

Great St Mary's eMag

1-15 April 2026: Issue 193

From the Associate Vicar:

Dear Friends

As we travel through Holy Week together, we are joining not only with one another here at Great St Mary's, but with Christians throughout the world, as we walk again the way of the cross. Holy Week is better experienced than explained; through words and silence, music and art, prayer and scripture, we enter into the story in ways that open our minds, hearts and souls to be transformed anew by the story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. It is an immersive experience, in which we emotionally and intellectually engage with these events on which the church is founded, and which have shaped the world for two thousand years. Do come to as many of the services this week as you are able. Keeping Holy Week is important in the renewal and deepening of our faith, and recalling the sufferings of Christ challenges us to stand alongside those in the world today who suffer due to humanity's inhumanity, in a world which groans in eager longing for the redemption and renewal that we are promised in Christ Jesus.

May these next few days be for us all a time to draw together in faith, opening our hearts to the love of God, and in love for the world that Christ came to save.

Every blessing

Ally

Revd Ally Barrett, Associate Vicar



Please send any eMag contributions at least two weeks prior to publication, to news@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Holy Week - full itinerary

Keeping Holy Week at Great St Mary's

Monday of Holy Week - 30 March

12.30pm Holy Communion, with silence from 12 noon

Tuesday of Holy Week - 31 March

10.30am The Ark communion service

for babies, toddlers and their grown ups

12.30pm Holy Communion, with silence from 12 noon

7.00pm Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross)
organ meditations & prayer

Wednesday of Holy Week - 1 April

12.30pm Holy Communion, with silence from 12 noon

Maundy Thursday - 2 April

7.00pm Choral Eucharist with washing of feet
and vigil of the watch

Good Friday - 3 April

10am Activity morning for children
& parents/carers (Michaelhouse)

11.30am Ecumenical Act of Witness
in the Market Place

12 noon Silence

12.30pm Meditations at the foot of the cross

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day - 5 April

5.45am Easter Vigil

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Choral Eucharist

11.45am Choral Mattins



For more information, visit
greatstmarys/lent-easter



Preacher for the Triduum

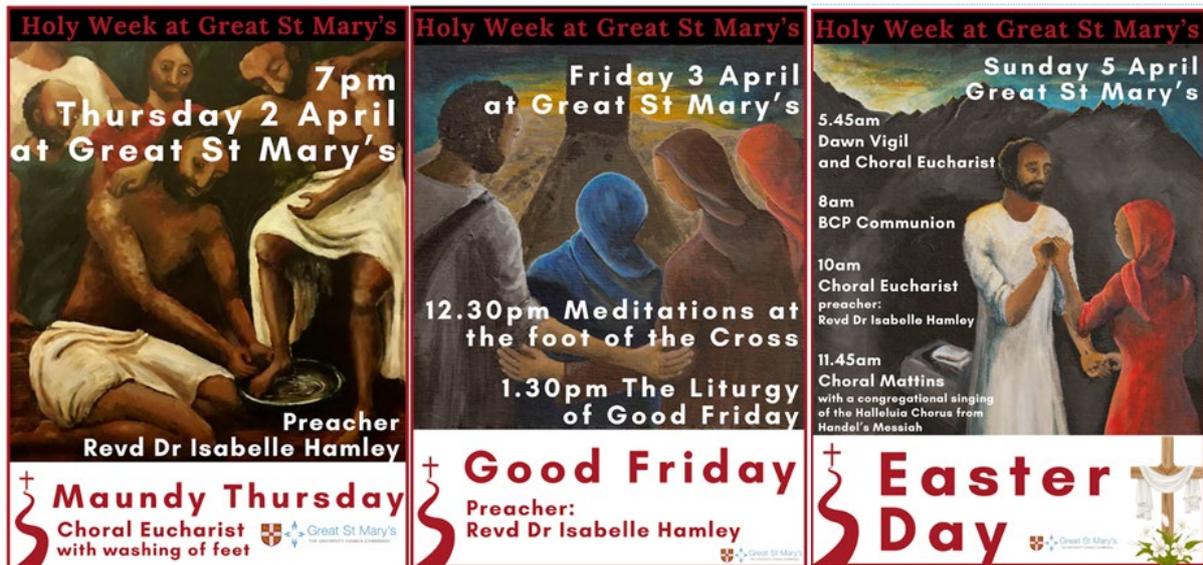
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday Meditations
Easter Sunday 10am

**The Rev'd Prebendary
Dr Isabelle Hamley**



We are delighted to welcome as our preacher during Holy Week, the **Rev'd Prebendary Dr Isabelle Hamley**. Isabelle is currently Principal of Ridley Hall, after posts as parish priest, university chaplain and chaplain to the archbishop of Canterbury. She writes and speaks on

questions of justice, identity and mental health and is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4. Isabelle will be preaching on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and at 10am on Easter Sunday.



Sunday services continued - see [website](#) for details

Sunday 12 April - First Sunday after Easter

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Choral Eucharist - visiting choir from St Andrews Church Sonning
- 5pm Choral Evensong Monday—Friday 9am

Weekly worship

- Monday—Friday 9am **Morning Prayer** in church and on YouTube (**not from 6-10 April**)
- Mondays 12.30 pm **Christian Meditation** in Michaelhouse - followed by soup lunch (**not on 6 April**)
- Tuesdays 10.30am **The Ark**, Children's Communion in Michaelhouse (**not on 7 April**)
- Tuesdays 5.45pm **Choral Evening Prayer** (term time)
- Wednesdays 12.30pm **Holy Communion**
- Wednesdays 7.45pm **Choral Compline in Michaelhouse** (term time)
- Thursdays 6.00pm **Choral Evensong** (term time)

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>

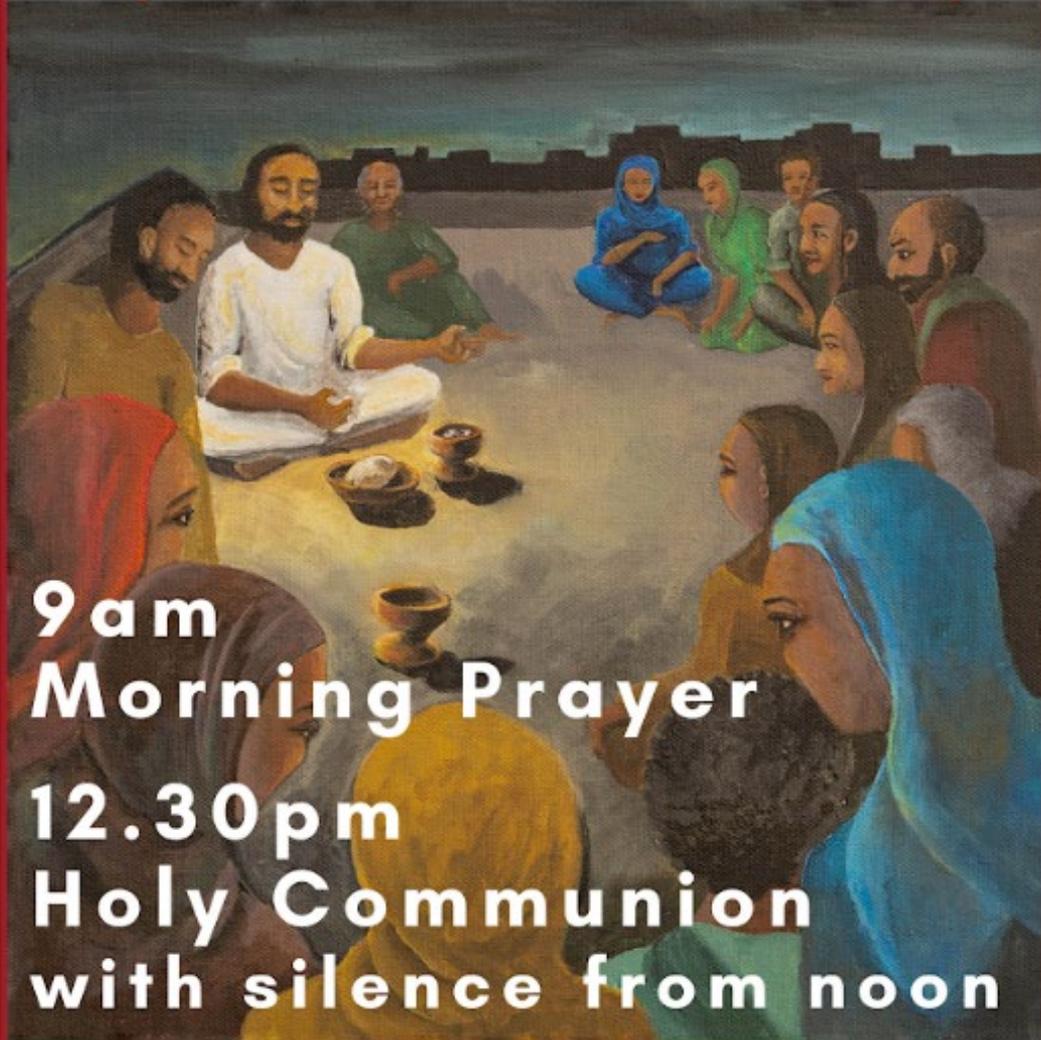
Please note: If you have any comments regarding the on-line live-streaming, please email office@gsm.cam.ac.uk

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Sign up for our mailing list at greatstmarys.org/emag

News & Events

Mon 30 Mar to Tue 1 Apr - Holy Week

Holy Week at Great St Mary's



9 am
Morning Prayer

12.30 pm
Holy Communion
with silence from noon



Monday 30 March
Tuesday 31 March
Wednesday 1 April

Tues 31 Mar - Organ Meditation 7pm

Great St Mary's, the University Church, Cambridge

VIA CRUCIS

A sequence of organ meditations by **Philip Moore**
played by **Stanley Godfrey**
with readings, prayers, and silence



Tuesday 31st March 2026, 7pm
Great St Mary's
Free admission, with a retiring
collection in aid of
the Music Department

Wed 1 Apr - First Wednesday Lunch



Lunch will be in the Michaelhouse Chancel, 1-2pm. It follows on from the 12.30 Holy Communion service in GSM but there is no obligation to attend that! It is a simple lunch of soup and bread, together with fruit and home-made cake/biscuits and we invite a contribution of £5. If you find standing in a crowd at coffee on a Sunday morning a bit tricky, this might be the place for you to come and sit and chat.

Thurs 2 Apr to 5 Apr

 <p>Holy Week at Great St Mary's 7pm Thursday 2 April at Great St Mary's</p> <p>Preacher Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Choral Eucharist with washing of feet</p>	 <p>Holy Week at Great St Mary's Friday 3 April at Great St Mary's</p> <p>12.30pm Meditations at the foot of the Cross 1.30pm The Liturgy of Good Friday</p> <p>Good Friday Preacher: Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley</p>	 <p>Holy Week at Great St Mary's Sunday 5 April Great St Mary's</p> <p>5.45am Dawn Vigil and Choral Eucharist</p> <p>8am BCP Communion</p> <p>10am Choral Eucharist preacher: Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley</p> <p>11.45am Choral Mattins with a congregational singing of the Halleluia Chorus from Handel's Messiah</p> <p>Easter Day</p>
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Fri 3 Apr - Easter activity for children



A Good Friday activity morning for children and their parents/carers at Michaelhouse, from 10:00 - 11:30. All are very welcome to come along.

Children will be able to make miniature Easter Gardens to take home, and there will be various other craft activities too. There will be a time to mark the day in story and song, and we will have tea, coffee and hot-cross buns together. The activity morning will be most suitable for

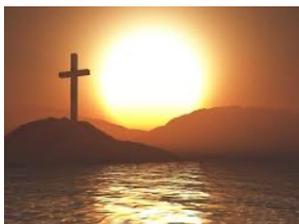
children aged 3 and above, but younger children will be really welcome too. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sat 4 Apr - Easter activity for children

Children and their parents/carers are invited to come and help make the Great St. Mary's Easter Garden on Holy Saturday, between 9:30 and 10:15. If you have flowers growing at home, and your children would like to (and have your permission to!) cut some to bring for the garden, that would be lovely! But it is by no means required



Easter Breakfast- Sun 5 April



Dawn Breakfast – all are warmly invited
On Easter Day after the Dawn Vigil at 5.45 am and the first Easter Eucharist service, there will be Breakfast in the chancel at Michaelhouse to which all are warmly invited. It will be helpful to know in advance how many will be coming. There will be a sign-up list in church or please e-mail

margaretj222@gmail.com

Fri 10 Apr - Lunchtime Concert 1pm GSM



Unlimited Voices concert at 1pm in GSM

Unlimited Voices is a group of people from all over the country who love to sing and explore new places.

They join together a number of times each year for inspiring and exciting adventures making beautiful music in wonderful locations, sharing the joy of singing with each other and those around them

Read more about [Unlimited Voices here](#).

Free entry, retiring collection in aid of music at GSM

Sat 11 Apr - Women's Breakfast



Women's Breakfast 9.30am

We shall start with a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Montefiore Room.

All welcome to eat, chat and pray.

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

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Tues 14 Apr - Something Understood



'Something Understood' The GSM Poetry Group

Tuesday 14 April

7.30-9.00pm at 3, Adams Road, Cambridge CB3 9AD

Our Theme will be 'Thanks and Gratitude'

Everyone is welcome.

Do bring a poem to share if you would like to.

Contact Juliet if you have any questions, or if you'd like a parking space.

juliet@jmcj.org

Thurs 16 Apr - Chat, Play, Sing

Chat-Play-Sing meets on Thursdays at 10am in Michaelhouse for toddlers with their parents or carers

No Chat-Play-Sing on 2nd or 9th April but will be back on 16th April.

Jacob Kidd - commissioned as Verger



Jacob Kidd was commissioned as the Verger of Great St Mary's on 22 March.

The custom of commissioning laypersons to assist the clergy in the conduct of liturgy goes back to the early days of the church. The position of verger developed in Medieval England where they served as the "escort and protector of the procession." They walked before clergy, deans or bishops as they processed within the precincts of the church or cathedral. They carried a large mace or virge, used to dissuade animals or unruly people from disrupting the procession.

At Great St Mary's, the verger typically assists with the leading of university and civic processions - we have two virges, a University and a Great St Mary's virge, both of which were

blessed on Sunday. Jacob also supports the clergy in liturgy planning and helps in overseeing the preparations and execution of worship services. It is a special ministry in the life of a major church, and we are grateful to Jacob for taking on this role.

Artwork for Passiontide and Holy Week



Artwork for Passiontide and Holy Week by Lindsay Stemp

As part of our reflection for Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter, there is an exhibition of paintings by Lindsay Stemp in Michaelhouse: a series of seven small abstracts, each depicting one of the 'Seven last words from the cross' spoken by Jesus.

Please do take the time to look at these; through art we are able to pause and reflect on the themes and stories of Holy Week in different ways, and open our eyes afresh to the saving work of Christ on the cross.

Also on display in Michaelhouse at the moment are the paintings based on movements from Messiaen's La Nativité, originally exhibited in Great St Mary's over Christmas."

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 Ally or Clare (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)

Michael Wallis 1932-2026

Michael was born in Lincoln in 1932. In 1943 his parents moved to Burwell and Michael first went to the Perse and then to Gresham's in Norfolk. In 1952 he joined the Royal Engineers where he gained his commission and was posted to the Canal Zone in Egypt where for the next 14 months he spent every night in the same tent! In 1953 went to Magdalene College, Cambridge where he read Natural Sciences, specialising in biochemistry. In 1958 he became engaged to Evadne and they were married in 1959 at Holy Trinity. However, with a change in vicar and the style of worship they moved to Great St Mary's. Over time Michael was involved with fundraising and managing the installation of the 1990s parish organ, as Churchwarden, Treasurer and Chairman of the Property Committee.

Michael was actively involved in conservation, as a trustee or member of the reserve at Kingfisher Bridge near Wicken. He also took an interest in our churchyard survey of animals and plants. He was involved with the Hester Adrian Workshop and the Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare Association.

Michael's father Laurie Wallis had been a prominent bookmaker on the racecourse. In 1957, being bored with his first job in the pharmaceutical industry, Michael joined his father and worked at his prestigious office in London. Michael said he was more interested in the clients than the race-horses!

In 1960 Michael and Evadne moved into an 'Arts and Crafts' house in Grange Road where they lived with their three children until about ten years ago when they downsized to Millington Road. More recently they decided to worship at St Mark's church being nearby.

Michael and Evadne will be remembered by many at Great St Mary's for their great warmth and outgoing personalities, and major contributions to the life and ministry of

Great St Mary's.

(Text drawn from Miles Elliott's interview with Michael for St Mark's newsletter December 2022.)

Baptism and Confirmation at Great St. Mary's

Baptism is both a sign and a sacrament (an act through which Christians believe there is an effective spiritual change) of commitment to the Christian faith. If the baptism candidate is a child, the commitment extends to the prayerful oversight of their parents or carers and godparents. Baptism is when the worshipping community welcomes the person being baptized into the family of the church.

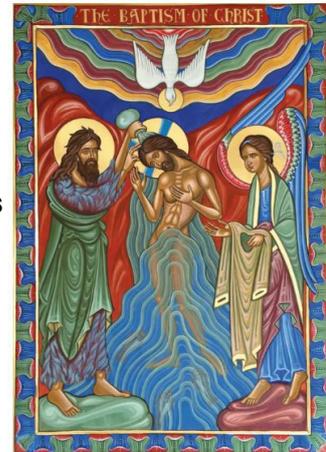
Confirmation is a service during which people who were baptized as a child can make an affirmation of faith for themselves, and this affirmation is confirmed (blessed) by the bishop. It's also possible to be baptized and confirmed at the same service.

If you have been thinking about baptism for you or your child, please, let us know. Adults who are baptized also prepare for confirmation.

We are delighted that Bishop Martin Seeley will be presiding at the baptism and confirmation service at Great St Mary's on Sunday 17 May. Young people and adults who have not been baptized already can be baptized at this service at the same time as they are confirmed. Infants can also be baptized at this service, and indeed on a number of other dates throughout the year.

Confirmation preparation sessions for adults will begin on Sunday 15 March 15 at 11.45am for those who are considering confirmation on 17 May. Youth preparation for confirmation will take place as part of the ongoing Emmaus youth group meetings on Sunday evenings at 5pm after chorister evensongs.

If you are considering baptism or confirmation for yourself or your child, then please do contact Jutta, Ally, Clare or Rosie (clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk) to learn more about what this involves and how we can support you/them in terms of preparation.



Sharing Bread: Exploring Holy Communion



A number of children in the congregation would like to start receiving the bread at communion, which is lovely. At Great St. Mary's, the pattern has to be set aside a particular Sunday for children to take communion for the first time, and to offer a few sessions before that for the children to explore the theology and practice of Holy Communion together. This year these sessions will be called 'Sharing Bread.'

The First Communion Sunday will be Sunday 7th June, which will be an All Together service. And the Sharing Bread sessions will be after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday 19th April, Sunday 3rd May, and Sunday 17th May. Some children at Great St. Mary's

have been receiving communion from a young age, especially those who attend[ed] The Ark - which is our Tuesday morning communion service for 0-5s and their parents/carers. That is lovely too! They are also very welcome - in fact, encouraged! - to sign up for the Sharing Bread sessions, so that they can think about Holy Communion some more as well.

The sessions will be suitable for any children in school years 1-6. If your child would like to attend the sessions, please register them here <https://greatstmarys.churchsuite.com/-/forms/jb8wul67> . (If you have more than one child who would like to attend, you will need to fill in one form for each child).

Year's Mind

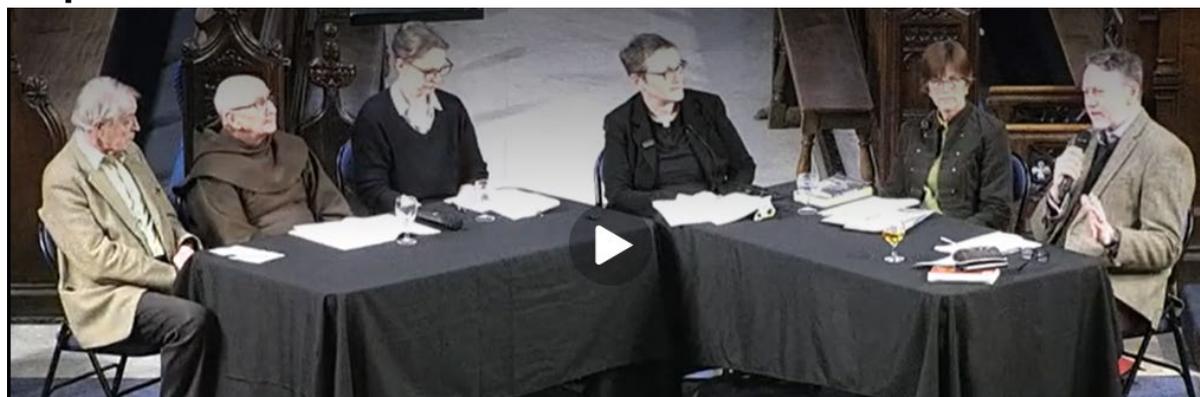
Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Richard Storey	3 April
Peter Meadows	2 April
Malcolm Clarke	5 April
Roger Hall	7 April
Simon Barrington-Ward	11 April
Malcom Edward Boston	10 April
Dido Whitehead	17 April
Baby Olivia	18 April
Denise Inge	20 April
Sue Reeves	28 April
Margaret Campbell	29 April



Service

Hope for the Earth



Hope for the Earth - a panel discussion on hope in the face of environmental crisis - part of the Cambridge Festival (following Festival Evensong).

If you were unable to attend this excellent discussion, it is available on the GSM [Youtube channel here](#). On the panel (left to right):

Professor Don Broom - Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare, Cambridge University
Brother Sam SSF

Dr. Charlotte Hammer - Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, Cambridge University

Revd Ally Barrett - Moderator

Dr Clare Redfern - Editor, Green Christian

Dr Richard Davis - Vice Principal, Wesley House, Director of the Centre for Faith in Public Life

Wider Concerns - Easter Collections



On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we have a special collection for the Gazan Christian hospital (the Al Ahli Hospital) supported by the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association, Diocese of Jerusalem. It fearlessly continues to serve all (Ahl) in Gaza, despite five bomb attacks during the war. At the ceasefire it was operating at more than double its normal capacity. Bishop Dagmar has written about this urgent need. Click on the [link here](#). or scan the QR code.

The Wider Concerns Easter brown envelope collection will run through April and be divided equally between the 3 projects:



Proposed by Children's Church the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal by DEC (the Disasters Emergency Committee brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of humanitarian crisis overseas.)

The Gazan Christian hospital (as above for those who may have missed the earlier collections).

Romsey Mill working with some of the most vulnerable young people and families in Cambridge, providing practical and emotional support, including for those with autism. They believe each individual has immense value and potential. Click on the [link here](#). or scan the QR code.

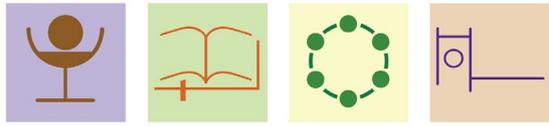
WCC brown envelopes will be in the pews from Easter Sunday onwards.

Stewardship

Stewardship – Inspirational sermon and Information on how to contribute to Great St Mary's

On Stewardship Sunday we were delighted to welcome the National Stewardship Advisor, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood as our preacher at 10 o'clock. I highly recommend his inspirational sermon, which is available on [Youtube](#) and, to read, on the Great St Mary's website, under '[Worship/sermons](#)'.

We are inviting everyone at Great St Mary's to prayerfully review their volunteering and financial giving to our Church over the next few weeks. Good stewardship of all that we have – our life, our planet, our time, talents and possessions - is an integral part of Christian discipleship, and I am extremely grateful to our many volunteers who enable us to be a place of worship, prayer, welcome and witness for so many people, and for the financial support of our regular givers and all our donors that enables us to fund our mission and ministry.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Information on 'how to get involved' and 'how to give', including legacies, is available in the back of Church and online: the 'Times and Talents' form on the website [Time and Talents | Great St Mary's](#) and information about how to

give [How to Donate | Great St Mary's](#). - with guidance on how to join the [Parish Giving Scheme](#).

We are especially looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, digital presence, admin, and choir stewarding. As a way of giving, I commend the Parish Giving Scheme to you, as it's easy to administer and claims tax back for our church on a monthly basis. Please, do speak to the clergy, our church wardens or our stewardship advisor, Andrew Watson, or Lorna Atwell, if you have any questions. Our stewardship prayer: Loving God, you are always with us and give us all we need to be your Church. Help us, we pray, to give as we have received: abundantly, generously, and joyfully, that our worship and service may bear witness to your Kingdom of unfailing love. In the name of your Son who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Revd Canon Jutta Brueck, Vicar

Christian Aid



Last year GSM was able to submit a whopping £2,000 to Christian Aid. This was courtesy of several events: tea/coffee parties, donations in church, the sale of cards and the regional service celebrating the 80th birthday of Christian Aid with Dr Rowan Williams as preacher.

The service this year will take place at St Andrew's Church, Cherry Hinton on Sunday 17 May at 4pm. There will be a Christian Aid speaker and refreshments will follow. All are welcome, so do make a note in your diary.

In the meantime it is the time of year when I invite house groups and individuals to hold coffee or tea parties in aid of Christian Aid - gift envelopes provided. Gatherings can be held any time in May, or even into June, but I have to send all the money into HQ by the end of June. It would be lovely if some more individuals might perhaps gather neighbours and friends, maybe in the garden; it does not have to be church members only. I already have one offer of a date, which is very encouraging. If you would like to be invited, do let me know - lorna_atwell@hotmail.com - and I can team you up with a party near you.

As for the sale of cards...they will be available at a very reasonable £1 each at coffee

during all the Sundays in May. Come prepared with a list of birthdays, anniversaries etc (and some loose change; no bank cards I'm afraid). There are also some lovely blank cards suitable for all occasions. I have paid for the cards myself so 100% of all sales will benefit Christian Aid directly and I am most grateful for your support.
Lorna Atwell

Eco Tips - Grow your own!



Spring is here. Why not grow your own tomatoes, potatoes and salad? The average distance travelled by shop-bought fruit and veg is 1,500 miles. If you have limited outside space and a balcony, try growing in containers. Prioritise tomatoes (to offset imports from the Netherlands), beetroot, broad beans, carrots, dwarf French beans, peas, potatoes, radishes, runner beans, chillies and peppers. Try salad leaves and you will also reduce the plastic wrap from supermarkets. Lots of advice [available from the RHS](#).

Worried about watering? There were some great tips in this recent BBC [Gardeners' Question Time](#) edition on 'grey' water for your garden, water butts and suitable plants for a drier climate. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002snhj>

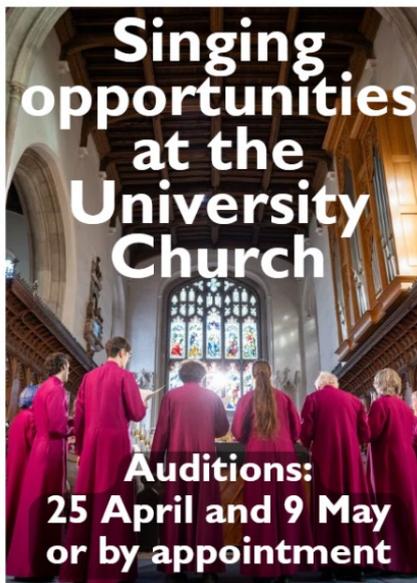
Adult Choirs at Great St. Mary's



The Choirs of
Great St Mary's



Great St Mary's
THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE



From September 2026, we are changing the way adult singing works in the choirs of Great St Mary's. Currently, we have one adult choir, known as the back row, a group of committed and loyal volunteers many of whom have sung as part of our choir for decades. From September, this choir will be succeeded by two new ensembles,

the Parish Choir and the Lay Clerks. All of our current choir members will continue to sing as part of one of these choirs, and the new arrangements will enable us to do three things: to bring more adult singers into GSM music-making, especially by involving adult sopranos as part of the choral foundation for the first time; to provide a better musical education to the choristers by allowing them to build a repertoire of high-quality SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) music; and to offer SATB music at all Sunday services.

PARISH CHOIR

The Parish Choir will be an auditioned SATB Chamber Choir, made up of volunteer singers drawn from across the Cambridge area. It will sing independently and together with our teenage youth choir. The choir's repertoire will be broad and imaginative, encompassing both challenging and simple music drawn from all eras from the 16th Century to the present day. The Parish Choir will rehearse on Friday evenings (1900-2030) and will usually sing for one service each Sunday: the Eucharist, Choral Mattins, or Choral Evensong.

LAY CLERKS

The Lay Clerks will be Great St Mary's ATB adult singers. They will contribute to the musical education of our treble line by providing a superb back row. We hope that membership of the Lay Clerks will be especially appealing to recent graduates, postgraduate students, and junior academics who have grown out of the college choirs, and seek a low commitment and high quality singing experience, and have a vested interest in the growth of the next generation of musicians. The Lay Clerks will sing with the choristers once a week, rehearsing directly before the Eucharist or Choral Evensong. Once a month, the Lay Clerks stay behind after a service to read through forthcoming tricky music.

Members of the congregation will hear both choirs regularly on Sundays, and several times a year all the choirs will join together to form the Full Foundation.

Our Occasional Choir will continue to run in the same way as it does currently, providing music at services when there are gaps in the regular choirs' schedules. We have just started a recruitment campaign to attract new members to the Parish Choir and the Lay Clerks. Auditions will be held on 25 April and 9 May. If you know anyone who might be interested, please do direct them towards our website (<https://www.greatstmarys.org/adult-choirs>) or ask them to email Alexander Berry (music@gsm.cam.ac.uk).

Electoral Roll

Revision of the Electoral Roll for the Parish of St Mary the Great with St Michael, Cambridge

Following the major exercise in 2025, when we had to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll, this year we just need to make sure that the Roll is up to date, in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which will take place on Sunday 10 May, at 11.30am in Michaelhouse. Joining the Electoral Roll is a way of showing your support for Great St Mary's. It enables you to participate in the governance structures of the parish, if you wish to do so, as it is the register of lay persons who are eligible to vote at the APCM and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Applications, which can be made on paper or electronically, must be in the form specified. A copy of that form can be accessed on the GSM website ([Download and Electoral Roll form](#)) and paper forms are also available in GSM and in Michaelhouse. Completed forms should be returned to the GSM office, by hand or post, or by email to office@gsm.cam.ac.uk, by Thursday 23 April at the latest. The revised Electoral Roll will be published on Friday 24 April, online and in hard copy in Great St Mary's and Michaelhouse. It will show names, but no other information, and will remain on display until the APCM. Only those whose names are included in this revised Electoral Roll will be entitled to stand for election or to vote at the APCM.

We know that many of you who worship regularly at Great St Mary's are not yet on the Roll, and we would like to encourage everyone who is entitled to join it. If you are baptised, aged 16+ and a regular worshipper at GSM, whether in person or online, you can be on the Electoral Roll. Please do not hesitate to contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Joanna Womack, or speak to the clergy or churchwardens, if you have any questions.

Minutes of PCC Meeting

Summary points of PCC meeting of 29 January 2026

- The Vicar expressed her grateful thanks to everyone for their great generosity, aware of how hard people work, with so many of them being volunteers.
- Stewardship: there was great appreciation for the success of the Giving Appeal during Advent.
- Stewardship Sunday would be on 8 February – the preacher would be Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, Church of England National Stewardship Advisor; this would be a celebration for how people support us in so many different ways and would highlight the time and talents, which is such a part of our discipleship; it would also include information about legacies and the Parish Giving Scheme.
- The Neighbourhood groups were being reinstated, led by Revd Clare Stephenson and Lorna Atwell – ten volunteers had already come forward to run home events, which would be announced in eMag in mid-February. It was confirmed that there would be a 'leader' for each neighbourhood with risk assessments in place, and that there would be formal support from the Pastoral Care Group for the whole scheme, who had been instrumental in putting it together.

The Honest Church resources had been downloaded to the PCC SharePoint and all were encouraged to look at them.

The plan was for a small group of PCC members to explore and try out some of the Inclusive Church study guides.

'Together for the Church of England' was formed by members of General Synod in 2024, to strengthen the participation of inclusive churches and enable more effective participation in the governance of the national church.

Deanery Synod and General Synod elections were taking place this year (late spring/summer); parishes were being encouraged to fill their places on Deanery Synod and then encourage others to consider being proposed for General Synod (who would ultimately be voted on by Deanery Synod members). Volunteer agreements were being finalised – the PCC voted unanimously in favour of authorising them.

Information about 'Safe Space', a charity for victims and survivors of abuse, would be added to our posters and website.

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- Income had been steady but slightly down, due to less income from the tower last year; it was noted that tourists were still here but spending less, which was a national trend.
- The Director of Operations was looking at innovative ways of getting more income from tourism, including looking at varying entry prices at times of the year; adjusting opening hours seasonally; looking into packages with hotels, and tourist offices, plus a Wilson Vale discount in the Michaelhouse café when purchased with a ticket for the tower.
- It was noted that the tower would be closed on weekdays during March, for urgent repairs, although it would re-open at weekends – this would result in an expected loss of £8,000 of tower income.
- The creation of a new Fundraising Committee, led by the Director of Operations, would aim to increase awareness of the discipleship of stewardship.
- We would aim to cover our parish share of £140,000 through our regular giving, but this would be a challenge. By funding the core ministry costs through giving, the shop and tower income would aim to cover the staff salaries.
- A Faculty was in place for us to open a Garden of Remembrance in the churchyard for the interment of ashes.
- The ECLAS programme, 'Communicating Hope: Science, Faith, and Sustainability', was expanding our educational offering, particularly linking faith with caring for the environment. As part of this, scientists would be interviewed by school students and recorded.
- A poetry competition had been launched on the theme of 'Hope and the Environment', with a closing date of 20 February.
- On 16 February, as part of 'Twilight at the Museums', we would again be in collaboration with the Schola Cantorum to offer a 'Come and Sing' event for families to experience choral music informally in a church setting.
- Family activities would take place beforehand around the theme of 'Sounds of Nature', embracing our commitment to environmental education, but also offering the opportunity to think about connections between faith and the environment.
- On Sunday 22 March there would be a Festival Evensong, as part of the Cambridge Festival, with Brother Sam SSF preaching on the theme of *Hope and the Ecological Crisis*. This would be followed by a reception and a panel discussion on this theme.
- Hot chocolate sessions would run when the full Youth Choir do Compline (approximately once a month); the sessions had been good so far with a range of backgrounds amongst the participants and some non-choir members also attending.
- There was a plan to introduce occasional events after the Eucharist for children and families and other members of the congregation, either in the church or in the churchyard.
- Alex Berry reported that he was currently applying for two different grants: to the Cathedral Music Trust to fund the Assistant Director of Music post for a further year and to the Ouseley Trust as a means of funding vocal training for the choristers and Youth Choir.

- It would be good to encourage choir parents to be volunteers as it would give them a better sense of how everything happens.
- The Vicar's study and Front of Church office had recently swapped.
- The Fundraising Working Group and the Communications Working Group had now started - both were for a fixed period of six months only.
- The Benefact Trust had given over £3,000 for the project for the pews removal, thanks to Margaret Johnston.
- There was a plan to exhibit visual artwork at Michaelhouse by members of the congregation – suggestions to Ally Barrett would be welcomed. It was felt that this could be a fundraising event for Michaelhouse.
- It was agreed that it would be good to identify somebody to spearhead the Friends of Michaelhouse.

Coming up.....

Friends of Michaelhouse Concert - Sat 18 Apr



Michaelhouse, Trinity Street 1-2pm

We welcome Phoebe Liu for a concert of piano music:

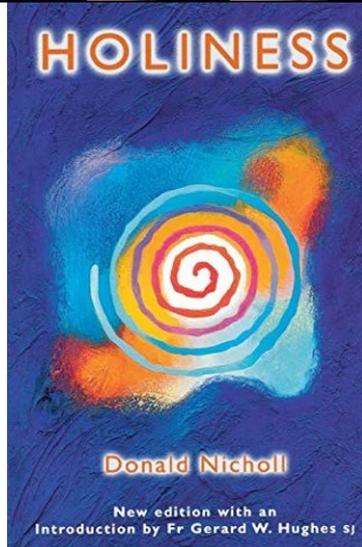
Ravel *Oiseaux tristes*

Beethoven *Piano Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109*

Debussy *Images, Book II (selections)*

Liu Zhimeng Piano

Free entry, retiring collection in aid of Michaelhouse Singers



Vicar's Reading Group

Vicar's Reading Group : A monthly group to explore questions of faith and life

Tuesday evenings, 7.30 -9 at the Vicarage, 21 April, 19 May, 9 June, 7 July

Book: Donald Nicholl 'Holiness' DLT, 1981, 87, 2004 to stimulate our conversation and prayer,

'A certain feeling of absurdity comes over one on being asked to write a book on holiness', writes Donald Nicholl.

Goodness cannot be produced by any kind of trick or technique. Moreover, who wants to be caught reading a book entitled Holiness? But people do read books on

holiness, hoping to grow in holiness.' Donald Nicholl was

Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and from 1981 to 1985 Rector of the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research at Tantur, near Bethlehem, and subsequently became Senior Research Fellow at the Multi-Faith Centre, Selly Oak, Birmingham. He continued to be active in work for justice and peace until his death in 1997. 'The holy

person is often presented as remote, perhaps afire with heavenly love but not giving much warmth to the rest of us. Donald's book makes it clear that our relationship with God is to be found in the way we relate to one another in all our dealings.' From the Introduction by Fr Gerard W. Hughes SJ

Please, let Jutta know, if you are interested in joining the group. Email:

sarahh@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Elsewhere.....



How Resilient is Cambridge



A series of 6 free, high-level events at the Guildhall delving into how the climate crisis will impact Cambridge and how prepared we are.

The final event deals with the topic of Community Systems and will take place on Wednesday 8th April.

Doors open at 4.30 and presentations and discussions will be from 5 to 7.

Venue: The Guildhall (central Cambridge Market Square). You can also attend online.

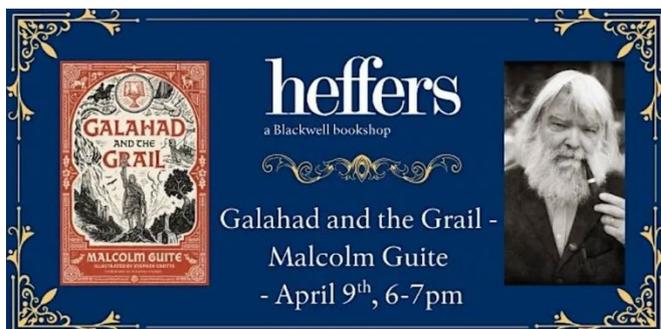
For more details and to book your free place, go to Eventbrite [here](#).

Organised in collaboration by the [Resilience Web](#) and the [Cambridge Room](#).

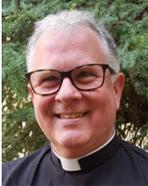
Book Launch - Galahad and the Grail

Join Malcolm Guite as he discusses the first volume of his new series 'Galahad and the Grail', an Arthurian retelling for the modern age. For many, the tales of Arthur and his knights are the stuff of bedtime stories or children's cartoons. But the origin of these tales goes back more than a thousand years. Now, bestselling poet Malcolm Guite re-enchants the legend of King Arthur for a new generation, restoring its original power and mystery.

Heffers Bookshop Cambridge - Thursday 9 April, 6pm



MINISTRY TEAM

	Revd Canon Jutta Brueck Vicar email: juttab@gsm.cam.ac.uk		Revd Ally Barrett Associate Vicar email: allyb@gsm.cam.ac.uk
	Revd Clare Stephenson Assistant Curate email: clares@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		Dr David Grumett Licensed Lay Minister email: davidg@gsm.cam.ac.uk
	Revd Graham Stevenson Associate Priest		CHILDREN & YOUTH Great St Mary's offers a range of groups and activities for children from birth to 18. Revd Rosie Hewitt Children and Youth Minister email: rosieh@gsm.cam.ac.uk

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.

	Alex Berry Director of Music email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk		Stanley Godfrey Assistant Director of Music email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk
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EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH

Great St Mary's regularly welcomes school groups and offers educational outreach around heritage, faith, and sustainability. To find out more, contact Natalie Lealand (nataliel@gsm.cam.ac.uk) or visit www.greatstmarys.org/education