

UNIVERSITY  
CHURCH

WHAT'S ON

TRINITY TERM 2026



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- An aerial photograph of a historic city street, likely in Oxford, England. The street is lined with traditional stone buildings and features a prominent church spire in the background. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing a list of activities. The street below shows a red double-decker bus, a blue bus, and several pedestrians.
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## OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Trinity Term sees the introduction of our new temporary 'pop up' cafe in the churchyard in Radcliffe Square. We are delighted to welcome 'Gatineau' as our partners in this new and exciting venture.

Gatineau is a well-established local artisan cafe and patisserie. Each day, there will be delicious food and drinks from 8.30am - 5.00pm. With tables and chairs in the garden, visitors will be able to enjoy the churchyard and the fabulous views of the Radcliffe Camera. We want people to be able to enjoy this space. Colleagues from Gatineau are excited to be working with us, and they want to ensure that every visit 'feels like a small blessing'. It is a joy to be working with them.

Inevitably people are curious about our plans for the future, and more will be shared as the public consultation process develops. The Congregation House will undergo a substantial restoration. This will include the replacement of the floor with new insulation and a new heating system. This will reduce our carbon footprint and improve the energy performance of the building. We also plan to remove gas from the kitchens. All our electricity is now drawn from renewable sources.

We will also be expanding the kitchen and installing new WCs. We know that the existing facilities have been unsatisfactory for a number of years, and we want to ensure that they are improved. Staff welfare is also a priority. There is some work to do on the ventilation of the kitchen, and we must ensure that the building enables the caterers to meet the highest standards in food hygiene. The future cafe will provide vital income for the upkeep and maintenance of this historic building.

This forms the first phase of our development plan. The second phase will involve the restoration of the churchyard itself. We want to ensure that these developments enhance the public realm in Radcliffe Square. We need to improve accessibility on the north side of the church. There are currently steps down into the churchyard and steps up to the tower entrance. With very sensitive landscaping, our architects are confident that we will be able to create a level pathway, creating a greater sense of connection with Radcliffe Square and a genuine sense of arrival at this major historic landmark.

With new planting in the garden, we hope to improve the biodiversity of the area, and create a stunning environment for the many visitors to the University Church and its precincts.

All of this will take some time, but we can now look forward to what the future will bring, and to sharing our further plans with you.



## THE BOOK OF JOB: A BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday 28 April, 5 May, 12 May,  
19 May | 12:45 - 1:30pm | Old Library

The Reverend Sorrel Shamel-Wood is excited to be leading the bible study group for Trinity Term. We will be exploring the Book of Job from the Hebrew Bible. This complex text will provide a springboard for discussing a range of topics including human suffering, redaction history, the development of monotheism, comparisons with near contemporary ancient literature, feminism, environmental theology and poetic techniques.



### POETRY GROUP

Tuesdays during  
University Term 5.00pm  
- 6.30pm | 5 May, 19 May,  
2 June | Old Library

Poetry Group is open to anyone interested in exploring and/or writing poetry, and is hosted by Tess Blenkinsop. Join us in the Old Library as we explore the poetry of a number of writers, and encourage the creativity of one another.

## SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday lunchtimes | 12noon - 1.00pm | Old Library

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.

### 'BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED'

Sunday 3 May | Old Library  
12noon - 1.00pm

As Christians we are encouraged to pray for others, for ourselves and for society. But what do we really believe and expect when we pray for healing? In a world of self-help hacks, holistic therapies and conventional medicine, can miracles still happen and what does this mean for our understanding of disability and chronic illness? Join the Revd Hannah Cartwright to explore together the scriptural basis for anointing and the laying on of hands, and the joys, pitfalls, and practicalities of praying for healing.

### 'SAFE, RESPECTED, UNDERSTOOD': 30 YEARS OF WELCOMING ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

Sunday 24 May | 12noon - 1.00pm  
Old Library

For three decades Asylum Welcome has offered information, advice and practical support to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants living in Oxfordshire. Emma Jones will speak to us about how Asylum Welcome help adults, young people and families to feel safe, respected and understood as members of our diverse community.

## SACRED STORIES AND THE PLANETARY CHALLENGES OF TODAY

Friday 5 June | 5.30 - 7.00pm | University Church

Keynote address from the renowned theologian and philosopher, David Bentley Hart, with responses from a multifaith panel.

## IMAGES OF HOLINESS: PICTURING PRAYER

Thursday 11 June | 2.30pm - 4.00pm | Western Art Print Room, Ashmolean Museum

From Books of Hours to altarpieces and frescoes, works of art have long been used to inspire and sustain private and public devotion. In turn, images of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and saints such as Francis of Assisi and Teresa of Ávila enable us to reflect on different experiences of prayer. This workshop in the Ashmolean, led by Revd Canon Dr William Lamb and Katherine Wodehouse,

will use prints and drawings to reflect on the relationship between examining images and prayerful attentiveness, exploring depictions of prayer from the fifteenth to the twentieth century. Please sign up for this session online.

*Picture: The Virgin and Child with Saints and a Donor, leaf from a Book of Hours, Rouen, 1480 © Ashmolean Museum*



## ANNUAL INTERFAITH WALK OF PEACE

Thursday 11 June | Various locations | 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Join us for a walk through the city centre with people of many faiths as we commit ourselves to peace and justice. 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.



## EQUALLY OXFORD: COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE

Tuesdays | 6.30pm - 8.00pm | 14 April, 9 June, 8 September at The University Church and 12 May, 14 July, 13 October at Littlemore Church.

Faced with rising inequality, and compelled by the hopeful vision of Mary's Magnificat, Littlemore Church and the University Church have been working together with friends from across the city to bring about meaningful change. If you would like to be part of a small community seeking to make a big difference in the city through prayer and practical action, join us for our next meal and meeting as we seek to explore what it means to be more 'equally Oxford'. Email: [hannah.cartwright@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.cartwright@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk).

## THE SOUL IN PARAPHRASE

Tuesday Evenings | 8.00pm - 9.00pm | Old Library (Hybrid)

In this series of conversations, the clergy of the University Church will continue to explore aspects of Christian discipleship, taking as our cue and inspiration a poem on Prayer, written by the Anglican priest and poet, George Herbert.

- 5 May **Something Understood: Prayer**
- 12 May **The Church's Banquet: Community**
- 19 May **Heaven in Ordinary: Justice**
- 26 May **Heart in Pilgrimage: Service**

Whether you are exploring faith for the first time, or preparing for baptism at Easter and Confirmation on Trinity Sunday, this course of study is suitable for all enquirers and those wishing to go deeper into their faith. You can join us in person or online. To find out more, contact [vicar@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vicar@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk)

## BAMPTON LECTURES

### BEGINNING WITH CREATION

Tuesday 19 & 26 May | 10.00am & 11.30am  
University Church

In these lectures, Professor Janet Martin Soskice will argue that the Christian doctrine of creation has been neglected to damaging effect. Counter to a tide of criticisms, Professor Soskice will suggest that, if we begin with a robust account the doctrine of Creation and unfold the mystery of the Divine economy from there, Christianity is both more plausible and more interesting than popular accounts might suggest – in short, gone is the so-called 'disenchanted universe' and you can believe in angels, the resurrection of the dead, miracles and all kinds of things you believed anyway but felt sheepish for doing do. A weak protology (account of beginnings) leads to a weak eschatology and, after a first lecture asking whether we have forgotten God, the Creator, the second lecture is on the resurrection of the body (our bodies), the third on what it is to 'be in Christ', especially in Paul's theology and how this relates to participation and deification, and the final lecture on what 'beginning with creation' might mean for a cosmic Christology and God's love for all creatures.



### About the Lecturer

The Bampton Lecturer for 2026 is Professor Janet Martin Soskice. Dr Soskice is Professor Emerita of Philosophical Theology, University of Cambridge, and Fellow Emerita, Jesus College, Cambridge, where she served for 30 years. She is currently the William K. Warren Distinguished Research Professor of Catholic Theology at Duke University.

### Lecture 1 "Have we forgotten God the Creator?"

Tuesday 19 May at 10.00am at the University Church

### Lecture 2 "Believing in the Resurrection of the Body"

Tuesday 19 May at 11.30am at the University Church

### Lecture 3 "Being the Body of Christ"

Tuesday 26 May at 10.00am at the University Church

### Lecture 4 "The Cross as the Tree of Life"

Tuesday 26 May at 11.30am at the University Church

## ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

9 April, 7 May, 4 June | 5.00pm - 7.00pm  
Bodleian Library and University Church



Explore the fascinating history of the University of Oxford on this exclusive evening tour of the Bodleian Library and the University Church. Step inside the University of Oxford's central library and learn how it grew from a single book collection into one of the world's largest and most respected library systems. You'll enjoy after-hours access to the beautiful Duke Humfrey's Library, the Bodleian's oldest library room. The tour then proceeds to the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. Here you'll trace the roots of Oxford's University, from its early days to its development into a world-renowned institution. Walk through this historic church and discover the key moments that shaped the University's story. Your tour will include a captivating choral performance and conclude with drinks. Places are limited, so please book online.



## BABY AND TODDLER STAY AND PLAY

Tuesday 5 May, 2 June and 7 July | 2.00 - 4.00pm | University Church

Join us in the Chancel for a relaxed baby and toddler play session, with songs and a story. For under 5s and their parents/carers.

## MAY HALF-TERM CHILDREN'S DROP-IN PENTECOST ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 27 May | 10.00 - 11.30am | Chancel

Join us for a morning of craft, storytelling, songs and prayer, as we celebrate the amazing story of Pentecost. Ideal for children ages 3-11.

## GODLY PLAY

First Sunday of the Month | 3 May, 7 June, 5 July | 10.30am - 11.15am | Old Library

Godly Play is an inclusive, child-centred approach to Christian education informed by Montessori approaches. Ideal for children ages 3-10, who should attend with a grown-up.

## SAPLINGS

Third Sunday of the Month | 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 17 July | 10.30am - 11.15am  
Old Library

Saplings takes place monthly in the Old Library during the first 45 minutes of the 10.30am Sung Eucharist. It includes Godly Play, Lego Church and other child-focused approaches to Christian spirituality and is particularly suitable for children aged 3-10 years old and their families.

## CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

Every Sunday | 10.30am - 11.30am | Newman Room

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.

## STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

### 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. To join us, meet in the De Brome Chapel after the 10:30 service.



## PARISH LUNCH

Sunday 31 May | 12noon - 2.00pm | Old Library

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



## COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS

Wednesdays during University Terms  
11.15am - 12.00noon | De Brome Chapel

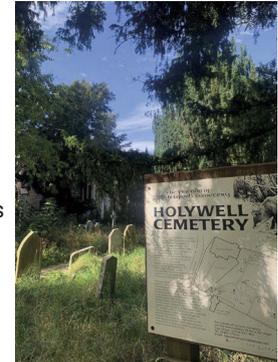
Come and join us from 14th January, for coffee and doughnuts, as well as company and conversation, in the De Brome Chapel from 11.15am. All are very welcome.



## GARDENING DAYS

Second Saturday of the month | 11 April, 9 May,  
13 June | 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](mailto:admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk) to let us know that you plan to join us.



## CONCERTS

### FREE LUNCHTIME RECITALS

Thursday Lunchtimes | 1.00pm - 1.45pm  
University Church

If you are in Oxford 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.

For details about all concerts during Trinity Term, please visit our website.

# SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH

## 19 APRIL THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* Canon Dr Judith Maltby  
 3.30pm Choral Evensong

## 23 APRIL

8.00am Latin Communion

## 26 APRIL THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood  
 3.30pm Choral Evensong

## 3 MAY THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Choral Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Hannah Cartwright  
 3.30pm German Lutheran Service  
*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Sebastian Fuhrmann

## 10 MAY THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Choral Eucharist with  
 University Sermon  
*Preacher:* Professor Lord Tarassenko  
 3.30pm Choral Evensong

## 14 MAY ASCENSION DAY

9.00am Beating of the Bounds  
 6.00pm Sung Eucharist  
 at Merton College  
*Preacher:* The Revd Alan Ramsey

## 17 MAY THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

## 24 MAY THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

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

## 31 MAY TRINITY SUNDAY

8.30am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Choral Eucharist with  
 Baptism and Confirmation  
*Preacher:* The Lord Bishop of Oxford  
 3.30pm Choral Evensong

## 7 JUNE THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.30am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Choral Eucharist with  
 University Sermon  
*Preacher:* Professor Peter Davidson  
 3.30pm German Lutheran Service  
*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Sebastian Fuhrmann

## 14 JUNE THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

## 21 JUNE THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

## 28 JUNE THE FEAST OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

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

### DAILY SERVICES

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 12.15pm Holy Eucharist

# 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 23 APRIL

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

*Celebrant:* The Revd Dr Stephanie Burette, Chaplain, Lady Margaret Hall and Corpus Christi College

## SUNDAY 26 APRIL

### ST MARK'S DAY SERMON. AT MAGDALEN COLLEGE AT 6.00PM

*Preacher:* The Revd Professor Mark Harris, Andreas Idreos Chair in Science and Religion; Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre in Science and Religion

## SUNDAY 10 MAY

### COMMEMORATION DAY SERMON. AT ST MARY'S AT 10.30AM

*Preacher:* Professor Lord Tarassenko, President, Reuben College

## SUNDAY 24 MAY

### UNIVERSITY SERMON (WHIT SUNDAY). AT THE CATHEDRAL AT 11AM

*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Cally Hammond, Dean and Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

## SUNDAY 31 MAY

### UNIVERSITY SERMON (TRINITY SUNDAY). AT THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE AT 6.15PM

*Preacher:* The Reverend Fergus Butler-Gallie, Vicar of St Mary's Charlbury

## SUNDAY 7 JUNE

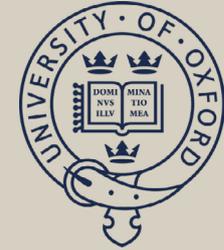
### UNIVERSITY SERMON. AT ST MARY'S AT 10.30AM

*Preacher:* Professor Peter Davidson, Campion Hall

## SUNDAY 22 JUNE

### ST JOHN BAPTIST'S DAY SERMON. AT MAGDALEN COLLEGE AT 10.00AM

*Preacher:* The Revd Dr Charlie Bącznyk-Bell, Forensic Psychiatrist and Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge



## 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.

**Vicar** | The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb  
vicar@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

**Associate Vicar** | The Revd Hannah Cartwright  
hannah.cartwright@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

**Associate Priest** | The Revd Alan Ramsey  
alan.ramsey@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

**Assistant Curate** | The Revd Naomi Gardom  
The Revd Naomi Gardom is currently on maternity leave.

**Children, Families & Schools Chaplain**  
The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood  
sorrel.shamel-wood@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

**Director of Music** | Robert Howarth  
robert.howarth@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

**Operations Manager** | Patrick Croom  
patrick.croom@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

**Administrator** | Jenny Shearan  
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**Events Officer** | Hollie Goodwin  
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**Safeguarding Officer** | Judith Pettersen  
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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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