

**The Parish Magazine
St Andrew's Church
Old Headington**



October 2020

50p

PARISH DIRECTORY

www.standrewsheadington.co.uk

Enquiries about marriage and baptism should be made directly to the Vicar, by telephone or email.

The Clergy will gladly visit and (if requested) bring Holy Communion to people who are ill at home or in hospital, by arrangement.

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THE NORMAN ARCH is published on the last Saturday of each month.

The parish magazine is named after the splendid Norman chancel arch in the church.

Editor	Fr Darren McFarland
Sub-Editor	Vacant

Deadline for next issue: 20th of each month

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October Calendar

1	Th	Eucharist		7.30pm
2	F			none
3	S			none
4	Sun	TRINITY 17		
			BCP	8.00am
		Parish Eucharist		10.00am
5	M	Eucharist		9.30am
6	T	William Tyndale		none
7	W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
8	Th	Eucharist		7.30pm
9	F			none
10	S	Paulinus, Bishop of York		none
11	Sun	TRINITY 18		
		HARVEST SUNDAY	BCP	8.00am
		Parish Eucharist		10.00am
12	M	Edward the Confessor		
		Eucharist		9.30am
13	T	Wilfred of Ripon, Bishop		none
14	W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
15	Th	Teresa of Avila		
		Eucharist		7.30pm
16	F			none
17	S	Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch		none
18	Sun	LUKE the EVANGELIST		
			BCP	8.00am
		Parish Eucharist		10.00am
19	M	Henry Martyn		
		Eucharist		9.30am
20	T			none
21	W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
22	Th	Eucharist		7.30pm
23	F			none
24	S			none
25	Sun	TRINITY 20		
			BCP	8.00am
		Parish Eucharist		10.00am
26	M	Alfred the Great		
		Eucharist		9.30am
27	T			none
28	W	Simon & Jude, apostles		
		Eucharist		10.00am
29	Th	James Hannington, Bishop		
		Eucharist		7.30pm
30	F			none
31	S			none

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor. No responsibility can be taken for advertising statements published.

From the Registers

Marriage

18th September Jennifer Rajaratnam & Miguel Escudero

Baptism

27th September Yao Oscar Yagate

Funeral

11th September Caroline Roberston

Interment of Ashes

9th September Barry Silcock
16th September May Lee



SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

Harvest Flowers

Donations for Harvest flowers are very welcome. There are baskets at the back of church and in the baptistery or pop them through the Vicarage door.

Harvest Gifts

Produce (fresh & tinned etc) & toiletries (toothbrushes, shower gels etc) for Salvation Army, Food Bank & O'Hanlon House should be brought to the church room on Sunday 4th October or to the church on the morning of Saturday 10th October.

Please ensure that there is at least 6 months "best before" on all relevant foods.

Front Cover

*St Luke the Evangelist by El Greco (1541-1614)
Oil on canvas.*

It is currently held by the Indianapolis Museum of Art in Indianapolis, Indiana.

St Luke's Day is on 18th October.

From the Vicar.....

Dear friends,

On Sunday 20th September we said farewell to Fr Tim, marking the end of his training at St Andrew's with a painting of the church and a cheque. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We live constantly with speculation and uncertainty around new COVID-19 restrictions. One recent change that has impacted the Church is the reduction from 30 to 15 in the number who can attend a wedding but no change to funeral services. The guidance around choir rehearsals has been confusing and conflicting, so I want to say "thank you" to Richard and the choir for all that they have been contributing to the Parish Eucharist. We now have the Gloria, Gradual Alleluia, Sanctus and Benedictus sung by the choir in addition to an anthem. And we have a risk assessment which hopefully will not be set to music!

Bishop Steven has been encouraging people, if they are able, to return to church. I would guess that a majority of St Andrew's members have returned. However, if you have yet to return to public worship, are nervous about doing so, and would value a conversation about it, please get in touch with me. While I have no desire to tempt fate a number of people have commented on how safe church feels. Remember that if the 10am seems daunting then come to the 8am or a weekday Eucharist.

As you will have heard the Bishop has agreed that St Andrew's will train another curate and the appointment process is almost concluded. In the next couple of weeks I hope to be able to reveal the identity of the person who will be joining us as a deacon in July 2021. In the meantime please remember that the stipendiary staffing level has been halved and that a new academic year begins for Mthr Jenn at the beginning of next month. We owe so much to Mthr Jenn for the amount of time and energy she gives to the parish in addition to her full-time job.

We have decided for now to delay the re-starting of Young Church and will continue to provide activity packs each week. These are available in church and on-line.

Please keep St Andrew's and the other schools in our parish in your prayers and also remember those coping with the return of students to our city's universities and colleges.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Darren

ALL SOULS

A Service of Remembrance and Reflection

**Sunday 1st November
3pm**



Please join us to remember departed loved ones and to light a candle and plant a spring bulb.

Flag News

October is quite a busy month for the flagpole!

19th October – St Frideswide's Day - we fly the Diocesan flag that features St Frideswide (Patron Saint of Oxford) & her two companions.



21st October – Trafalgar Day – we fly the Union Flag in memory of Nelson's famous victory in 1805.

24th October – United Nations Day – we fly the United Nations flag, kindly gifted by Bill Upcott in memory of his Mother.

Tim Cadel

Fr Tim's Farewell



Fr Darren pays tribute to Fr Tim

At the end of the services on 20th September the parish formally marked the end of Fr Tim's curacy and his time with us at St Andrew's. He began his remarks with some words from Paul's first letter to Timothy, chapter 6, verses 20 & 21 which he thought were particularly apt....

"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith" Fr Darren felt sure that Fr Tim will be very safe with the Jesuits at Campion Hall in the search for the wisdom which comes from the fear of the Lord.

He went on to ponder that a curacy is a period of firsts – not just for the curate but also for the congregation.

Some of the firsts are once in a life-time...

It was wonderful to have a real, live deacon for a year and it was a privilege to share in Fr Tim's First Mass in 2018.

But other firsts are the first of many....

Tim was the first curate at St Andrew's after at least a 20 year break – and Fr Darren hoped that he would be relieved to know that he won't be the last! He recalled the singing lessons to help with the gospel alleluia, the sermons on St Paul, the teaching evenings which helped us to engage in a mature way with the issues presented by our faith.

Fr Darren commended the sensitivity and sense of deep pastoral care with which Tim approached and led funerals, commenting that, while Tim's vocation has not called him to parish ministry at this stage, he is a priest with a strong pastoral heart, a highly-regarded pastoral visitor and a competent liturgical practitioner.

He reminded Tim of the late, late bride from last August which is priceless in your bank of good stories from a curacy!

Fr Darren thanked him for the regular Curate's Column and occasional book reviews in the Norman Arch.



Fr Darren hands over the gifts to Fr Tim

Fr Darren concluded, "It has been a blessing to have you and Sarah, Thea and William with us on this stage of our Christian journey together. But to finish may I conclude the quotation from 1st Timothy with which I began, the end of verse 21: "Grace be with you".

Fr Darren handed over the gifts from the parish – a painting of St Andrew's Church by Rosemary Deepwell and a cheque.

Fr Tim later wrote to say, "On behalf to Sarah, myself and the children, may I say a huge thank you for your generous farewell gifts. We were really touched, and the lovely picture is already up on the wall in pride of place! It will help us remember the beautiful church building for many years ahead. Most of all, thank you for your love, support and companionship over the last few years. We have really appreciated and enjoyed being part of the church family and of sharing our journey of faith with you for a little while. Thank you for sharing your lives with us."

Flowers for St Andrew's

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers throughout the year, maybe in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion then please do contact me on Oxford 874477.

Pauline Hessey

MISSION OF THE MONTH



The Community Emergency Foodbank, like many other charitable organizations, have experienced big changes in the past 5 months. Up until March this year, we provided a service, whereby people were referred to us and would come to collect their food from our 3 sites in the city. St Francis Church Hollow Way, Littlemore Baptist Church and Barton Community Centre. This way, as well as providing food parcels, we could begin to build up a relationship with those in need and signpost them to other organisations in the city. We relied heavily on a wonderfully loyal volunteer team.

In March, when lockdown began to be put in place, we tried to carry on as a collection service. However, it became increasingly clear that it was not safe, either for the people coming for food or those giving it out, as social distancing was almost impossible. We decided, therefore, to close the three centres, where we were providing 5 days a week cover and re-open as a delivery service, twice a week on a Tuesday and a Friday from St Francis Church. This meant finding enough drivers, each with a companion, to do these deliveries. With another team of volunteers packing food parcels the previous day. Our referral system had to change to an electronic system filled in by the referrers. We no longer have any contact with the people receiving the food.

The demand for food parcels is high. In the first 3 months of the pandemic the number of referrals had almost trebled from the same months last year. There are some signs that numbers are now decreasing again, but we fear that by September/October when people come out of furlough and possibly lose their jobs, numbers will rise again. Also, there are local authority and central government food parcels being distributed to some people in lockdown, which will stop by mid-September.

We do hope very much, as soon as we can, to return to our old way of working with people coming to our centres, having a cup of tea and a chat and our volunteers having the privilege of learning some of their stories and hopefully helping them in other ways.

The way we are working now is very impersonal; leaving bags of food at people's doors with a quick wave to ensure the food has been collected. It is a bit like being a Tesco's delivery driver! Who knows what is coming round the corner, but we are confident we will adapt accordingly!

Thank you, St Andrew's Church congregation, for your continued support, both financially and with food donations. We could not run CEF without the help of people like you.

Rosemary Bean

CHURCH GARDEN



'Come, you thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home!

This first thing to say is how sad I am that Caroline is no longer with us. I have a special reason for mentioning this. It is exactly a year ago that Caroline asked me to write this column, and her kindness and encouragement meant a great deal. As a dyslexic, who has always tried to avoid anything which involved the written word, I valued her help.

October is Harvest Festival time. The Church will be decorated by our wonderful Flower Team. They always make it look so beautiful and colourful, so from me, a huge 'Thank You' for you time and skill. I expect there will be at least one pumpkin and some marrows as well a display of donated foods. I always used to wonder what happened to the Harvest Festival pumpkins as I had never actually seen one cooked. I now know that they make a great soup, but add a good dollop of orange marmalade for a touch of bitter sweetness and flavour.

There is a feeling of a new start, children excitedly go back to school in slightly too big new uniforms, new shoes and with a new pencil case. I can still remember the nervous excitement of moving to a new classroom and new teacher. The weather changes and we start to see the evenings draw in and we think about warm coats and sensible shoes.

Gardeners start to look at bulb catalogues and think about next year's seeds. Fields are cleared of old crops and look magnificent with freshly ploughed earth. The colours change, there is a softness, the grass fades to a gentle green, leaves are changing to vibrant oranges, rusts, crimson and browns, and everywhere bright berries are ready to spread their seeds and feed the wild life. Even the smell of autumn is different, there is a damp earthy scent in the morning after a heavy dew. In England, the seasons give a rhythm to life, which although seems lost in modern times, is still there. Observing the tiny daily changes keeps us grounded. One of my favourite books is Thomas Hardy's 'Far from the Madding Crowd'. The scene he describes of the farm harvest supper is so vivid, you feel you could be there. This makes me remember our traditional Harvest lunch, with so many people gathered around long tables and noisy chatter with wonderful food. This year, we will have to revisit our memories of previous good times.

Many crops with have already been picked and eaten by now, and this year has been a bumper time for some vegetables. I have enjoyed tomatoes, courgettes and potatoes but my beans have been a failure. I wonder if it was lack of water or lack of pollinators. Harvest, to me, means more than just picking crops, it's about storing food carefully to provide for the winter. Apples, carefully placed in boxes, or perhaps frozen for a fruit crumble or mixed with hedgerow blackberries and made into pots of deep purple jam. I remember my Granny's pantry shelves packed with Kilner jars full of carefully preserved fruits and vegetables, and feeling a sense of comfort that her hard work and forward planning would provide for the family.

The turnout for the Church Gardening group was excellent and what a beautiful day it was for working. This event is much more than hard work, although everyone got really involved in their particular job. It's an opportunity to meet others who share the pleasure of our beautiful garden and who take pride in trying to make it look its best. I hope those of you who have managed to come to Church have noticed the pristine, weed free paths, the clearing of overgrown vegetation by the Yew tree, the newly visible stone walls where ivy was seriously encroaching and finally the cleared water gullies (perhaps these have not been noticed, but this unseen essential job keeps the walls damp free – thank you Malcolm). The garden will need regular tending over the winter months, so please do speak to me if you want a regular job!

Take care, and in these still difficult times, do try and enjoy the garden, it's good for you!!

Jane

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust



September 12th was the date for Ride and Stride this year. I was not sure if it would go ahead in view of Covid-19 restrictions, but Annette triumphantly waved the paperwork at me a few weeks before so I set out to do my usual list of 33 churches (with mask and sanitiser in my pocket!) In the end I had 32 (more of the missing one later). Every year I find some churches who appear to be totally disinterested and are not even open, despite still being on the OHCT list. Some will at least put up a signing sheet on the door, which is a permitted option for churches which are not able to be manned. This year, inevitably, the number of closed churches was even higher than usual. In the end I only found 10 which were manned although a number of the rest had taken the trouble to put up a signature sheet.

The other problem was a distinct lack of biscuits! Even St Andrew's (fully manned all day) could not supply refreshments, so I made sure I carried my own. Only one church, St Michael's in Summertown, had thought of supplying small packets of biscuits, individually sealed and perfectly Covid secure! Apart from the two Summertown churches and St Andrew's the other seven which were manned were all in town, generally the ones which are popular tourist venues. Even here, mostly, I had to sign my own sheet as passing pieces of paper back and forth was regarded as somewhat of a risk.

There were also fewer riders and striders as far as I could tell. I have often, in previous years, found myself following the same people round the city, sometimes in family groups, as we all trek from church to church, but numbers were greatly reduced. The Oxford Open Doors event, which always falls on the same Saturday, also attracts many extra people into Oxford, but this year it was mostly virtual and there were fewer people around, even in the most popular venues.

When I got to Christ Church I found the cathedral itself closed, but there was an Open Doors event at the side of the building and by the entrance was a sign-in for the Ride and Stride. Unfortunately the Radio Stride tent, usually set up in the Broad Walk, was absent so I lost the chance to get two sign-ups in one location and hence reduced my number by 1.

I am still collecting from my sponsors, but inevitably I think my total will be less than previous years. We have until 31st October to return the money to OHCT so if you would still like to give something I will keep the form in church for the next few weeks.

Richard Gledhill

Thanks to everyone who sat in church to welcome the Riders/Striders.

Hundreds of people took part across the County and it is hoped that a substantial sum will be raised.

Annette Ingleton

Ride & Stride Coordinator for St Andrew's

Notes from the Organ Bench



As we move towards the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' it is hard to imagine a more strange summer. However, with each small step we are trying to move closer to some sort of normality and, last Sunday, it was a real delight to reintroduce a sung Alleluia to our Sunday Parish Eucharist. The particular Alleluia we used is one of three that have an interesting genesis for us at St Andrew's!

Four years ago, Alison and I holidayed in Russia. One Sunday morning our tour took us into St Nicholas Naval Cathedral in St Petersburg (Никольский морской собор, *Nikolskiy morskoy sobor*) during Mass. The Cathedral is a major Baroque Orthodox cathedral in the western part of Central Saint Petersburg. It has always been

closely associated with the Russian Navy, serving as its main shrine until the Russian Revolution. That particular Sunday the choir sang that Alleluia! Sung by great Russian basses (and others) in the wonderful acoustic of the cathedral, it sounded magnificent: it was really uplifting.

When we returned to the UK, I thought about how I might obtain a copy of the music. Fortunately Rosie, who is now the Director of Music at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry but will be remembered by many from her days of singing in our choir and playing many exciting voluntaries, is a Russian translator and has the ability to type in a Cyrillic script. I obtained the name and email address of the Director of Music at St Nicholas from the internet and asked Rosie to email him to ask the source of the music we had heard that Sunday morning. He emailed back with a copy of the Alleluia and now we have been able to share it with you.

In my last 'Notes' I said, 'For September and October, I'm going to explore the repertoire of English Organ Composers and I hope that you will notice a warmer, more rounded tone to the organ'. A number of people have said how much they have enjoyed the voluntaries and I have really enjoyed exploring the repertoire and your kind comments have made the enterprise all the more worthwhile. Thank you.

I thought it might be interesting to learn a little bit about the composers who, of course, in those days were unlikely to be full time church musicians – they would be very likely to be dance teachers during the week, playing in the theatres on a Saturday and in churches on a Sunday. Some held multiple posts so there must have been an extensive network of deputies filling in!

Here are a few notes on some of three interesting characters!

Jeremiah Clarke (c.1674 – 1 December 1707) was an English baroque composer and organist, best known for his Trumpet Voluntary. He was a pupil of John Blow while a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral and was organist at Winchester College at the age of 18 before returning to St Paul's Cathedral as organist for 5 years. He then became organist and 'Gentleman extraordinary' at the Chapel Royal, a post he shared with his friend and fellow composer William Croft.

His life ended in tragic circumstances. Apparently, he fell madly in love with one of his female students, a young, beautiful woman, of much higher social rank than he. But the woman was out of his league in every way, and he couldn't bear it. He thus

decided that life wasn't worth living and shot himself in the head in the Golden Cup in St Paul's Churchyard. There is controversy as to the date of this event – some record it as 16th July, while others have 5th November and most have 1st December (which cannot be right as in the Chapel Royal Cheque Book has an entry, signed by the sub-dean, to the effect that on 5 November 1707 Croft was admitted into the organist's place, 'now become void by the death of Mr. Jeremiah Clerk.')

Maurice Greene (12 August 1696 – 1 December 1755) was an English composer and organist, who composed, inter alia, our anthem for Harvest 'Thou visitest the earth'. He was a choirboy at St Paul's Cathedral under Jeremiah Clarke. He studied the organ under Richard Brind, and after Brind died, Greene became organist at St Paul's.

With the death of William Croft in 1727, Greene became organist at the Chapel Royal, and in 1730 he became Professor of Music at Cambridge University. In 1735 he was appointed Master of the King's Musick. At his death, Greene was working on the compilation Cathedral Music, which his student and successor as Master of the King's Musick, William Boyce, was to complete. Many items from that collection are still used in Anglican services today.

Charles John Stanley (17 January 1712 – 19 May 1786) was an English composer and organist. At about the age of two, he fell on a marble hearth with a china basin in his hand, an accident which left him almost blind. He began studying music at the age of seven under the guidance of Maurice Greene, composer and organist at St. Paul's Cathedral. At the age of nine he played the organ at All Hallows Bread Street. When he was eleven years old, he was appointed organist to the church at a salary of £20 per annum. When he was fourteen he was chosen as organist at St Andrew's, Holborn, and at the age of seventeen became the youngest person ever to obtain the Bachelor of Music degree (B.Mus.) at the University of Oxford.

In 1734 he was appointed organist to the Society of the Inner Temple, a position which he held until his death in 1786. It was at the ancient Temple Church that his brilliant playing upon the organ and harpsichord attracted the attention of many fine musicians including George Frideric Handel, who regularly visited the church to hear him. Stanley was also an outstanding violinist. In 1738 Stanley married Sarah Arlond (daughter of Captain Edward Arlond of the East India Company), who brought him a dowry of £7,000 per annum.

After Handel's death, in 1760 Stanley began a partnership with the composer John Christopher Smith and later with Thomas Linley, in order to continue with the series of oratorio performances at Covent Garden. For the first season Stanley composed *Zimri*. Stanley accompanied all oratorios, and played a concerto during each interval. Also in 1760 he composed an ode in memory of George II and as homage to George III; it was first performed at the Drury Lane Theatre. On the occasion of the King's wedding in 1762 he composed a dramatic pastoral oratorio, *Arcadia*. Handel had been a Governor of the Foundling Hospital, London. The Hospital's Chapel organ was Handel's gift, and Handel himself directed eleven performances of *Messiah* there, so raising £7,000 for the charity. Continuing yet again in Handel's footsteps, Stanley was elected a governor of the Hospital in 1770, and from 1775 until 1777 he directed the annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* in aid of the hospital funds.

In 1779 Stanley succeeded William Boyce as Master of the King's Band of musicians. Stanley's last work was probably an ode written for the King's birthday (4 June 1786). Stanley never heard its performance as he died at his home in Hatton Garden on 19 May 1786 aged 74.

Stanley's works include the opera *Teraminta*, the dramatic cantata *The Choice of Hercules*, twelve other cantatas with texts by John Hawkins, the oratorios *Jephtha*, *The Fall of Egypt* and *Zimri*, and instrumental music, notably three volumes of voluntaries for organ (1748, 1752, and 1754). Nearly all of the voluntaries feature a short, slow introduction followed by either a solo-stop movement (such as the trumpet voluntaries) or a fugue.

Finally a reminder: in my last notes, I asked if anybody would be prepared to offer to play the piano during the distribution of communion, once in a while – it doesn't need to be every Sunday. If we could establish a rota of 4, it would only be once a month. If anybody felt that they would like to take on some of this playing, do please let me know.

Thank you for all your kind words and encouragement: your love and support is hugely appreciated

My best wishes to you all - take care and stay safe.

Richard Bennett
Director of Music



There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis, from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. However, this has not come without some cost. We are very aware that because of their personal sacrifices quality family time has not always been possible.

Families and supporting family life have always been at the heart of our work, and we recognise the importance of making time to step away from the stresses of everyday life, reconnect and create memories - enhancing wellbeing is essential to healthy lives and healthy families.

This is why we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA – which I've written about before) to say a special "thank you" to key workers in these unprecedented times.

We will provide a range of activity hampers, experience days or short breaks for families of key workers (to take place in 2021). These experiences will help rebuild connections and togetherness, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes - families who would generally be unable to have times like these.

There are 2 ways to apply for this scheme. You can either nominate someone or apply for this yourself. You need to complete an online application form and the links to both can be found on this page: <https://www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal> If you know someone who could benefit please tell them about this – and if you don't have access to the internet then please get in touch with me and I will help.

If you would like to donate to this appeal to help more families, then a link for donations can be found on the same page. Thank you!

Mothers' Union have been making face coverings for many people and there is a pattern on our website that can be used to make one for yourself if you are skilled in that way.

<https://www.muoxford.org.uk/index.php/2020/04/21/sewing-pattern-for-face-masks/>

If you are unable to access the internet and would like a copy of the pattern, do get in touch with me.

If you are reluctant to use face coverings that end up in landfill, Mothers' Union can help.

Members from a number of Mothers' Union dioceses have lovingly produced a collection of face coverings in an array of patterns and colours.



Cost is £5.00 each with FREE Postage and Packing Assorted designs, but please note that patterns and colours cannot be chosen.

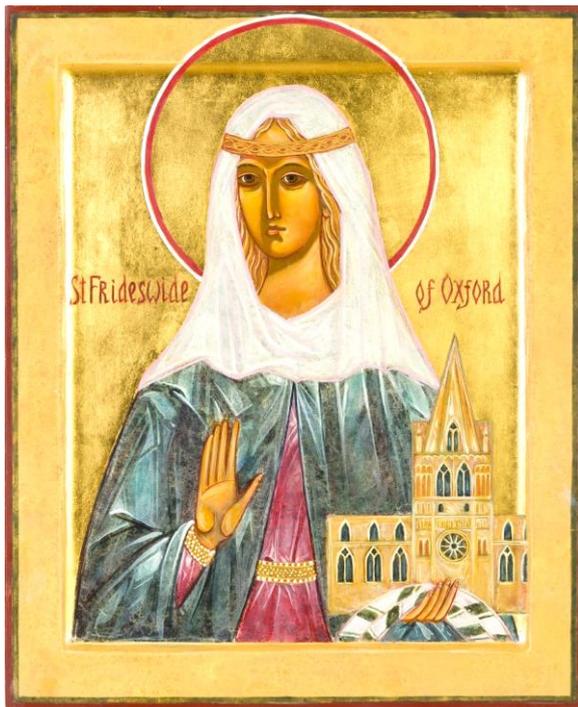
Each covering includes a filter pocket into which you can insert your own filter and a care card which includes care details. Each covering comes packed in cello wrap which you can store the covering in. All coverings have been packed with guidance and care. 100% Cotton Wash at 60 degrees.

If the product is 'Out of Stock' please look again within the next few days as they are being made all the time!

Alison Bennett
01869 343760

St Frideswide of Oxford

Feast Day – 19th October



So who was Saint Frideswide? Her hagiography (which is not recounted by Bede) tells us that she was born into a wealthy and noble family, in the eight century, in southern Mercia – perhaps somewhere near what we now know as Didcot. She took her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at an early age and became part of a small community of nuns here at 'Oxenford'. But she was persistently threatened by an aggressive suitor, Aelfgar, a minor prince of Mercia; apparently she escaped in a boat down the Thames, and hid for some time in the forests of Mercia in order to escape Aelfgar's attentions. On her return to her convent, her suitor apparently sought her again, almost breaking the city gates of Oxenford to take her by force: Frideswide invoked the help of the martyr-saints Catherine and Cecilia, and Aelfgar was afflicted with blindness. His sight was eventually restored through Frideswide's prayers for his repentance: neither she nor Oxenford was threatened again.

Frideswide established a community of monks and nuns, here at Oxford, near the city's southern walls, near the future site of Christ Church, where she became Abbess. Later in life she retired to a small hermitage at Binsey, but after her death was probably buried in her monastery in Oxford. Her shrine attracted hundreds of pilgrims and was the source of many miracles.

By the twelfth century St. Frideswide's Priory had become part of the Augustinian order and this in turn became the foundation of Christ Church Cathedral. Somewhere between the eleventh and fifteenth centuries Frideswide became the patron saint of Oxford and its Cathedral: certainly by the late fourteenth century, Chaucer, in *The Miller's Tale*, has John, the provincial carpenter of Oxford, invoke her name as his patron saint.

There's an apocryphal story that in 1933 the shortest sermon on record was given at Christ Church at the Feast of St Frideswide. 'Saint Frideswide' said the preacher, Canon Jenkins, 'Saint Frideswide never existed'. End of sermon. Even if this is true, in our day, Christ Church Cathedral certainly provides evidence for the cult of Frideswide, even though here may be little solid factual information of the saint herself. In the Latin Chapel her twelfth-century shrine has been reconstructed from its post-Reformation remains. Also in the Latin Chapel there's a magnificent pre-Raphaelite stained glass window, designed by Edward Burne-Jones in the 1850s, showing dramatic details of Frideswide's life. And in the Lady Chapel there is a paving stone carved with her name, where the anniversary of her death, somewhere in the 720s or 730s, is commemorated on October 19th each year.



The restored shrine in Christ Church Cathedral

Saints are those who, through prayer and constant communion with God, stand midway between Christ's exceptional life and our all too human existence. Jesus name means 'Saviour'; Frideswide's means 'Bond of Peace'. He brings redemption into the world; Frideswide testifies to that redemption by living peaceably in a restless world, knowing that, like Jesus himself, neither rank nor gender ultimately matter in the presence of God.

So in her distinctive way, as a woman in a male world, yet with a free and independent spirit, Frideswide points us to Jesus Christ, her only Saviour and Lord. She shows us the relevance of those words of Paul, 'God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong'.

So perhaps this is what the story of Frideswide can teach us: that the true servant of Christ has the boldness of faith to live out that 'holy wisdom' which subverts the so-called wisdom of their age. So, despite some skepticism about many details, Frideswide's story is real, not imaginary. She challenges us all to aspire to servanthood, even if sainthood is too high an ideal. Our lives may never be depicted in stained glass, nor written on a stone pavement; but if we seek to find and interpret the wisdom of God offered through Jesus Christ, then to hear the words 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' should be reward enough.

CAROLINE ROBERTSON

27th August 1960 – 26th August 2020



We were all shocked to learn of Caroline's death the day before her 60th birthday. Many of you attended Caroline's funeral in church on 11th September and have been generous in your support of Emma who is very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Caroline was a valued member of the community at St Andrew's. She was confirmed here soon after she came to Oxford having been in my first confirmation class when I came as Vicar.

Caroline fulfilled an active and important role in the life of the church as PCC Secretary, the sub-editor of Norman Arch and our representative on the local World Day of Prayer committee. These were roles which is enjoyed and which kept her connected with people. She also helped with the church coffee, the cleaning and usually lent a hand with the churchyard gardening parties.

Caroline enjoyed outings, and with Joan, Annette, Roger, Julia, and Malcolm headed off to National Trust properties and had trips to the pantomime, theatre, and cinema. She was a good friend to all who worked with her and got to know her, and would often visited friends in the parish for a coffee.

But Caroline was at her happiest when on our annual parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham which she coordinated. She had a great love for the Shrine and a confidence in the intercession of Our Lady.

Caroline was a hopeful person. Hopeful that her health would improve and life would return in all its fullness. Hope that that which was lost could be restored. But her greatest hope was in the fullness of life which awaits each of us when we are called to be with God. Caroline was not afraid of death because her Christian faith gave her the confidence that death does not have the last word.

As God receives her treasured soul into heaven, and Our Lady of Walsingham join her prayers with ours, may Caroline rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

From Fr Darren's homily at Caroline's funeral



DON'T FORGET!

Clocks go **back** 1 hour on Sunday 24th October



PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR COPY OF THE NORMAN ARCH