

A photograph of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin in Oxford. The image shows the circular nave of the church on the left, with its classical columns and arches. In the center is the tall, slender spire of the church, topped with a cross. To the right, a black street lamp is visible. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A red banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'WHAT'S ON at the University Church'.

WHAT'S ON

at the University Church

MICHAELMAS TERM 2022

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A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life

The Revd Dr Will Lamb

In 2005, Marilyn McCord Adams, the Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford, preached a University Sermon entitled, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*.

Taking Leviticus 19.2 as her text, Adams lamented the Church of England's 'record of foot-dragging equivocation' in its treatment of LGBTQ+ persons. She lamented the stubborn refusal of the Church to engage in imaginative thinking about human sexuality.

Adams was writing in the context of the introduction of civil partnerships for same-sex couples and the decision of the House of Bishops that 'clergy of the Church of England should not provide services of blessing for those who register a civil partnership'.

She pointed out that when clerical marriage was introduced at the time of the Reformation, this innovation was not initially welcomed. Henry VIII ordered bishops to conduct secret investigations to identify married clergy to deprive them of their benefices. In 1539, clerical marriage was criminalized. Only gradually did it become more accepted in the Church of England: 'Given its dicey theological and legal history, you might expect present-day champions of heterosexual marriage to show more sympathy for those whose partnerships now face like challenges.'

With the introduction of equal marriage in 2013, the House of Bishops issued guidance, stating that 'it would not be appropriate conduct for someone in Holy Orders to enter into a same sex marriage, given the need for clergy to model the Church's teaching in their lives'. A number of clergy, who have married, have faced disciplinary action - a curious combination of intimidation and harassment by the church authorities.

In the face of opposition, the Bishops have continued to adopt a strategy of 'foot-dragging equivocation'. Noting that the subject of sexuality, with its deeply entrenched views, would best be addressed by a series of shared conversations, these discussions led to the publication of a report in January 2017 which recommended no change in the Church's policy. When the report was presented to the General Synod, it refused to take note of the report. The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of a need for a 'radical new Christian inclusion' and suggested a new teaching document about marriage and sexuality. This led to an extended process of further discussion under the title of *Living in Love and Faith*.

A substantial report was published, but there were no recommendations at all. While the previous report recommended no change, this report set out ►

to make no recommendations. Of course, the real question is whether there has been any real movement in generating a consensus about where the Spirit of God might be leading the church at this time.

My own view is that three things need to happen in the course of the next twelve months: first, the House of Bishops need to accept that their 1991 report, *Issues in Human Sexuality*, no longer expresses the mind of the church. Although this report was quickly advertised as 'the Church's teaching', it was never approved by the General Synod. More recently, Synod has invited the House of Bishops to reflect on the fact that this report alludes positively to forms of conversion therapy, even though Synod has explicitly rejected conversion therapy. The document was drafted before the development of civil partnerships and equal marriage – about which it has absolutely nothing to say. One can no longer take seriously the demand of the House of Bishops that those presented for ordination in the Church of England should abide by its teaching. Moreover, it has generated a culture of fear and anxiety for LGBTQ+ clergy and lay ministers. We can do better than this.

Secondly, the Bishops need to stop persecuting clergy who have married their same-sex partners. At the recent Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury recognised that there were profoundly different perspectives within the Anglican Communion about equal marriage, each the fruit of

patient and faithful wrestling with scripture. All had an honoured place in the life of the Communion. At a time when more children are born outside marriage than within it in the United Kingdom, it is bizarre that rather than promoting the gift of marriage, the Bishops invest time and energy in an undignified vendetta against a small number of clergy simply for getting married.

Finally, while there may not be sufficient consensus within the Church at this time to change the existing marriage canon, the Church has made some accommodation for the remarriage of divorcees in recent decades, producing *An Order of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage*. At the same time, the Bishops insisted that there was no change to the Church's teaching that marriage was a *lifelong* union between a man and a woman. Although this provision has been characterised by a gentle, if untidy, pastoral pragmatism, I suspect that the Bishops might fruitfully adopt a similar strategy now to acknowledge the recent changes to civil marriage.

But of course, to do so will demand that they begin to show a little courage. At some stage, the Church of England needs to stop talking and start making some decisions. This is long overdue.

The Contemplative Vision of a Hermit

This year we are proud to present an exhibition of photographs taken by Thomas Merton, the American spiritual writer. He became a Trappist monk, and towards the end of his life, he went to live in silence and solitude in a hermitage in the grounds of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. **Esther de Waal** writes about this period of his life.

The three years that Thomas Merton spent in his hermitage were in many ways his best years. Here he would rise at 2am to pray. Here he would say the psalms of the day. 'The psalms grew up silently, by themselves, without effort, like plants in this light which is favourable to them.' This is May 1965, and Thomas Merton is fifty. He has just written "Day of a Stranger" which describes one typical day in the hermitage.

The years that have brought him to this stage of his life have been vastly varied, and we can only appreciate him if we look at them. He was born in 1915 in the south of France. Both his parents were artists. His mother American, his father from New Zealand – although originally from Cardiff and the uncovering of his Celtic roots was to bring Merton much pleasure in later life. Part of his childhood was spent in Saint Antonin where his father went to paint after the death of his mother. Here was a town of old stone houses, wooden shutters, decorative ironwork. The narrow streets converged on the steeple of the church, and

he felt as though everything, the whole landscape was unified by the church, proclaiming the glory of God. Later on, in his autobiography "The Seven Storey Mountain" he was to say 'Oh, what a thing it is to live in a place that is so constructed that you are forced, in spite of yourself, to be a virtual contemplative'!

His teenage years were spent at school in Oakham, where he read and studied sufficiently well to gain a scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge. He went up in 1933 for what was to prove a totally disastrous year. He wrote of its 'dark and sinister atmosphere' and its 'damp and fetid mists', while he said that he found his fellow students 'oafish and hollow and ridiculous' – words that Evelyn Waugh had to edit out ►



of “Elected Silence” (when his autobiography appeared in England.) Not only did he squander the year he also fathered a child. It is hardly surprising that at its end his godfather removed him and he returned to America. But in New York the same pattern followed. All the time he was writing, talking, trying out first one thing and then another.

Then he heard of the Trappist (strict Cistercian) Abbey of Gethsemani, near Louisville in Kentucky. He spent Holy Week there and then returned the following Advent. It was December 1941, and the most significant era of his life had begun. He immediately loved the beauty of the abbey church and its liturgy: ‘the cold stones rang with a chant that glows with living flame – with clean profound desire.’ Here he found acceptance among a community of brothers; here he was given the opportunity to teach the novices; and here, above all, he was actively encouraged to write.

For Thomas Merton was a man of words. Books, articles, lectures, letters, reviews and not least poetry, all flowed from his pen. He said that he would sit at his typewriter while the pages poured out and flew about the room – and even if no one read them he would still go on writing since for him to write was to breathe, to live and in some ways to pray.

Here, in the hermitage, was the solitude and silence for which he had longed. But the actual circumstances were not to be entirely either solitary nor silent. Merton welcomed a stream of visitors, old friends and

new, to talk about the urgent issues of the day- the war in Vietnam, racial segregation in the south, and much more. When the journalist John Howard Griffin arrived, he had with him a camera to take shots of Merton for an article. Merton was fascinated with it, and begged for a loan. He called it ‘the most eager and helpful of beings’. He would hold it, according to one friend, ‘as though it were a precious jewel.’ In his hands it became an instrument of contemplation, and he said that he saw photography as ‘his serious work.’

In his photography he was captivated by the inner life of things – he never tried to alter or to arrange. He did not seek to capture or possess. There is a Zen like quality here. Thus he would take time, looking without haste nor pressure, giving everything time for its essence to reveal itself. He was fascinated by shadow and by the play of light. But above all in his photographs he wanted to express silence. Here there is nothing to debate or to explain. We are witnessing a dialogue – of Merton with himself – and with God.

Esther de Waal and Jane Baun will be leading a session on Thursday 3rd November to explore Merton's photography.

Further details can be found on page 9.

Icons on Ammo Boxes

In December, we will be hosting an exhibition of icons by the Ukrainian artists Sofia Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko. The icons will be for sale and all proceeds will support the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital in Ukraine.

Archimandrite Cyril Hovorun, a Ukrainian theologian who gave a lecture at the University Church earlier this year, writes about the effect of these icons:

These icons are like coins: they have two sides. Not literally two sides painted, as some icons have, but two aspects that make them unique. First, they are beautiful pieces of art painted by a talented couple of Oleksandr Klymenko and Sofia Atlantova. Stylistically, they blend modern motifs and traditional patterns that go back to Byzantine masters. The second important aspect of this collection is its story. Or better to say, many stories that comprise a single narrative of war and peace, human sufferings and hope. The icons have been painted on wooden planks from ammo boxes. Those boxes were used in the eastern front, where Ukraine is at war with Russia-backed separatist groups. The icons painted on those



boxes thus try to bring hope for peace and justice to the tormented East of the country. This is not the only story that the icons can tell. Sales from them go to the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital (PFVMH). This is a non-governmental project, which brings doctors to the eastern frontline. There, they help wounded and ill: both the Ukrainian soldiers and civil locals. The icons on ammo boxes, thus, demonstrate how violence and pain can be transfigured to peace and relief, and actually contribute to this transfiguration through the work of doctors.

The exhibition will be in the De Brome Chapel from the beginning of December until the end of February.

Regular Events



SONGS OF THE CITY OF GOD: ST AUGUSTINE AND THE PSALMS

Thursdays during University Term

Old Library 12.45pm - 1.30pm

In the Anglican tradition, we read the psalms everyday at Morning and Evening Prayer and at the Eucharist. This treasury of poetry at the heart of the Hebrew Bible lies at the heart of the spiritual life of the Christian Church. One of the great theological figures of the early Church is St Augustine of Hippo. From his writings, it is clear that his theological imagination was fed by the Psalms of David. In this series of Bible Studies, we will explore the Psalms with the help of the expositions of St Augustine. Everyone is welcome to join us for these weekly Bible studies.



SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday lunchtimes

Old Library 12noon - 1.00pm

16th October, 30th October, 13 November

Look out for the Sunday forum following the main Sunday morning service at St Mary's. A range of speakers will be invited to focus our minds on issues of community, justice, and the common good.

POETRY HOUR

**Wednesdays during University Term | Old Library
5.30pm - 6.30pm | 19th October,
2nd November, 16th November,
30th November**

Poetry Hour is a forum for a diverse group of poets who have been reading and writing poetry together since 2015 in a relaxed and supportive environment. Please do join us.



Special Events



CANDLELIT TOUR

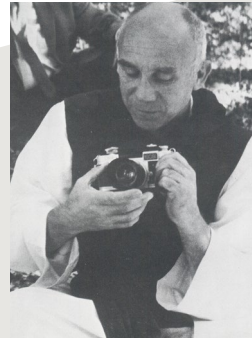
Thursday 13 October | 7.30pm - 9.00pm

The University Church is the place where the University of Oxford began. It is also the place where some of the most significant events in English church history have taken place: from the trial of Thomas Cranmer, Henry VIII's Archbishop of Canterbury, at the time of the Reformation, to the launch of the Oxford Movement and the Catholic Revival of the Church of England in the nineteenth century. Join the Revd Dr Will Lamb, the Vicar, for a candlelit tour of the church as we explore some of its hidden highlights. The tour culminates in the beautiful office of Compline, which will be sung in the Chancel. Places are limited, so please book online.

HUMAN FLOURISHING

**Saturday 22 October
7.30 - 9.00pm**

Why are we here? What makes for a good life? Join Kathy Sykes, presenter of BBC hit *Rough Science*, and Andrew Briggs, Oxford University Professor of Nanomaterials and author of *Human Flourishing* to question the role of technology and the nature of truth in our world. Drawing on Andrew's book, examine the contributions scientific insight and spiritual wisdom might offer you. This event is sponsored by the University Church in conjunction with the IF-Oxford Science and Ideas Festival.



AN EVENING WITH THOMAS MERTON

Thursday 2 November | 7.30 - 9.00pm

Join Esther de Waal, Writer, and Jane Baun, Chaplain of Wadham College, as they explore the spiritual insights and photography of Thomas Merton. Participants will spend some time in the presence of our current exhibition and will be invited to integrate the spiritual nourishment offered both in written and visual forms with their own lives. Places are limited, so please book online.

COME AND SING

Saturday 12 November
2.30 – 6.00pm

Stile Antico is one of the world's finest vocal ensembles, renowned for vibrant and expressive performances of Renaissance music. The ensemble has an extensive and award-winning discography on the Harmonia Mundi & Decca labels, and is the Ensemble-in-Residence at the University Church for 2022-23. The repertoire will be a selection of polychoral music from Renaissance Rome. Adults: £20 Students: £10. Please book online.



TRANSLATING SCRIPTURE

Thursday 17 November
2.30 – 4.00pm

Katherine Wodehouse, Ashmolean Museum, and Will Lamb, University Church, will lead a joint workshop in the Print Room at the Ashmolean Museum. We will explore a series of images which provoke reflection on translating scripture – not just the subjects studied but also the way in which artists have chosen to represent the imagery and symbolism of the Bible. Places are limited. Adults: £8 Students: £5. Please book online.

ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday 3 December | 10.00am - 2.00pm

Amidst the busyness and sometimes frantic preparations for the Christmas season, we invite you to spend some time in silence, pondering the hope of Advent. Canon Hugh Wybrev will offer a series of reflections during the day. Places are limited. Adults: £15 Students: £5 (includes lunch). Please book online. Details of the venue will be confirmed nearer the time.



A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

'The word "character" can mean a person (as in "he's a sleazy character"), or someone of unusual probity and integrity, or a printed or written letter. In fact, the word originally meant not a person but the sign or description of a person. Your character wasn't the kind of human being you were but an image of it, and this image could be either true or false to your inner nature. Your outward appearance could either reveal or conceal your inward reality.' **Terry Eagleton**

Questions of trust, probity and integrity dominate public life in contemporary Britain. These issues often coalesce around questions of character. We speak of 'being a character', 'having character', and 'character flaws', but how does the idea of 'character' enrich our understanding of what it means to be human? If character is 'the guiding core of who we are', how does it develop? Can it be taught? What makes a 'good character' and who decides? Does 'character' make any difference to the way in which we exercise leadership? Why should character matter?

26 October

Character and Virtue

Nick Austin SJ

9 November

Character and Identity

Molly Boot

23 November

Character and Leadership

Michael Lamb

Nick Austin SJ is the Master of Campion Hall. A Jesuit priest and spiritual director, he teaches moral theology. He has recently published a book on *Aquinas on Virtue* with Georgetown University Press (2017).

Molly Boot is a writer, ordinand, and a trustee of Greenbelt. She has recently contributed to a series of essays entitled *Young, Woke, and Christian: Words from a Missing Generation*, published by SCM Press (2022).

Michael Lamb is the F. M. Kirby Foundation Chair of Leadership and Character, Executive Director of the Program for Leadership and Character, and Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities at Wake Forest University. He gained his PhD from Princeton and studied as a Rhodes scholar at the University of Oxford. His book, *A Commonwealth of Hope: Augustine's Political Thought* will be published later this year by Princeton University Press.

These sessions take place in the Old Library in the University Church at 7.30pm. Access is via Radcliffe Square.





“God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder.” –

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

Godly Play: The Cause of Our Wonder

Laura White launched Godly Play for our children and young people in 2021

One of the greatest gifts of childhood is the ability to wonder. From the clouds that roll across the sky to the mechanics of a bicycle, children approach the world enthusiastically ready to learn. Unfortunately for some people, wonder begins to fade when they encounter routinized learning contexts. How might the church help people maintain and grow their sense of wonder as they learn about God?

Godly Play is an approach to Christian education based around wonder. Each session begins with a story – but not a story read by a teacher or in a book. Instead, Godly Play stories use beautifully crafted materials – including wooden figures, sweeping sand “deserts,” and bead “pearls” – to draw children visually and sensorially into the narrative, which a storyteller recalls from memory. At the end of each story, children are invited to wonder with questions like, “I wonder what part of the story we could take out and still have all we need?” and “I wonder where you were in that story?” Sometimes children share their responses with the group, but always children are invited to reflect on the story by working

with the materials or using art materials available. After a period of wondering using the materials, the children have a communal feast together, mirroring the routines they see in the service.

By cultivating a sense of wonder, Godly Play not only builds familiarity with the core stories of our tradition, but also builds comfort with not knowing or understanding all the answers to Christianity’s big questions. Godly Play teaches, in fact, that there is curiosity, play, and community in revisiting the big questions, again and again, sometimes with new insights emerging. How might we all approach our journey with God with more wonder?

We are delighted to have children worshipping with us at St Mary’s at the 10.30am service. A selection of toys and books are available in the Newman Room (behind the glass brick wall) next door to the baby changing facilities. Godly Play takes place monthly in the Old Library on the first Sunday of the month during the first 45 minutes of the 10.30am Sung Eucharist. It is particularly suitable for children aged 3-8 years old and their families.

PARISH LUNCHES

**Sundays during University
Term 12noon - 2.00pm
Sunday 9 October
and Sunday 20 November**

Lunch will be served in the Old Library following the main Sunday morning service. Everyone is welcome.



SECOND COFFEE

We are always delighted to welcome students and young people at the University Church. Our Second Coffee group offers a chance to catch up and compare notes weekly with an outing for coffee or drinks after the congregational gathering that follows the 10.30 service on Sundays. We also offer a range of activities, including organised dinners, with or without a discussion, movie evenings, walks and picnics, Saturday breakfasts, a book club and visits to museums or galleries. We are always open to suggestions for discussion, study or fun. To join us, meet in the De Brome Chapel after the 10:30 service.



COFFEE & CROISSANTS

**Wednesdays during
University Terms
11.15am - 12.15pm**

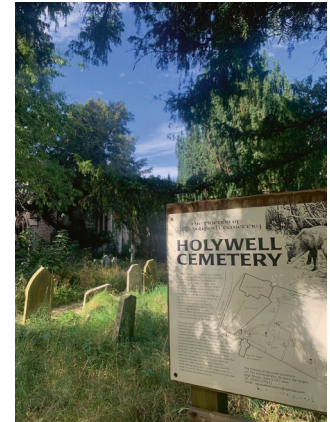
Come and join us for coffee and croissants, as well as company and conversation, in the De Brome Chapel from 11.15am. This hospitality is open to all, and you will be very welcome to join us.



GARDENING DAYS

**Saturdays | 10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 8 October,
Saturday 12 November,
Saturday 10 December**

Holywell Cemetery is one of Oxford's best kept secrets – a haven of tranquillity and reflection in a city where space and stillness are increasingly at a premium. On the second Sunday of the month, a group of volunteers help to maintain this space. We gather at 10.00am with gloves and suitable clothing and work to enhance this space. Afterwards there is an opportunity for a pub lunch. Please email admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk to let us know that you plan to join us.



**FREE LUNCHTIME
RECITALS****Thursdays during University
Terms | 1.00pm - 1.45pm**

If you are in Oxford during the lunch hour, come and join us in the warmth of St Mary's for our lunchtime concerts. The programme includes chamber music, organ recitals, and the occasional jazz concert. Hot drinks are available. You are welcome to bring your sandwiches to eat during the concert.

Concert Listings

Friday 23rd September | 8.00pm**A GARDEN OF DELIGHTS | STILE ANTICO**

Stile Antico will explore a selection of 'heavenly delights' in settings from the Biblical Song of Songs – some pious, and some decidedly less so, alongside music from the pastoral world of English and Italian madrigals, peopled by nymphs, shepherds and birds. The repertoire ranges from the early Renaissance to the beginning of the Baroque; composers include Byrd, Guerrero, Monteverdi, Palestrina, Praetorius, and many lesser-known masters. Crowning the programme is Huw Watkins' dazzling setting of Shakespeare, *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, composed especially for the twelve voices of Stile Antico. Please book online

Saturday 24th September | 7.30pm**HAYDN, MOZART AND BEETHOVEN
OXFORD SINFONIA**

Joe Davies, an Oxford graduate, conducts the Oxford Sinfonia in a programme of Mozart's overture *the 'Abduction from Seraglio'*, Beethoven's *'Ruins of Athens'*, Mozart's 3rd Violin Concerto and Haydn's Symphony No 100 (the *'Military'*) Emma Lisney is our soloist, who we also welcome back to Oxford.

Saturday 5th November | 8.00pm

SCHÜTZ 350: FATHER OF THE GERMAN BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS OF TIME AND TRUTH

with Oxford Consort of Voices and Edward Higginbottom, *Director*. The 350th anniversary of Schütz's death (6 November, 1672) is an ideal moment to celebrate his contribution to German music. IT&T will present a representative selection of his choral settings, from the madrigalian motets of the 1625 *Cantiones sacrae* to the gigantic 21-part setting of 'Zion spricht' in the *Psalmen David* of 1619.

Saturday 3 December | 8.00pm

HANDEL'S MESSIAH | OXFORD SINFONIA

Oxford Sinfonia combines forces with vOx, Oxford's leading chamber choir in a full performance of Handel's Messiah. Conducted by vOx's David Crown.

Friday 9 December | Two performances, 5.00pm and 7.30pm

HANDEL'S MESSIAH | INSTRUMENTS OF TIME AND TRUTH

with Oxford Consort of Voices. A highlight of Oxford's musical calendar, don't miss this chance to hear the quintessential Christmas work in the expert hands of the city's own period-instrument orchestra and world-renowned conductor, Edward Higginbottom.

Saturday 10 December | 7.30pm

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM | THE CITY OF OXFORD CHOIR

City of Oxford Choir's festive concert delights in four settings of this most luminous text, from Gabrieli's sonorous double choir splendour to a distinctively dreamy setting by Kjell Mørk Karlsen. The concert will also ring in the season with Bach's glorious Sanctus in D, and a sleighful of carols new and old, familiar and rare. Come celebrate the miracle of a Christmas together with the City of Oxford Choir!

Friday 16 December | 7.00pm

HANDEL'S MESSIAH | OPUS 48

Opus 48 combines forces with Corelli Christmas Concerto for another performance of Handel's Messiah. Conducted by David Crown.

Advance Notice

27 January | 8.00pm

ENGLAND'S NIGHTINGALE STILE ANTICO

Stile Antico marks 400 years since the death of William Byrd by exploring the many faces of this extraordinary composer, amongst the greatest that England has ever produced. This programme weaves together the strands of Byrd's complex life as both pillar of the Protestant musical establishment and faithful servant to the underground Catholic community. The audience encounters Byrd working loyally at the Chapel Royal, thrills to his anguished musical entreaties in support of his fellow Catholics, and savours the gentler music of his latter years.

Services at the University Church

Michaelmas Term 2022

October 2, 2022 **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Alan Ramsey
15.30 German Lutheran Service

October 9, 2022 **Harvest Festival**

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Dr William Lamb
15.30 Evening Prayer

October 16, 2022 **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist with University Sermon
Preacher: Chine Macdonald, Director, THEOS
15.30 Choral Evensong for IF-Oxford Festival
Preacher: Dr Celia Deane-Drummond, Laudato Si' Institute
20.00 Taize Service

October 23, 2022 **Dedication Festival**

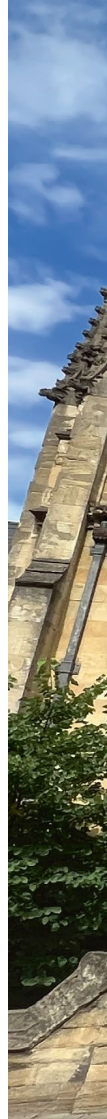
- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright
15.30 Choral Evensong
Preacher: Dr Sarah Mortimer

October 30, 2022 **All Saints Sunday**

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: Dr Sarah Mortimer
15.30 Evening Prayer

November 6, 2022 **The Third Sunday before Advent**

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist with University Sermon
Preacher: Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Global Theologian, USPG
15.30 German Lutheran Service



November 13, 2022 Remembrance Sunday

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: Professor Elisabeth Dutton,
University of Fribourg
15.30 Choral Requiem Mass
Preacher: The Revd Dr William Lamb

November 20, 2022 Christ the King

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Dr William Lamb
15.30 Choral Evensong
20.00 Taize Service

November 27, 2022 The First Sunday of Advent

- 08.30** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
Dr Charlotte Bannister-Parker
18.00 Advent Carol Service

Advent and Christmas at St Mary's

Sunday 27 November First Sunday of Advent

- 08.00** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
Dr Charlotte-Bannister-Parker
- 18.00** Advent Carol Service
with the German Lutheran
Congregation

Sunday 4 December Second Sunday of Advent

- 08.00** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Vicar
- 18.00** Carols on the High
with the Oxford High
Street Association

Sunday 11 December Third Sunday of Advent

- 08.00** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Hannah
Cartwright
- 15.30** Carols in the Square
with the City of Oxford
Silver Band
- 18.00** Graduate Student Carol Service
Free tickets are available for
this service. Please book online.

Wednesday 14 December

- 18.30** Crisis Skylight
Oxford Carol Concert

Sunday 18 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 08.00** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
Dr Judith Maltby
- 18.00** Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve

- 16.30** Crib Service for Children
and Families
- 23.30** Midnight Mass
Preacher: The Revd Hannah
Cartwright

Sunday 25 December Christmas Day

- 08.00** Holy Eucharist
10.30 Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Vicar



University Sermons

The practice of delivering University Sermons dates back to the earliest days of the University of Oxford. Each year men and women from many different traditions are invited by the Vice-Chancellor to deliver sermons 'before the University'. The University's motto from Psalm 27, *Dominus illuminatio mea* (The Lord is my light), captures something of their purpose: the illumination of the mind in the context of prayer. Today, these sermons occur at the University Church and in College Chapels across the University. They provide an opportunity to hear thinkers from a range of disciplines and perspectives, drawing together the life of learning, spiritual discovery, and the quest for truth.

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| Thursday 6 October | Latin Communion at the University Church at 8.00am
<i>Celebrant:</i> The Revd Dr Zachary Guiliano, Chaplain, St Edmund Hall |
| Tuesday 11 October | Court Sermon at the Cathedral at 6.00pm
<i>Preacher:</i> The Revd Justin Gau, Chancellor, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich |
| Sunday 16 October | University Sermon at the University Church at 10.30am
<i>Preacher:</i> Chine Macdonald, Director, Theos |
| Sunday 30 October | Ramsden Sermon at Somerville College at 5.30pm
<i>Preacher:</i> The Rt Revd Lusa Nsenga Ngoy, Bishop of Willesden |
| Sunday 6 November | University Sermon at the University Church at 10.30am
<i>Preacher:</i> The Revd Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Global Theologian, USPG |
| Sunday 20 November | University Sermon on the Sin of Pride at Harris Manchester College at 6.00pm
<i>Preacher:</i> Philippa Perry, Author |
| Sunday 27 November | University Sermon (Advent Sunday) at the Cathedral at 11.00am
<i>Preacher:</i> The Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough |



About the University Church

The University Church of St Mary the Virgin is a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive church within the Church of England. Standing in the centre of Oxford, St Mary's is the spiritual heart of the oldest university in Britain. With dignified liturgy and beautiful music, we strive to be a community of intelligent and faithful Christian witness, unafraid to engage with the modern world. You can find out more about the University Church on our website www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

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