

Great St Mary's eMag
15-31 March 2026: Issue 192

The tower has re-opened following repairs

From the Vicar: 'A call for urgent, unceasing prayer for the Middle East'

Dear friends,

The devastating news from Iran and from across the Middle East, the spreading violence, destruction and instability weighs heavy on our hearts and minds. Last Sunday, Pope Leo XIV called for an end to the war in Iran and urged his Church to pray that "the roar of bombs may cease, that the weapons may fall silent, and that a space for dialogue may open in which the voice of the peoples can be heard."

The Most Revd Hosam Nauom, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and Primate of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, wrote a pastoral letter in response to escalating conflict in the Middle East, which is printed in full below. Reflecting on the situation and unprecedented threat of military escalation, he writes:

'In the face of such overwhelming force, we recall the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matt 5:9). Today, that calling feels heavier than ever before. When the 'spirit of fear' threatens to consume our hearts, we must anchor ourselves in the 'spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind' (2 Tim 1:7). First, I call upon the global Church to join us in urgent, unceasing prayer. We implore God to protect the innocent—the mothers, the children, and the elderly—who are caught in the crossfire of this 'Operation Epic Fury' and the subsequent 'crushing responses.' We pray specifically for a 'sound mind' for the leaders of the United States, Israel, and Iran, that they might recognize the futility of this bloodshed and turn back from the precipice of a global catastrophe.'

I urge all of us to heed this call and make a point of praying regularly, throughout the day and night for the situation. You are invited to join the Silent Peace Vigil outside the West Door of Great St Mary's this Sunday, 15 March, at 5.30pm.

Every blessing,

Jutta



Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are all now painfully aware, in the early hours of this morning, February 28th, a coordinated and massive military assault was launched by the United States and Israel against numerous cities and installations within Iran. This operation, described by the leaders of the two nations as a 'pre-emptive' attack, has brought fire and destruction to the heart of Tehran, Isfahan, and beyond, striking at the very centers of governance and civilian life. Moreover, just prior to these events, Israel had also 'pre-emptively' attacked various targets in southern

Lebanon, where the number of casualties has yet to be determined.

Tragically, the cycle of violence has expanded with terrifying speed. In the hours following, Iran launched a widespread reprisal, with missiles and drones targeting Israel and U.S. military assets across the Gulf—striking installations in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kurdistan-Iraq, Jordan, and Qatar. Sirens also blared across the Holy Land, warning of incoming missiles from Iran. Suddenly, our people from the Mediterranean to the Persian

Gulf find themselves once again huddled in shelters, fearing for their lives as the shadow of a total regional war looms over us.

These developments strike at the very soul of our Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Every single nation now engaged in this combat, and those bearing the brunt of the retaliatory strikes, resides within our ecclesiastical boundaries. Our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Iran are currently enduring the terror of aerial bombardment; our members in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf are witnessing the arrival of war at their doorsteps; and our faithful in the Diocese of Jerusalem—extending across Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria—face an unprecedented threat of military escalation.

In the face of such overwhelming force, we recall the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’ (Matt 5:9). Today, that calling feels heavier than ever before. When the ‘spirit of fear’ threatens to consume our hearts, we must anchor ourselves in the ‘spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind’ (2 Tim 1:7). First, I call upon the global Church to join us in urgent, unceasing prayer. We implore God to protect the innocent—the mothers, the children, and the elderly—who are caught in the crossfire of this ‘Operation Epic Fury’ and the subsequent ‘crushing responses.’ We pray specifically for a ‘sound mind’ for the leaders of the United States, Israel, and Iran, that they might recognize the futility of this bloodshed and turn back from the precipice of a global catastrophe.

Second, we must offer each other the sanctuary of Christian love. I therefore urge our clergy and laity to be beacons of comfort. In a time of ‘regime change’ rhetoric and military ultimatums, let our message be the unchanging promise of Christ’s peace: to build each other up (1 Cor 8:1), for our hope is not in the strength of armadas or missile shields, but in the Prince of Peace.

Finally, we must remain ‘Bridge Builders.’ Even as diplomatic windows seem to slam shut, the Church must keep the doors of reconciliation open. We refuse to see our neighbors as enemies, whether they be in Tehran, Tel Aviv, or the military bases of the Gulf. I extend an urgent invitation to the wider Anglican Communion and all people of goodwill: Intercede for us now. The hour is late, and the danger is great. We remain “battered and bruised, but not defeated.” May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Dr Hosam E Naoum

Primate and President Bishop, The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

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

Individual Confession during Lent

Individual Confession, also known as ‘Sacrament of Reconciliation’

This Lent, the clergy of Great St Mary’s, St Bene’t’s and St Clements have teamed up to offer the opportunity for people in our congregations to make their confession, and, if the person chooses, to have the option to approach someone who is not one of their own clergy.

Individual confession made to a priest, or the “The Reconciliation of a Penitent,” is not a practice confined to the Roman Catholic Church, but one which is found in Anglican Churches worldwide, including in the Church of England. People participate in confession as part of their spiritual discipline, placing themselves in openness and trust before God. It is a practice that is provided for in the Church of England’s “Common Worship” where it is offered for use “when a person’s conscience is burdened with a particular sin, when a person wishes to make a new beginning in the Christian life, or as part of a regular personal discipline.” Importantly, while a person using this practice makes their confession privately,

with a priest, it is for the sake of the whole, to seek forgiveness and a fresh start in their life where their sin will have impaired their relationship with God and also, even if subtly, with the body of the church, their families, friends and colleagues, and with the wider community. If you would like to make your confession, or would like to explore further what this might involve and possibly mean for you, please contact any of us by email, or in person: Revd Ally Barrett allyb@gsm.cam.ac.uk; Revd Canon Jutta Brueck juttab@gsm.cam.ac.uk; Revd Andrew Day parish.priest@stclementscambridge.co.uk; Revd Devin McLachlan vicar@stbenetschurch.org; Revd Rosie Hewitt rosieh@gsm.cam.ac.uk; Revd Clare Stephenson clares@gsm.cam.ac.uk

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

Worship Schedule

March services - see website for details

Sunday 15 March - Mothering Sunday

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Choral 'All Together' Eucharist (no Children's Church)
- 4pm Choral Evensong (Michaelhouse)
- 5.30-6.00pm - Silent Vigil for Peace (outside the west door of GSM)

Sunday 22 March - Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Choral Eucharist and Children's Church
- 4pm Cambridge Festival Choral Evensong
Preacher: Brother Samuel SSF, followed by:
- 5.15pm Panel Discussion: 'Hope in the face of environmental crisis'

Sunday 29 March - Palm Sunday

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Choral Eucharist with Procession and dramatized Passion Gospel
(Children are welcome to join the procession then go on to Children's Church)
- 4pm Pergolesi Stabat Mater - devotional performance by the Youth Choir **sopranos**

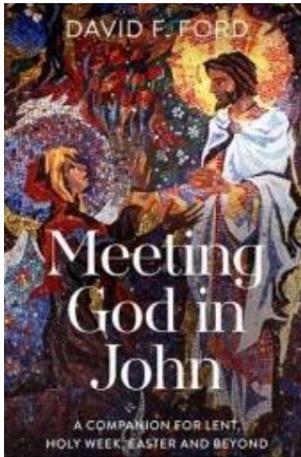
Regular Weekday Worship

- Monday—Friday 9am Morning Prayer in church and on YouTube
- Mondays 12.30 pm Christian Meditation in Michaelhouse - followed by soup lunch
- Tuesdays 10.30am The Ark, Children's Communion in Michaelhouse (termtime)
- Tuesdays 5.45pm Choral Evening Prayer (termtime)
- Wednesdays 12.30pm Holy Communion
- Wednesdays 7.45pm Choral Compline in Michaelhouse (termtime)
- Thursdays 6.00pm Choral Evensong (termtime)



Following repairs, the tower is now open

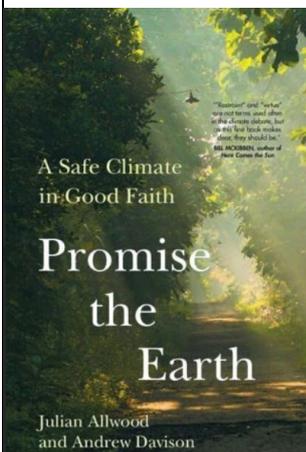
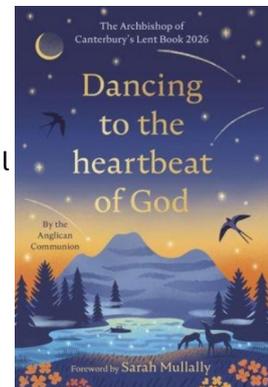
Reading suggestions for Lent



David Ford 'Meeting God in John', SPCK 2025 Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, Meeting God in John will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose. Simple yet profound, this is an invitation to all who long to deepen their understanding of John's Gospel - and, through it, to meet the God revealed in Jesus Christ. Each chapter includes questions for reflection or discussion, making Meeting God in John ideal for Bible study, whether individually or in small groups. With its focus on the Passion narrative, it also serves beautifully as a Lent devotional.

Dancing to the Heartbeat of God - The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2026: Personal stories, testimonies and reflections by Christians from across the Anglican Communion. Bringing together around thirty contributors from across the globe, this book reflects the breadth, diversity, and vitality of the Anglican Communion. Rooted in real experience rather than theory, these voices speak with honesty, energy, and hope.

With a foreword and afterword by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, and an introduction by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, it offers a confident and hopeful vision of faith lived out in everyday life.



Promise the Earth. A Safe Climate in Good Faith. CUP 2026

In this volume, Julian Allwood, an engineer, and Andrew Davison, a theologian, offer a fresh perspective and prescription for combatting climate change. Rather than starting from the vantage points of economics and politics, they rethink climate action in the long tradition of the virtues – Courage, Justice, Prudence, and Temperance -- along with Faith, Hope, and Love from the Bible. By acting in good faith now, a safe climate becomes an expression of our faith in and love for humanity.

Lent with children and young people

Rosie, our children's and youth minister, has put together a few suggestions for observing Lent at home with children and young people. They can be found here: <https://www.greatstmarys.org/faith-at-home>



Reading this eMag online or forwarded from a friend?
Sign up for our mailing list at [greatstmarys.org/emag](https://www.greatstmarys.org/emag)

Sat 14 Mar - Pastoral care talk

Becoming a Dementia Friend: Information Session



Jan is a volunteer Dementia Friend Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Society and an experienced presenter on the topic.

In addition to her work for the Alzheimer's Society, Jan runs two local support groups for those living with dementia and their carers and welcomes people to a singing group she leads.



an interactive workshop on how best to support those living with dementia and their carers

Saturday 14 March 2026

11am - 12pm

Michaelhouse Chancel

with coffee/tea from 10.30am

Sun 15 Mar - Mothering Sunday



Mon 16 Mar - Lent Group 2026



Lent Group 2026

**A six-week creative journey
into Christian discipleship**

Mondays, 5.30–7.00pm

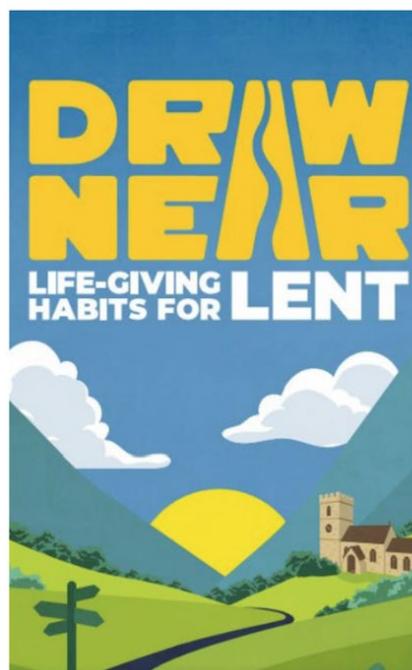
23 February – 30 March

in Michaelhouse

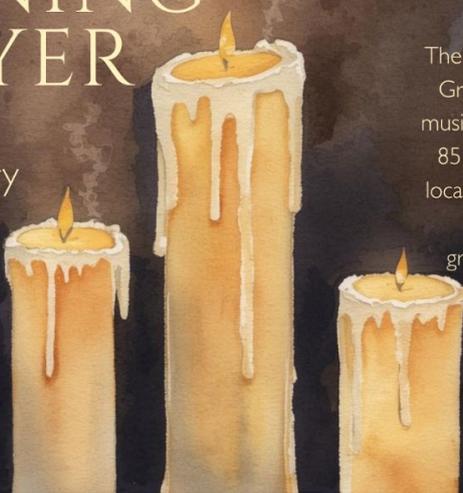
Each week we will explore a different aspect of Christian discipleship through gentle, creative practices and shared reflection.

Open to all adults, at any stage of their Christian journey.

If you'd like to join the group, please email: clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Tues 17, 24 Mar - Choral Evening Prayer



**CHORAL
EVENING
PRAYER**

Sung by the
Probationary
Choristers
of Great
St Mary's

**Great St Mary's
Tuesdays 5.45pm**
(term time)

The music programme at
Great St Mary's offers a
musical education to over
85 children drawn from
local schools, age 5 to 18.
To find out more:
greatstmarys.org/music



Wed 18 Mar - Lent talk - 4

Lent Talks †
with Soup Lunch
in Michaelhouse

Wednesdays, 1-2pm
25 February; 4, 11, 18, 25 March

18 March
Hope + Encounter
Dr Lucy Peacock
Woolf Institute

HOPE plus...
*Exploring themes in life and
faith through the lens of hope*



 **Great St Mary's**
THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE *All are welcome*

Building on research in higher education settings, Dr Lucy Peacock shares wisdom about how encounters between people with very different beliefs and worldviews can be both challenging and constructive, and give hope in the face of the world's many divisions.

Thurs 19, 26 Mar - Chat, Play, Sing

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

Thurs 19, 26 Mar - Read, Mark, Learn

Read Mark Learn will meet virtually on Thurs 19 and 26 March from 5 to 6 p.m. to study Ezekiel's valley of dry bones (19th) and the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (26th). For more information, contact davidg@gsm.cam.ac.uk. Join the Zoom [meeting here](#).

Meeting ID: 840 5256 2470

Passcode: 876406

Fri 20 Mar - Organ Meditation - 1pm

Great St Mary's, the University Church, Cambridge

ORGAN MEDITATIONS FOR LENT

Organ recitals for the Fridays of Lent and Passiontide,
with short reflections and prayers



ANDREW REID
(Little St Mary's & Hereford Cathedral)

Friday 20th March, 1pm
Free admission with a retiring collection for
Music at Great St Mary's
Recitals continue on Fridays in Lent



Sat 21 Mar - Michaelhouse Concert

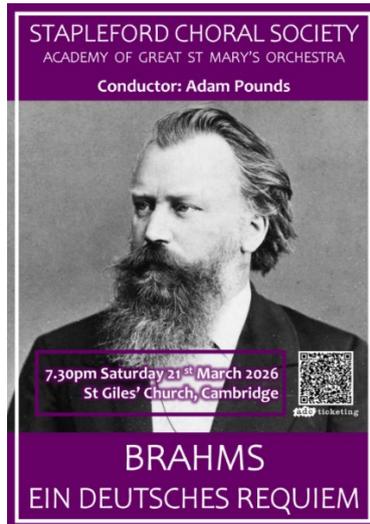


Friends of Michaelhouse Concerts
1pm at Michaelhouse, Trinity St
Lunchtime Concert: Careless Women

Giacomo Puccini Quando me'n vo'
Georges Bizet Habanera
Ruperto Chapí Carceleras
Fiona Apple Criminal, & more
Sarah Lamont - Soprano
Marion Caldwell - Piano

Free entry, retiring collection in aid of Michaelhouse Singers

Sat 21 Mar - Academy of Great St Mary's



STAPLEFORD CHORAL SOCIETY
ACADEMY OF GREAT ST MARY'S ORCHESTRA
Conductor: Adam Pounds

7.30pm Saturday 21st March 2026
St Giles' Church, Cambridge

BRAHMS
EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

QR code for ticketing

Sun 22 Mar - Brunch and Boardgames



Children's Church Plus Event - Everyone is warmly invited to the next Children's Church Plus event: Brunch and Boardgames! The 'plus' means these events are not just for Children's Church families but for anyone from the wider congregation who would like to come. This one will be on Sunday 22 March after the 10 o'clock service, in Michaelhouse, and the cafe will provide the brunch. If you're planning to come, please send Rosie an email

(rosieh@gsm.cam.ac.uk), so that we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

Sun 22 Mar - Festival Choral Evensong



CAMBRIDGE FESTIVAL
Sunday 22 March
at Great St Mary's

Hope for the earth

cultivating hope in the face of environmental crisis

4pm Festival Choral Evensong
Preacher: Brother Samuel SSF

5.15pm Panel Discussion
Brother Samuel SSF
Dr Charlotte Hammer
Centre for the Study of Existential Risk
Dr Richard Davis
Centre for Faith in Public Life, Wesley House
Professor Don Broom
Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare
Clare Redfern
Editor, Green Christian

Free admission
no need to book

Illustration: A white dove flying over a globe, with many colorful hands reaching up from the bottom.

Mon 23 & Tues 24 Mar - Vision, Voice and Wisdom



Everyone at GSM is invited to a Cambridge Festival Event organised by GSM members Samuel Race and Simone Kuegeler-Race, St Catharine’s College Cambridge and CSVPA.

Vision, Voice and Wisdom – Frauenlob’s Marienleich
Monday 23 & Tuesday 24 March, 6.00pm St Catharine’s College Chapel

The event will start with a talk by Simone Kuegeler-Race on the medieval author Frauenlob (c.1250/1260–1318), who composed a Marian poem called Marienleich in which the Virgin Mary speaks more than two-thirds of the text in a lyrical act of self-revelation.

Because of its rich imagery, Marienleich can be described as one of the most dazzling of all medieval religious poems. The talk explores how the poem summons a vision of the Virgin Mary based on the Song of Songs, the Apocalypse, the Wisdom books and vernacular love lyric.

Marienleich forms part of a special service held by the Chaplain, The Rev'd Nell Whiscombe, for the Feast of the Annunciation in St Catharine’s College Chapel. The Girls’ Choir directed by Dr Edward Wickham will perform sections of the original medieval score followed by new interpretations of CSVPA music students. Student and staff artworks inspired by Marienleich and the Wisdom Window in St Catharine’s College Chapel will be displayed from Friday 20th – Tuesday 24th.



Through music, text and image Marienleich’s unique soundscape is brought to life in a liturgical setting, which reflects the fact that Marienleich was created for Marian Feasts.

Wed 25 Mar - Lent talk - 5

Lent Talks
with Soup Lunch
in Michaelhouse

Wednesdays, 1-2pm
25 February; 4, 11, 18, 25 March

25 March
Hope + Peace

HOPE plus...
Exploring themes in life and
faith through the lens of hope

Ruby Quantson Davis
Peace Direct



Drawing on her work with Peace Direct, Ruby Quantson Davis offers reflections on signs of hope in places of conflict, and on what qualities of hope help to promote peace.

Fri 27 Mar - Organ Meditation - 1pm

Great St Mary's, the University Church, Cambridge

ORGAN MEDITATIONS FOR LENT

Organ recitals for the Fridays of Lent and Passiontide,
with short reflections and prayers



STANLEY GODFREY
(Great St Mary's)

Friday 27th March, 1pm
Free admission with a retiring collection for
Music at Great St Mary's



Sat 28 Mar - Men's Breakfast



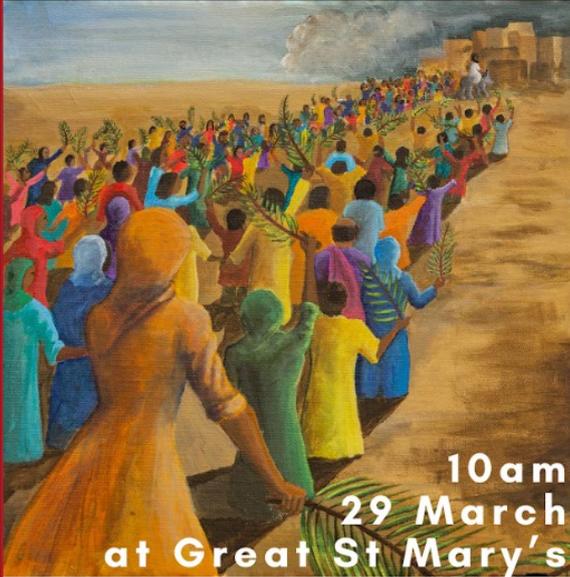
Men's Breakfast 9.00am
(and women are welcome too!)

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.

Sun 29 Mar - Palm Sunday

Holy Week at Great St Mary's



10am
29 March
at Great St Mary's

† Palm Sunday
Choral Eucharist with Procession
and dramatised Passion Gospel

 Great St Mary's
THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

Great St Mary's, the University Church, Cambridge

**STABAT
MATER**

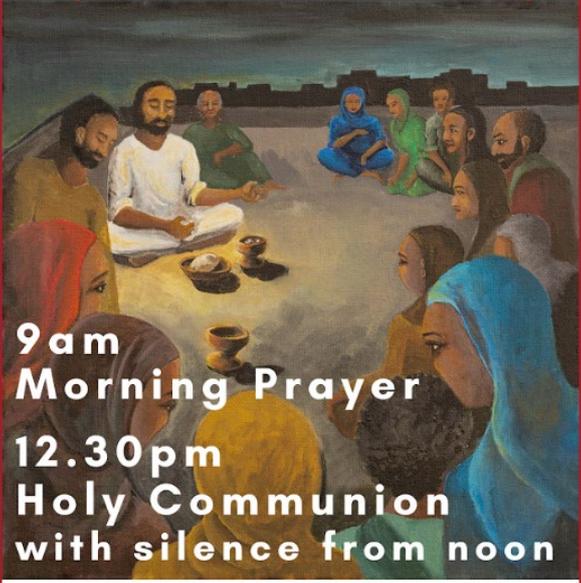
GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLESI

sung by the Youth Choir of Great St Mary's
directed by Alexander Berry

Sunday 29th March, 5pm
free admission, with a retiring collection
in aid of Music @ Great St Mary's

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

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

Holy Week - full itinerary

Keeping Holy Week at Great St Mary's

Palm Sunday - 29 March



8.00am BCP Holy communion
10.00am Choral Eucharist
with Procession and Dramatised Passion Gospel
5.00pm Devotional Performance of Pergolesi Stabat Mater

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

10-11.30am Activity morning for children & parents/carers (*Michaelhouse*)
11.00 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

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)

GSM Neighbourhood Groups

Great St Mary's Neighbourhood Groups Are Reforming!

Great St Mary's is blessed with a large and growing congregation. However, with limited time to talk after services, it can be hard to meet people with whom we might have a lot in common. For some members of our church family, travelling into the city centre during the week — especially for those who rely on motorised transport — can also be difficult.

In response to these challenges, the Great St Mary's Pastoral Care Group is delighted to be reintroducing Neighbourhood Groups, an idea many will remember and value from earlier years.



How the groups will work

Using the 200 names on the Great St Mary's electoral roll, we have organised these people into four neighbourhood groups, based on where they live:

- West of the Parish
- North and Northeast of the Parish
- Southeast of the Parish
- Central and South of the Parish

Each group will be supported by a local coordinator who lives in that area, all members of the Pastoral Care Group.

The coordinator for each neighbourhood will keep in touch with their group and help organise social gatherings hosted by members who live locally. We hope that each group will have the opportunity to attend at least two home-based gatherings each year, such as tea parties or informal lunches.

What happens next?

Everyone on the electoral roll will soon receive an email asking them to confirm that they are happy to receive communications about their neighbourhood group. After that, your local coordinator will be in touch to introduce themselves and explain how they will share information about events and gatherings in your area.

How can I join a group?

- If you are on the electoral roll, you will automatically be included in a neighbourhood group unless you choose to opt out.
- If you are not on the electoral roll but would like to take part, please email the ministry team at clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk, including your address. You will then be allocated to the group which matches where you live. You will also at this point be given an opportunity to join the electoral roll (in good time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May).

Can I host a gathering?

We are very grateful to the ten people who have already offered their homes as venues for occasional neighbourhood gatherings. If you would also like to host a meeting, the coordinators would be delighted to support you. They can help arrange shared hospitality, so you won't be doing everything on your own.

If you're interested in hosting, please email clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk to let us know.

We are excited about this possibility of connecting our church community in new ways and look forward to seeing these neighbourhood groups flourish.

Clare Stephenson and Lorna Atwell
Great St Mary's Pastoral Care Group

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.

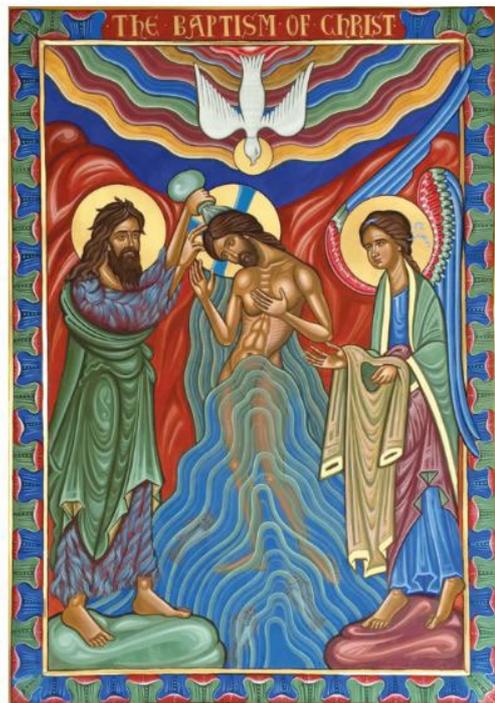
If you have been thinking about baptism for you or your child, please, let us know. Adults who are baptized also prepare for confirmation.

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 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.

Colin Hill	06-Mar
Douglas Johnston	10-Mar
Stewart Hall	10-Mar
Stephen Hawking	14-Mar
Bill Gaskell	18-Mar
Ilse Man	19-Mar
Catherine Crawford	20-Mar
Norah Orange	21-Mar
Joan Bournnell	23-Mar
Anne Gleave	24-Mar
Colin Campbell	24-Mar
Julia Jepps	25-Mar
Frank Mallett	27-Mar
Betty Gaskell	29-Mar
Elizabeth Coverdale	29-Mar

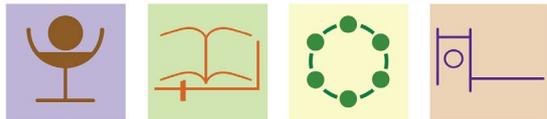


Service

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

Easter Lilies

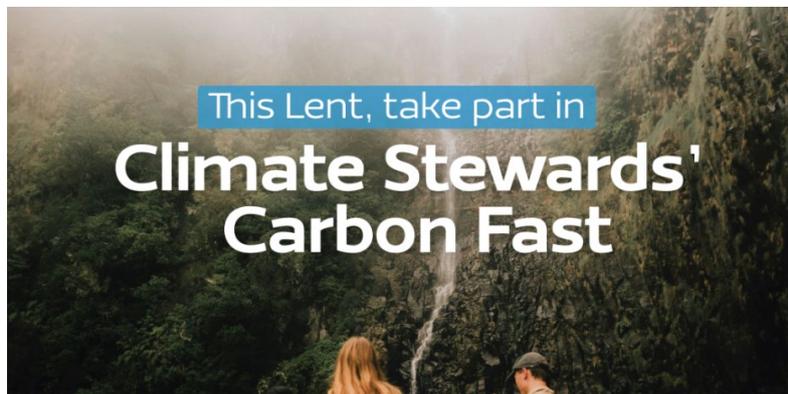


Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one -

If you would like an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one for the Easter Day floral arrangement, please sign the list in church with the person's name or e-mail Marianne at marianneh@gsm.cam.ac.uk by Sunday 15 March.

We invite a donation of £5 per lily.

Eco Tips - try these for Lent



Traditionally, Lent is a time when Christians fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast helps us think about our carbon footprint and ask if there is any excess or unnecessary use in our lives, and if any of that excess is acting as a distraction to our relationship with God. An initiative promoted by A Rocha (Eco Church), [read more here](#) and take part in Climate Stewards' Carbon Fast this Lent



The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Each year, more than 400,000 volunteers clear litter from our streets, parks and beaches. The Great British Spring Clean takes place from 13 to 29 March 2026. [Read more here.](#)

English Sacred Choral Music



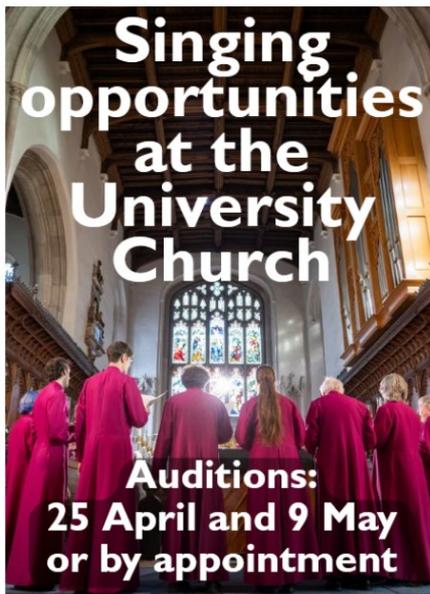
English Sacred Choral Music – Living Heritage
The [Cathedral Music Trust](#) is leading a national initiative to recognise English sacred choral music as part of the UK's submission to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Members of the congregation who wish to support this recognition are warmly invited to find out more and sign the petition by scanning the QR code below, or click on [this link](#).



Adult Choirs at Great St. Mary's



The Choirs of Great St Mary's



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.

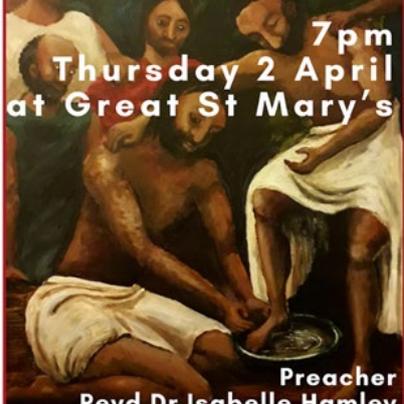
LAY CLERKS

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).

Coming up.....

Holy Week Services

<p>Holy Week at Great St Mary's</p>  <p>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</p>  <p>Friday 3 April at Great St Mary's</p> <p>12.30pm Meditations at the foot of the Cross</p> <p>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</p>  <p>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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Easter activities for children



Friday 3 April

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.

Saturday 4 April

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.

Join this special Easter Choir

Great St Mary's, the University Church, Cambridge

DAWN VIGIL & FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER



Great St Mary's seeks experienced and capable choral singers to provide awesome and inspiring music as we celebrate the glorious mystery of our Lord's incarnation.

Music to include:
Missa O quam gloriosum Victoria
Christ rising again Byrd

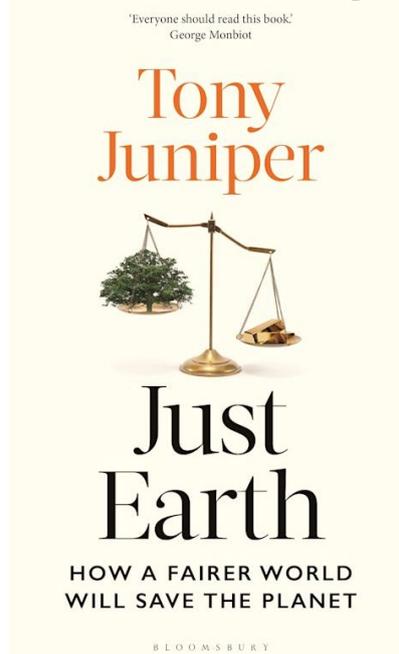
Timings:
Saturday 4 April, Rehearsal 11-1pm
Sunday 5 April, 5.15am warm-up,
5.45am Vigil & Eucharist

To sign up, scan the QR code or email
music@gsm.cam.ac.uk



Elsewhere.....

How Resilient is Cambridge



Just Earth - How a fairer world will save the planet - A talk by Tony Juniper

Saturday 21 March 2.30pm. All Saints Church, Church Lane, Milton CB24 6AB

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-milton>

In the talk “Just Earth” Tony Juniper will draw on more than 40 years of experience in research, practical work, campaigning and advocacy, combined with interviews with globally renowned experts, to reveal the system shifts needed to achieve real, lasting change.

Dr Tony Juniper CBE is a prominent environmental figure active in the defence of Nature for more than 40 years. He has led major organisations, run global campaigns, written many books including “Just Earth” and advised at the highest levels. He is currently Chair of Natural England.

The talk is arranged jointly by the Eco Church teams of All Saints, Milton and St John’s, Waterbeach in support of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Cash or card donations welcome.

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 fifth event deals with the topic of Communications and will take place on Thursday 26th March.

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](#).

Final topic in the series: community systems (8th April).

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Our mailing address is:

Great Saint Mary's, the University Church, Senate House Hill, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB2 3PQ

2026 Dates for Your Diary

March

Mondays 5.30-7pm	Draw Near Lent Group in Michaelhouse
Wednesdays 1-2pm	Lent talk and soup lunch in Michaelhouse
Fridays 1-2pm	Lent Organ Meditation in GSM
Saturday 14 th	11am Pastoral Care talk in Michaelhouse: <i>Becoming a Dementia Friend</i>
Saturday 14 th	7.30pm Academy of GSM concert in GSM

April

Saturday 18 th	1-2pm Friends of Michaelhouse concert – Phoebe Liu, piano
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May

Saturday 9 th	10.30 for11 Pastoral Care talk in Michaelhouse
Saturday 9 th	Come & Sing
Sunday 10 th	11.30 Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Michaelhouse
Thursday 14 th	Ascension Day: 7.45am Singing from the Tower
Saturday 16 th	Britten talk and concert
Sunday 17 th	10am Baptism and Confirmation Service
Sunday 31 st	University Sermon - The Rt Revd Dr Paul Swarup, of Clare College, Bishop of Delhi, Church of North India (Ramsden Preacher), Scarlet Day

June

Thursday 4 th	Clare Priory retreat
Friday/Saturday 19 th /20 th	24-hour Organathon in Great St Mary's
Saturday 27 th	Music marathon in Great St Mary's

September

Sunday 6 th	Patronal Festival and Bicycle Blessing
Sunday 13 th - Tuesday 15 th	Festival of Preaching
Saturday 19 th	Parish Quiet Day

October

Sunday 4 th	Harvest Festival
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November

Sunday 8 th	Remembrance Sunday
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December

Tuesday 8 th	University Carol service
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MINISTRY TEAM

	<p>Revd Canon Jutta Brueck Vicar email: juttab@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>		<p>Revd Ally Barrett Associate Vicar email: allyb@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Revd Clare Stephenson Assistant Curate email: clares@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>		<p>Revd Andrew Day Associate Priest email: acd62@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Revd Alison Kennedy Associate Priest email: alisonk@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>		<p>Dr David Grumett Licensed Lay Minister email: davidg@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Revd Graham Stevenson Associate Priest</p>		<p>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</p>

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.

	<p>Alex Berry Director of Music email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>		<p>Stanley Godfrey Assistant Director of Music email: music@gsm.cam.ac.uk</p>
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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