Monday 23rd October

Food and Faith 7pm in the parish centre

Guest speaker: Fr Andrew Hammond, Chaplain of St John's College, and TikTok sensation.

Saturday 28th October

Feast of Ss Simon & Jude, apostles

Sung Mass 10am *followed by coffee & cake*

Food and Faith day pilgrimage to Walsingham

An opportunity to visit one of the holiest sites in England with our Young Adults Group. Timings to be confirmed.

Advance Notice for November

Wednesday 1st November

All Saints' Day

Low Mass 10am; High Mass 7pm.

Deacon & Preacher: the Rev'd Clemency Flitter, Assistant Curate of Hornsey

Thursday 2nd November

All Souls' Day

Low Masses of Requiem 7.45am & 12.30pm

High Mass of Requiem 7pm. Preacher: The Vicar.

Monday 6th November

2023 Michael Ramsey Lecture

5.15pm the Rt Rev'd Dr Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, speaks.

From the Vicar

Holy Guardian Angels, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Although it seems very mild at the moment, the earlier nights give the game away that we are very much in autumn, and we have had our Harvest Festival and the Universities' years have begun and the parish feels "back in business" after the comparative lull of August.

We've have been sad to lose **John Tapner** from the Church Militant in the last month but our loss is the gain of the Church Expectant and with confidence we commend his soul to God. John had been a member of our congregation for a good number of years; he was a solicitor who had retired to Cambridge several years ago His wife Cherry died last year and John had been physically declining since then (although mentally he was fine). His funeral will be here at 2pm on Monday 23rd October. May he rest in peace.

Do please also pray for **Tony Fletcher** who is recuperating in hospital after what was a routine operation but then resulted in his getting Covid, poor chap. He is on the mend but I know would welcome a remembrance in our intercessions. **Renata Sayers**, who has been in our congregation for a long time – indeed was in the choir many years ago – is now housebound and seriously ill. We pray for her and for her family, especially John, Cristina, Phil, William and Ben. May Renata know peace of mind and the presence of the Lord with her.

I'm delighted to announce that Fr Edward will be beginning a monthly Bible study on Saturdays from November. I've been conscious that we all need nourishing with the scriptures (outside of the liturgy as well as within it) and I pray this will provide us with spiritual food as well as the simple pleasure of fellowship together. Fr Ed will begin with the Gospel of Mark and the group will meet over coffee after the 10am Mass.

“Money doesn't buy you happiness, but it does buy you a better class of misery!” I don't know who first came up with that line but I've always liked it, not just because it's funny but because it recognises that most of us aren't quite as indifferent about or superior to money as we might imagine or like.

This phrase came to mind because throughout October we're focusing on giving money to the church.

Over the last forty years while taboos around talking in company about politics, sex or religion have faded, the one taboo that remains as robust as ever is the taboo concerning money: people will almost never talk about it – how much they earn, what they do with it, and so on. We live in a world and in a culture where anyone telling others how to spend their money has committed a serious breach of the rules. We tend to be very touchy about the subject of what we do with our money and what we spend it on. Here we are, all of us wealthy by the standards of most of the other peoples of the world, yet we won't talk about our wealth. But the fact that it is a taboo, among Christians as much as non-Christians, makes no difference to the central idea that we need to grasp. It is this: money is a spiritual issue.

How we think about our money and what we do with it is just as important to our spiritual wellbeing as all the other activities we commonly regard as spiritual: prayer: Holy Communion, Bible study, etc. As far as the Bible is concerned money has everything to do with our spiritual lives. When talking about our spiritual lives we might expect questions about our church attendance or how much we read the Bible or pray. We might well be surprised or even offended to be asked “How are you handling your money?” But it is just as legitimate a question. We are used to thinking that money is a private matter for us and an essentially secular one. God thinks otherwise and the Bible consistently speaks of money and possessions and our attitude to them as spiritual and not secular matters, as public not private matters. Over a quarter of Jesus’ parables are about money – 11 out of 39.

Asking for money, then, is not just because the church needs a certain quantity to keep going (cover the bills, keep the roof on, pay the Vicar’s stipend) but because it allows us to be better Christians, to commit all that we are to Jesus and not just the bits we don’t mind His being in charge of. Giving is a privilege, a sharing in Christian ministry and – above all – a response to the God who in Jesus Christ has held nothing back but given us His very self. I look forward to exploring this with you in the weeks ahead.

And so with love and gratitude for the ministry we share, I am,
yours ever in the Christ who has held nothing back,

Fr Robert

Social Craft Group

Come and join us for a lighthearted craft and social morning, once a month in the Parish Centre at LSM. There will be coffee and biscuits and time to chat. Everyone is welcome to work on their own projects in good company. Whether you are doing crafts for fun, relaxation or making stuff for other people, all hobbies are welcome.

The first meeting is on **Tuesday 17th October 10am-12 noon**

Then the third Tuesday of each month: 21st November and 19th December.

Knitting, sewing, patchwork, embroidery, drawing, colouring in books, making jewellery, crochet, papercraft, macramé, tapestry, quilting, needlepoint ... and anything you like; it's up to you!

For more details contact Iona, Jane, Janice or Peter crafts@lsm.org.uk



Calendar for October

SUN	1st	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
MON	2 nd	
TUE	3 rd	<i>George Bell, ecumenist</i>
WED	4 th	Francis of Assisi, friar, deacon
THU	5 th	
FRI	6 th	William Tyndale, martyr
SAT	7 th	

SUN	8th	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
MON	9 th	<i>Denys, bishop, and companions, martyrs</i>
TUE	10 th	Paulinus, bishop, missionary
WED	11 th	<i>Ethelburga, abbess</i>
THU	12 th	St Wilfrid, bishop, missionary
FRI	13 th	Edward the Confessor, king
SAT	14 th	

SUN	15th	NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
MON	16 th	<i>Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs</i>
TUE	17 th	Ignatius, bishop, martyr
WED	18th	Luke the Evangelist
THU	19 th	Henry Martyn, missionary
FRI	20 th	
SAT	21 st	

SUN	22nd	TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
MON	23 rd	
TUE	24 th	
WED	25 th	<i>Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs</i>
THU	26 th	Alfred, king, scholar
FRI	27 th	
SAT	28th	Simon and Jude, apostles

SUN	29th	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
MON	30 th	
TUE	31 st	<i>Martin Luther, reformer</i>

October Daily Intentions & Anniversaries of death

Our Parish & People	<i>David Walser, pr., Lester Vellanoweth, Audrey Gulland</i>	1 st
Victims of atrocities		2 nd
Christian Unity		3 rd
The Society of Saint Francis	<i>Magda Phillips</i>	4 th
Self-sacrifice	<i>John Wade</i>	5 th
The spread of the Gospel in every language	<i>Elizabeth Mary Knight</i>	6 th
The people of Ireland	<i>Irina Findlow, Peter le Huray, Derek Hulyer</i>	7 th
Our Parish & People		8 th
Mission & preaching		9 th
Bellringers		10 th
Vocations to the Religious Life	<i>Lauren Patterson</i>	11 th
The Province of York	<i>Geraldine Adams</i>	12 th
Humble and Godly governance		13 th
Expectant mothers	<i>Eric Horne</i>	14 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Isobel Furley, Thomas Timmins</i>	15 th
Ridley Hall		16 th
The Vacancy-in-See proceedings	<i>Bertie Clough</i>	17 th
Healing and Wholeness	<i>Frederick Linsey, Barbara Auckland</i>	18 th
Good relations with other faiths	<i>Dale Shelton Reed</i>	19 th
Repentance from hypocrisy	<i>Percy Poulter, Alice Royston</i>	20 th
Inspiration from the Holy Spirit	<i>Norman Cruttwell, pr.</i>	21 st
Our Parish & People	<i>Winifrid Staples, Jennifer Mary Moseley</i>	22 nd
Peaceful family life	<i>Frederick Waring, David Hall</i>	23 rd
Spiritual alertness	<i>Meredith Dewey, pr., Robert Wolverson, Freddie Webber, Patricia Nutbrown</i>	24 th
Anglo-French relations		25 th
Scholars	<i>Laurence Marsh, pr.</i>	26 th
A wise approach to climate action	<i>Margot Fynes-Clinton, Michael Jackson, pr.</i>	27 th
Increased discipleship	<i>Patricia Chopourian, Donald Clough</i>	28 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Beatrice Mary Bicheno</i>	29 th
Freedom from evil	<i>Edith Lock</i>	30 th
Renewal in the Church	<i>Richard Crowden, Charles Holland</i>	31 st

Cambridge Interfaith Connection

Fr Ed writes:

In September I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural(ish) meeting of the Cambridge Interfaith Connection, an initiative to bring together people from various faith groups in Cambridge to learn from one another and to make friends. It was hosted by one of my *almae matres*, the Woolf Institute, in their beautiful building at the top of Queen's Road.

The format was very simple: in the first part of the evening, we heard from representatives of four different faith communities, each speaking on the theme of "New Beginnings" in their particular religion, and afterward there was a time of informal conversation (with very generous provision of food!). Many of the presentations featured a musical element, and the whole thing was both interesting and jolly good fun.

We first heard from two representatives of Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue, who told us about the four different "New Years" in the Jewish calendar. As it happened, one of those new years, Rosh Hashanah, had just finished. We also had a demonstration of the Shofar, the traditional horn which is blown at various times (incidentally, the Shofar is the instrument Joshua played to bring down the walls of Jericho).

We also heard from colleagues at Downing Place United Reformed Church, who discussed a little about Advent as the beginning of the Christian year, and then from two representatives of the Bahá'í, both with musical interludes. Finally, one of the trustees of the Cambridge Central Mosque gave us a lovely introduction to the traditions around the birth of a new child in Islam, along with special prayers for other "new beginnings" in life, and a member of the Cambridge Hindu community told us about Ganesh Chaturthi, a ten-day new year festival which happens over the summer with a great deal of rejoicing (and a dissolving statue of Ganesh which disappears into the river).

All in all, the event was marvellous: we learned a great deal from one another and we enjoyed ourselves together. The next event will be in February, hosted by Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue. All are welcome, and I highly recommend it. Full details will be shared with you as soon as they become available.

Volunteer opportunities this winter at Crossways

Would you like to make a difference this winter?

The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (CCHP), in partnership with It Takes a City (ITAC), provide shelter and food for people who would otherwise be sleeping rough over the winter months. We are looking for compassionate and committed volunteers to join us this November to March to provide meals and support at Crossways.

If you have a few hours to spare each month, and a desire to really help helpfully, we would love to hear from you!

To find out more and to register, visit: www.cchp.org.uk/register or contact Keeley, the Volunteer Coordinator: keeley@cchp.org.uk

Wintercomfort and CCHP Quiz and Curry Night

Marking World Homeless Day, Wintercomfort and CCHP are teaming up for this spectacular quiz event. Join us to learn more about the work of these two local charities and help us to raise vital funds for our continued work with people facing homelessness in the city.

When and where? **Wednesday 11th October from 7–10pm** at
St Barnabas' Church, Mill Road

For further details and to book tickets, visit:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wintercomfort-and-cchp-quiz-and-curry-night-tickets-700750592887