

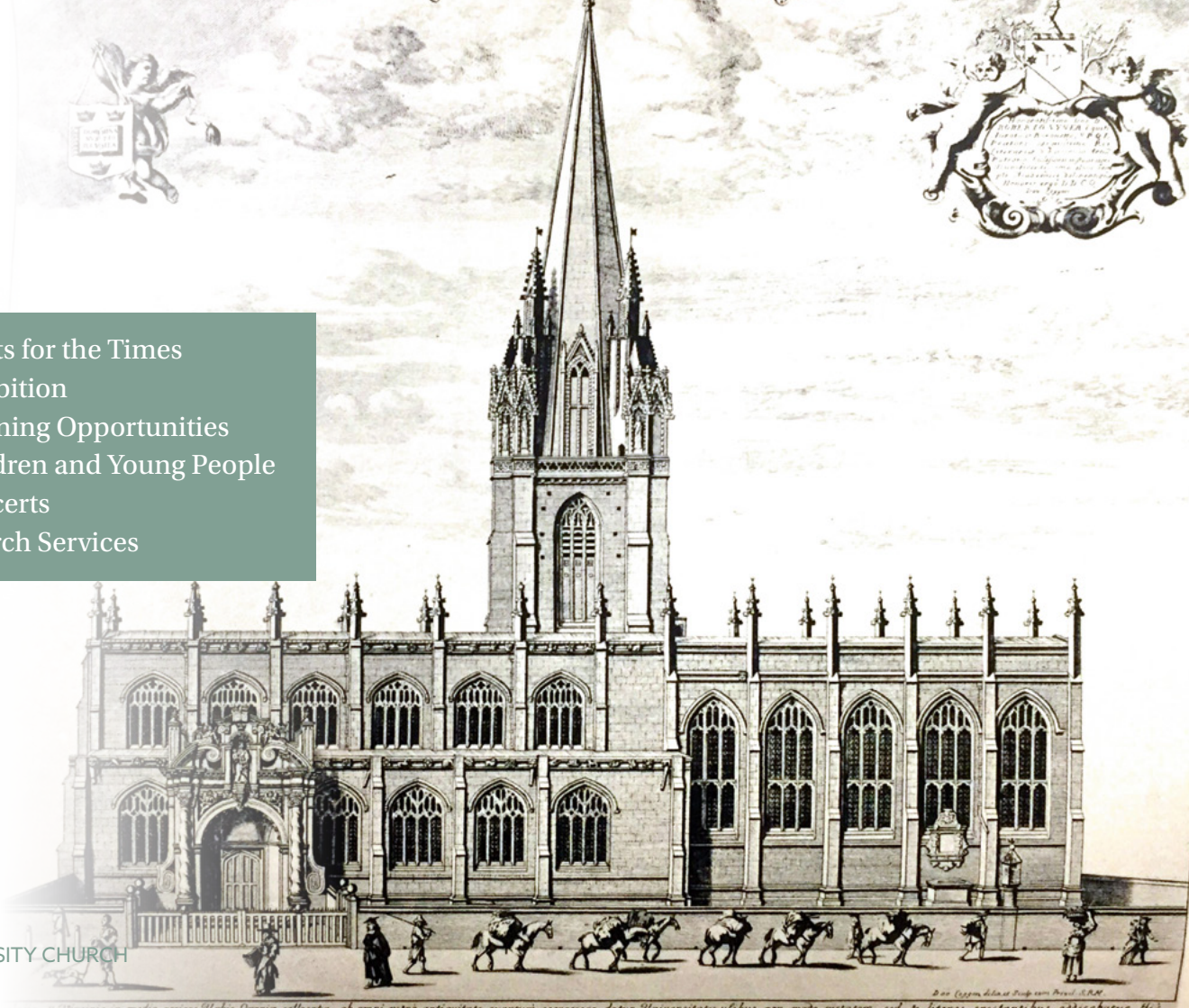
A photograph of the University Church in Oxford, a large Gothic-style stone building with a prominent spire, set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The building is viewed from a low angle, looking up. A street with other buildings and cars is visible on the left side of the image.

University
Church

WHAT'S ON
at the University Church

LONG VACATION 2023

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- 5 Exhibition
- 6 Learning Opportunities
- 7 Children and Young People
- 8 Concerts
- 14 Church Services



The Work of Remembering

Dr Sarah Mortimer

History is never fixed, but must constantly be rewritten. As we discover new evidence, ask new questions and gain new insights, our understanding of the past is changed – often enriched, and sometimes distorted. Always our interpretations of history are shaped by our own selves, our views and our priorities. And yet the past can still surprise us, challenging us by its strangeness and prompting us to question afresh the certainties and expectations of our lives and societies.

Much of the Bible is what might be called historical writing, accounts of events in the past preserved for the future. Running through it is also a deep commitment to the practice of history, to the handing down of stories from the past about God and God's people; in the words of the Psalmist, 'One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts'. (Psalm 145:4). There is acknowledgement too of the dynamism of that history, of the ways in which the past comes to take on new meaning and significance in the light of God's action here and now. As the people of God travel through time and across space, they come to learn of God's love and being in new and exciting ways. For the early Apostles in particular, their encounter with the risen Christ led them to dramatic re-interpretations of their own community's history. They came to see with true clarity that the God they worshipped called all people to the Kingdom, that God's

invitation was extended to all without distinction of race or gender or status.

For Christians through the ages that work of re-interpretation is ongoing. Our own identity is sustained by the practice of remembering the activity of God through our worship and prayer. As Christians our attention is drawn to God's care for those on the edges, the marginalised and vulnerable, and we are reminded that what matters to God is not our works or our merits, but our faith and love.

Today in Oxford, the need to engage with our past and remember it anew, is especially pressing. The landscape of our city is shaped by histories past, by the choices of our predecessors about who and what to celebrate, who and what to forget. And those past histories shape us too, forming the environments in which we live and work and worship. The choices and the memories of our ancestors can be inspiring, commemorating the courage of martyrs or the brilliance of scientists. But they can also be difficult and uncomfortable, reminders of imperial hierarchies and practices of exclusion that we can no longer accept. Our task is not to judge the people of the past, condemning or exonerating them, but to examine how they form part of our own story, how their lives and values still influence our world today. We need histories that do not avoid or ignore the darkness of the past or shy away from the historical record, but which acknowledge the humanity of the ►

people of the past – and which recognise the value of those so often forgotten.

For us at St Mary's, with our ancient historic church, we have the duty and responsibility of telling our story to the many communities around us, as well as to the visitors who come in their thousands each year. This summer there will be a new exhibition in the de Brome Chapel, called *The Historic Heart of Oxford*; it focuses on Radcliffe Square as the site of so many important buildings and events in the life of the University and the City. We hope it will help visitors and locals to gain a better sense of this crucial and iconic space, a space that continues to change over time. It will consider the Church's role in the city, not only in the high politics of courts and cathedrals, but in the everyday interactions of people both like and unlike us. It will recognise the conflicts and exclusions that have shaped our cityscape, as well as the relations of neighbourliness and friendship that have developed, encouraging us to reflect on the stories that we share and the way we share them.

This call to Christian storytelling is for all of us, whether we see ourselves as 'historians' or not. What we take from the past will shape our future – and it is for us to see in that past the dynamic work of God and of human beings who are precious in God's sight.

Dr Sarah Mortimer is a Reader at the University Church, and Tutor in History and Student of Christ Church.



The Historic Heart of Oxford

From July - September 2023

Step into the past and discover the extraordinary legacy of Oxford's University Church at our immersive exhibition, inspired by the remarkable book 'The Historic Heart of Oxford' by acclaimed historian Geoffrey Tyack.

Situated on a commanding site overlooking the marshy banks of the River Thames, Oxford quickly evolved into a bustling administrative and marketing centre for the south Midlands. This exhibition aims to explore the architectural heritage of Oxford through the centuries, highlighting key landmarks that shaped the city's identity.

The exhibition starts by delving into the early days of Oxford, where a grid-like street layout emerged, characteristic of towns throughout England. Earth walls, later rebuilt in stone, marked the boundaries, and a central market place known as Carfax became the intersection of the town's main streets. Moving forward, the exhibition unveils the establishment of important monastic foundations in the early 12th century.

The exhibition then delves into the fascinating origins of the University of Oxford and explores the iconic architectural marvels within the university, such as the Divinity School, the Bodleian Library, the Clarendon Building, and

the Sheldonian Theatre. Finally, the exhibition explores the iconic Radcliffe Camera, and the grand vision of architect James Gibbs. The exhibition concludes with an overview of the transformation of Radcliffe Square, including the plans which were never fully realised.



HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS TOURS

Tuesday 4 July | 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tuesday 15 August | 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tuesday 5 September | 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Join the Revd Canon Dr Will Lamb for a tour of the church as we explore some of its hidden highlights. Places are limited, so please book online via the church website: www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk



OXFORD OPEN DOORS

Saturday 9 September - Sunday 10 September



HOLYWELL CEMETERY: TOURS

Saturday 9 September | Holywell Cemetery 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Holywell Cemetery is one of Oxford's best kept secrets – a haven of tranquillity in a city where space and stillness are increasingly at a premium. Its stones contain a wealth of hidden stories. Come and join us for a tour of the cemetery for an unforgettable experience.

ST MARY'S: AN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

**Sunday 10 September | Old Library
12noon - 1.00pm**

Join renowned historian Geoffrey Tyack for an enlightening talk on the captivating history of the University Church. Delve into the depths of time as Tyack unravels the rich tapestry of this iconic building, exploring its ancient origins, from the majestic tower built in the 1270s to the exquisite spire that graces Oxford's skyline. Discover hidden treasures like the Congregation House and the historic chapel named after Adam de Brome, a remarkable figure associated with Oriel College. This talk, a perfect companion to Tyack's acclaimed book 'The Historic Heart of Oxford' and our exhibition in the Adam de Brome Chapel, promises to transport you through centuries of heritage in just one captivating hour.





FAMILIES PICNIC AND PLAY

**Wednesday 2nd August | Florence Park
10.30am - 12.00pm**

The Revd Hannah Cartwright, Assistant Priest

It's summer! And with the lovely sunlight, comes the never-ending joy of applying suncream to God's smallest but also wiggliest of humans. Among them are those who do their best octopus impression, and those who suddenly discover a previously-unknown talent for the discus, as sun hats are hurled from heads with flair!

As filled with beauty and joy and laughter as they are, the days can feel long as a parent and the night can seem all too short. By the time

the summer holidays are underway, times of making lovely memories on sun-filled beaches are paired with an equal number of days just surviving the heat and finding fun things to do; all of which can leave little time to attend to our own physical, mental, social or even spiritual needs as parents.

If, for you, prayers with your child at bedtime have become more of a gateway to dozing off after a long night-time routine, than a chance to reflect, read or reconnect with God (at least consciously) then you are in good company. And it is worth reminding ourselves that even the great prophet Elijah came to the end of his resources and, having had enough of it all, fell asleep under a tree. But it was in that moment of exhaustion that he was ready to receive the ministry of Angels; who brought him a simple picnic of bread and water and encouraged him to build himself up for the journey ahead.

We think it's time for a picnic too and, if you'd like to join us for some food and playtime in Florence Park, then bring a blanket and a tasty picnic lunch and meet Hannah at the cafe entrance at 10.30am on Wednesday 2nd August for the kids to enjoy the playground together. After some playtime we can find a shady spot, Elijah-style under a tree, to rest, eat and play. If you can't spot us in the park on the day just call 07885719780. Good luck with the suncream!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WITH GODLY PLAY

**First Sunday of the Month
Old Library | 10.30am - 11.15am | 2 July, (break in August), 3 September, 1 October**

Children's Church with 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.

CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

We are delighted to have children worshipping with us at St Mary's. During the 10.30am Sunday 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.

FREE LUNCHTIME RECITALS PIANO RECITAL**Thursdays | 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.

27 July	Minsu Seo
3 August	Yoon Seok Shin
17 August	Justin Yu
7 September	Caroline Wang and Lan Hu
14 September	Pablo Tejedor-Gutiérrez
21 September	Sam Finch

BYRD 400: BEFORE THE DAWN**Monday 3 July | University Church | 7.30pm**

Join the vocal collective SANSARA to mark the quarter-centenary of the death of William Byrd, the most famous of England's Tudor musicians.

ARVO PÄRT BERLINER MESSE**Saturday 8 July | University Church | 7.30pm**

The last concert of the Opus 48 2022-23 season brings together the *Via Crucis* of Franz Liszt and the *Berliner Messe* by the Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt.

CARAVAGGIO: TABLEAUX VIVANTS**Wednesday 12 July | University Church | 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm**

Based on the tableaux vivants technique, this theatrical performance is a work of great visual impact. Twenty-three of Caravaggio's best canvases will be recreated by the actors, using only their bodies and a few props, such as draped fabrics and other everyday objects. In accordance with Caravaggio's distinct compositional style, a single stream of light illuminates the scene. The performance is accompanied by the music of Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi and Sibelius.

SERENADE FOR STRINGS**Friday 14 July
University Church | 7.30pm**

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra will perform works by Mozart, Poulenc and Tchaikovsky. Former Christ Church Oxford organist Stephen Darlington joins the Orchestra and conductor John Lubbock for Poulenc's piquant Organ Concerto in G Minor, surrounded by music of bustling charm by Mozart, and a melodious serenade from Tchaikovsky that 'poured from the heart' of the composer.

MOZART, LEBRUN AND BEETHOVEN**Saturday 15 July
University Church | 7.30pm**

Under the direction of conductor and pianist Craig Greene, the Oxford Chamber Orchestra will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No.27, Mozart's Overture "La Clemenza di Tito", Oboe Concerto No.1 by L.A. Lebrun with soloist Katie Potts, and Beethoven's Symphony No.8.



JEREMY DENK

Saturday 5 August
University Church | 8.00pm

Jeremy Denk – ‘a pianist you want to hear no matter what he performs’ (New York Times) – comes to the University Church to play the Partitas of Johann Sebastian Bach. Each year from 1726 to 1732, Bach wrote a Partita for keyboard that elaborated on the series of baroque dance forms standardised by his colleague Johann Kuhnau.



For details about other concerts during the summer, please visit our website:

www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN

Choral Evensong Series
Sundays during July | 3.30pm - 4.15pm

Some say it is the ‘jewel in the crown’ of the English choral tradition, others describe it as ‘sacred mindfulness’ but there is no doubt that Choral Evensong holds a special place in the worshipping life of Anglicanism. But how does a service little-changed since the 1500’s continue to draw visitors and pilgrims to the University Church?

Amidst the widespread tumult of the English Reformation, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (who faced trial in this Church, and was martyred a few hundred metres away on Broad Street) and his contemporaries had to decide how they would adapt the divine offices of the medieval Church into acceptable forms of vernacular daily worship for the Church of England. Their decisions bore fruit in the form of the Book of Common Prayer (1549, initially revised in 1552) and saw a number of the monastic offices elided; in the case of Evensong, the offices of Vespers and Compline were combined. This is why the service features two Canticles, the Magnificat (Song of Mary) and the Nunc dimittis (Song of Simeon).

Evensong is often regarded as a good way to attract secular audiences into religious spaces, both physically and aurally. Since 1926, the BBC has broadcast a weekly service of Choral Evensong, which has become a venerable fixture of the modern-British soundscape. The allure of the service lies in the nature of its format, an almost continuous stream of music, treating congregations (whether sacred or secular) to glorious song in praise of God and providing the perfect opportunity for anyone to participate in the exceptionally rich traditions of the Church.

Samuel Teague, Choral Scholar



CHORAL EVENSONG IN JULY

9 July, 2023 **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Introit Oculi omnium - Charles Wood
(1866 - 1926)

Responses William Byrd (c.1539 - 1623)

Canticles Richard Farrant (d. 1581)

Anthem Almighty and everlasting God
- Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

16 July, 2023 **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Introit God is our hope and strength
- J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

Responses William Smith (1603 - 1645)

Canticles Short Service - Orlando Gibbons
(1583 - 1625)

Anthem Behold the tabernacle of God -
William H. Harris (1883 - 1973)

23 July, 2023 **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Introit Christus factus est - Anton Bruckner
(1824 - 1896)

Responses William Byrd (c.1539 - 1623)

Canticles Short Service, Thomas Weelkes
(1573 - 1623)

Anthem God so loved the world - John Stainer
(1840 - 1901)



30 July, 2023 **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Introit O taste and see, R. Vaughan-Williams
(1872 - 1958)

Responses William Byrd (c.1539 - 1623)

Canticles Short Service, Orlando Gibbons
(1583 - 1625)

Anthem O sacrum convivium - William Byrd
(c.1539 - 1623)

Robert Howarth, the Director of Music at St Mary's, writes:

It is a huge privilege to be able to direct the music for the Evensongs in the University Church because of its association with Thomas Cranmer and the Book of Common Prayer. We also get to hold these services in the Chancel, where the choir would have sung from in years gone by. There is a beautiful intimacy of having Evensong sung in the Chancel, and the acoustic is much better; the Chancel has beautiful wood panelling which really keeps the sound alive.

Choosing repertoire can be challenging as the organ is very much positioned to play for Nave services, and the connection to the Chancel is cut off. As a result, I choose a lot of unaccompanied music, but there are times when we use the organ, which can be very effective. I like to use a combination of classic Tudor music (Byrd, Gibbons, Weelkes) alongside more contemporary composers (Ives, Jackson, Moeran). I try to ensure that the introits and anthems celebrate and reflect the liturgical year which always adds not only variety in the repertoire, but also enhances our sense of where we are in the liturgical calendar. This Summer we will be programming a number of choral items by William Byrd to mark the 400th anniversary of his death on 4th July 1623.

We sing our Psalms to classical western chants, and always sing full Preces and Responses. For our summer series of Evensongs there will be Responses

by Byrd and Smith, Canticles by Gibbons, Weelkes and Farrant, and motets by Bach, Bruckner, Stainer, Wood, Vaughan-Williams, Byrd, and Harris.





Organ Recital Series

Organ Recital Series

Sundays during August | 3.30pm - 4.15pm

6 August, 2023 **The Feast of the Transfiguration**
3.30pm Organ Recital
Robert Quinney - New College

13 August, 2023 **The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
3.30pm Organ Recital
James Brown - The University Church

20 August, 2023 **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
3.30pm Organ Recital
George de Voil - St James's,
Sussex Gardens, London

27 August, 2023 **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
3.30pm Organ Recital
David Terry - St Mary Brookfield, London



Services at the University Church

2 July, 2023

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
 Dr William Lamb
3.30pm German Lutheran Service

9 July, 2023

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Naomi Gardom
3.30pm Choral Evensong

16 July, 2023

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: Dr Sarah Mortimer
3.30pm Choral Evensong

23 July, 2023

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Alan Ramsey
3.30pm Choral Evensong

30 July, 2023

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday Services

6 August, 2023

The Feast of the Transfiguration

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
 Dr Judith Maltby
3.30pm Organ Recital

13 August, 2023

The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Naomi Gardom
3.30pm Organ Recital

20 August, 2023

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Dr Jane Baun
3.30pm Organ Recital

27 August, 2023 **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
- 10.30am** Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
Dr William Lamb
- 3.30pm** Organ Recital

3 September, 2023 **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
- 10.30am** Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
Dr Judith Maltby
- 3.30pm** German Lutheran Service

10 September, 2023 **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
- 10.30am** Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon
Dr Charlotte Bannister-Parker
- 5.00pm** Choral Evensong at St Cross Church
Preacher: Dame Helen Ghosh,
Master, Balliol College

17 September, 2023 **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
- 10.30am** Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright
- 3.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

24 September, 2023 **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
- 10.30am** Choral Eucharist
Preacher: Fr Max Kramer, Chaplain and
Fellow, Keble College
- 3.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

Daily Services

- 9.00am** Morning Prayer
- 12.15pm** Holy Eucharist

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.

Find out more about the University Church on our website www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

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