

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2012

Forthcoming Events

February

- 1st 12.30 pm: St Michael at the North Gate – prayers for homeless people and agencies
- 5th 9.30 am: Family Service;
- 5th 10.30 am: Choral Eucharist, preacher the Revd Graeme Richardson
- 12th 10.30 am: Eucharist, preacher the Revd Professor Keith Ward FBA
- 12th 5.30 pm: Choral Evensong and University Service with combined college choirs; preacher: the Revd Canon Brian Mountford
- 19th 10.30 am: Choral Eucharist, preacher the Revd David Neaum
- 22nd 12.15 pm: Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of ashes
- 26th 10.30 am: Choral Eucharist and University Service, preach the Revd Canon Professor Martyn Percy, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon

March

- 2nd 1.0 pm: Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles – Women's World Day of Prayer service, prepared this year by Christian women of Malaysia
- 4th 9.30 am: Family Service
- 4th 10.30 am: Choral Eucharist, preacher the Revd Canon Brian Mountford

Concerts

25th February – the choir of the Queen's College and the Eglesfield Musical Society *JS Bach: St John Passion*
3rd March, 8pm: the Hertford-Bruckner Orchestra – *Bruckner: Symphony No 8*

Development news

After the New Year we came back to a flurry of activity in readiness for handing over the north-east corner of the church to the building contractor. The vestry/sacristy has been moved to a new temporary location in the former Vaults Café office. The shop has been temporarily moved to the north-west corner of the church near the font. There has been a lot of clearing and sorting of various parts of the church. We are working closely with the

Information on the SMV development plans

can be found on the campaign pages of the SMV website at <http://www.university-church.ox.ac.uk/development.html> and on-line donations can be made at www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/church.

contractor to develop the protection for the organ in such a way that it can be played during the next phase of the work, although there will inevitably be some muffling of the sound. From the 11th of January the shop, De Brome Chapel, chancel, café, library and tower will be in the possession of our contractor Beard. The next few months will undoubtedly be some of the most challenging for all concerned however I hope to update you on the progress of the work whenever I can. Working with our Education Officer Luci, we aim to give you more information on some of the processes and rationale for various aspects of the work in due course.

Sophie Slade, January 2012

Prayer for the month

Sever me from myself that I may be grateful to you;
may I perish to myself that I may be safe in you;
may I die to myself that I may live in you;
may I wither to myself that I may blossom in you;
may I be emptied of myself that I may abound in you;
may I be nothing to myself that I may be all to you.

Erasmus

Ideas for Lent 2012 from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland:

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/CGJ/572/>

Lucinda Williams, Education and Volunteers Officer

Luci comes to the job well qualified, with a Masters degree in Conservation and Care of Collections, and experience first at an art gallery in St Davids and then as Project Manager and Learning Officer at a Heritage Lottery Fund project on a merchant's house in Tewkesbury.

Luci was brought up and confirmed as a Christian and has been coming to church in St Mary's. "So I'm very aware of how a parish and congregation works" she says. "It's hard to have people coming in from outside and having priority. Everyone else in a development project like this is transient. The congregation is pretty constant, and needs to know the history of it all and to feel involved."

How will the education aspect of the refurbished St Mary's work? The Interpretation consultants are the ones deciding on permanent fixtures. Luci is working with them and with schools where the children are from deprived backgrounds. "Trails" are being developed, for which working titles are: *Reading St Mary's*, *The University and St Mary's*, *People of St Mary's* and *Religion and Change at St Mary's*. "There will be a welcome desk," says Luci, "where one guide will be. Another person will be available to show people round if they wish, and explain the history." Ten guides have been recruited already, some from the congregation, some students and some from the Blue Badge guild of registered guides.

There is an Activity Plan: a new stained glass window in the Adam de Brome chapel, above where the entrance used to be and will be again; new kneelers are to be furnished. Artists are to be invited for designs for these things and members of the congregation may be involved in the kneeler project.

Luci's background is an upbringing in Somerset, where her father has recently retired from being a GP, and her mother from teaching and being a house-mistress at Wells Cathedral School. Her brother also has a medical career, in Plymouth. Both parents are committed



church-goers and her father runs the church choir.

How does she find Oxford? "I haven't known it before, but it's very friendly" she says, "I've not yet had a chance to evaluate any other churches but this one. The team here are so friendly and kind, it's like a family. Everyone is particularly supportive of the education project. There's a great feeling of community," she goes on. "I've been having to contemplate my own belief system. Perhaps I should come to the service more often."

At the moment she is living in Banbury but looks to move to Oxford as soon as she can find somewhere affordable. "Oxford appeals so much" she goes on "with all the various things going on here".

And what else can we learn about Luci? She is a musician, learning various instruments whilst growing up, and in particular singing in which she achieved Grade VIII. She loves riding and goes to the Radway Riding Centre in Warwickshire whenever she can. Salsa dancing and merengue are also passions, and she is a keen cook and gardener. It will be great to have opportunities to get to know her better.

Please send anything for inclusion in the next Newsletter by 20 February to:
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