

An aerial photograph of Oxford, England, showcasing its historic architecture. The University Church of St. Mary the Virgin is prominent in the center, with its tall spire. To the right, the Sheldonian Theatre is visible, featuring a large blue dome. The foreground shows a dark, tiled roof, likely belonging to a nearby building. The background reveals the rolling green hills of the Oxford region under a cloudy sky.

# WHAT'S ON

at the University Church

MICHAELMAS TERM 2023

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# Craftsman's Art and Music's Measure

## The Revd Hannah Cartwright

**T**he arts are a catalyst for change. Most especially, the arts have the capacity to inform, shape and change our world-view, and lead us to a greater understanding of ourselves. They may bring us the necessary inspiration to effect change in our own lives, and to reimagine the ideas, narratives, and rituals around which our society gathers.

Art is, by its nature, both performative and creative; it speaks, paints, writes, sings, moulds and dances new worlds into being. It allows us to play with reality, and test out ideas and ideals before we commit to them. However, we can only truly consume the arts when we open ourselves to become, at least to some degree, consumed by our experience of them. We must immerse ourselves in a holistic experience, through which we not only observe, but also enter into and explore the thought-worlds they create. And critically, to benefit from them, we must be open to being changed and enlightened in the process. So it is with our worshipping life as Christians. In our gathered acts of worship, we immerse ourselves in artistic, song-filled, beautifully-choreographed, skilfully-honed, improvised and imaginative, historical and hope-filled landscapes; travelling with our forebears in faith through scriptural narratives which run the whole gamut of human experience and emotion, and which teach us how God weaves the story of Salvation through our lives and throughout all time. In the Eucharist, in particular, we enact a living remembrance

of the grace we have received and, as we consume the Body of Christ together in worship, so we become consumed by its mission, and become the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) sent out into the world. As our worship spills out into our daily lives, we are invited to become co-creators with Christ; taking the vision of God's Kingdom which we have experienced, and drawing out its form in our own society.

J. L. Austin speaks of the 'performative utterance' of words which do not merely describe reality, but actually effect or change it. In his work, published posthumously, *How to Do Things with Words*, he explains that performative utterances (such as 'I declare this exhibit open') change reality, by speaking the intention into being. Some Christians may argue also that the words of Jesus spoken in the Eucharistic Prayer by the presiding priest: 'This is my Body' and 'This is my Blood' are an example of performative utterance, which effect a change in substantial reality too. Similarly, if we allow ourselves to be truly open to the transformative potential of the arts, their performance can also possess a quality of sacramental encounter, which helps to change lives by allowing us, not only to enter an *alternate reality*, but, by the power of the Spirit at work through them, to speak a greater and more life-giving reality into being in our own temporal dimension.

Our city is full of artistic opportunities. St Mary's is certainly no exception, and we have recently been introduced through our ►

deepening community engagement, to the work of the Old Fire Station in helping build a better reality for people in the City; especially for those who have experienced homelessness. In a cost of living crisis, we might be tempted to believe that artistic endeavour is a merely tertiary concern; only valuable to those who already have the basics to survive, and relationships to rely on. But what the Old Fire Station describe in their work is the power of the arts to unlock new meaning in life and to build relationships which can support, sustain, and help to build a better society; gathered around a vision with strong echoes of the Kingdom-vision we share. They describe their enterprise as: *'a centre for creativity in Oxford housing two organisations: the homelessness charity Crisis and Arts at the Old Fire Station (AOFs). We share our building. AOFs encourages people from all backgrounds to understand and shape the world in which we live through stories, creativity and the arts, and by connecting with others'* ([www.oldfirestation.org.uk](http://www.oldfirestation.org.uk))

And they speak powerfully of how the arts can present people with challenge, choice, and opportunity for new life in ways which resonate deeply with a Christian understanding of resurrection. As comment on their website observes:

*'I talked to people, and they said, "Why do you need the arts?" but that's the bit that makes you a real person, and not a statistic. It's like being awakened, isn't it. It's like you've been hibernating for a really long time. And you find that you're existing. And I think what this offers, it's like waking up and it's spring.'*

If you have ever felt bereft after finishing a novel or unsure of how to re-enter daily life at the end of a stirring play, concert, or film, you will recognise the power of the arts to help humans

transcend the mundane, and perhaps even to grant us a fleeting window into the Divine. As we seek to be a church working in ever-closer partnership with the many communities of this City, through the arts we have an opportunity to co-create with others for the common good, and to speak, paint, write, sing, mould and dance the New Creation into being.



# Resolved to Serve

From October to December 2023

**D**uring October to December St Mary's will be hosting an exhibition 'Resolved to Serve'. Commissioned by the Diocese of Oxford, this portrait exhibition celebrates Black culture and its influence in the Church today. Beginning in Black History Month, featuring black African and Caribbean clergy in the Diocese of Oxford, Resolved to Serve tells their inspiring stories of faith and resilience. These stories are particularly poignant at this time as the UK marks the 75th anniversary year of the arrival of the Empire Windrush on our shores.

The exhibition was curated by The Reverend Polly Falconer, UKME Development Enabler in the Diocese of Oxford, (Polly spoke powerfully at a recent Sunday Forum at the University Church, on the subject of racial justice) and the Right Reverend Dr Tim Wambunya, Vicar of St Paul's Church, Slough, and Honorary Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Oxford. The exhibition includes photography by Emma Thompson.

*"Black History Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge and focus on the significant contributions people of African and Caribbean descent have made in history. By celebrating the gifts of people today we can help create a diverse church and society where all can flourish."*

**- The Revd Polly Falconer**



# Regular Events

## THE BOOK OF TOBIT

**Fridays during University Term | Old Library |  
12.45pm - 1.30pm**

This term, we will be studying the Book of Tobit, which is found in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Tobit is a beautiful story, full of humour and adventure. It is a work of fiction, which has inspired countless representations in art and literature. Each week, we will explore the theological insights offered by Tobit, as well as its cultural legacy.



## SUNDAY FORUM

**Sunday lunchtimes | Old Library | 12noon - 1.00pm**

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.

**Sunday 5 November**

**Literacy and the 'Levelling-up' Agenda - The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood**

The impact of the written word on the growth of Christianity cannot be understated. We are a faith indebted to the advent of the printing press and we remain continuously concerned with the interpretation and reception of our sacred texts. Yet, across the country, literacy levels vary hugely, and issues of poverty and deprivation, criminal justice, educational opportunity and literacy all interplay. The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood will speak to us about why literacy is central to 'levelling-up' and explore how Christians can make a difference. Sorrel is Assistant Curate in the Dorchester Ministry Team. She has an MSt in Hebrew Bible from the University of Oxford and an M.Ed in Politics, Development and Democratic Education from Cambridge. Prior to ordination in the Church of England, she was a secondary school English and Drama teacher.

## POETRY HOUR

**Wednesdays during University Term | 18 October, 29 November  
Adam de Brome Chapel | 1 November, 15 November | Old Library  
5.30pm - 6.30pm**

Join us for an hour as we explore poetry's dimensions of human experience; finding inspiration, solace, wisdom and our own creativity. This term we will be reading the poets Alice Oswald and Carol Ann Duffy.

# Special Events

## THE GODLESS CRUSADE

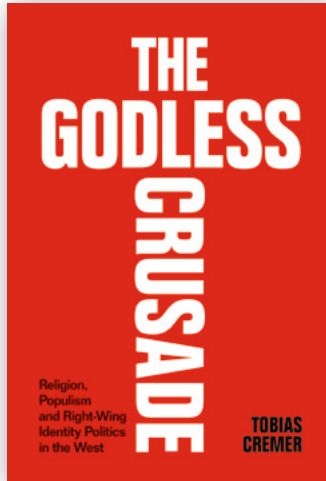
**Tuesday 31 October | University Church  
5.00pm - 6.00pm**

In this brief talk to mark the publication of *The Godless Crusade*, Dr Tobias Cremer will talk about religion, populism and right wing identity politics. Drawing on his extensive research in Germany, France and the USA, Tobias will explore the development



of attitudes towards Christianity in right-wing populist movements and the way in which these attitudes may be reshaping our politics internationally and nationally. This book challenges widespread assumptions and narratives about how right-wing populism and Christianity relate to one another.

*Tobias Cremer holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School, where he was a McCloy Fellow. A former Junior Research Fellow at Pembroke College, he now works in the Office of the President of Germany as an advisor on religious affairs.*



## CANDLELIT TOURS

**Tuesday 17 October, Thursday 16 November,  
Tuesday 12 December | University Church  
8.00pm - 9.15pm**

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, sung in the Chancel, before we depart for hot chocolate and port in the Old Library. Places are limited, so please book online.



## FIRST VESPERS AND COMPLINE FOR THE FEAST OF ST CECILIA

**Tuesday 21 November | University Church  
8.00pm - 9.00pm**

St Cecilia, a third century Roman martyr, is the patron saint of music and musicians. With *Antiquum Documentum*, a local early music ensemble, you are invited to experience Vespers and Compline according to the Sarum Rite as it would have been just before the English Reformation. The pattern of the service served as Cranmer's precedent for collapsing the two service together to create Evensong in the *Book of Common Prayer 1549*. Please note that although this is a historic reconstruction, it is also an act of worship. Admission is free.



## QUIET DAY: THE ADVENT HOPE

**Saturday 9 December | Chapter House, Christ Church  
10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Led by the Revd Canon Dr William Lamb**

Advent is a season of outrageous promise. It is also a season when Christians explore the virtue of hope. Falling in the depths of winter, it is also a time when we are perhaps more conscious of the powers of darkness, and the way in which these powers manifest themselves in our world today: hunger, disease, military repression, and debt. We live with increasing levels of anxiety, and yet Advent is also a time when we can experience in a particularly acute way a genuine longing for salvation. How do we make sense of this period of waiting, this time of longing, the quiet audacity of hope? Will Lamb will offer a series of reflections in the course of the day. Places are limited. Please book online.

## TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL

**Tuesday 7 November | Western Art Print Room, Ashmolean Museum 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

In this session with Katherine Wodehouse and Canon Will Lamb, we will explore the way in which the Book of Tobit has inspired and provoked the curiosity of artists through the centuries. With its themes of sight and blindness, the story has long fascinated artists and others. Although this session relates in part to the Bible Studies taking place this term, you do not need to attend the Bible Studies in order to participate in this session. Everyone is welcome. Please sign up for this session online.





## HARVEST IN HOLYWELL

**Tuesday 24 October | University Church  
2.00pm-3.30pm**

Harvest is the perfect time to take a moment to marvel at God's creation and think and pray about ways in which we can help nurture nature in our local environment.

Children of all ages and their adults are warmly invited to join us as we gather at the University Church at 2.00pm and go on a short walk (circa 0.5 mile) to Holywell Cemetery to explore its natural treasures together. Please dress for the weather in clothes which you don't mind getting grubby. If the weather is too wet to walk, we will stay in church for some nature-based fun. Places are limited so, to ensure there are plenty of mini nature hunt resources for everyone, do sign up on the website ahead of time to let us know if you plan to come.

## GODLY PLAY

**First Sunday of the Month (1 October, 5 November, 3 December)  
Old Library | 10.30am - 11.15am**

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 and provides a space to 'wonder' together and encourage creative and playful engagement with biblical stories and the life of faith. Buggy access is via the cafe entrance and lift to the Old Library.

## CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

We are delighted to have children worshipping with us at St Mary's. A selection of toys and books are available in the Newman Room (behind the glass brick wall) next door to the baby changing facilities at the 10.30am service. If you would like to stay up to date with children and families activities at St Mary's, or to find out more about baptism, email: [admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk)

## CRIB SERVICE

**Sunday 24 December | University Church | 4.30pm**

Join us on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm as we gather around the crib to celebrate the Nativity. All the family are welcome, and small children are especially encouraged to take an active part in telling the Christmas Story in this interactive and festive service, full of your favourite Christmas carols and suitable for children of all ages.



## PARISH LUNCHES

**Old Library | Sunday 8  
October & 19 November  
12noon - 2.00pm**

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

## SECOND COFFEE

**Sundays during University Term | Weston  
Library Cafe | 12noon - 1.00pm**

We are always delighted to welcome students and young adults 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, and occasional 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. NB. Second Coffee does not take place on days when other parish events are running e.g. Parish Lunch or Sunday Forum.

## COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS

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

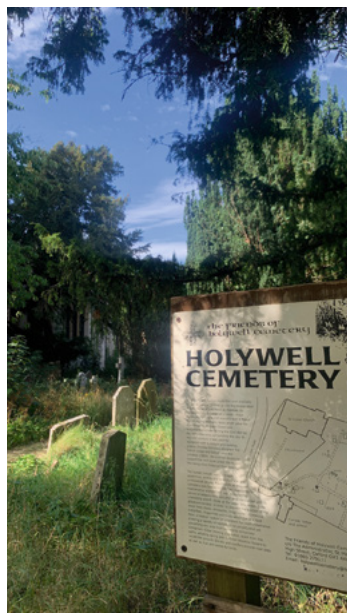
Come and join us for coffee and doughnuts, as well as company and conversation, in the De Brome Chapel from 11.15am. All are warmly welcome to this informal and relaxed gathering.



## GARDENING DAYS

**Saturday 7 October, 11 November,  
9 December | 10.00am - 12.30pm**

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](mailto: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.

<b>5 October</b>	<b>Ikuko Inoguchi</b>
<b>12 October</b>	<b>Vanesa White</b>
<b>19 October</b>	<b>Emmanuel Addis</b>
<b>26 October</b>	<b>Kenny Fu</b>
<b>2 November</b>	<b>Guillem Leon Vivas</b>
<b>9 November</b>	<b>Liz Merrifield</b>
<b>16 November</b>	<b>Luke Lally Maguire</b>
<b>23 November</b>	<b>Carmen Sanchez Almoguera</b>
<b>30 November</b>	<b>Eden Agranat Meged</b>
<b>7 December</b>	<b>Yu Zhou Zhang</b>
<b>14 December</b>	<b>Yunji Kwak</b>

**OXFORD INTERNATIONAL SONG  
FESTIVAL 2023****Hildegard Transfigured  
Thursday 19 October | University Church | 9.00pm**

Hildegard Transfigured is a collaborative piece of concert-theatre by vocal trio Voice and visual artist Innerstrings, that shines a light on the 12th-century

polymath St. Hildegard of Bingen and her capacity to love, mourn, wield ferocity, and the visions which consumed her both physically and spiritually throughout her life; 'the living light'.

The audience is taken on a musical and visual journey in a seamless one-hour show of St Hildegard's original music, new compositions setting her words, and live visuals, all in the stunning setting of the University Church. Book tickets at <https://oxfordsong.org/events/hildegard-transfigured>

**Castalian String Quartet & Julien Van Mellaerts  
Thursday 26 October | University Church | 9.00pm**

The Castalian Quartet, Hans Keller String Quartet in Residence at the University of Oxford, return to the Festival with a programme that includes Janáček's 'Kreutzer Sonata', and Mendelssohn's Quartet in F minor, Op.80. Together with baritone Julien Van Mellaerts they also perform Samuel Barber's hauntingly atmospheric Dover Beach. Book tickets at <https://oxfordsong.org/events/dover-beach>

**The Wanderer / Au Naturel - Closing Festival Concert  
Saturday 28 October | University Church & Holywell Music Room  
7.30pm**

Two concerts in one evening! In the Holywell Music Room, Toby Spence and Sholto Kynoch perform songs by Franz Schubert, inspired by the quintessential Romantic artist Caspar David Friedrich, in particular his iconic 'Wanderer over the Sea of Mist'. Meanwhile in the stunning University Church, enjoy the glorious sound of I Fagiolini as they present a specially devised programme in response to Pieter Brueghel the Younger's cycle of paintings, The Seasons. Book tickets: <https://oxfordsong.org/events/the-wanderer-au-naturel>

**ZELENKA: REQUIEM**

**Saturday 11 November**  
**University Church | 7.00pm**

Come with IT&T on a trip to 17th-century Bohemia (present-day Czechia) as we bring to light brilliant works by a trio of composers who deserve to be much better known: Franz Brendá, Johann Baptist Wanhal, and Jan Dismas Zelenka, whose Requiem in D Minor forms the centrepiece of this concert. Book tickets at <https://www.ticketsoxford.com/events/zelenka>

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH**

**Telemann, Bach, Handel**  
**Oxford Baroque Players**  
**Fridays 24 November | 7.30pm**

**Vivaldi Four Seasons at Christmas**  
**The Piccadilly Sinfonietta**  
**Tuesday 5 December | 7.30pm**

**Christmas Concert | City of Oxford Choir**  
**Saturday 9 December | 7.30pm**

**Carol Concert | Crisis Skylight**  
**Wednesday 13 December | 6.30pm**

**Christmas Concert | Opus 48**  
**Friday 15 December | 7.30pm**

**Handel's Messiah | Instruments of Time & Truth**  
**Saturday 16 December | 5.00pm**

**Bach's Christmas Oratorio**  
**New College Choir**  
**Tuesday 19 December | 6.30pm**

For details about our concerts during Michaelmas Term, please visit our website: [www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk](http://www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk)



# Services at the University Church *Michaelmas Term 2023*

**1 October, 2023**    **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb  
**3.30pm** German Lutheran Service

**8 October, 2023**    **Harvest Festival**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

**15 October, 2023**    **The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with University Sermon  
*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

**22 October, 2023**    **The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Hannah Cartwright  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

**29 October, 2023**    **Dedication Festival**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* Dr Sarah Mortimer  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

**5 November, 2023**    **All Saints Sunday**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with University Sermon  
*Preacher:* The Very Revd Ian Markham  
**3.30pm** German Lutheran Service

**12 November, 2023**    **Remembrance Sunday**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb  
**3.30pm** Choral Requiem

**19 November, 2023**    **The Second Sunday before Advent**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Professor Steven Shakespeare  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

**26 November, 2023**    **Christ the King**  
**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

## Daily Services

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

# Advent and Christmas at St Mary's

## Sunday 3 December First Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Hannah Cartwright
- 6.00pm** **Advent Carol Service**  
 with the German Lutheran Congregation

## Sunday 10 December Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* Dr Sarah Mortimer
- 3.30pm** **Carols in the Square**  
 with the City of Oxford Silver Band
- 6.00pm** **Graduate Student Carol Service**  
 Free tickets are available for this service. Please book online.

## Sunday 17 December Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb
- 6.00pm** **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

## Sunday 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr Charlotte Bannister-Parker

### Christmas Eve

- 4.30pm** Crib Service for Children and Families  
**11.30pm** Midnight Mass  
*Preacher:* The Revd Hannah Cartwright

## Monday 25 December Christmas Day

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb



## Sunday 31 December The First Sunday after Christmas

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Hannah Cartwright

## University Sermons *Michaelmas Term 2023*

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 its 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.

- Thursday 5 October**    **Holy Communion (Latin). At St Mary's at 8.00am.**  
*Preacher:* Fr Max Kramer, Chaplain, Keble College
- Tuesday 10 October**    **Court Sermon. At the Cathedral at 6.00pm.**  
*Preacher:* The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE PC LLD FBA
- Sunday 15 October**    **University Sermon. At St Mary's at 10.30am.**  
*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease Assistant Curate, St James's Piccadilly and Head of Education, The Salters' Company and Institute
- Sunday 29 October**    **Ramsden Sermon. At St Peter's College at 11.00am.**  
*Preacher:* The Revd Guy Hewitt, Director for Racial Justice, Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
- Sunday 5 November**    **University Sermon. At St Mary's at 10.30am.**  
*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Ian S. Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, USA
- Sunday 19 November**    **Sermon on the Sin of Pride. At Keble College at 5:30pm.**  
*Preacher:* Mr Miles Young, Warden of New College
- Sunday 3 December**    **University Sermon (Advent Sunday). At the Cathedral at 11.00am.**  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr Michael Brierley, Director of Formation, Ripon College Cuddesdon



## 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](http://www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk)

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**University  
Church**