

**LITTLE S. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE**

*April 2024: No. 622*

# NEWSLETTER



*The statue of Our Lady at the north side of the altar (photo by Geoffrey Howe)*

# Vicar's Letter

Easter Wednesday 2024

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

## **Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

Each year I see or enjoy something different about Holy Week, even though in so many ways it remains the same. The liturgies of Palm Sunday through to the Paschal Vigil & First Mass of Easter – with the exception of the music – are printed pretty much identically each year. Their unchanging character is comforting and yet the depth of the mysteries they mediate is such that they never seem boring or repetitious (at least to me!); I always experience them afresh. The continuity of our Faith is something that is a great consolation in a world of near-permanent change and yet is also a challenge when we are addicted to novelty and children are never allowed to be bored and are almost surgically attached to their phones. There's a danger that our doing the same thing each week will fail to keep or interest people. I give thanks to God that this doesn't seem to be the case, and for all who worked so hard over Holy Week to make our worship happen.

One thing that has changed massively in my twenty years as a priest is church finances. When I was first ordained the role of **Treasurer** meant banking the collection, paying bills and keeping an eye on any savings the parish had. Today, charity and accounting legislation and the “professionalisation” of everything – not to mention our growth as a parish in employing staff and having investments to manage – means that it is a much bigger job. The generosity of Richard Martin in devoting much of his retirement to the task hid from us the extent of the change, but on his stepping back from the role and Ann Auger's taking up of it while still in full-time employment, we have found this is something one person can no longer do. The PCC agreed in March, therefore, to appoint a bookkeeper to take on much of the day-to-day work of the Treasurer. I'm grateful to Ann for looking after this handover. Over the next few weeks I hope we will get our bookkeeper up and running but we will still need a Treasurer. The role will now be one of oversight: fielding questions from the congregation and being the link person between the bookkeeper and the parish; reporting to PCC, acting as a bank signatory; monitoring our finances. Is this you? You really don't need to be an accountant or a financial whiz, just someone who

isn't terrified of a bank statement and gets on well with people, so that you can field financial questions and pass things between bookkeeper and congregation. If it isn't you, do please pray that we find the right person, because this is a vital role.

Since my last letter the church militant has lost **Tony Fletcher**, who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, surrounded by his family and shortly after Fr Ed and I had visited to anoint and pray with him. Tony was a Cambridge man born and bred and had worshipped (and sung in the choir and been an altar server) over his 84 years at S. Giles (Castle Hill), S. James (Wulfstan Way) and with us. We pray with Easter confidence for his kindly admittance to the heavenly liturgy.

Do please keep in your prayers **Francis O'Gorman** (who has an aggressive cancer that has returned) and **Sue Thompson** (Helen's mum, who has had a stroke while in hospital for a hip operation). We also pray for **Cheryl Cook** who has now left hospital after a heart attack and has moved into a care home off Cherry Hinton Road, and for **John Bowker** who had a stroke but now seems to be recovering well. Cheryl joins Keitha Jones, Sylvia Freeman, Helen & Christine Gibson, and Sue & Malcolm Munro among our home communicants; I'm grateful to Fr Ed, Peter Banks and Mary Ward for sharing with me in our ministry to them.

Lastly, as I type, we continue to await the arrival of a little Green into the world: Fr Ed managed the whole of Holy Week without the rush to the hospital, but he and Katie (I suspect especially Katie!) are now keen that their child should arrive. We remember them with affection in our prayers too. An Eastertide baby is an especial joy. I don't think there has been a priest at Little S. Mary's with a baby, in living memory. This is a change we can all endorse!

With my prayers for joy in the risen Lord, I am,  
yours ever

Fr Robert.

## **Notable dates in April**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** after the 10:30am Mass

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

**Annunciation of Our Lord to the BVM**

Low Mass 12:30pm

Sung Mass 7pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

**S. George**

Low Mass 7:45am

Sung Mass 7pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

**S. Mark**

Low Mass 7:45am

Sung Mass 7pm

# Photos of our Palm Sunday Procession





## Palm Sunday (continued)



# The LSM Churchyard Garden



Many people have shared messages of appreciation and support for the works to the LSM churchyard garden. The main Saturday monthly working parties are on the following dates: 20<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> November & 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Gardening gloves and all tools are provided; we usually work away for an hour and a half, to keep things ticking over: removing ivy (but not rare moss) from headstones etc., clearing paths, weeding and clearing out alkanet, ground elder and some butterbur to allow shrub roses and marsh grass and geraniums to thrive, picking up fallen twigs and leaves, and some fixing of the path edging stones, random fragments of headstones etc. usually with some planting and watering in the summer. No expertise required, just willing hands.

We are very eager for some urgent help in clearing the alkanet and nettles which have emerged, as they always do, on Little St Mary's Lane. Would

anyone interested in helping with this before the April working party please be in touch with Jeremy Musson or Christine Tipple: [garden@lsm.org.uk](mailto:garden@lsm.org.uk)? This might be an early evening session midweek, with a trip to the Mill Pub to follow. More information about the garden can be found at [www.lsm.org.uk/about/the-garden](http://www.lsm.org.uk/about/the-garden) .

## **Friends of Little S. Mary's**

*Christine Tipple writes:*

Friends of Little S. Mary's was started in the mid 1980s to keep in touch with worshippers who had moved away. Some members of the existing congregation also joined. A subscription was charged to pay for the newsletter that was sent to members. Sometimes events were organised by the Friends, such as a festival lunch or an outing hoping to raise some money for the church as well as being social occasions.

Even before Covid stopped many activities, numbers were in decline.

More people now have access to the internet and can see what is happening at LSM. We have a website and a Facebook page, and the newsletter goes online each month. This is a quick and cheap way to keep in touch and the church is always pleased to hear news from former members of the congregation, especially ordinands and lay pastoral assistants, who were known to many.

We shall go on holding social and fund-raising events, plus occasional outings, advertising these on the website, and hope that some previous worshippers may be able to join us.

*From the Interim Editor:*

We would be most delighted to receive and publish updates from former members of LSM. If you or somebody you are in contact with might have something interesting or exciting to share with the Parish, please send them to Fr Edward.





**Calendar and Intentions  
for April 2024**

*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 April

<b>MON</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Easter Tuesday</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Easter Wednesday</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Thursday</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Friday</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Saturday</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday)</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Annunciation</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>WED</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	William Law, priest & spiritual writer
<b>THU</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>George Selwyn, Bishop</i>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>TUE</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>WED</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>THU</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>FRI</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	S. Alphege, bishop & martyr
<b>SAT</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
<b>TUE</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>S. George, martyr, Patron of England</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>THU</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S. Mark, evangelist</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	S. Catherine of Siena, doctor
<b>TUE</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	

# April Daily Intentions

Easter joy	1 <sup>st</sup>
Faith in the Resurrection	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Peace	3 <sup>rd</sup>
The newly baptized	4 <sup>th</sup>
Care for God's creation	5 <sup>th</sup>
Those preparing for Confirmation	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	7 <sup>th</sup>
The Society of Mary	8 <sup>th</sup>
Our Churchwardens	9 <sup>th</sup>
Our PCC	10 <sup>th</sup>
Spiritual Guides	11 <sup>th</sup>
Archbishop Justin	12 <sup>th</sup>
Candidates for Confirmation	13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	14 <sup>th</sup>
England	15 <sup>th</sup>
Peace in Ukraine	16 <sup>th</sup>
The Faithful Departed	17 <sup>th</sup>
Those who mourn	18 <sup>th</sup>
Devotion to the Eucharist	19 <sup>th</sup>
Our parish garden and gardeners	20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	21 <sup>st</sup>
Cambridge South Deanery	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Our King and Nation	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Modern-day Martyrs	24 <sup>th</sup>
The Spread of the Gospel	25 <sup>th</sup>
Children and those who minister to them	26 <sup>th</sup>
Christian Poets	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>
Those who work for reconciliation	29 <sup>th</sup>
Bereaved children	30 <sup>th</sup>

## Anniversaries of Death

- 1<sup>st</sup> Arthur Murrell, Michael Farmer  
4<sup>th</sup> Ruth Daniel, Owen Balls  
6<sup>th</sup> David Hand *bishop*  
7<sup>th</sup> Elsie Duncan-Jones  
10<sup>th</sup> Eva Camps  
11<sup>th</sup> Mary Linsey  
14<sup>th</sup> Patricia Morris, Mary Vickers  
16<sup>th</sup> Sidney Cade *priest*  
17<sup>th</sup> Iris Bushell, Mary Rayner  
18<sup>th</sup> Lucy Barlow-Poole, Edna Shipp  
21<sup>st</sup> Angela Waddington, Elizabeth Bagley  
23<sup>rd</sup> Arthur Michael Ramsey *bishop*, Charles Roper  
24<sup>th</sup> Ruth Matt, Scilla Hall  
27<sup>th</sup> Patrick Morris  
28<sup>th</sup> Richard Love  
30<sup>th</sup> Frederick Thorling

**Let us give thanks before God for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.**

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.**



# Hamlin Fistula

*Christine Tipple writes:*

Hamlin Fistula in Ethiopia is one of the overseas charities that we support. It was started in the 1950s to help eradicate obstetric fistula by training more midwives, providing more prenatal clinics and opening hospitals for those already suffering. Some of us knit squares that are sewn into blankets, one for each patient, because Ethiopia is often bitterly cold at night.



We care for and treat women with childbirth injuries at our six hospitals across Ethiopia. Each woman receives a handmade blanket upon arrival. By knitting for Hamlin, you'll join a community of compassionate crafters inspired to help women.

**Will you knit a blanket to support a woman on her journey back to health and happiness?**

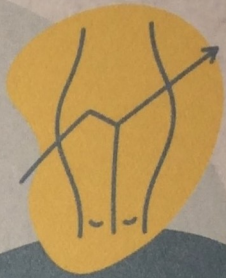
**For more information, visit:**  
📍 [Hamlinfistulauk.org/knit](https://hamlinfistulauk.org/knit)

We send cash donations too, and the Hamlin Fistula office in England sends both directly to its distribution centre in Ethiopia.



**27,042**

women received  
four ante-natal  
appointments



**3,580**

women received  
surgery for childbirth  
injuries



**1,727**

patients completed  
numeracy and literacy  
education



**226**

women completed  
livelihoods  
training

# The Produce Stall

*Irene Debiram writes:*

The produce stall has been one of the ongoing stalls that contributes to church funds.



I took this over from Jo Wibberley some ten years ago and have produced jams, marmalades, pickles, chutneys etc. from the fruit and vegetables grown. Of course, for the marmalade I have to buy the fruit in as I secretly haven't got the weather to grow, and the import charges from the Caribbean or the tropics would not make it viable. I have not yet mastered the art of making mint sauce. But that is next on my agenda as I have a lot of mint in the garden. I did the silly thing of planting the mint in one of our flowerbeds and it has now taken over. Chris despairs at some of my gardening skills and practices! I lived most of my early life in the Caribbean where not much effort is spent in looking after plants; everything grows and it is warm. Hence learning to grow crops here was one of my early challenges. I have had some real disasters and was faced with the mystery of gooseberries disappearing in the space of a day, or my battered red and black currants or my broad beans and butternut squashes gone; the birds had got them, or the slugs or the snails or the muntjac. I



have learned to use biodegradable material and garden organically the best I could, and how to compost. *Gardener's World* is one of my favourite programmes, and before a season finishes I am already planning for the next. Gardening is a real passion; it offers a sense of tranquillity and it gives Chris and me an opportunity to bond and be at one with nature.

Chris and I love growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, and often we get surplus. I also like experimenting with different flavours, and hence making different chutneys, jams and pickles helps to fulfil this interest of mine.



I started making a few jars of chilli jam for the produce stall, and at first I had a few raised eyebrows. But once I started doing tasters and word of mouth got round, chilli jam seemed to hit the top of my list of most-requested jams. Seville orange, grapefruit and lemon marmalade are other favourites. I remember that James Kinnier Wilson (God rest his soul) always said it was the best marmalade he had tasted and it was one of his favourites.



Fr Mark's mum, Joyce, would always be the first after Mass to come out to the stall and enquire what new jams I had made. During Covid I even did door-to-door deliveries on request to keep everyone in good supply of fresh produce. The stall not only provides a source of food or a way of contributing to church funds but it also offers the opportunity to catch up with members of the congregation and a chance to meet new members or talk to someone in the congregation you would not normally talk to.



Growing so many different fruits and vegetables means that at certain times of the year I am busy making the preserves, but it is also important to ensure that there is no wastage. Over the years most of the stuff I have grown has also helped in feeding the homeless, especially over the winter months, and we also have contributed to various dinners and events raising funds for certain charities such as Christian Aid, Peru and some of our global network that we support.

Many members of the congregation have also supported the stall with recycled jam jars (my garage is full!) and with surplus fruit such as plums, quinces and crab apples. At some of our summer festivals we have had plant donations and the mango ice cream often went down a treat. Fresh garlic, onions and potatoes have also added to our staples and have made it to many of our parishioners' homes. Over the years I have made breads and cakes, but with work and family commitments I haven't the time at present

to produce these extras. Hopefully in the near future I will try to introduce them again.

If anyone would like any produce or would like me to make any of their favourites please contact us on [debiram44@outlook.com](mailto:debiram44@outlook.com)

