

A photograph of a large Gothic-style church building with a prominent spire, set against a blue sky with light clouds. The building features large, ornate windows and a complex roofline with many pinnacles. In the foreground, there are green trees and a traffic light.

UNIVERSITY  
CHURCH

WHAT'S ON

HILARY TERM 2025



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# A TOKEN OF TRUST

The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the world's first Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea of 325. This gathering of Christian bishops in Nicaea, now Iznik in present-day Turkey, was the first attempt to reach consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom, and to affirm the Christian faith in the triune God. One of the fruits of their labours was an early edition of what we now describe as the Nicene Creed.

We often describe this affirmation of faith as a 'Creed', using a word derived from the Latin word with which this text begins, 'Credo'. But of course the text originated in Greek, and this text was originally described in Greek as 'The Symbol of the Faith'.

This Greek word *symbolon* gives us the English word 'symbol' - and we might think of Christian symbolism and imagery - but the word has a rather more technical meaning in the ancient world. 'Symbolon' was a Greek word for a contract or agreement - from two Greek words, which mean to join together. It was the practice in the ancient world, when making an agreement or transaction, to divide a physical token, like a clay seal, in two. Each part was kept by the parties to the contract so that the two pieces could later be rejoined to verify and to authenticate the original agreement. By joining the two broken pieces together, the parties of the contract would identify their connection.

Displaying this small token was also a way in which relatives might show their kinship or a citizen might indicate their legitimacy (rather like a passport). So when the great Assembly or *ekklesia* met in ancient Athens, each citizen would be given a small token or *symbolon* that showed that they were a legitimate citizen. In order

to be paid for sitting on a jury, one returned this *symbolon* to the proper authorities at the end of the deliberations. In the context of a conflict, soldiers were also given a distinct *symbolon* or watchword, so that in disclosing it the other soldiers might know whether the person was friend or foe.

We find allusions to these different meanings in the writings of early Christian theologians. St Ambrose of Milan (c.339-297) explored the idea that a *symbolon* was some sort of 'agreement' - so the twelve Apostles agreed a summary of the Christian faith, putting it all together. Again, in the fourth century, a monk called Rufinus of Aquileia provided a short commentary on the Apostles' Creed. Rufinus noted the tradition of giving a *symbolon* or watchword to a fellow soldier. He suggested that similarly the Creed indicated whether you had embraced the true faith or not: 'for this reason, the tradition continues, the Creed is not written on paper or parchment, but is retained in the hearts of the faithful, that it may be certain that no one has learned it by reading, as is sometimes the case with unbelievers, but by tradition from the Apostles'. It was not simply an expression of belief, but also gave expression to a relationship. It was a token of trust.

The idea that the creed is a 'symbolon' provokes two simple reflections: first, the creed serves as 'a token of trust'. It describes the character of our relationship with God, the one who is, the mystery at the heart of our existence, the one who shows his face to us in Jesus Christ, the one who through the gift of the Spirit is closer to us than our own breathing.

The second thing to emphasise is that these clay tokens were often broken in two. The token we hold has a jagged edge. The rest is hidden from us. All we know is that the jagged edge of the clay seal would fit the jagged edge of the other.

I rather like this image of the 'symbolon', this divided token, because it reminds me that the language of the creed, like any theological language, is taking us to the very edge, the very frontier, of what we can know and say about God. When we say the creed, we know that its jagged edge offers us an outline, a glimpse of the sheer depth and range and otherness of the mystery of God. As we contemplate and study that jagged edge, it discloses the character of God without ever quite exhausting its meaning. As Jesus says: 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth' (John 15.12).

Austin Farrer puts this far more eloquently than I. He says, when we speak of the Trinity, this is all Christians know about the life of God: 'We can weigh it, and turn it over, and phrase it in a hundred ways; we can consider it in relation to a hundred things, can guard it against a hundred misconceptions. But it all comes down to this: this is all we know. And even then,... we cannot know it; it baffles understanding'. Farrer makes the point that we cannot 'think' the Trinity. We can never master the mystery of God. But as we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, let us celebrate 2025 as a 'Year of Faith'. May we explore again the riches of the Christian tradition and what it might have to teach us about the truth, goodness and beauty of God.

The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb, Vicar

## SANCTUARY IN OXFORD:

### HOPE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

10 March - 11 May 2025 | Adam de Brome Chapel

Curated by the University of Oxford's Sanctuary Community and local charity Asylum Welcome, in collaboration with key partners, this exhibition celebrates the powerful spirit of welcome that defines Oxford's sanctuary movement. It highlights the collective efforts to foster belonging, hope, and opportunity for people from displacement backgrounds, including refugees and asylum seekers, amidst the challenges of a hostile environment.

Through art, stories, and photographs, the display reveals the courage, creativity, and resilience of those who have found safety in Oxford. It also reflects the unity and compassion that underpin the city's commitment to being a place of sanctuary, even in difficult times.

The exhibition encourages visitors to consider the part we can all play in building a community where everyone feels valued and supported. By showcasing these narratives, it reminds us that acts of empathy and solidarity, both large and small, can create meaningful change and strengthen the bonds that unite us all.



## REGULAR EVENTS

### 1 CORINTHIANS: LOVE, LUST, AND LITIGATION

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

St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is a passionate appeal to a fractious community to learn to live together in faith, hope and love, for 'the greatest of these is love'. The Church in Corinth was arguing over the place of women and riven by inequality; worse still, it was becoming notorious for its lawsuits and scandals. In his letter, Paul offered the Corinthians a vision of Christian wisdom and communion that could overcome those divisions, yet it is mixed with sometimes challenging views, including on authority. Join us as we discuss Paul's words and what they might mean for our own Church today.



## SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday lunchtimes | Old Library | 12noon - 1.00pm | 19 January, 2 March

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.

### RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Sunday 19 January | Old Library | 12noon - 1.00pm

Professor Dean L Winslow, Professor of Medicine and Paediatrics, Stanford University, has worked at the heart of critical global challenges. In early 2021, he led US COVID-19 testing and diagnostic efforts. After the fall of Kabul, he was the Centre for Disease Control senior advisor, helping to resettle the 124,000 Afghan refugees who fled Afghanistan. He also served as Chief Medical Officer for the Southwest border migrant health task force. Dean will reflect on his work and the ways his own Christian faith has helped him to respond to these demanding situations.

### WALKING IS FOR THE BODY, PILGRIMAGE IS FOR THE SOUL

Sunday 2 March | Old Library | 12noon - 1.00pm

After completing a PhD at Cambridge on how singing forms community, Dr Guy Hayward co-founded the British Pilgrimage Trust, inspiring a renewed enthusiasm for pilgrimage in contemporary Britain, and publishing a landmark guide to *Britain's Pilgrim Places*. The British Pilgrimage Trust believe that Pilgrimage is a pathway for practices that elevate the experience of moving through a landscape to one that is also an inner journey. It is a pathway that should be open, accessible, and welcoming to all.

## POETRY HOUR

**Wednesdays during University Term | Old Library 5.30pm – 6.30pm | 29 January, 12 February, 26 February, 12 March**

Join us for an hour as we explore the poems of the great visionary, writer and artist, William Blake. If you are interested in his ideas, please join us. Poetry Hour is open to anyone interested in exploring and/or writing poetry, and is hosted by David Barr.



## CANDLELIT TOURS

**Wednesday 12 February & Tuesday 11 March  
University Church | 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 Canon Dr William Lamb 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.

## DEATH CAFE

**Friday 24th January | Old Library  
6.00pm - 8.00pm**

Following the positive response last term, we are holding another Death Cafe this term. Gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. This is a completely open discussion with no agenda, no expectations, and no right answers. Death Cafes have been running across the world since 2011, and their aim is 'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'.



## CREDO: A TOKEN OF TRUST

**Wednesday Evenings | Online | 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

The Nicene Creed is at the heart of our faith as Christians, but the faith it expresses is complex and nuanced. In these sessions we will unpack the history and theology of this central text.

**26th February:** What do we mean when we say 'We believe'?

**12th March:** I believe in One God

**19th March:** Jesus Christ, Very God from Very God

**26th March:** The Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life

**2nd April:** The Creed and the Church

For some, this will form part of preparation for baptism at Easter and confirmation at Pentecost, but this is suitable for all enquirers and those wishing to go deeper into their faith. To find out more, contact [naomi.gardom@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.gardom@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk)

**THE DEVILS’ GOSPELS: FINDING GOD IN FOUR GREAT ATHEIST BOOKS**

**Tuesday 28 January | Old Library | 7.30pm - 8.30pm**

The *Devils’ Gospels*, published in January, started in a youth discussion group at the University Church. Each month Chris Gasson, a member of our congregation, would introduce a different atheist book to the teenagers to see where the discussion would lead. This book is the fruit of those conversations. The author invites us to reflect on whether we can find religious inspiration in the writings of atheists. How do we respond to their challenge? What do their writings tell us about their understanding of God and ours? How do we explore the possibility of faith in an increasingly secular world?

**TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Wednesday 5 February | Old Library | 5.30pm - 7.00pm**

British imperial policy bears much responsibility for decades of conflict between Israel and Palestine. A panel will discuss the role Britain can play towards resolving this conflict. It will comprise Dr Tony Klug, special advisor on the Middle East to the Oxford Research Group, historian Dr Peter Shambrook, author of ‘Policy of Deceit: Britain and Palestine 1914-1939’, and Dr Imad Karam, award-winning documentary filmmaker, who comes from Gaza. The panellists are all working for peace with justice, security and equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis.

**NICAEEA 2025**

**NICAEEA 2025: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD**

**Thursday 13 February | Old Library | 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea of 325, which gave us most of what we know today as the Nicene Creed. Its anniversary offers an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on this affirmation of faith. Come and listen to the Revd Canon Dr Andrew Davison, the University’s new Regius Professor of Divinity, explore what it means to say the Nicene Creed today. In the first of three lectures, held across the three terms of the 2025 calendar year, Professor Davison will address the first portion of the Creed, on ‘One God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth’.

**NICAEEA 2025: ITS LIFE AND AFTERLIFE**

**Saturday 22 February | Old Library  
10.00am - 12noon**

As we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, we are joined by eminent historians and theologians to discuss the backstory of the Council which crystallised the formation of Christian doctrine. The Nicene Creed remains a living document, and has been discussed and disputed down the centuries. We will discover how it has been received at different times in the Church’s history, and ask what the future might hold for this vital document of Christian unity, in an age of dispute and fragmentation.



## CANTERBURY LUNCHES

**Tuesdays | Weeks 1 - 7**  
**Old Library | 12.45pm - 1.50pm**

Each term on Tuesdays, we welcome students to a sandwich lunch in the Old Library for informal conversations about stimulating and topical issues. This term we will discuss everything from Taiwanese politics to the musical history of the University Church itself. A free sandwich lunch is provided just a stone's throw from the Bodleian Library. All students are welcome and further details are available on the website.



## SECOND COFFEE

**Sundays | Weston Library Cafe | 12noon - 1.00pm**

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. 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.

## 8 | UNIVERSITY CHURCH

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### REPARATIONS NOW!

**Thursday 13 March**  
**Old Library | 5.00pm - 6.00pm**



In his book, *Britain's Slavery Debt: Reparations Now!*, Professor Michael Banner offers a reasoned and concise discussion of the historical, ethical, and practical issues surrounding reparations. Come and join in the discussion. *The Revd Professor Michael Banner is Dean of Chapel and Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge, and a former Bampton Lecturer.*

### CRANMER COMMEMORATION

**Friday 21 March | University Church | 11.00am - 4.00pm**

Each year, the Prayer Book Society sponsors a day conference to mark the martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury from 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 Mattins

*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson, Dean of Chapel, St John's College, Cambridge. This will be followed by a procession to the Martyrs' Memorials.

*The service is followed by lunch and a lecture.*

*In order to book for lunch, please go to the website of the Prayer Book Society: <https://www.pbs.org.uk>.*



**CHILDREN'S HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS**

**Saturday 4 January at 11.00am & Saturday 22 February at 4.00pm | University Church**

Come and learn more about the incredible, rich, and sometimes gory history of the University Church with Dr Sarah Mortimer. Suitable for children over 6, accompanied by an adult. Book a free place online.

**FREE HALF TERM TRAIL**

**Saturday 15 February - Sunday 23 February | University Church 10.00am - 4.30pm**

Thomas Cranmouse has lost his hat! Help him find it and solve riddles along the way as part of this free family activity for half term. Take your completed trail to the shop to receive a prize!



**EXPLORE EASTER**

**Saturday 13 April | University Church 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Join us for an afternoon of craft, storytelling, songs and prayer, as we prepare to celebrate the amazing story of Holy Week and Easter. Suitable for children of all ages, accompanied by an adult.



**GODLY PLAY**

**First Sunday of the Month | Old Library | January 19, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4 | 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.

**CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S**

**Every Sunday | Newman Room 10.30am - 11.30am**

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 PILGRIMAGE

**Saturday 25th January | The Perch | 12noon - 4.00pm**

On Saturday January 25th the Church celebrates St Paul's conversion to Christianity, while he was on a journey to Damascus. A group of pilgrims from St Mary's will be marking the day with a short (roughly 3 mile) walk from St Margaret of Antioch's church in Binsey to St Frideswide's church in the Botley Road, and on to St Mary the Virgin University Church. The event will start with lunch together at The Perch at 12noon and finish at approximately 4.00pm at the University Church. Sign up on Eventbrite.

### PARISH LUNCHES

**Sunday 9 February & 9 March | Old Library  
12noon - 2.00pm**

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



### COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS

**Wednesdays during University  
Terms | De Brome Chapel  
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 11 January,  
8 February, 8 March, 12 April  
Holywell Cemetery  
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 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](mailto:admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk) to let us know that you plan to join us.

**FREE LUNCHTIME RECITALS**

**Thursday Lunchtimes | University Church | 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>Thursday 9 January</b>	<b>PAUL MNATSAKANOV</b>
<b>Thursday 16 January</b>	<b>PIANO QUINTET</b>
<b>Thursday 23 January</b>	<b>IKUKO INOGUCCHI</b>
<b>Thursday 30 January</b>	<b>JASON MA AND JULIAN CHAN</b>
<b>Thursday 6 February</b>	<b>YUN JI KWAK</b>
<b>Thursday 13 February</b>	<b>XINRU CHEN</b>
<b>Thursday 20 February</b>	<b>WYATT LI</b>
<b>Thursday 27 February</b>	<b>KATYA GRABOVA</b>
<b>Thursday 6 March</b>	<b>DOWNE HOUSE</b>
<b>Thursday 13 March</b>	<b>ADRIAN WANG TRIO</b>
<b>Thursday 20 March</b>	<b>NO RECITAL TODAY</b>
<b>Thursday 27 March</b>	<b>ADRIAN WANG TRIO</b>
<b>Thursday 3 April</b>	<b>TAMMAS SLATER</b>
<b>Thursday 10 April</b>	<b>HAITONG FU</b>



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

# SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH

**5 JANUARY**

**EPIPHANY**

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Hannah Cartwright  
**3.30pm** German Lutheran Service

**12 JANUARY**

**THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb  
**3.30pm** Epiphany Carol Service

**16 JANUARY**

**8.00am** Latin Communion

**19 JANUARY**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* Dr Sarah Mortimer  
**3.30pm** Latin Litany with Sermon  
*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Melanie Marshall

**26 JANUARY**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

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

**2 FEBRUARY**

**THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)**

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with Baptism  
*Preacher:* The Rt Revd Christopher Foster  
**3.30pm** German Lutheran Service

**9 FEBRUARY**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

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

**16 FEBRUARY**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (SEPTUAGESIMA)**

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with  
 University Sermon  
*Preacher:* Dr Mary McAleese  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

**23 FEBRUARY**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (SEXAGESIMA)**

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with  
 University Sermon  
*Preacher:* The Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth  
**3.30pm** Choral Evensong

# LENT AND EASTER AT ST MARY'S

## 2 MARCH THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (QUINQUAGESIMA)

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott  
**3.30pm** German Lutheran Service

## 5 MARCH ASH WEDNESDAY

**12.15pm** Holy Eucharist  
**8.00pm** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Joshua Brocklesby

## 9 MARCH THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

## 16 MARCH THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Naomi Gardom  
**3.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

## 21 MARCH CRANMER COMMEMORATION

**11.00am** Choral Matins (Book of Common Prayer 1662) *with the Prayer Book Society*  
*Preacher:* The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson

## 23 MARCH THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* Dr Sarah Mortimer  
**3.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

## 30 MARCH THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**8.30am** Holy Eucharist  
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Rt Revd Vivienne Faull  
**3.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

## 6 APRIL THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)

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

**13 APRIL****PALM SUNDAY****8.30am** Holy Eucharist**10.30am** Sung Eucharist with Procession of Palms*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**17.00** St John's Passion at Merton College**14 APRIL****HOLY MONDAY****8.00pm** Compline with Address*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**15 APRIL****HOLY TUESDAY****8.00pm** Compline with Address*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**16 APRIL****HOLY WEDNESDAY****8.00pm** Compline with Address*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**17 APRIL****MAUNDY THURSDAY****8.00pm** Choral Eucharist of the Last Supper*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**18 APRIL****GOOD FRIDAY****10.30am** Stations of the Cross**12.00pm** The Good Friday Devotion*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**2.00pm** The Liturgy*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**20 APRIL****EASTER DAY****8.30am** Holy Eucharist**10.30am** Choral Eucharist*Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John**3.30pm** Easter Carol Service

## HOLY WEEK PREACHER

The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John was born and brought up in the Rhondda Valley. He read Classics and Modern Languages at Hertford College, Oxford, then Theology at St Stephen's House. After a curacy in Cardiff, he returned to be Chaplain of Brasenose College and then was Dean of Divinity at Magdalen from 1984 to 1991. He was subsequently a parish priest in South London, Canon Chancellor and Theologian of Southwark Cathedral, and Director of Ministerial Training in the Southwark Diocese. He has been partnered to Grant Holmes since 1976. In 2003 he was appointed Bishop of Reading but forced to withdraw, and instead was appointed Dean of St Albans, where he remained until retirement in 2021. He is now Associate Chaplain of St George's Paris, and is an Honorary Fellow of Hertford College. His books include *The Meaning in the Miracles*, and *Permanent, Faithful, Stable: Christian Same-Sex Marriage*.



# UNIVERSITY SERMONS HILARY TERM 2025

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 16 JANUARY HOLY COMMUNION (LATIN). AT ST MARY'S AT 8.00AM

*Celebrant:* The Reverend Professor William Whyte, Professor of Social and Architectural History, St John's College

## SUNDAY 19 JANUARY LATIN LITANY AND SERMON. AT ST MARY'S AT 3.30PM.

*Preacher:* The Reverend Dr Melanie Marshall, Balliol College

## SUNDAY 26 JANUARY MACBRIDE SERMON. AT HERTFORD COLLEGE AT 5.45PM

*Preacher:* The Reverend Canon Dr William Lamb, Vicar, University Church of St Mary the Virgin

## SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY SERMON ON THE GRACE OF HUMILITY. AT BRASENOSE COLLEGE AT 6.00PM.

*Preacher:* The Reverend Canon Leanne Roberts, Dean of Clergy Well-being, Diocese of Southwark

## SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY UNIVERSITY SERMON. AT ST MARY'S AT 10.30AM.

*Preacher:* Dr Mary McAleese, Chancellor, Trinity College Dublin

## SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY UNIVERSITY SERMON. AT ST MARY'S AT 10.30AM.

*Preacher:* The Very Reverend Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

## SUNDAY 9 MARCH SERMON FOR THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN. AT ORIEL COLLEGE AT 6.00PM.

*Preacher:* The Reverend Dr Nicholas Moore, Warden of Cranmer Hall, Durham

## 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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