Great St Mary's eMag

13-30 Nov 2026: Issue 207



Cambridge Citizens: Founding assembly



Four years ago, a small group of people met around a table in Cambridge. The aim: to found a Citizens' Assembly, based on the principles of Community Organising. Citizens' UK is the UK's biggest citizens' alliance. Consisting of 500 member organisations, 4,000 community and 16,000 accredited Living Wage employers, Citizens' UK seeks to bring people together from local organisations to build a better, fairer society. Using the principles of community organising, after careful listening, communities work together and found relationships in order to find solutions to big and small common problems.

I first became involved with Citizens' UK in East London, as a curate. I have since been involved with effective national campaigns, such as the Living Wage campaign and the "Strangers into Citizens" campaign, which sought to enable refugees and asylum seekers to be more integrated into communities across the UK. I have seen how powerful a tool it can be to unite diverse organisations in a community as they work together for change. There are now eighteen "chapters" in England and Wales, which represent 500 member institutions. A chapter is formed by bringing together faith-based organisations, schools, colleges, universities, trades unions and local community and charitable organisations. Cambridge Citizens is the newest of the chapters and will be founded on Wed 25 Nov at 6-7.30pm at The Guildhall, Market Hill, Cambridge CB2 3QQ. Do come along!

Our member institutions currently include: Anglia Ruskin University, The Woolf Institute, The Diocese of Ely, Romsey Mill, St Paul's Church (Hills Road), Milton Road Primary School, Long Road Sixth Form College, St Bede's Inter-church School, St Philip's Church (Mill Road), Cambridge Sustainable Travel Alliance, The Church of the Good Shepherd and St John the Evangelist Church (Cherry Hinton), with Cambridge University an important partner and Cambridge Mosque Council, Beth Shalom synagogue, Cambridge Citadel Salvation Army and UNISON (Cambridge University and College branch) set to complete registration soon.

Over the past four years, we have conducted extensive listening campaigns within our own organisations and organised community listening events (known as "Weaving Trust" events) in which members of the community can have important conversations about what matters. This led to us successfully campaigning to retain and extend the Tiger Bus Pass for young people and we are currently working to improve bus transportation and encouraging more organisations in Cambridge to become Living Wage employers.

Nowadays, there are more people around the table. In our city of such wonderful diversity but sadly great inequality, Cambridge Citizens' offers a way of building relationships across difference, bringing together communities to win change for the good of all. Do come along on Wed 25 Nov to find out how Great St Mary's can be a part of this change for good. Our clergy and some PCC members will be there, too.

The Revd. Alison Kennedy
Associate Priest

Deadline for submissions for the next eMag TUES 24th NOV

Livestreaming of Services

Live and past services can be accessed via the Great St Mary's YouTube page on https://www.youtube.com/c/greatstmarys

Please note: If you have any comments regarding the on-line live-streaming, please email office@gsm.cam.ac.uk

November services - see website for details

Sunday 15 Nov - Second Sunday before Advent

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** All together Eucharist
- **4pm** Choral Evensong (in Michaelhouse)

Sunday 22 Nov - Christ the King

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist with Children's Church
- **11.30am** Choral Mattins
- **4pm** Choral Evensong

Sunday 29 Nov - First Sunday of Advent

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist and Children's Church (with Admission of Choristers)
- **4pm** Advent Procession by Candlelight

Regular Weekday Worship

- Monday—Friday 9am **Morning Prayer** in church and on YouTube
- Mondays 12.30 pm **Christian Meditation** *in Michaelhouse - followed by soup lunch*
- Tuesdays - 6.00pm **Choral Evening Prayer**
- Wednesdays - 12.30pm **Holy Communion** in GSM
- Thursday - 7.00pm **Heartsease** (SCM) in Michaelhouse

Reading this eMag online or forwarded from a friend?
Sign up for our mailing list at greatstmarys.org/emag

Advent

Engaging with Advent



dvent is a very special time of year as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. As the days get darker and colder, our wonderful Advent services with their beautiful music and liturgies create spaces for reflection and anticipation that draw us deeper into the mystery of God's coming among us. For many of us, it is a busy time of year – and yet, making space for prayer and reflection keeps us connected to the deep and rich meaning of this season. You may already have the Church of England **Everyday Faith app** on your phone. It offers resources for prayer and reflection all year round. During Advent it provides all the content of the 'Advent A to Z' booklet, delivered to your phone daily. You can also buy the Advent A-Z book if you'd prefer to have it all at once – see the reading suggestions below.

We will have an **engagement station in church again during Advent**. You will be able to find resources there for several 'pathways' through the season. You will be able to share your reflections on Advent using the Post-It notes, helping us to recognise that this is a season through which we travel as a community - as a Church - not just as individuals. There will also be a Jesse Tree trail, which will be accessible to all, and especially good for children.



Advent and Christmas COMPLINE at Home

Join us for our weekly Compline services during Advent and Christmas, via Zoom , from the comfort of your own home. This peaceful and reflective service offers a gentle way to bring the day to a close.

Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 December at 8pm. Each 45-minute service will include:

- A time to greet one another
- A short reflection inspired by themes selected for each Wednesday from the Church of England's *Advent A to Z* and *The Gift of Christmas* journeys
- A Taizé chant to prepare us for 10 minutes of shared silence
- The traditional spoken words of Compline to end the day

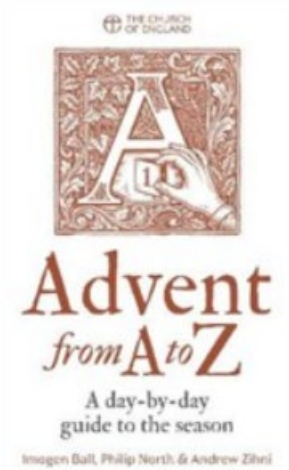
Sharing a few minutes of silence with others can be a surprisingly peaceful experience, offering space to slow down, quieten our minds and simply be in God's presence. You are welcome to keep your camera off and to use the time in whatever way feels right for you.

Everyone is welcome. Amid the busyness of Advent and Christmas, these evenings are an invitation to pause, find stillness and enjoy some time for prayer and reflection before settling into 'a quiet night and a perfect end'."

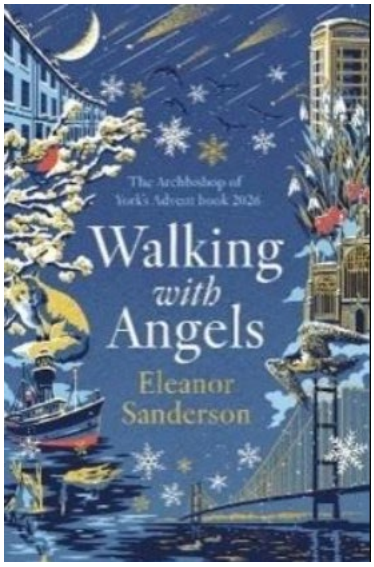
To join, use the Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83412531694?pwd=W8arO6JxOYEgbQY2wtLaiXNmD7jiAC.1

If you'd like more details or prefer the link by email, please contact Charlotte Labalette (email: charlotte.labalette@gmail.com).

Reading suggestions, and there are more on the website.

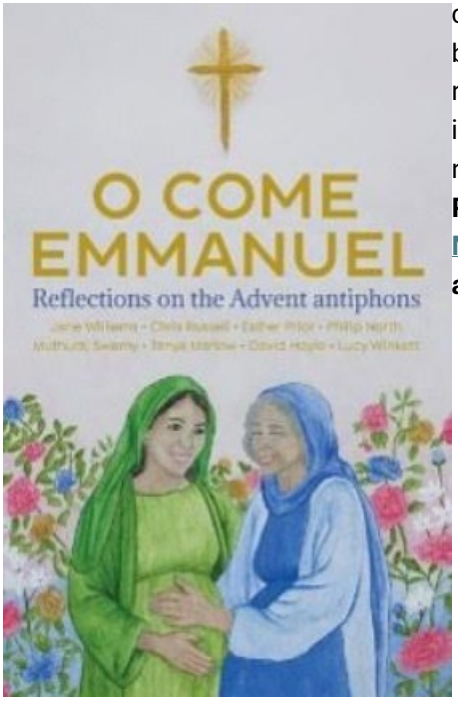


Advent from A to Z
A day-by-day guide to the season £ 4.99 (copies available in GSM)
Imogen Ball, Philip North, Andrew Zihni
Advent from A to Z invites you on a journey to explore what the season of Advent is all about, offering twenty-four daily reflections, each taking as their starting point a different letter of the alphabet. Together they invite you to discover afresh the people, places, traditions and symbols of Advent. Each day includes a Bible reading, a reflection, an opportunity to respond and a prayer. Whether you are keeping Advent for the first or the hundredth time, Advent from A to Z can help you prepare to celebrate the great gift that God gives us of himself in the birth of Jesus at Christmas.



Walking with Angels. The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2026 by Eleanor Sanderson
Drawing on the words spoken by angels in Scripture, this book explores how these messengers of God reveal the good news at the heart of the Christian story. Through the spiritual practice of prayer walking, it encourages readers to slow down, step outside, and engage both body and spirit as they journey through the Advent season. Each of the four weeks of Advent focuses on a different aspect of that message, helping readers grow in love for God, for their neighbours, and for themselves. It includes vivid accounts of the author's own and others' personal experiences of angelic encounters as well as journalling prompts and

O Come Emmanuel. Reflections on the Advent Antiphons
This beautifully illustrated daily Advent companion explores the ancient biblical names and images for the coming Messiah familiar to most people from the hymn, ‘O come, O come Emmanuel’. Well-known writers offer a total of twenty-four reflections, one for each weekday of the four weeks of Advent. Each day includes the text



of the antiphon from Common Worship, a Scripture reading exploring its biblical roots, paintings of the antiphon as a focus for meditation, a reflection, a challenge to ponder and an Advent prayer. The book also includes an introduction explaining the rich history of the antiphons, recommendations for further resources including musical settings.
Please, see the Great St Mary’s website Advent & Christmas | Great St Mary's for all our Advent and Christmas services, reading suggestions and resources for children and families for this special season.

News & Events

Fri 13 Nov - GSM Lunchtime Concert

Lunchtime Concert: Stephen Perse Cambridge

Free entry, with retiring collection towards the educational work of the Great St Mary's Music Department.



Sat 14 Nov - Women's Breakfast

Women's Breakfast in the Montefiore Room at Michaelhouse. We meet at 9.30am for food, conversation and prayers. All welcome.

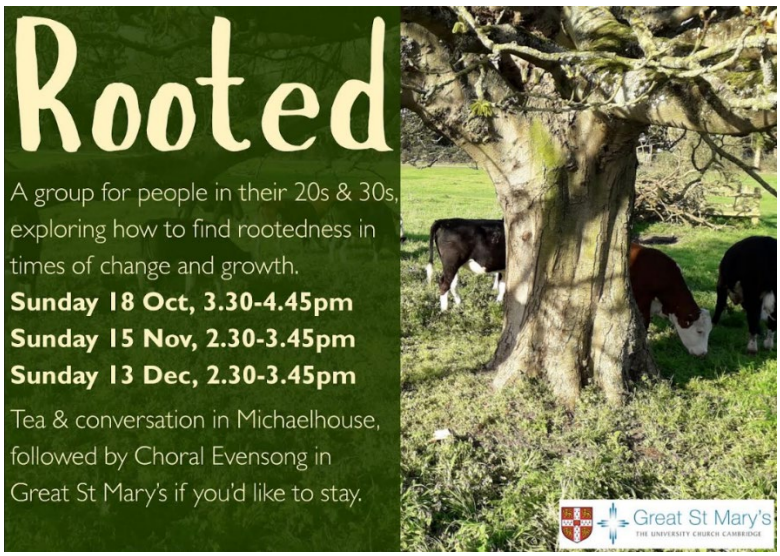
Please contact office@gsm.cam.ac.uk for more information.



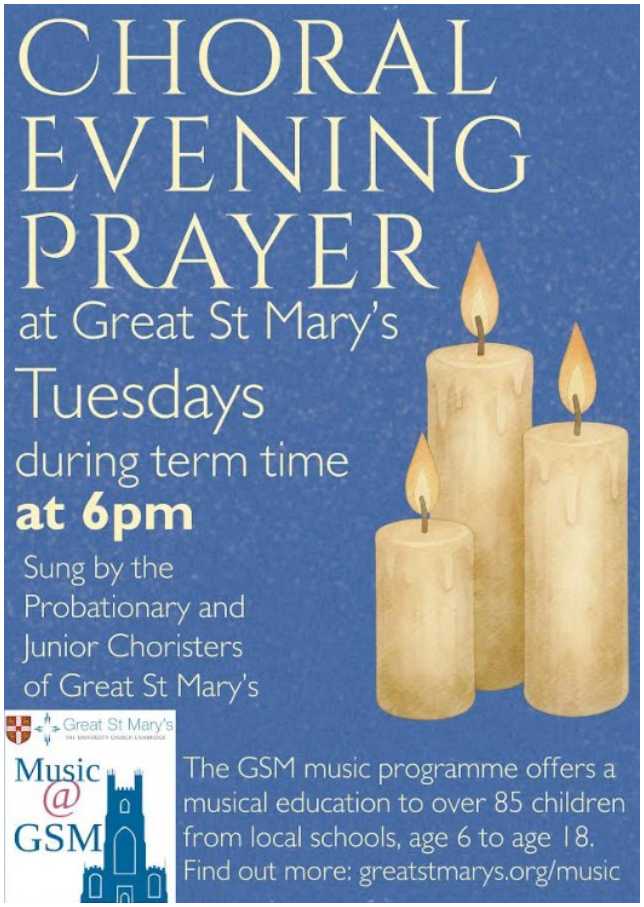
Sun 15 Nov - All Together Eucharist



Sun 15 Nov - Rooted



Tues 17 Nov- and every Tuesday in term time



Tues 17 Nov - Something Understood



At 3, Adams Road, Cambridge CB3 9AD - 7.30pm
Our Theme will be 'Angels'
Any questions, or if you need a parking place, please contact: juliet@jmcj.org

Future Dates and Themes
Tues 15 Dec: Heaven on Earth and Eternity

Painting (left)
Jesus and the Syrophoenician Woman, by Ally Barrett

Thurs 19 Nov - Read, Mark, Learn

Read Mark Learn will meet virtually on Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. to study one of the lectionary readings for the following Sunday's Choral Eucharist.
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84052562470?pwd=SWJnZ1dCcFFOTzRWdll4WGhpSG9ydz09
Meeting ID: 840 5256 2470
Passcode: 876406

Meeting date	**Passage**
19 November	Mt. 25.31-end
26 November	Mk 13.24-37

Fri 20 Nov - GSM Lunchtime Concert

Great St Mary's, The University Church 1-2pm

Lunchtime Concert: ExCollegium Choir

Programme to be announced; see online for details
Director of Music Douglas Tang

http://greatstmarys.org/lunchtime-recitals

Free entry, with retiring collection towards the educational work of the Great St Mary's Music Department.

Sat 21 Nov - Men's Breakfast

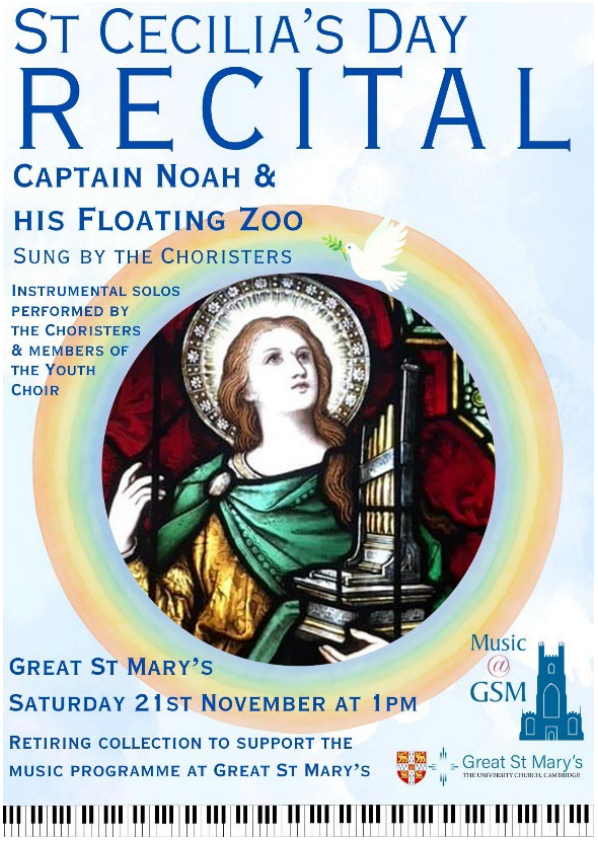


Men's Breakfast 9.00am
(and women are welcome too!)

Starting with Communion in the Harvey de Stanton Chapel (Michaelhouse)
Followed by breakfast in the Montefiore Room.

All are welcome - you can just turn up.
Please contact office@gsm.cam.ac.uk for more information.

Sat 21 Nov – GSM and Michaelhouse Concerts 1-2pm





22 Nov - Silent Vigil



Fri 27 Nov - GSM Lunchtime Concert

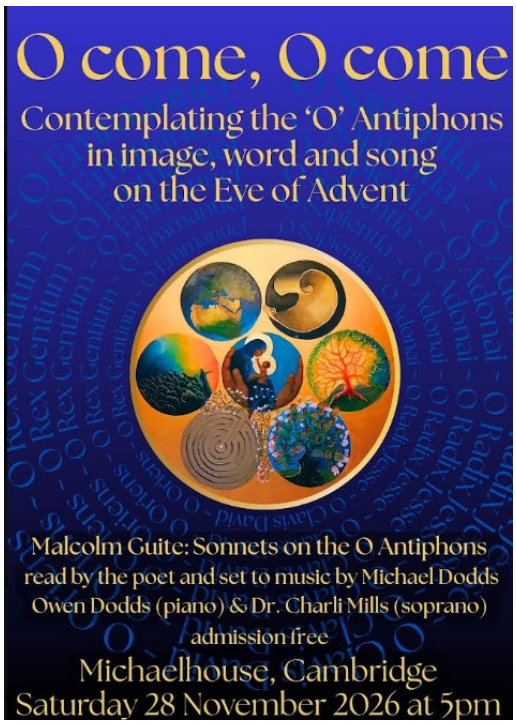
Great St Mary's, The University Church 1-2pm

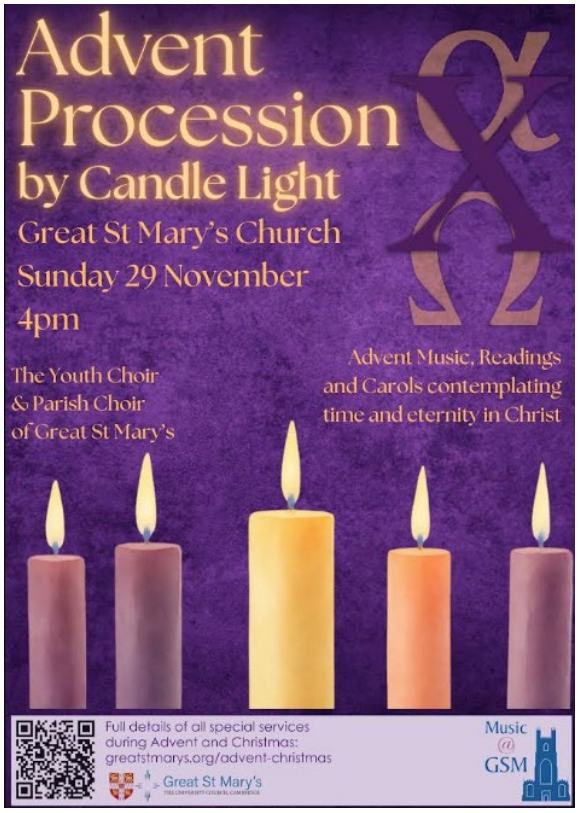
Lunchtime Concert: Celadon Quartet

Programme to be announced; see online for details
http://greatstmarys.org/lunchtime-recitals

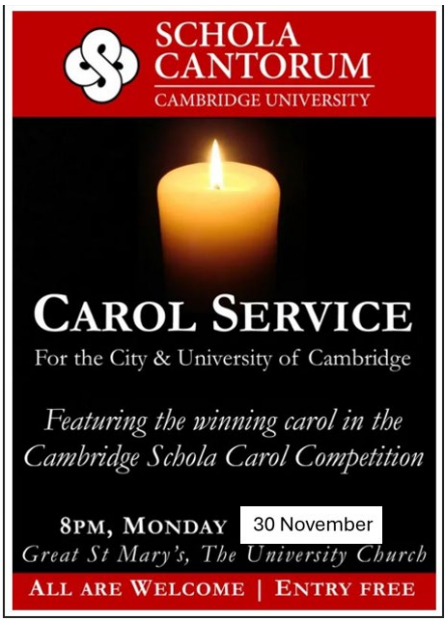
Free entry, with retiring collection towards the educational work of the Great St Mary's Music Department.

Sat 28 Nov - Michaelhouse 'O come, O Come'





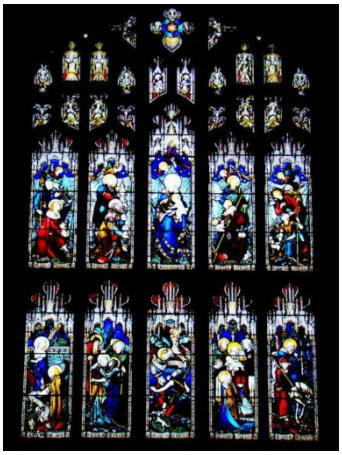
Sun 29 Nov - Advent Procession



Mon 30 Nov - Schola Cantorum Carol Service

Stewardship

Great St. Mary's - Legacies



Giving for future generations – remembering Great St Mary's in your will
All churches rely entirely upon the support of generous Christians. Our giving is vitally important and helps sustain the ministry and flourishing of our church. Leaving a legacy to Great St Mary's is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can help GSM continue to thrive with its wonderful buildings and very special ministry, for the benefit of generations to come. Many of the improvements in GSM we enjoy today—such as the renovated West End which has trebled our income—are thanks to generous past legacies. Making a will and keeping it updated is an important part of Christian Stewardship, and leaving a gift as part of this is an expression of our gratitude and thanksgiving towards God. Leaving a legacy is also very tax efficient. All gifts to charities (including churches) in wills are tax-free. Gifts to Great St Mary's would be deducted from the value of your estate when inheritance tax is calculated. If you have a will already, a legacy can be added as a signed codicil to an existing will.

The Church of England website Leave a legacy in your will | The Church of England provides very helpful information, including a link to Farewill (www.farewill.com), with whom the Church of England has partnered. Farewill offer a free online will writing service.

More information on legacies is also available in the Church. **Margaret Johnston, Gordon Campbell** and **the Vicar** are happy to answer any questions.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care and Prayer at Time of Need

Pastoral Visits and Home Communions
If you would appreciate a pastoral visit at home or to receive prayer (either by the Home Intercessors group or as part of the intercessions in GSM services) please do talk to one of the ministry team either in person or contact them via email on clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk
Please know that **you can request a visit from one of the clergy who would be delighted to share Holy Communion with you and your loved ones at home.**
If you would like to know more about either the Home Intercessors or the Pastoral Care Groups from the point of view of joining either group, do please talk to Jutta or Ally (or send an email to clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk).
Funeral Plans
Many people find it helpful to think about their funeral wishes well in advance, and to talk to their family about this, or to a member of the clergy. To help you think about funeral planning please feel welcome to download this Funeral Wishes Form and use it to record your thoughts. When you are ready, please share what you have noted with your next of kin, and consider if you would like this to be shared also with the clergy team at Great St Mary's so that we can keep it safely for you.
In a pastoral emergency the phone number remains 01223 747277 (messages left on this number will be responded to within 24 hours.

Year's Mind

Memorial service for Helen Long
Friday 27 November at 3pm at Great St Mary's

Helen's family warmly invite members of the congregation who remember Helen from her many years at GSM to join them in giving thanks for her life.

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christopher (Kit) Helps	3 November
John Thompson	5 November
Dan Hardy	15 November
Janet Morris	18 November
Michael Hirtzel	20 November
George Clarke	22 November
Brigid Peat	23 November
Chris McDouall	23 November
Emily Hoyle	27 November
Ernest Orange	27 November
Elisabeth Fleming	30 November
Dorothy Denyer	30 November



Service

Eco Tip - a sustainable Christmas



- You can rent a real Christmas tree for the 2026 holiday season through various companies in the UK that offer delivery and collection services, with most accepting orders now. Companies like Love a Christmas Tree, Good Elf, and Green Elf Trees provide potted living trees that are returned to their farms to be cared for until the following year.

- Go for a natural wreath and decorations. A great family activity. Holly sprigs, ivy trails, pinecones, rose hips… Take a bag, go for a walk, and see what you can find! Make sure that you have permission from the land-owner before you start snipping. Source as much as you can from what's already dropped. Then get creative!

- Re-use cards and wrapping. Make Christmas tags by re-using old Christmas cards. Recycled brown paper has a much lower ecological footprint than Christmas wrapping paper. Create homemade gifts. Baked goods for example, or buy gifts from a charity shop.

- Give the gift of time. What about a gift of cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, house cleaning… or whatever. Just make a 'gift of time gift voucher' and put it in a card for them.

- Remember the reason for the season. Practising generosity and hospitality is a great way to show Christ's love at Christmas. Invite someone who'd otherwise be on their own, to join you on Christmas Day. It's also a way of reducing energy consumption as they'll share your heating and cooking!

Wider Concerns Committee



Treats for Christmas for the Foodbank!
During Advent, we invite donations of Christmas treats on **Sunday 6 and 13 December** for the Foodbank e.g. sweets, chocolates, mince pies and Christmas puddings! They are so delighted we are doing this.
N.B. *Everything must be pre-packaged and have a good shelf-life e.g. a packet of mince pies from M&S (but not bakery fresh food packed on site). Sadly, homemade food is not acceptable. Chocolates should not contain alcohol. (Some mince piece or Christmas puddings may contain a small amount of alcohol and that is all right as they have been cooked.)*



Fifth Ukrainian Tea party Sunday 1 November
The Wider Concerns Committee held our 5th tea party with Ukrainian families living in Cambridge. They went up the tower first and then did craft activities at Michaelhouse, followed by tea. The young people are doing very

well and one or two are now going on to university/higher education next year. It was a very special time together.

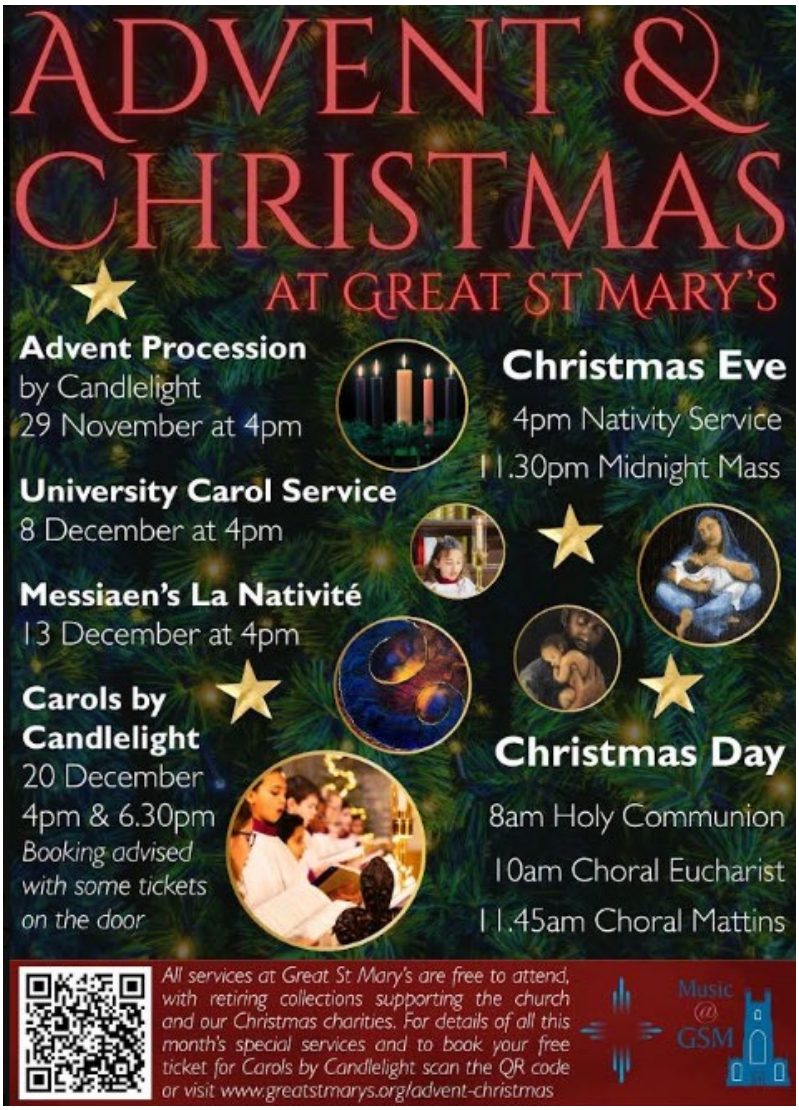


Christmas Cards

Religious Christmas Cards - Once again these will be on sale at coffee on Sunday mornings with the price held at £2.50 for five cards. Of this, £1 per pack will go to support the Princess Basma Centre which continues to do remarkable and inspirational work with children with disabilities in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, under the auspices of the Diocese of Jerusalem, despite the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. The good news is that it will be possible to take card payments this year, though cash and cheques (payable to Great St Mary's) will still be welcome.

Coming Up…..

Advent and Christmas



To book tickets, click on the appropriate concert time or scan the QR code.

Carols by Candlelight 20 Dec 4pm

Carols by Candlelight 20 Dec 6.30pm

Wed 2 Dec - Jimmy's Carol Service



Jimmy's Cambridge has been providing housing and tailored, long-term support to people experiencing homelessness in Cambridge for over 30 years. This winter, Jimmy's will continue to be here for everyone who needs us, offering a warm welcome, a hot meal and the help to take the first steps from Street Floor to Front Door.

We are holding a carol service at Great Saint Mary's Church in Cambridge on Wed 2nd Dec 6pm- 7:30pm. Singing carols with the community, for the community, this event will help raise the vital funds needed to help keep our service running and support the individuals who rely on us. With performances from the Grove Primary School and The Kingsmen, it promises to be a wonderful evening of music, seasonal cheer and an opportunity to come together as a community during the festive season.

Please scan the QR code or visit our website to book tickets. All donations from this event will go directly towards Jimmy's services.

Sat 5 Dec - Christian Aid Carol Singing



Sun 6 Dec - Advent Bulb Planting



All Together Advent Event: Bulb Planting + Advent Trail on Sun 6 Dec after the 10 o'clock service

We had a lovely time at the Creationtide art workshop in September painting with watercolours in the churchyard garden. Our next All Together event will also be in the churchyard garden (as long as the weather isn't truly terrible), but this time it will be December, so you'll need to wrap up warm! We'll be **planting spring bulbs** together **after the 10 o'clock service**, ready to watch and wait for signs of growth over the following weeks (watching and waiting being good Advent-ish things to do)! There will also be an opportunity to do an **Advent trail**, which will be there in GSM for all of Advent. This event is for people of all ages, young and old and in between! All are welcome, and there is no need to sign up beforehand.

Sun 6 Dec - Academy of Great St. Mary's



Academy of Great St Mary's Concert SUNDAY 6 December 7.30pm

Do join us for a feast of wonderful music with the remarkable Symphony No. 2 by Rachmaninov - a 'tour de force', plus the enchanting Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 by Grieg, and the evocative Marche Slave by Tchaikovsky, conducted by Adam Pounds. Tickets £10-£18 from ADCticketing.com and the GSM gift shop (under 16s free). A fund-raising event for Great St Mary's.

Tues 8 Dec - University Staff Carol Service



Elsewhere.....

People's Emergency Briefing - Tues 17 Nov



Tuesday 17 November, 19.00-21.00. Frankopan Hall, West Court, Jesus College. In-person.

In collaboration with Wildlife Trust BCN and Pickled: Preserving Humanity, the Intellectual Forum invites you to a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing - a 50-minute documentary film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts. The film will be followed by a 45-minute workshop to help us find the agency and the courage to take meaningful environmental action. Register for a free place.

Litter Pick - Mill Road Cemetery



Mill Road Cemetery is off Mill Road in Cambridge. Since 2001 the cemetery has been protected as a Grade ii listed site. Ten city parishes, including Great St Mary's, share the cemetery although all plots are now full. The cemetery's management committee organise monthly volunteer litter picks. You would be very welcome to join them.

MINISTRY TEAM



Revd Canon Jutta Brueck
Vicar
email: juttab@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Revd Ally Barrett
Associate Vicar
email: allyb@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Dr David Grumett
Licensed Lay Minister
email:
davidg@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Revd Andrew Day
Associate Priest
email: acd62@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Revd Alison Kennedy
Associate Priest
email: alisonk@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Revd Canon Jeremy Morris
Associate Priest



Revd Graham Stevenson
Associate Priest
email: gs635@cam.ac.uk



Revd Rosie Hewitt
Children and Youth Minister
email: rosieh@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Great St Mary's offers a range of groups and activities for children from birth to 18.

MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH

Great St Mary's has a long and rich tradition of music, with six choirs, two pipe organs, an orchestra and weekly concerts.



Alexander Berry
Director of Music
email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Stanley Godfrey
Organist and Assistant Director of Music
email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk

EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH

Great St Mary's regularly welcomes school groups and offers education outreach around heritage, faith and sustainability. To find out more visit www.greatstmarys.org/education .



Natalie Lealand
Education and Heritage Officer
email: nataliel@gsm.cam.ac.uk