

University Church

A low-angle photograph of the University Church tower, showing its Gothic architecture with a large window and a clock face. The tower is partially obscured by a dense arrangement of green leaves and clusters of small white flowers in the foreground. The sky is overcast.

WHAT'S ON
at the University Church

HILARY TERM 2024

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- 3* Tracts for the Times
 - 5* Exhibitions
 - 6* Learning Opportunities
 - 11* Children and Young People
 - 12* Social Events
 - 13* Concerts
 - 16* Church Services
 - 19* University Sermons

Hilary of Poitiers

The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb

Hilary Term takes its name from the fourth century saint, Hilary of Poitiers, whose feast is celebrated on 13th January.

Hilary, who lived from 315 - 367, became the Bishop of Poitiers. Today, you can visit the church of St Hilaire le Grand in Poitiers where his relics are preserved. The church dates from the 11th century and features a wide nave with three aisles either side. At the other end of the ancient citadel is the Cathedral and the shrine of St Radegund, a French princess who was known for her extreme asceticism. In the midst of the town is the beautiful Romanesque church of Notre Dame la Grande. Behind the high altar is a statue of St Mary the Virgin, carrying the keys to the city.

The story goes that in 1202, Poitiers was besieged by the English. An employee of the town hall had promised to deliver the keys of the city to the enemy for a large sum of money. But when, on Easter Eve, he entered the mayor's room, the keys had disappeared. They were found the next morning in the hands of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That same night, St Mary the Virgin, St Hilary and St Radegund appeared to the enemy soldiers and told them to flee.

Hilary was elected Bishop of Poitiers around the year 350. He gained notoriety as one of the leading critics of the then fashionable heresy of Arianism, which asserted that the Son was subordinate to the Father. Hilary became one of the

great doctors or teachers of the church. Augustine of Hippo described him as 'the illustrious doctor of all the churches'. Jerome also suggests that he was one of the earliest hymn writers of the western church.

Following his election as Bishop of Poitiers, Hilary had written to the Roman Emperor admonishing him for his support for the Arian cause. In 356, the Emperor summoned a Council at Béziers in order to settle the dispute generated by Arius. The Emperor betrayed his Arian sympathies and Hilary was banished to Phrygia in Asia Minor for four years. There he began to work on one of his most significant writings, *On the Trinity*.

Many theologians through the centuries have written on the Christian doctrine of God, but Hilary was the first to write an extended treatise on the doctrine of the Trinity in Latin. Scholars argue that Hilary was drawing on two of his earlier works: *De Fide*, a treatise on the Christian faith, and *Adversus Arianos*, a treatise against the Arians.

In this work, Hilary reflects on the place of reason in thinking about God. Hilary suggests that 'faith confesses openly that its purpose is to know that it cannot comprehend what it is seeking'. While this observation is sometimes portrayed as a form of fideism, a more detailed assessment of his writing at this point suggests that he is meditating on the reality of human finitude. He does not deny the potential of reason to gain theological insight and knowledge, but he is aware of the ►



limitations of the human mind: 'The human mind knows only what it understands and...it judges as possible only what it sees or does.' Those who embrace the Arian cause 'are unmindful of themselves'. They forget their creatureliness.

So how can we articulate our desire for God? Hilary argues that the knowledge of God requires and demands the illumination of the Holy Spirit. Faith and reason complement each other. They are not at odds with one another. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, Hilary believed that we can discover a heavenly Wisdom (*caelesti sapientia*): 'for what the Lord professed concerning himself that is beyond the understanding of the human mind, he adapts to the faith of understanding, as much as possible, with examples of his power...so that what is not grasped by our dull human nature is attained by our faith equipped with reasonable knowledge; since neither may we doubt God's word concerning himself, nor may we suppose that an understanding of his power is beyond the reasoning of faith.'

In later theological debate, theologians came to recognise that Hilary's Trinitarian and Christological formulations were sometimes problematic. It is evident that as he recast his earlier theological work in the course of his lifetime, he too was aware of its limitations. But that ability to recognise the limitations of one's understanding is also the beginning of wisdom.

Hilary reminds us that when faith seeks understanding, we commit ourselves to grow in the desire for God.

People on the move

15 February - 15 April 2024 | Adam de Brome Chapel

In the current global landscape, marked by pockets of war leading to displaced populations, anti-immigration policies, and the demand for academic mobility, the phenomenon of migration has taken on new dimensions.

Economic reliance on migrant workers in healthcare, hospitality, and low-skilled jobs, coupled with the exploitation of those forced into black market labour, highlights the complex interplay of necessity and vulnerability in migration. This movement of people, a force that has shaped our history, is not a new occurrence but an ongoing narrative of human society.

This intricate landscape of migration forms the backdrop of the "People on the Move" exhibition, an immersive showcase that brings these pressing issues to the forefront and aims to shed light on the diverse experiences of migrants and the multifaceted impact of migration on societies globally.



Regular Events

BIBLE STUDY BOOK OF ESTHER

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

This term, we will be studying the Book of Esther. This ancient book, which can be found in the Old Testament (with the exception of some chapters included in the Apocrypha), takes place in the context of the reign of King Ahasuerus in the first Person Empire. Esther, a young Jewish woman, marries the king and becomes Queen. When the Jewish community is threatened by Haman, the king's advisor, Mordechai, the Queen's cousin, persuades her to intercede on behalf of the Jews. The Book of Esther presents a tale about a courageous woman who saves her people. In the Jewish tradition, this story is told at the Jewish festival of Purim. Everyone is welcome to join us for these weekly Bible studies.

Costumes and fancy dress are not required!



POETRY HOUR

**Wednesdays during University Term
Old Library | 5.30pm - 6.30pm
24 January, 7 February, 21 February, 6 March**

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 poetry of Rowan Williams.



SUNDAY FORUM

**Sunday lunchtimes | Old Library | 12noon - 1.00pm
14 January, 18 February**

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.

***Creativity and Community: Arts at The Old Fire Station*
Sunday 14 January | Old Library | 12noon**

Arts at the Old Fire Station share a building and deep partnership with the homelessness charity Crisis; encouraging people from all backgrounds to make changes in their work, and their own lives, through creativity, responsibility, and connecting with others in the Old Fire Station theatre, galleries, studio and café. Dr Suzi Attree, Head of Development and Fundraising, will speak to us about their growing work in bringing creativity and community to all.

Unapologetic: Lessons from Second Century Christians for Intelligent Discourse in Contemporary Culture

Sunday 18 February | Old Library | 12noon

Second Century Christians faced deep misunderstanding and spurious accusations: chief among them cannibalism, Oedipal inclinations and, curiously, atheism. The Revd Canon Dr Alwyn Pettersen shares fascinating insights into how early Apologists shaped the narrative, sought to challenge these misrepresentations, and asks what we can learn from them for discourse in a religiously pluralistic society today.



BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

In Trinity Term, the Bishop of Oxford will be visiting St Mary's for our annual Confirmation Service. If you would like to be baptised or confirmed on Sunday 12th May 2024, there will be classes taking place throughout Hilary and Trinity term on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Old Library, 12.45pm – 1.30pm. If you would like to explore the rites of Christian initiation, please have a chat with a member of the clergy or if you would like to sign up to attend, please email the Revd Hannah Cartwright: hannah.cartwright@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk.

Special Events

CANDLELIT TOUR

**Tuesday 13 February & Thursday 1 March
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, sung in the Chancel, before we depart for hot chocolate and port in the Old Library. Places are limited, so please book online.



Bampton Lectures

Recognizing Strangers: Solidarity and Christian Ethics

This year the Bampton Lectures will be given by the Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW. A former Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of Wales, Rowan Williams has written extensively on faith in the public square. In these lectures, Dr Williams will return to the theme of solidarity, exploring its roots in Catholic Social Thought and exploring how a solidarity-shaped ethic might serve to address some of the issues at the heart of our public life.



The lectures will take place on Tuesday 27 February and Tuesday 5 March 2024. For graduate students, there will be an additional seminar to discuss the themes of the lectures. Further details are available from the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

LECTURE 1 CREATING AN IDEAL: SOLIDARITY AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

Tuesday 27 February at 10.00am at the University Church

Solidarity emerges as a distinctive theme in twentieth century Catholic social thought, absorbing a number of earlier formulations. The prominence of the term in Polish politics of the 1980's helped to reinforce its significance and it continues to be a focal idea. This lecture traces some of the developments in its use and the definitions it has received in official teaching.

LECTURE 2 AN AMBIVALENT IDEAL: CHALLENGES TO AN ETHIC OF SOLIDARITY

Tuesday 27 February at 11.30am at the University Church

Does the ideal presuppose too smoothly convergent an idea of social interests? How is actual conflict of interest negotiated in this framework? The lecture will examine critiques of some aspects of a solidarity-shaped ethic from various writers, including Kenneth Leech and Gillian Rose, and will look at ways of clarifying the discourse around the subject to allow for a more critical and nuanced model.

LECTURE 3 SOLIDARITY AGAINST TRIBALISM: THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE

**Tuesday 5 March at 10.00am at the
University Church**

A 'solidarity' model necessarily stands in opposition to political 'tribalism' and the fragmentation of the human good into diverse and competing programmes. Is it possible to pursue an ideal of solidarity that takes seriously the facts of 'intersectional' injustice and suffering without being trapped in an 'identity politics' that divides or paralyses the work of building a genuinely shared public space? The lecture argues the need for a radical theological foundation for any such aspiration by way of the exploration of understandings of human 'dignity'.

LECTURE 4 SOLIDARITY, RIGHTS AND THE IMAGE OF GOD: ETHICS AND CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

**Tuesday 5 March at 11.30am at the
University Church**

If the idea of human dignity rests, theologically speaking, on the divine image, the idea of human rights rests on the consideration of what is justly or properly due to that divine image. Ultimately, human solidarity is grounded in a shared and equal

dependence, and a shared and equal claim to be seen in the light of God's reflection in the created world. This final lecture outlines a theology of human rights based on this model of responding 'fitly' or 'justly' to the claim of divine presence, and a theology of solidarity that interprets this in terms of the mutual assurance of goods or well-being or life-giving, so that a theological ethic of solidarity becomes ultimately an ethic shaped by the reality of the Body of Christ.



CRANMER COMMEMORATION

Thursday 21 March | 11.00am - 4.00pm
University Church

Each year, the Prayer Book Society sponsors a day conference to mark the martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury (1533-1555), who died on this day in 1556. Cranmer faced his trial and was condemned to death in the University Church.

11.00 Choral Matins
Preacher:
The Revd Canon
Dr William Lamb
followed by
procession to the
Martyrs' Memorials



12.30 Lunch (pre-booked,
see link below)

14.00 Lecture: 'Thomas Cranmer, the Prayer Book and the Victorians'
The Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Morris, National Adviser for Ecumenical Relations

15.30 Evening Prayer (said)

Tickets for lunch are available from the Prayer Book Society:
<https://www.pbs.org.uk/>

BEHOLD THE MAN

Tuesday 26 March
2.30pm - 4.00pm
Western Art Print Room

The history of Western Art betrays a fascination with the themes of the Passion of Christ. Katherine Wodehouse, Ashmolean Museum, and Will Lamb, University Church, will lead a joint workshop in the Western Art Print Room at the Ashmolean Museum. We will explore a series of images which provoke reflection on the story of Easter. Places are limited. Adults: £8 Students: £5. Please book online.



PILGRIMAGE TO BEC

Friday 12 April - Monday 15 April 2024,
Bec Hellouin, France

Led by the Revd Canon Dr William Lamb Join us in April 2024 for pilgrimage to the serene and historic village of Bec Hellouin in France. Renowned for its magnificent abbey, this Norman jewel invites you to explore its rich monastic heritage and architectural splendour. It is the place which nurtured and formed St Anselm, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 - 1109. This pilgrimage promises an unforgettable experience, where the echoes of the past meet the spiritual quest of the present in one of France's most revered sanctuaries.

MULTI-FACETED MOTHERING

Saturday 9 March | University Church | 10.00am-12.00noon

Mothering is wonderful, it's tough and it's always messy! The traditional image of mothering can stir in us a range of responses, emotions and experiences; but mothering is a community endeavour which many of us can share in, whatever our gender, family situation or life-experience. Come and join us as we creatively explore the multi-faceted nature of mothering in an inclusive, gentle and prayerful space. All people are very welcome and there will be craft and prayer activities available for children too.

EXPLORE EASTER

Tuesday 9 April | University Church | 2.00pm-3.30pm

No story has such power to transform us and the world as the story of Easter: of Resurrection, hope and new life. This Easter, we invite children of all ages to join us from 2.00pm on Tuesday 9th April as we creatively explore the Easter story together through words, prayer, craft and play. Book online to guarantee a space.

GODLY PLAY

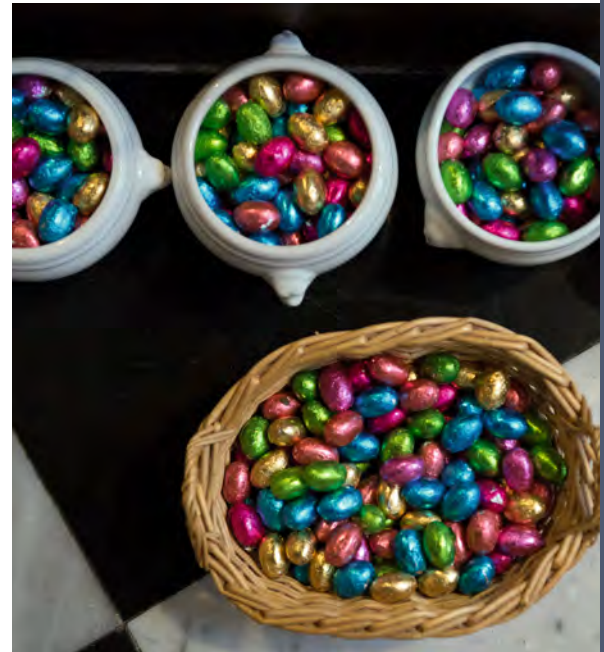
First Sunday of the Month | Old Library | 10.30am - 11.15am | February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5

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 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.



PARISH LUNCHES

**Sunday 21 Jan & 25 February |
12noon - 2.00pm | Old Library**

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



SECOND COFFEE

**Sundays during University Term | 12noon -
2.00pm Weston Library Cafe**

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 & DOUGHNUTS

**Wednesdays during University Terms
11.15am - 12.00noon**

Come and join us for coffee and doughnuts, as well as company and conversation, in the De Brome Chapel from 11.15am. All are very welcome.



GARDENING DAYS

**Saturdays | 10.00am -
12.30pm Saturday 13 January,
Saturday 10 February,
Saturday 9 March**

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.

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|-------------------------|---|
| 11 January 2024 | Apolline Khou |
| 18 January 2024 | Pablo Tejedor-Gutiérrez |
| 25 January 2024 | Sherri Lun |
| 1 February 2024 | Ekaterina Grabova |
| 8 February 2024 | Margalida Moll Salord |
| 15 February 2024 | Cardiff County & Vale of Glamorgan Symphonic Brass |
| 22 February 2024 | Simon Carrey |
| 29 February 2024 | Vincent Chu |
| 7 March 2024 | Xin Ru Chen |
| 14 March 2024 | Downe House Students |
| 28 March 2024 | Chenwei Zhang |

OXFORD CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Saturday 20 January | University Church | 7.30pm

Ives – The Unanswered Question

Anna Clyne – Overflow

Mahler – Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

Sibelius - Symphony No. 3

Conductor Joe Davies, Soloist

Georgia Mae Ellis



OTHER CONCERTS

23 March Oxford Sinfonia

For details about other concerts during Hilary Term, please visit our website: www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

THE OXFORD SINFONIA

Jeneba Kanneh-Mason plays Mozart

Saturday 27 January | University Church 7.30pm

We are very excited to welcome Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, who plays one of Mozart's most sublime piano concertos – and on Mozart's birthday. Robert Weaver conducts, in a programme of Beethoven's Fidelio Overture, Mozart's 23rd Piano Concerto and Brahms 1st Symphony. Jeneba Kanneh-Mason is already captivating audiences with her "maturity in performance and interpretation". She performed Florence Price's Piano Concerto in the 2021 Proms, was a Keyboard Category Finalist in BBC Young Musician 2018 (aged 15) and a winner of the Murs du Son Prize at the Lagny-Sur-Marne International Piano Competition in France, 2014. Robert Weaver makes a welcome return, after conducting the Oxford Sinfonia in a memorable programme last January at the Sheldonian that featured Khachaturian's Violin Concerto (played by Jennifer Pike) and Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony.





Services at the University Church

Hilary Term 2024

7 January **Epiphany**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb
3.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

14 January **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby
3.30pm Latin Litany with University Sermon
Preacher: Dr Tristan Franklins

21 January **The Third Sunday of Epiphany**
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Dr Nick Austin SJ
3.30pm Baptism Service

28 January **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
(Candlemas)
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Alan Ramsey
3.30pm German Lutheran Service

4 February **The Second Sunday before Lent**
(Sexagesima)
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: Dr Sarah Mortimer
5.30pm Intercollegiate Service with
 University Sermon
Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley

11 February **The Sunday Next before Lent**
(Quinquagesima)
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon Bruce Kinsey
3.30pm Choral Evensong

14 February **Ash Wednesday**
12.15pm Holy Eucharist
8.00pm Sung Eucharist (Intercollegiate)
Preacher: The Revd David Sheen

18 February **The First Sunday of Lent**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright
3.30pm Choral Evensong

25 February **The Second Sunday of Lent**

8.30am Holy Eucharist

10.30am Choral Eucharist with University Sermon
Preacher: Jeanette Winterson

3.30pm Choral Evensong

3 March **The Third Sunday of Lent**

8.30am Holy Eucharist

10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb

3.30pm German Lutheran Service

Daily Services

9.00am Morning Prayer

12.15pm Holy Eucharist

Lent and Easter at St Mary's

10 March

8.30am

10.30am

3.30pm

17 March

8.30am

10.30am

3.30pm

21 March

11.00am

24 March

8.30am

10.30am

8.00pm

25 March

8.00pm

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Holy Eucharist

Sung Eucharist

Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright

Evening Prayer (said)

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Holy Eucharist

Sung Eucharist

Preacher: Dr Sarah Mortimer

Evening Prayer (said)

Cranmer Commemoration

Choral Matins (Book of Common

Prayer 1662) with the Prayer Book Society

Preacher: The Revd

Canon Dr William Lamb

Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist

Sung Eucharist with Procession of Palms

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

St John's Passion (Merton College)

Holy Monday

Compline with Address

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

26 March

8.00pm

27 March,

8.00pm

28 March

8.00pm

29 March

10.30am

12.00pm

2.00pm

31 March

8.30am

10.30am

3.30pm

Holy Tuesday

Compline with Address

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

Holy Wednesday

Compline with Address

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

Maundy Thursday

Choral Eucharist of the Last Supper

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross

The Good Friday Devotion

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

The Liturgy

Preacher: The Revd

Professor Katherine Sonderegger

Easter Day

Holy Eucharist

Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Revd

Canon Dr William Lamb

Easter Carol Service

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 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 11 January** **Holy Communion (Latin). At St Mary's at 8.00am**
Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jane Baun, Chaplain and Welfare Officer, Wadham College.
- Sunday 14 January** **Latin Litany and Sermon. At St Mary's at 3.30pm.**
Preacher: Dr Tristan Franklino, Supernumerary Fellow, Wolfson College. Lecturer in Classics, Oriol College. Pro-Proctor.
- Sunday 21 January** **Macbride Sermon. At Hertford College at 10.00am.**
Preacher: The Revd Dr Hannah Lewis, Chaplain among the Deaf Community, Diocese of Oxford.
- Sunday 4 February** **University Sermon Inter-Collegiate Service. At St Mary's at 5.30pm.**
Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark.
- Friday 9 February** **Sermon on the Grace of Humility. At Lady Margaret Hall at 5:45pm.**
Preacher: The Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St Paul's.
- Sunday 25 February** **University Sermon. At St Mary's at 10.30am.**
Preacher: Jeanette Winterson CBE, FRSL, Author.
- Sunday 3 March** **Sermon for the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. At Oriol College at 6.00pm.**
Preacher: Dr William Wood, Fellow in Theology, Oriol College and Chair of the Theology Faculty.



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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Church**