



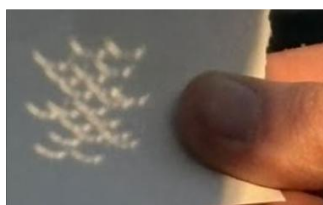
Great St Mary's eMag

22 August-6 September 2026: Issue 201

From the Associate Vicar:

Dear Friends

August always makes me aware of the ebb and flow of action and rest, busyness and recovery. There has been an extra burden on those watering the churchyard (a microcosm of the challenge facing farmers), and the front of church team have been managing the peak tourist season; on the other hand there are fewer meetings, and many regular groups take a break. Some people are able to get away from everything, while others use the opportunity to catch up with things at home or get ahead with tasks before the busyness of the new term kicks in. Even the pattern of worship changes over the summer.



Meanwhile, amid this long and worrying heatwave, in which we have had little respite from the sun's glare, there was a moment last week when people across the UK and beyond (including a group of mathematicians up the Tower) stopped what they would normally be doing to experience something special – the brief extra dusk and dawn of a solar eclipse.

I was struck by how many people gathered outdoors in public places (complete with cereal boxes and colanders and the special glasses), how much generosity I saw in the sharing of these resources, and how much conversation I witnessed between strangers and across generations. The eclipse felt like a welcome disruption to the normal ebb and flow of things, giving permission for other things to be disrupted too: it somehow seemed to allowed people simply to exist in one another's company, differences set aside, and have a shared experience of curiosity and delight, as human beings, all living under the light of the same sun.

Every blessing

Ally



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



Reading this eMag online or forwarded from a friend?

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

Worship Schedule

August services - see [website](#) for details

Sunday 23 August - Trinity 12

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist
- **5pm** Evening Prayer (said)

Saturday 29 August

- **5pm** Choral Evensong (Visiting choir - All Saints, West Ham)

Sunday 30 August - Trinity 13

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist (Visiting choir - All Saints, West Ham)
- **5pm** Choral Evensong (Visiting choir - All Saints, West Ham)

Sunday 6 Sept - Trinity 14

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist
- **5pm** Patronal Festival Choral Evensong

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 **No Ark or Choral Evening Prayer during the summer break**
- Wednesdays 12.30pm **Holy Communion**
- Wednesdays **No Choral Compline during the summer break**
- Thursdays **No Choral Evensong during the summer break**

Moveable Pews!

On Mon 17 August we started the works to adapt the first two pews on either side of the nave to make them moveable, so that we have a more flexible space at the front of the church for services, concerts and orchestral events, and to improve accessibility for visitors to Great St Mary's. The work will involve stonemasons Brown & Ralph removing the four pews, adapting them and making good the stone floor. When not in place, the pews will then be located against the side walls, and the present votive candle stand will be removed and replaced with a moveable one - you can already see this outside the vestry. We expect that the building work will go on for 3 to 4 weeks in total. The Church will remain open, and services will happen as usual, with the works area taped off. We will work hard to keep disruption to a minimum.

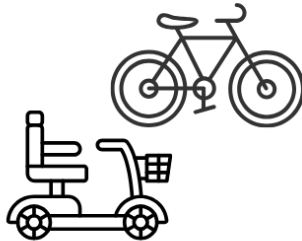
Creationtide 2026

at Great St Mary's & beyond



Sunday 13 September

11.15am Blessing of
Bicycles and buggies



Sunday 20 September

10am Choral Eucharist:
'Jonah, the Whale, and other
Creatures of God' (preacher:
Richard Davies) with
discussion over coffee



2.30pm Blessing of Pets



Sunday 27 September

10am Choral Eucharist:
The Chevin Sermon



11.15am 'Children's Church
Plus' creationtide art workshop
International bring and share
lunch from 12 noon.



Sunday 4 October

10am Harvest Festival
All Together Eucharist
(St Francis Day)
4pm Ecumenical Choral Evensong
for Creationtide followed by
refreshments and discussion



Friday 4 September

10am Visit to the University
Library 'Living Waters'
exhibition (poetry, art and
the fight for clean rivers)
with refreshments in
the UL tea room.

Wednesday 16 September

Fowlmere RSPB reserve
(with coffee afterwards).
Meet in the car park
at 10am for a leisurely
walk around the nature
reserve, led by Andrew
Dobson. Bring binoculars if
you have them. For more
information, email
news@gsm.cam.ac.uk

All through the season

Engagement station
in Great St Mary's
Resources for
prayer, discussion
and reflection
Self-guided
churchyard trail



For full details, visit
greatstmarys.org/creationtide

We will also be inviting donations to Cambridge Foodbank throughout the season.

News & Events



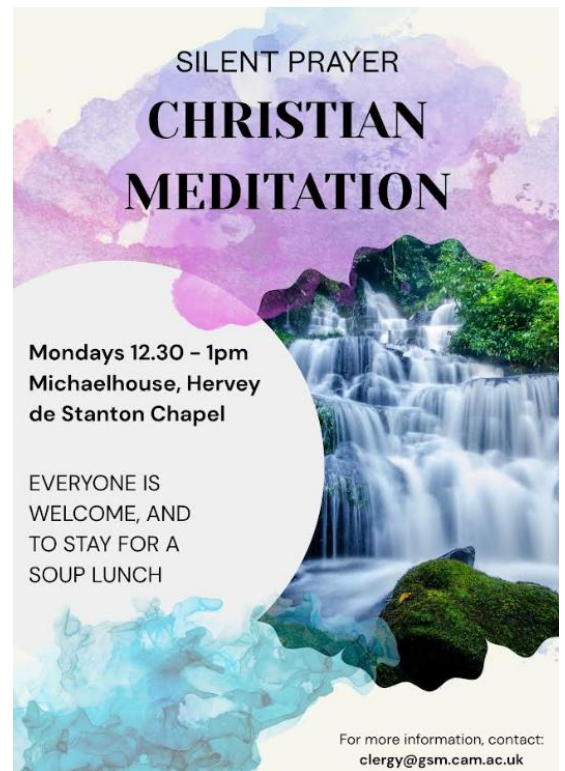
Monday 24 Aug - Christian Meditation 12.30pm
Michaelhouse – Hervey de Stanton Chapel

Christian Meditation on Mondays continues throughout the summer (except bank holidays) – all are welcome!

We meet on Mondays 12.30 to 1pm, in the Harvey de Stanton Chapel at Michaelhouse (followed by optional soup)

A space for stillness in a busy world!

Please see Jutta or email clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk if you would like to know more.



Sat 29 Aug - Something Understood

‘Something Understood’ the GSM Poetry Group invites you to our annual visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

On Saturday 29 August at 10.00am

we will meet at the courtyard entrance.

Our very own Sam Race will talk to us about:

Pieter Brueghel the Younger's *A Village Festival with a Theatrical Performance and a Procession in Honour of St Hubert and St Anthony* (1632).

There will be 15 places only, so book soon not to be disappointed by emailing Juliet

Jackson: juliet@jmcj.org

This cultural summer treat is free and there will be portable chairs for us to sit on in the gallery.



Wed 2 Sept - 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.





Fri 4 Sept
Visit to 'Living Water' exhibition
'Without living water, we die.'

These stark words from Anglo-Irish artist Barrie Cooke reflect his alarm at the growing pollution of the Irish rivers and loughs he loved. A leading expressionist painter, Cooke drew constant inspiration from the natural world and from his friendships with major 20th-century poets, including Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes and John Montague. For more information, visit www.lib.cam.ac.uk/livingwater.



Sun 6 Sept
GSM Patronal Festival

Patronal Festival
Sunday 6 September 2026

Celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary
at Great St Mary's, the University Church



10am Choral Eucharist
 Sung by the Youth & Parish Choirs
 Preacher: The Vicar

5pm Choral Evensong
 Come & Sing for advanced singers
 scan the QR code to sign up



Tues 8 Sept
Cloud of Unknowing: Home Group

This discussion and meditation group restarts on Tues 8 September, held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month from 7.30-9.00pm (22 *Manhattan Drive CB4 1JL*). After a summer break, the Cloud of Unknowing home group will be gathering again to share the deepening of contemplative prayer with the help of a text on Christian contemplative tradition.

This group takes its name from the medieval anonymous classic, the "Cloud of Unknowing", which was our guide during the first few months of the group forming. At each meeting we reflect what we have learned and put into practice from the text, sharing our personal experiences of contemplative prayer, and conclude with a 20-minute time of silent prayer, using the pattern with which those who attend the Monday lunchtime Christian meditation sessions will be familiar.



We warmly welcome new members at this point when we will embark on the exploration of the themes in a new book. For more information please contact Richard Summers (richards.rs12@gmail.com) or Clio Edgington (clio.edgington@gmail.com)



Women's Breakfast Sat 12 Sept, 9.30am

Meet in the Montefiore Room at Michaelhouse - all welcome to eat, chat and pray. Please contact office@gsm.cam.ac.uk for more information.

N.B Ride and Stride 2026 Following the Women's Breakfast, Ruth Bridgen is planning to do a walk round central Cambridge churches and chapels if anyone is interested in joining her at 11am outside GSM. For more information about how you can take part in this year's Ride and Stride, see the information below in 'Coming up'



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

 *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.*

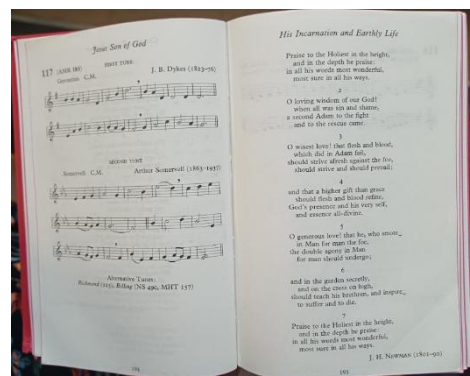


Susan Spencer	25 August
Barbara Sayer	2 September
Cyril Tucker	2 September
Ron Clifton	3 September
Val Chivers	6 September
Harold Hodgson	12 September
Sylvia Watson	15 September
Alice Mant	17 September
Iris Crossley	18 September
Giles Ecclestone	19 September
Betty Orange	22 September
Peter Girling	24 September
Fiona Campbell Brown	26 September
James Wood	30 September

Service

Hymn Books with tunes

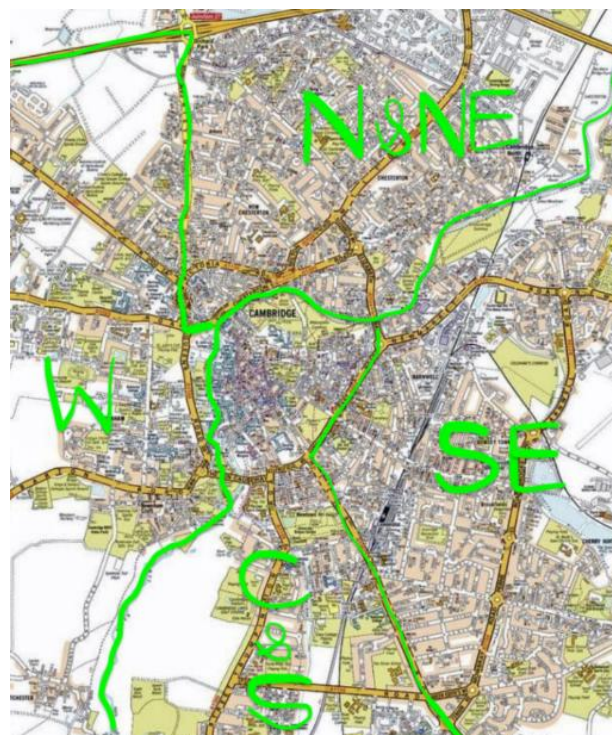
Thanks to an amazing website called 'Clergy Clutter', we have obtained a good number of melody hymn books which members of the congregation might like to use if you would like to follow the tunes. Please just ask for one when you collect your order of service sheet.



Neighbourhood Groups

Over the past few months we have been reviving the neighbourhood groups as a way for people in the GSM congregation who live near one another to have the opportunity to meet socially - generally somewhere where it's easier to park than GSM! Gatherings so far have been well received, and more are planned. The map shows roughly where the boundaries are between the four groups, so that you can see which group you were invited to join (via churchsuite). If you missed the invitation, or are not yet on churchsuite and wish to join your neighbourhood group, email office@gsm.cam.ac.uk.

Juliet Jackson kindly offered her beautiful garden and house as the venue for the first 'west' neighbourhood group gathering. About twenty people were present and the food offerings were magnificent (as can be seen in the photo below). Everybody had ample time to chat and to stroll around the garden and it was altogether a lovely afternoon.



Time and Talents

Stewardship of Time and Talents:



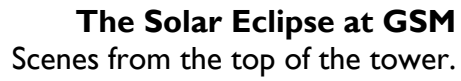
Scan the code or visit <https://greatstmarys.churchsuite.com/forms/nlxybehs> if you would like to volunteer at Great St. Mary's. There are also paper copies of this form at the back of the church on Sundays.

There are a few areas where we are in urgent need of volunteers:

Livestreamers, especially for the Sunday Eucharist. No previous experience needed, training provided - talk to Jacob Kidd or email jacobk@gsm.cam.ac.uk to find out more. We are also hoping to grow the **Altar Servers' team**, especially for the Sunday Eucharist and Festivals; again, no experience is required, and training is provided: talk to Gillian Weale to find out more.

Congregational Art Exhibition:

Thank you so much to those who enabled us to fill Michaelhouse with artwork by members of the congregation. Being able to enjoy one another's gifts and creativity is a beautiful thing! If you missed taking part and would like to contribute to the next one, email allyb@gsm.cam.ac.uk.



From the Tower of Great St Mary's



Just a few snapshots of a wonderful experience - there will be a full report in the next eMag





Eco Tips - Learn about the climate crisis



A summer we won't forget with so many weather records broken. This free presentation is very timely.

On **Fri 25 Sept** join the **Cambridge Mayor's screening of the People's Emergency Briefing** at the historic Cambridge Guildhall, followed by a facilitated discussion.

The People's Emergency Briefing provides a clear, evidence-based explanation of the climate crisis. The film follows the **National Emergency Briefing**, held in Westminster on 27 Nov 2025, when nine international experts addressed 1,200 politicians and other leaders on the scale of the emergency and its impacts on health, food security, national security and the economy.

This is not a party-political event, and there is no expectation that attendees sign up to any campaign or organisation. The aim is simply to learn, reflect and discuss. Everyone is welcome.

Doors open at 18.00. The film begins at 19.00 and lasts 50 minutes. Afterwards there will be a facilitated discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit www.nebriefing.org/

Whether you are already deeply engaged with environmental issues or simply curious to learn more, we hope you will join us for an informed, constructive and thought-provoking evening.

Supporters include Greenpeace, Climate Psychology Alliance and Cambridge Climate Therapists.



Ely Cathedral: Parish Passes and Pilgrimage Visits

Anyone on our electoral roll is eligible for a Parish Pass, which allows free entry to the Cathedral at times it is open to the visiting public. Attendance at worship is, of course, always free. The pass is for entry only and does not cover any tours or events which require paid for admission. Passes must only be used by the named parishioner and are not transferable. Proof of ID may be required when you visit. Your pass remains valid as long as you are resident in the Diocese. Parish Pass application forms can be [downloaded here](#).

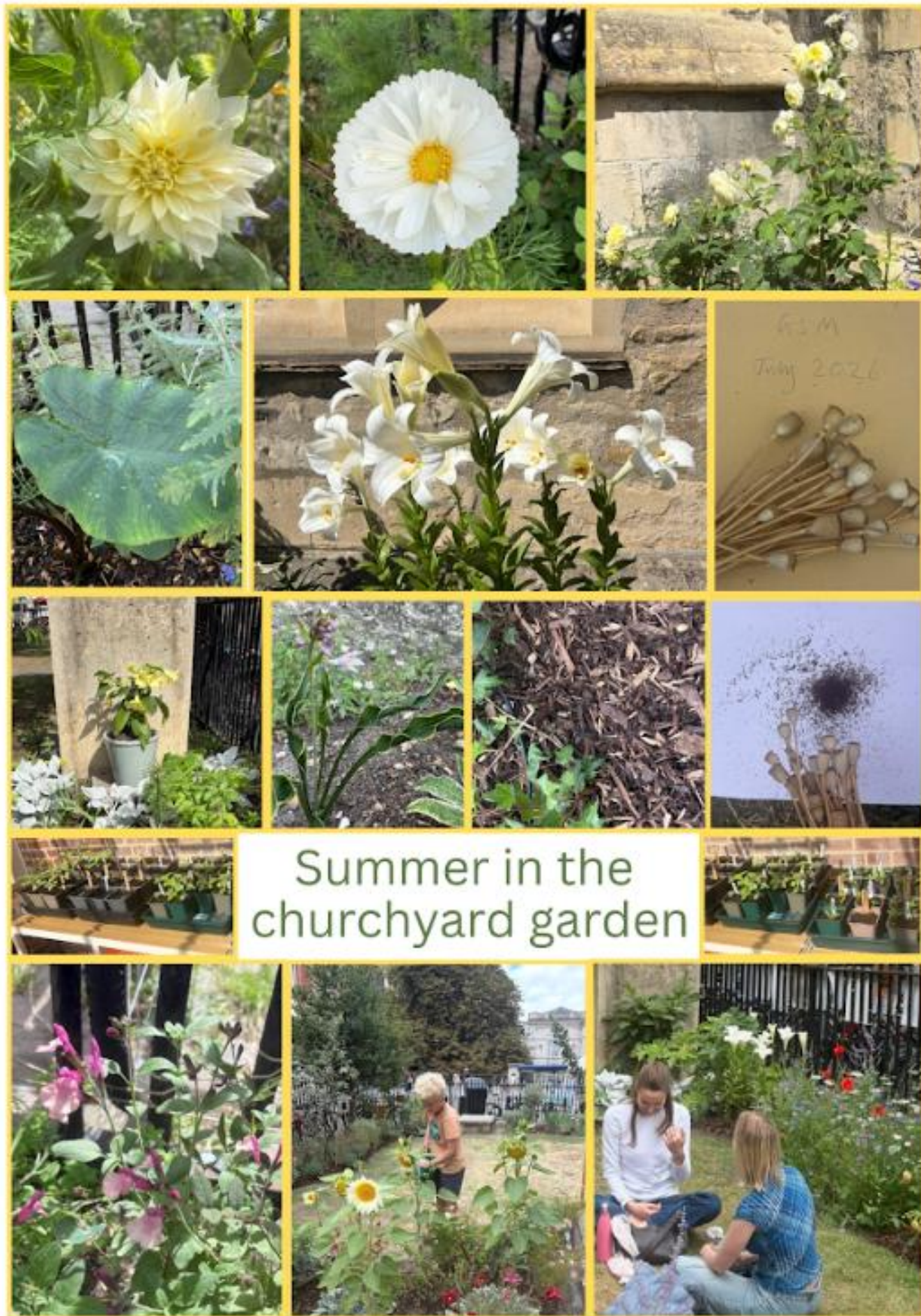
Please note that older Parish Passes, even if past their expiry date, remain valid for entry. After completing the form, please ask one of the churchwardens to counter-sign. Paper copies of the form are also available from the churchwardens.

Please take the form to the Ticket Office at Ely Cathedral between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday, to collect your pass.





Summer in the Churchyard Garden



In Ecclesiastes, we read 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'. Nowhere is this more immediately evident than in a garden. This summer may have been a time of challenge and immensely hard work in our churchyard garden, but it has also proved a time of joy, fulfilment and satisfaction.

The intense heat, the drought and the ensuing hosepipe ban have tested both our young plants and the team of gardeners. The 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' ground force carefully laid down a bark chip mulch over every inch of bare earth, to try and reduce evaporation of our precious water. Since the hosepipe ban, we have had to water with watering cans and our trusty bowser. There is only one tap in the churchyard, near the vestry door. In a desperate attempt to help our young garden survive, this watering operation has had to happen two or three times a week, every week. It is, as you can imagine, time consuming and hard. One day I walked 19,890 steps on a watering day. Thankfully, only a very few small plants have died, and all our new trees are alive and well. I am immensely grateful to the team (Daniel, Joseph, Katya and Bohdan, Sarah H, Jonathan) and a young visitor in his school holidays, for the hours and hours of watering time they have given to the churchyard garden summer survival mission.

The normal summer jobs have carried on: planting annuals, weeding, dead heading, tidying up, seed collecting and seed sowing for the next season. Summer has also been a time to see the fruits of our labours and to marvel, as each flower has blossomed, at the beauty of creation. It is not just us who are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. The white lilies, in the garden of Remembrance, in early July were stunning, just being themselves 'clothed like one of these'. The climbing yellow rose, 'The Pilgrim', on the right of the great west door, has put on some healthy new shoots and is enjoying a second flowering at the moment. Outside the shop door, in the 'hands' area, the Hosta 'praying hands' has flowered beautifully, and its leaves, touching and clasping one another, seem to be praying with us for the flourishing of this green space.

The 'Angel' area has come into its own this summer, (by the upright tomb stone near the smaller cherry tree). Here, the lilies remind us of the Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation, the sword-like leaves of Iris 'seraphim' of the sword of the warrior Archangel Michael in the book of Revelation, the huge grey leaves of the Senecio candicans show us Angel wings, and the trumpet-like flowers of the Brugmansia (in the pot) remind us of the everlasting praise offered by the angels in heaven. The area celebrating 'Companions' is also looking good at the moment, with the Cosmos 'cupcake', the Dahlia 'cafe au lait', the salvia 'peach Melba' and one of our new tropical plants introduced to the garden, Colocasia 'tea cup'.

It has given us such pleasure to see the space being used by the youth group, and being enjoyed by the local community and by visitors to Cambridge. It is fun to be interrupted in our work to be asked questions by complete strangers about the garden, or to hear compliments being called over the railings. Amazingly, in spite of the dozens and dozens of picnic lunches being eaten, there seems to be virtually no litter. So...thank you to all of you who have noticed the goings-on in the garden, who have contributed, encouraged and prayed. Watch this space...

Juliet Jackson



Bookstall

You may be noticing gaps on the shelves of our two bookcases. It is because we are running out of books. If you are able to bring just one or two books when you come to church, or into town, and to leave them in the box by the bookcase in the narthex (the west end entrance), that could add up to quite a good number of books. Paperback novels are our mainstay, but most books (other than gardening, sewing and cookery) are suitable. We have just hit the £1k mark so far this year, all of which goes towards our forthcoming roof repairs. Many thanks to those who bring books, and equally to those who buy them.



Coming up

 **GSM Carol
Composing
Competition –
Deadline 1st September!**

A festive poster for the Carol Composing Competition 2026. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes and green pine branches. The text is in white and gold. At the top, it says 'Great St Mary's, The University Church'. Below that, 'CAROL COMPOSING COMPETITION 2026' in large letters, followed by '£250 prize'. Then, 'Winning entry performed at 'Carols by Candlelight' at Great St Mary's on 20th December 2026'. At the bottom left is a QR code, and at the bottom right is the 'Music @ GSM' logo. Text next to the QR code says 'Closing date: 1 September 2026. Scan the QR code to read the full rules, download the chosen text, and submit your entry.'

Commissioning of volunteers - Sun 13 Sept

Commissioning of Great St Mary's Volunteers at the 10am Choral Eucharist

The life and ministry of Great St Mary's flourishes because so many people offer gifts and time in the service of God and this Church. Some ministries and roles are highly visible, others are in the background; all are important and valued. We will again commission all our volunteers at the Sunday Eucharist on 13 Sept. It is to say thank you for all they contribute to our worship and witness, to pray for them, and to dedicate all our work to the service of God's mission in the world.

This year, the commissioning will take place just before the offertory with shorter liturgy than we used last year. All our volunteers are invited to think of an object that would represent their ministry in our midst, to bring it to the altar during the offertory. Some of our volunteers have a number of ministries, and are welcome to decide what would make most sense for them.

We hope that many of our volunteers will be present at this service; all volunteers are thanked, prayed for and commissioned, whether present or not!

The service will be followed by the Bicycle blessing and refreshments in the church garden (weather permitting).

....and on Sun 20 Sept at 2.30pm a special service of 'Blessing for Pets and their people'.

Mid-week Creationtide walk - Wed 16 Sept

Fowlmere RSPB reserve (with nearby coffee after). Meet in the car park at 10am for a leisurely walk around the nature reserve, led by Andrew Dobson. Do bring binoculars if you have them. If you are not an RSPB member, there is a small parking charge. The walk is on flat ground for about 1.5 miles. For more information, email news@gsm.cam.ac.uk





Academy of Great St. Mary's - Sat 19 Sept

THE ACADEMY OF GREAT ST MARY'S
CONDUCTED BY ADAM POUNDS

POUNDS
SYMPHONY 2

WALTON
CROWN IMPERIAL

ELGAR
THE WAND OF YOUTH

SAT 19 SEPTEMBER
7.30PM
GREAT ST MARY'S - THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH



TICKETS £10-£18
(UNDER 16s FREE)
ADCTICKETING.COM
AND FROM GSM SHOP
WWW.GREATSTMARYS.ORG
FUNDRAISING EVENT



Michaelhouse Exhibition - 22 Sept to 3 Oct: Roads Less Travelled

Thursday 24 September 5.30-7pm in Michaelhouse - Private view and celebration

A 'CoDesignFocus' photography exhibition and knowledge exchange project, showcasing the work of talented photographers.

CoDesignFocus is a knowledge exchange initiative involving Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) with local and regional health partners whilst developing co-produced outcomes. CoDesignFocus works with communities whilst co-producing a digital 'app' to support practice, participation, and research. This year, CoDesignFocus has partnered with University College London (UCL) to deliver the project and demonstrate meaningful research impact around the value of the arts to healthy communities. Dr Julia Johnson is a Senior Lecturer at Cambridge School of Art (ARU) and a Second Supervisor on the MASc Creative Health programme at UCL. Julia leads CoDesignFocus.

The exhibition is supported by the Friends of Michaelhouse and is open 22nd September – 3rd October.



Romsey Mill - Job Opportunity

YOUNG PARENTS DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Romsey Mill's Young Parents Programme (YPP) exists to help young parents (aged 14-21) to fulfil their potential as parents. Our team members are alongside parents from early pregnancy, helping them to prepare practically and psychologically for family life.

This is a part-time, permanent contract - 22.5 hrs per week but we are open to discuss other options to suit the best candidate.

Salary range: £26,824 to £29,064 pro-rata

Closing date: 9am on Wed 9th Sept 2026

Interviews: Monday 14th Sept

Romsey Mill is an Equal Opportunities Employer; there is a requirement that the post-holders need to be appreciative of the organisation's Christian Ethos.

Full details of the role, including the job pack can be found at: <https://www.romseymill.org/vacancy-young-parents-development-worker>

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Ministry Team



Revd Canon Jutta Brueck
Vicar
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Revd Ally Barrett
Associate Vicar
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email: acd62@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Revd Alison Kennedy
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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.



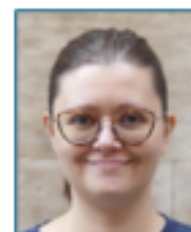
Alexander Berry
Director of Music
email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk



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

