May 2017

Most of the articles in this edition of the newsletter are drawn from the Annual Review submitted to the APCM April 2017. Copies of the Review are available from the Office on request and to download from the website.

Focus on Ministry

Our Vicar, Revd Canon Dr John Binns has announced his forthcoming departure. This year John will be celebrating his fortieth anniversary as a priest, 23 of those years as Vicar of Great St Mary. He will leave behind a well-defined, forward-looking ministry based on three key tenets of Christianity: Finding faith, Keeping faith and Sharing faith. In his own words:

“We have four key areas of ministry.

First and foremost there’s the Christian community at Great St Mary’s; Michaelhouse provides a mission centre; the Chaplaincy to the University is a multi-faith resource, and the Heritage project links us to schools, the wider community and visitors to Cambridge.

In addition to our four key areas there is also a varied programme of children’s work and music. Many people are involved: a dedicated staff team of three clergy, seventeen full and part-time staff and countless volunteers.”

John looks at our Christian community through the Easter message of Resurrection.

A summary of his report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting follows:

“On Sunday mornings we meet for Parish Communion. Bell ringers arrive to ring for an hour on our twelve bells, inviting people to come to worship; Sidespersons and Servers get the church ready and welcome the congregation; leaders of children’s activities set up around the font and in the porch. Meanwhile the choir is in a final rehearsal and the coffee team is putting out cups in Michaelhouse. In the preceding week, the office has been preparing service sheets and flower arrangers ensure the church is beautifully decorated. We also have an early morning Communion Service, a mid-morning Choral Mattins and we end the day with Choral Evensong. As we celebrate together with each member of the community sharing in the worship, so the Risen Christ speaks to us in the words of scripture and comes to us in the bread and wine. In prayer, we offer our lives and our community to be filled by his Holy Spirit. As we go out we leave with the blessing of Christ resting on us and empowering us.

The Resurrection is not only an event in history, but a power to change and transform us. Christ is acting in our community, showing his presence through our words and actions. As we reflect on all we do, we pray for God’s power to bring his love to his people and be faithful in carrying out our calling.

Each of us has our own personal way of believing in God and making sense of our lives. The challenge in arranging worship at GSM is to enable people to find their faith, to express their faith and to share their faith.”
The Michaelhouse Centre is a wonderful resource enjoyed by the congregation, many other user groups and, of course, all the visitors who drop in to use the café, look at an exhibition, or attend a service.

A registered charity, Michaelhouse is managed by its trustees, and works closely with Great St Mary’s which provides the spiritual outreach of the Centre. The income from the café and from lettings enables Michaelhouse to maintain the building and employ the Manager.

The Friends of Michaelhouse was set up at the same time as the project began under the same Charity Number, and is a group of over 100 well-wishers who are keen to support the aims of the Michaelhouse project. Membership is by subscription, and members are kept in touch with all events in the Centre and with any developments within the project. Subscriptions and any other money raised is used to enhance the building, or to give “added value” to running of the Centre. Examples from the past include restoration of the reredos in the chancel, and commissioning of the altar table, and not least the reception table in the entrance foyer. The Friends are currently putting money aside towards a new floor in the chancel. The Friends also support initiatives that help the Centre to achieve its aims of outreach through the arts. These have included the Singing for Health weekend, the Artist in Residence, and support for exhibitions or events which might otherwise have difficulty in affording the space.

Michaelhouse is at the heart of the City of Sanctuary initiative which aims to make Cambridge a place of welcome, tolerance and compassion.

Looking for New Friends

Why not join the Friends? Benefits include a café discount, and a regular Michaelhouse newsletter to keep you fully informed. We would love to have new members.

For information on how to join:
http://www.gsm.cam.ac.uk/michael-house/friends-of-michaelhouse/
Alternatively, ring Rosemary Watson on 01223 319527 who can answer any questions you may have and send you an application form.

Great St Mary’s Quiet Day
Saturday 16th September

If you came on last year’s Quiet Day, you will know what a special occasion that was for spending unhurried time in God’s presence. We plan to revisit Clare Priory in Suffolk for a day of guided thinking, time alone, a shared lunch and a chance to stroll in the gardens, or along the peaceful banks of the river Stour. If you have not been to a Quiet Day before, why not give it a go? Lifts will be arranged. You will not be asked any questions or put on the spot; you don’t even have to pray or read the Bible – it just will be a day of peace for you with God.

This year’s speaker to set our thoughts rolling through several short talks, is Sister Frances Moore. A woman of prayer and compassion, she was a hospice nurse and health care chaplain and is a trained Spiritual Director, leading quiet days, as well as retreats at Clare and St. Beuno’s in Wales.

So, put the date in your diary and let either Shirley Holder or Anne Lindley know that you would like to come. There will be a cost (£20 last year); we’ll confirm that nearer the time.

No-one should feel excluded if they cannot manage the fee.

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07760161306

Shirley Holder  drandmrsr.holder@virginmedia.com
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Anne Lindley  anne.lindley4@btinternet.com
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Chaplaincy to the University

This Chaplaincy celebrated 22 years of spiritual life with GSM at the heart of its growth and development: A few highlights:

○ In partnership with the University’s Human Resources Division, the Chaplaincy influenced the University to acknowledge faith identity by the publication of a multi-faith calendar, a multi-faith series of talks in the annual Festival of Ideas, and hosting events such as Holocaust Memorial Day.

○ In partnership with the University’s Childcare Office and Accommodation Service, the Chaplaincy established a weekly ‘Stay & Play’ session for postgraduate and post-doctoral spouses and toddlers who live beyond the social environment of the Colleges. We began by using Merton Hall Farmhouse, thus modelling the sort of community-making activity that will be needed as residents take up accommodation on the new Northwest Cambridge site.

○ In partnership with others, the Chaplaincy contributed to Wellbeing, an area of growing importance. The University recognises that, at least for people of faith, wellbeing - and its flipside stress - have spiritual and religious dimensions.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, said, “I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Much has been achieved, but we pray that the University will show that it takes the contribution of its faith communities seriously, and how necessary a robust faith is in the relentless quest for excellence.

Heritage

The first phase of the Heritage Education Project is completed. The project now becomes the Heritage Ministry, an integral part of Great St Mary’s ministry bringing Christian history of this church to new audiences.

Rosie Sharkey is moving on and her successor, Anna Lovewell, will be in post 2.5 days per week, exploring new possibilities with the Church Schools of Cambridge — expanding the range of guided walks, and school sessions introducing children to biblical stories and spiritual reflection. Our website will showcase the exciting activities for schools and the historical research.

Our year of transition was full of events:

♦ 14 School visits – 825 children in total
♦ 5 language school visits
♦ 8 family craft activities
♦ 1 volunteer recruitment event
♦ 5 adult learning events, including talks, training and tours
♦ 1 major science festival event
♦ 1 costumed extravaganza for Open-Cambridge
♦ Summer at the Museums family craft activities

Looking forward to 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (and 450th anniversary of Martin Bucer’s burning in Cambridge market), many of our Heritage events will focus on the Reformation. With Cambridge having played an important role in these world-changing events, this anniversary year will be a valuable opportunity to help schools and visitors explore the Reformation in an innovative and reflective way.
**DIARY MAY 2017**

**GREAT ST MARYS AND MICHAELHOUSE**

### FREE LUNCHTIME RECITALS @ GSM
- **Tuesday 2** Joe Butler Cello
- **Tuesday 30** Simon Skovgaard Piano

**The New Michaelhouse Arts Cafe Starts 13 May 2.00-3.30pm**

Poetry and Illustration Sharing Workshop hosted by exhibiting artists Fred Charap and Linda Langford Powell

Booking essential: assistantmanager@michaelhouse.org.uk /01223 309 167

**Thursday 25 May Ascension Day**

singing at the top of the tower with the choirs of GSM at 7.45am

### SERVICES IN MAY

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<tr>
<td>Sundays</td>
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<td>11.15am</td>
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<td>Mondays</td>
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<td>Tuesdays</td>
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<td>1.05 pm (MH)</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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### SUNNADYS IN MAY

**Sunday 7 University Sermon with Ms Claire Foster-Gilbert**

**Sunday 14 Holy Trinity worship at GSM 12-4PM**

**Sunday 21 The Academy of Great St Mary’s conducted by Adam Pounds plays Mozart Symphony No 35 and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1. at 2.30pm**

**Sunday 28 The Oslo Cathedral Choir will sing at Parish Communion and Mattins**

Visit our website at: www.gsm.cam.ac.uk  Newsletter Editor: Sarah de Mas sarahdemas48@gmail.com; 01223 561 131

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions; if revisions required are major, they’ll be run by the author prior to publication.