

A low-angle photograph of a Gothic-style church building, likely the University Church in Oxford. The image shows the intricate stonework, pointed arches, and a tall, slender spire reaching towards a clear blue sky. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the stone.

University
Church

WHAT'S ON
at the University Church

LONG VACATION 2024

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Newman's Pulpit The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb

Ascending the pulpit of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, the preacher today is confronted by a bronze roundel of St John Henry Newman. Placed on the ancient stone pillar encircled by the steps of the pulpit in the year of his beatification, no preacher can escape his gaze or fail to be reminded of Matthew Arnold's description 'of that spiritual apparition, gliding in the dim afternoon light of St Mary's, rising into the pulpit, and then, in the most entrancing of voices, breaking the silence with words and thoughts which were religious music, subtle, sweet, and mournful'.

Newman was ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England on 13th June 1824. This summer marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of his public ministry. On the day following his ordination, he wrote in his journal: 'I have the responsibility of souls on me to the day of my death. ... What a blessed day was yesterday.'

Just four years later, Newman became the Vicar of the University Church and very quickly he gained a reputation as a formidable preacher. The church was regularly packed as students of the University gathered to listen to his sermons on Sunday afternoons. Like many Victorian churchmen, his sermons were published. As well as his *University Sermons*, he published his *Plain and Parochial Sermons*, which were delivered at St Mary's, where he was the Vicar, at St Clement's, where he served as Curate, and at Littlemore, where he built the little church of St Mary and St Nicholas.

Newman became one of the leading figures of the Oxford

Movement, animating the Catholic Revival of the Church of England. While this stimulated all sorts of changes in terms of art and architecture, music and liturgical practice, the primary means by which the Tractarians promoted their cause was through the publications of a series of *Tracts for the Times*, and through their preaching.

One of Newman's striking sermons was entitled, 'Unreal Words'. Its central theme is not a question of doctrine, or the practice of prayer, but the character of Christian discipleship. As Monsignor Roderick Strange points out: 'The crux of its message affirms that *how* Christians profess their convictions, *how* they believe, *how* they pray, *how* they treat people, *how* they speak, *how* they argue and *how* they teach must all be done sincerely, or he adds, 'to use an expressive word, must be *real*'. Their words must be real. As Newman puts it: 'Before Christ came was the time of shadows; but when He came, He brought truth as well as grace; and as He who is the Truth has come to us, so does He in return require that we should be true and sincere in our dealings with Him'. His sermon speaks of a life, which is real and authentic and holy. This is the mark of true discipleship.

In September, we will be marking the contribution of Newman as a preacher with a series of public lectures. We hope that you will come and find out more about the vital contribution that St John Henry Newman made to the renewal of the Catholic tradition within the Church of England in his preaching from the pulpit of the University Church.



“Faith”

1 July – 30 September | Adam de Brome Chapel

Faith is the complete trust and confidence in someone, something, or a concept,’ says Rob Judges, reflecting on the essence of his latest photographic exhibition. Titled ‘Faith,’ this exhibition explores the profound expressions of religious devotion across the boundaries of denomination and religious affiliation.

Emerging themes such as the importance of food, light, and water—basic elements that nourish life—are beautifully grouped together in this collection. Inspired by a survey revealing that less than 50% of people in the UK identify as religious, Rob felt it was timely to document this aspect of society. ‘Many people of faith, initially wary, soon became warm, calm, confident, and welcoming,’ says Judges. ‘Some were very reticent, but in the end, I have captured a view of Faith that resonates deeply.’

Rob hopes these images will resonate with both people of faith and secular viewers, appreciating the strength and serenity that Faith imparts. The exhibition also continues to grow, and he invites anyone with ideas or from unrepresented faiths to contact him at rob@robjudges.com.



After a distinguished career in editorial photography, Rob Judges has shifted his focus to his own creative endeavours. He has worked on capturing ‘Community’ through the lens of a rural village hall and an urban community centre, documented the demolition of the iconic Radcliffe Infirmary, and created street, travel, and landscape photographs inspired by David Hockney. His work aims to make the ordinary interesting, capturing the quiet, mundane moments of everyday life. His exhibitions include ICA London, RPS Bath, and Oxford Arts Festival. He has received an Arts Council grant and published books such as “Village Hall” and “Reflections of Oxford.”

NEWMAN AS PREACHER

From 16-18 September 2024, the National Institute for Newman Studies will be hosting its Fall Conference in the University of Oxford. Marking the 200th anniversary of the beginning of St John Henry Newman's public ministry, the Institute will also host the following public lectures:

Monday, 16 September (University Church) at 2.15pm
"Newman in the University Pulpit - 'the management of hearts'"

Professor Eamon Duffy FSA FBA KSG
*Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity,
 University of Cambridge*

Tuesday, 17 September (St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore) at 2.30pm
"Preaching the Church Fathers for Good or for Ill"

The Revd Professor Ben King
*Duncalf-Villavoso Professor of Church History,
 Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas*

Wednesday, 18 September (St Clement's) at 2.30pm
"An Earnest Evangelical: The Beginnings of John Henry Newman's Preaching Ministry"

Professor Kenneth L. Parker
*Ryan Endowed Chair for Newman Studies,
 Duquesne University*

Members of the public are welcome to attend these lectures. Tickets are available from the University Church website.



Special Events

HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday 31st July, 22 August | 7.00pm - 9.00pm | Nave

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 Canon Dr Will Lamb, the Vicar, for an exclusive tour of the church as we explore some of its hidden highlights.

The tour continues with the beautiful office of Compline, sung in the Chancel and culminates with an exclusive tour of the Tower, finishing with elderflower and fizz in the Old Library. Tickets are £25, places are limited, so please book online.



ANNUAL INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP WALK

Thursday 27 June | 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Join us for a walk through the city centre with people of many faiths. We will begin our journey from the synagogue in North Oxford via St Giles Church and then on to the University Church in Radcliffe Square before ending our journey at the Central Mosque in East Oxford. This is a great community celebration and everyone is very welcome to join us.



THE OXEN ARE COMING!

6th July - 29th August

This summer, we are proud to be working with Sobell House, our local hospice, and hosting one of the Oxen, which will form part of the Oxtrail initiative. This sculpture trail in Oxford's city centre is made up of 31 bold and beautiful life-sized sculptures which will enable visitors to admire or 'ox-plore' the city in all its glory. There are a further 107 mini ox sculptures across the county. Each ox has been



intricately designed by local and international artists. For more information, please follow this link: <https://oxtrail2024.co.uk/> and please make a donation to support Sobell House. This institution plays a vital role in our city in providing patients and their loved ones with all the comfort, care and support they need when facing a terminal illness.



OPEN DOORS WEEKEND

13-15 September



HOLYWELL CEMETERY: TOURS

Saturday 14 September
Holywell Cemetery
1pm - 3.30pm

Holywell Cemetery is one of Oxford's best kept secrets – a haven of tranquillity and recollection 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 to the sound of harp music (weather permitting) for an unforgettable experience.



UNIVERSITY CHURCH: CANDLELIT TOUR

Friday 13 September | University Church
7.30pm - 9pm

Step into the heart of Oxford's history during the Oxford Open Doors weekend with a special guided tour of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. Places are limited so please book online.



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.



STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

**Monday 29th July | Old Library
10am-12noon**

Storytelling is one of the things that makes us human beings. Using stories from the Bible and from other cultures, we will spend a morning exploring what makes a good tale, and have a go at creating, writing and performing our own stories! Suitable for ages 7-12. Book a free place on Eventbrite.



God's Creativity

This summer, we are running a number of events for children and young people focused on nurturing creativity. Chapter 1 of Genesis tells us that when God created all things, God saw that it was good - come along and develop your creative powers and join in the goodness of creation.

LEGO CHURCH

**Tuesday 20th August | University Church
2.00-3.00pm**

Go bricks mad this August with our special service of building and making. Come along for an hour of informal worship and Lego building - you can let your imagination run free. Suitable from 4+, no booking needed.

GODLY PLAY

**Sunday 7 July, 4 August, 1 September | Old Library
10.30am - 11.15am**

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.



SECOND COFFEE

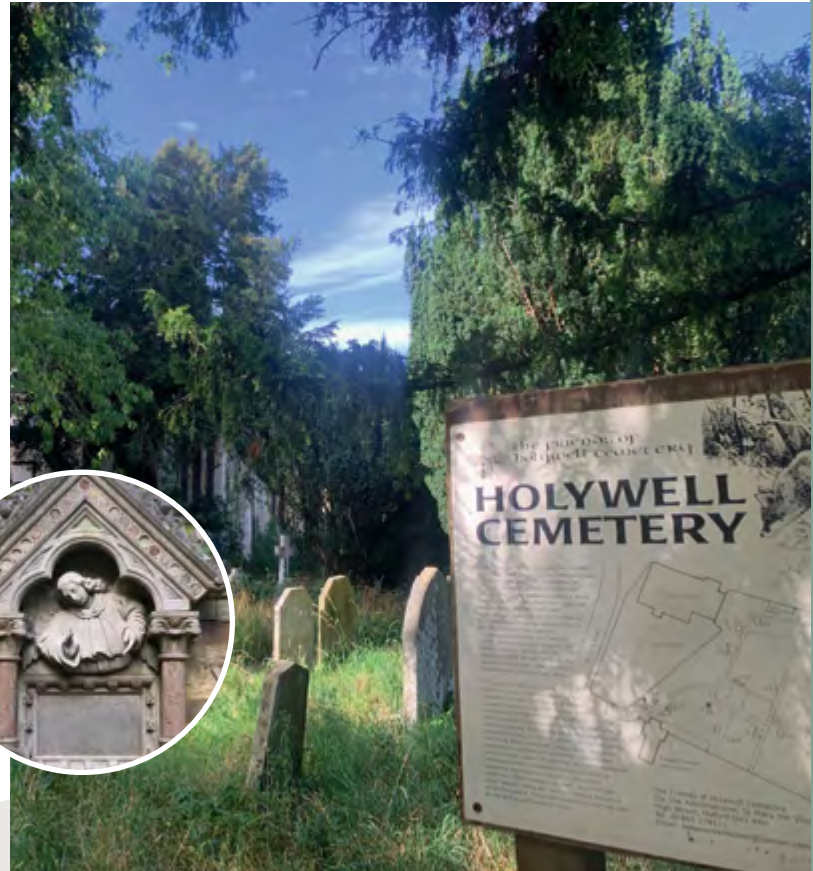
Sundays | 12noon - 1.00pm | Weston Library Cafe

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.

GARDENING DAYS

**Saturday 13 July, 10 August, 14 September
10.00am - 12.30pm | Holywell Cemetery**

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 Saturday 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 | 1.00pm - 1.45pm

If you are free during the lunch hour, come and join us at St Mary's for our lunchtime concerts. The programme includes chamber music, organ recitals, and the occasional jazz concert. Full details for each recital are on the website. You can also sign up to be notified of any changes via the website or by emailing admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

Thursday, 4 July	(John) Seok Shin
Thursday, 11 July	Abigail Chen
Thursday, 18 July	Diana Hinds
Thursday, 25 July	Yumeng Pan
Thursday, 1 August	Music Institute of Chicago Virtuoso Strings
Thursday, 8 August	Adrian Wang
Thursday, 15 August	To be confirmed
Thursday, 22 August	To be confirmed
Thursday, 29 August	To be confirmed
Thursday, 5 September	XinRu Chen
Thursday, 12 September	Masako Kamikawa
Thursday, 19 September	Anjulie Chen (piano) and Violist Xin He
Thursday, 26 September	Veta Velikhova

EVENING CONCERTS

6 July, 7.30pm	Opus 48 concert
27 July, 7.30pm	Corvus Consort Concert
29 July, 7.30pm	Oxford Philharmonic
2 August, 7.30pm	Oxford Philharmonic
28 September, 7.30pm	Oxford Sinfonia

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

Become a Patron at the University Church

The University Church of St Mary the Virgin is one of the oldest public buildings in Oxford. It remains the spiritual heart of the oldest University in the United Kingdom. It is the place where the University of Oxford began.

The Church remains open every single day of the year. It is a place which is open for prayer and worship. It is also a place where people can experience the beauty and heritage of this city, and enjoy hospitality and refreshment.

It costs over £2,500 every day to maintain this beautiful building, to promote music and the arts, and remain open as a place of welcome and hospitality for all. We receive no funding from the government, the University or the Diocese. We rely entirely on voluntary donations, while working hard to generate other sources of income.

Help keep the Church open for everyone

By becoming a Patron, you will not only be helping to keep this church open for everyone, you will be safeguarding a vital part of the city's heritage and joining a group of likeminded people who cherish this building and who care about its future.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Signing up to become a Patron could not be easier. Click the 'Donate' button on our website. Select the Patrons tab and then decide how you would like to make your payments. Patrons are invited to give £35 per annum (or £50 per annum for a couple). Alternatively, use the QR code.



In recognition of their generosity, patrons enjoy a special Candlelit Tour of the Church, drinks receptions after Easter and Christmas Carol Services, and a mailing of our What's On booklet which lists all the many events and services at the University Church. In addition, Patrons are invited to a special Patrons Gathering each year.

Services at the University Church

Sunday Services

23 June The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Dr Stephanie Burette
3.00pm Ordination of Priests at St Giles Church

30 June The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Very Revd Abi Thompson
5.00pm Solemn Evensong (Oxford Festival of the Arts)

7 July The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Naomi Gardom
3.30pm German Lutheran Service

14 July The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Professor William Whyte
3.30pm Choral Evensong

21 July The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

28 July The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am** Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Dr Andy Shamel
3.30pm Choral Evensong

4 August The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

11 August The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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

- 18 August** **Patronal Festival**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Max Kramer
3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 25 August** **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb
3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 1 September** **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby
3.30pm German Lutheran Service
- 8 September** **The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright
3.30pm Evensong
- 15 September** **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Preacher: The Revd Professor Ben King
3.30pm Choral Evensong (St Cross)
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb

22 September **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

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

29 September **The Feast of Michael and All Angels**

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

Weekday 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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