

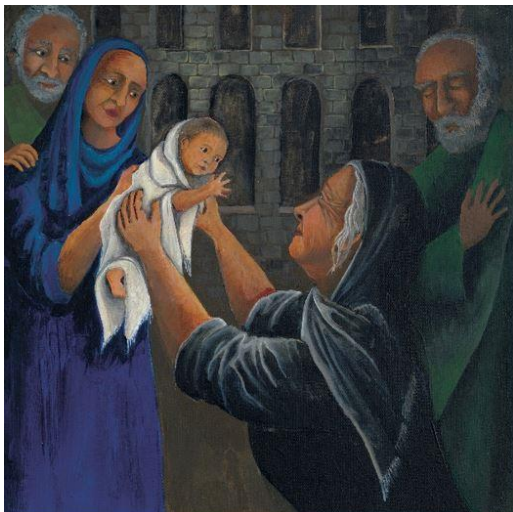


Great St Mary's eMag

16-31 January 2025: Issue 166

Candlemas – a feast for all together

On 2nd February the Church celebrates Candlemas, at which we remember the purification of Mary after the birth of Jesus, and the Presentation of Jesus himself in the Temple, according to the tradition for first-born baby boys. The story of this event in the [second chapter of Luke's Gospel](#) goes on to relate how Mary and Joseph were greeted in the Temple by two elderly prophets, who recognised Jesus for who he truly was.



Simeon had waited a long time for God's promises to be fulfilled. He sees the baby in Mary's arms, and declares 'Lord, now you can let your servant depart in peace, for I have seen your salvation' – in the Christ-Child he has seen how God's promises have come true. He goes on to call Jesus 'a light for the nations', in a beautiful outpouring of praise that we know as the 'Nunc Dimittis' – our choirs sing Simeon's words in every service of Choral Evensong. He goes on to warn Mary that Jesus' life will be world-changing, and that 'a sword will pierce your own soul, too':

his prophecy points towards the death of Christ, witnessed by Mary from the foot of the cross; this is what characterises Candlemas as the turning point between Christmas and Easter, between the incarnation and the passion of Christ.

Meanwhile, Anna, a prophet who had lived in the Temple for decades, also rejoices at the sight of the baby, and praises God. It's really striking that this story brings together the little baby Jesus, and two people who are approaching the end of life. With Mary and Joseph in the middle, it's a truly intergenerational feast, in which the faithful vocation of each and every generation is honoured and given voice. So it's a particularly appropriate occasion for all generations of the Great St Mary's congregation to worship all together in church. These 'all together' services invite us to recognise, celebrate and thank God for the wisdom and calling of the whole body of the church, young and old alike. It's also a festival of light, in which we as individuals, and as a church, renew our commitment to shine as a light in the world – a commission that we each receive at our baptism, and which remains a central theme in our life of discipleship every day of our lives.

Ally Barrett
Associate Vicar

Image: *'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple'* from Paula Gooder's book *'Women of the Nativity'*

The eMag is sent mid-month and at the end of the month. Please send any eMag contributions at least two weeks prior to publication, to news@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Worship Schedule

January services - see Term Card for details

Sunday 19 January - Epiphany 2

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist with Children's Church

- **4pm** Choral Evensong

Sunday 26 January - Epiphany 3

- **8am** BCP Holy Communion
- **10am** Choral Eucharist with Children's Church
- **11.30am** University Sermon: Rt Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah (Area Bishop of Edmonton) followed by reception in Michaelhouse
- **4pm** Choral Evensong

Mid-week services - Thursday 23 January

- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Weekday Worship

- Monday—Friday 9am **Morning Prayer** in church
- Mondays 12.30 pm **Christian Meditation** *in Michaelhouse - followed by soup lunch*
- Tuesdays 10.30am **The Ark**, Children's Communion *in Michaelhouse*
- Wednesdays 12.30pm **Holy Communion**
- Thursdays 7.45pm Heartsease (SCM student meeting) in Michaelhouse-resumes 23 January

Jan - Feb Term Card



Livestreaming of Services - update

Our new livestreaming equipment is up and running we will be livestreaming all services to YouTube. The services can be accessed via the Great St Mary's Youtube page on

<https://www.youtube.com/c/greatstmarys>

Some recent services:

[Choral Eucharist Sunday 5 January 2024](#)

[Choral Eucharist Sunday 12 January 2024](#)

Reading this eMag online or forwarded from a friend?

Sign up for our mailing list at greatstmarys.org/emag

News & Events

Thur 16 and the following Thursdays in the month - Chat-Play-Sing

Chat-Play-Sing meets on Thursdays at 10am in Michaelhouse for toddlers with their parents or carers.

Thur 16 Jan and the following Thursdays in the month - Read, Mark, Learn

Read Mark Learn will meet virtually on Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. This term we will mostly study the Old Testament reading for the following Sunday's Sung Eucharist, although for three weeks we will be looking at other prophets (Zechariah, Habbakuk and Hosea) so that we don't leave them out. For more information, contact

davidg@gsm.cam.ac.uk.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84052562470?pwd=SWJnZ1dCcFFOTzRWdlI4WGhpSG9ydz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5256 2470

Passcode: 876406

Fri 17 Jan - Lunchtime Concert 1-2pm

Great St Mary's Lunchtime Concert series presents:



Alexander Berry - Organ

Guy Bovet *Salamanca*

J. S. Bach *Trio super „Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend“ BWV 655*

Mendelssohn *Sonata VI*

Dezső d'Antalfy *Sketches on African American Spirituals*

Free entry, with retiring collection

Sat 18 Jan - Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast 9.00am starting with Communion in the Harvey de Stanton Chapel (Michaelhouse) and breakfast in the Montefiore Room. All are welcome - you can just turn up. Please contact office@gsm.cam.ac.uk for more information.



Sat 18 Jan - Lunchtime Concert 1-2pm

Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, Cambridge - Lunchtime Recital

Daniel Liu - Piano

Solo piano recital, including works by Schubert and Debussy

Daniel Liu is a recent graduate at Clare College. He studied piano and composition at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. While there, he took lessons with Murray McLachlan, and won the school concerto prize following a performance of Britten's Piano concerto. As a composer, after winning 2019's BBC Young Composer, his piece Fanfares was premiered by the BBC Concert Orchestra.

Free entry, retiring collection in aid of Michaelhouse Singers



Tue 21 Jan - Something Understood

Something Understood - The GSM Poetry group meets monthly to discuss some poems and how they help us with our faith. Our next meeting is Tuesday 21 January 7.30pm-9.00pm at 3 Adams Road, CB3 9AD



The theme will be 'Epiphany'

You are most welcome to join us. Do bring a poem to share if you would like to. If you have any questions, or would like a parking spot, contact: Juliet Jackson

email: juliet@jmcj.org

Image: 'Following the Star' by Kevin Philips

Future meetings will be:

Tuesday 25 February - Theme: Friendship

Tuesday 18 March - Theme: Forgiveness

Fri 24 Jan - Lunchtime Concert 1-2pm

Great St Mary's Lunchtime Concert series presents:

Organ recital by Clare Pryor



Music by J.S. Bach, Josef Rheinberger, Hendrik Andriessen, Jehan Alain and Maurice Duruflé

Clare Pryor is a third-year PhD student in Classics at Clare College. She began learning the organ in 2016 under the tutelage of Dr. Allan Beavis in her hometown of Bowral, Australia, and since commencing at Cambridge in 2022 has learned from Ann Elise Smoot. She has recently played organ recitals at Corpus Christi College and Trinity College, as well as at St. Jude's in Bowral, her former home church.

Free entry, with retiring collection

Sat 25 Jan - Intercessions Workshop

Would you like to lead intercessions at GSM, or learn more about writing and leading intercessions, or perhaps you just want to learn more about this sort of prayer. Then why not come along to St Andrew's Chapel - **Saturday 25th January 2025**, 10am-12noon (with a mid-session break for tea/coffee and pastries).

For details - see below



Sun 26 Jan - University Sermon



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

University Sermons, Lent Term 2025

<p>Sunday 26 January 11.30 a.m. Great St Mary's</p> <p>The Rt Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah Area Bishop of Edmonton (Select Preacher)</p>	 <p>Sunday 23 February 11.30 a.m. Great St Mary's</p> <p>The Revd Canon Professor James Walters, of Selwyn College, Professor in Practice and Director of the LSE Faith Centre and the LSE Religion and Global Society Weblog (Hulsean Preacher)</p>
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Members of the University attending should wear academical dress



Sun 26 Jan - Candlelit Vigil for Peace

Candlelit Vigil for Peace at Great St Mary's

Sunday 26 January, 5.30-6pm

Outside the West Door of Great St Mary's, Senate House Hill

This time and space is offered to any and all who would value the opportunity to

spend a moment of reflection or prayer alongside others.

All are welcome, of any faith or none.

This is a silent vigil; there will not be any speeches or prayers said aloud.

You are welcome whether you stay for just a moment or for longer.

Fri 31 Jan - Lunchtime Concert 1-2pm

Great St Mary's Lunchtime Concert series presents:

Music for Violin and Piano, Old and New

A programme including music by Bach and Grieg, and a new work by Mark Bellis



The Rockingham Duo

Bach Sonata in B minor BWV 1014

Bellis Spring Song

Grieg Sonata in C minor

Shulah Oliver Violin

Tony Bridgewater Piano

Free entry, with retiring collection

Baptism and Confirmation

Would you be interested in exploring/ learning more about the Christian faith?

Baptism / Confirmation classes for young people and adults of any age



Great St Mary's will be hosting two confirmation services this spring (very early on Easter morning, and on 2 May 2025), so starting in the New Year we will be offering sessions for anyone who would like to explore faith more deeply and perhaps prepare for confirmation. You can be confirmed at any age from the start of secondary school upwards, and if you're not yet baptised it's possible to be baptised at the same service. To help the ministry team plan the preparation sessions to best meet the needs of those who are interested, it would be wonderful to hear from you if this is something you think you might like to explore: you can email clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk, or speak with one of the ministry team after a service. You can also find out more about confirmation on the Church of England website:

[Confirmation FAQs | The Church of England](#)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

You are invited to a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, to be held at Wesley Methodist Church on Christ's Pieces, on **Sunday 19 January at 3pm**. The service will be led by the Superintendent Minister the Revd. Rose Westwood and the preacher will be the Very Revd. Professor David Fergusson, Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, Regius Professor of Divinity in the University and

member of our GSM congregation. The service will take its theme from the 17th Centenary of the First Council of Nicaea, 325AD.

Readers for Evensong

I am setting up a rota for readers at the two evening services we hold at GSM, the Thursday evening Choral Evensong at 6.30pm and Sunday evening Choral Evensong at 4pm. So, if you would like to join a readers' rota for these services then please do let me know.

clares@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Please also specify any time you might be away over the next couple of months, or if there is a preferred day. If you have a child who sings in the choir then let me know which choir (chorister or youth) and I can make sure your date matches when they are singing.

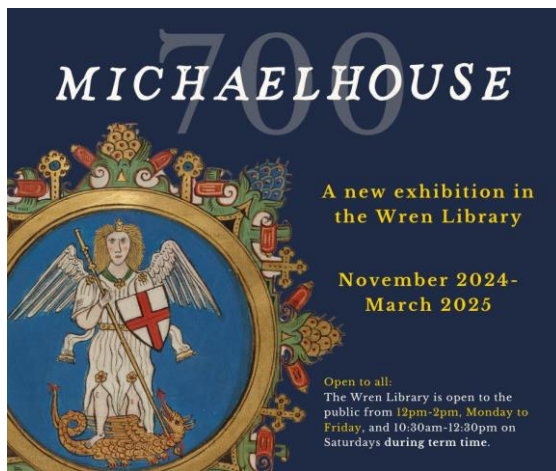
Thank you, Clare Stephenson

Michaelhouse coffee



We welcome help with Coffee once a month! Serving coffee on Sunday morning is a very sociable activity and is an important part of our ministry of welcome to newcomers, visitors and community building. If you would like to hear more about it, please contact Margaret Johnston margaretj222@gmail.com, we would love to hear from you!

Michaelhouse in the Wren Library



700th Anniversary of Michaelhouse - Exhibition at Trinity College, Wren Library

Commemorating the 700th anniversary of Michaelhouse which was instrumental in the development of the town and university. In 1546, it merged with King's Hall to form Trinity College.

The Wren Library is open 12 to 2pm Monday to Friday and 10.30-12.30 on Saturdays (in term).

We have commissioned a booklet about the fascinating history of Michaelhouse which will complement the Exhibition and there will be further celebrations in the spring.

Cambridge Interfaith Connections

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

Interfaith
Connection
Cambridge

ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 6.00PM
AT BETH SHALOM REFORM SYNAGOGUE

MEET PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE FAITH
COMMUNITIES IN CAMBRIDGE AND TAKE PART
IN SESSIONS ON:

Jewish calligraphy and dancing

FREE EVENT
SCAN TO REGISTER

WOOLF
INSTITUTE

You are warmly invited to the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Auckland Road on **Monday 20 January** to learn how their Torah scrolls are hand-written - and to

try your hand at calligraphy if you would like to! There will be some easy-to-learn dances during the event which will run from 6-7pm, followed by refreshments. Children are welcome. Please register at tinyurl.com/iccjan25

Pastoral Care



Pastoral Care

A message from Canon Jutta Brueck. If you would welcome the opportunity to have a confidential conversation, please do not hesitate to email me on juttab@gsm.cam.ac.uk or leave a message with the parish office on 01223 747273. Members of the clergy team are always glad to visit members of the church family in their homes, to talk about their faith, to pray with them (especially when they are ill), to be a listening ear, and a comfort in sorrow. Email: clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group is a team of appointed people who work with the ministry team to visit and offer support to parishioners as requested, including offering communion at home. To request a pastoral visit, or to let us know about someone for whom you have a concern, please send an email to clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk, or leave a message on the pastoral phone (01223 747277). We always aim to respond as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

Intercessors at Home

The Home Intercessors are a group of appointed people who each are prepared to faithfully commit themselves to praying (individually at home) for particular requests, in absolute confidence. If you would like to be added to their prayer list, please let one of the clergy know, or put the request in writing to clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk.

If the request is for another person, then please ensure the person has given their permission for their situation to be shared with others in this way. We are very happy to receive requests which have been anonymised, so if you would like prayer, but rather not share your name or the name of the person being prayed for, this will also be possible.

In a pastoral emergency the phone number remains 01223 747277

Year's Mind

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them



the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nora Maynard	1 January
Helen Imam	4 January
Peter Ducker	4 January
Chris Johnson	5 January
John Reeves	7 January
Charlie Poskitt	7 January
Nigel Gawthrope	12 January
Kirsty Wayland	12 January
Sarah Hills	19 January
Nigel Wooldridge Brown	19 January
Mollie Crisford	22 January

Service



Eco Tips

GSM Environment Group

One of the main tasks of the Environment Group is to provide regular Eco Tips - promoting ways in which we can appreciate and look after God's earth - appreciate the natural environment around us and what we can do to safeguard its future. The group does much more, please read the [Environment Group section](#) on the GSM website where there is also an invitation to join the group. Membership is open to any member of the congregation.

Big Garden Birdwatch



Take part in the world's largest wildlife survey. Now in its 46th year, this valuable piece of citizen science gives us an insight into how our much-loved garden birds are faring. On the weekend of 24-26th January, find a comfy spot in your garden, local park, or your balcony and spend an hour recording the birds you see. Over half a million people joined the count last year; get your friends, family and local community involved and let's try to beat that number! www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

Stamps can save lives

An urgent Christmas appeal for postage stamps has been made by Friends of Bone Cancer Research Trust. Used, new and obsolete postage stamps from the UK and overseas, postage and Royal Mail tracking labels printed at Post office counters, first-day covers and collections are all welcome. The Bone Cancer Research Trust sells them to raise money to fund research into primary bone cancer, which can occur at any age, but mostly affects the young and elderly. Please send to **Friends of BCRT, Used Stamp Appeal, 20 Bowers Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PZ.**



Hosting suppers for the homeless



Hosting suppers for the homeless

As usual, we will be hosting 6 suppers for the homeless at Crossways in association with the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project and 3 colleges - Gonville & Caius, Sidney Sussex and Corpus Christi.

We require a team of 3 to set up, serve and have supper with the guests, and then clear away. The time window is usually 6.30 to 8.30pm. The dates we need help for are all on Fridays: 31 January, 14, 21 and 28 February and 7 March.

If you would like to be involved please contact margaretj222@gmail.com



Wider Concerns Collections - Last Call

WCC envelope collection – brown envelopes in pews and online [donations here](#) divided between:



- **Centre 33** – which helps vulnerable young people fulfil their potential supporting them with counselling, advocacy and group work, to help prevent mental health problems and homelessness.
- **Ukraine Red Cross which works in association with the British Red Cross.** *“Recent shelling has heightened the suffering for those living amid the conflict. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society is working around the clock to bring hope and support to all those in need.”*



Ride & Stride - Thank you

Our participation in the Ride & Stride event of Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust last September raised £299.00 as well as providing a lot of fun for those participating. If more people take part this year we can raise even more and have more fun.



Etheldreda Medal Celebrations



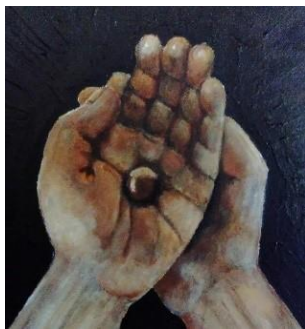
Thank you to Archdeacon Alex, Jutta, Margaret and everyone who made Sunday 12 January such a very special occasion for me. I felt very privileged to have received the Etheldreda Medal and would thank everyone for their good wishes. It was lovely to celebrate afterwards with you all in Michaelhouse and thank you to everyone involved.

Joye.

Coming up.....

Intercessions Workshops

Leading intercessions - Saying prayers on behalf of the people at Great St Mary's



Ever since Christian communities first began to gather to share the bread and the wine in the eucharist, a part of the service was set apart for making prayers to God on behalf of the people. Prayers said in this way are known as **intercessions**. The eucharist services we follow at 10am on Sundays in Great St Mary's have a predictable four-part shape, described in our service sheets as the **Gathering, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Sacrament** and **the Dismissal**. It might be obvious from these titles that the Gathering and the Dismissal and the parts of the service to do with welcoming and preparation, and then being made ready to go out into the world; these form a sandwich around the two central elements of Word and Sacrament. In the Liturgy of the Word we hear the readings, the Gospel, and the sermon, say the Creed together and then come the Intercessions. The Liturgy of the Sacrament begins with the Peace, and then comes the preparation of the altar and offering of the eucharist.

This means that the Intercessions and the Peace, both aspects of the service requiring active participation of the people, are located around a profound axis point in the service as we turn from considering God's Word and the needs of the world,

to the sacred work of coming together to celebrate Christ's presence amongst us. This centrality reflects the importance of both of these parts of the service, parts in which everyone is invited to have an active role. It is traditional for the intercessions to be led by a member of the congregation, to remind us that making formal prayers to God (both a "duty and a joy" as Cranmer describes it in the Book of Common Prayer) is not for the ministers alone, it is something which all of us can participate in during worship. Ideally, the intercessions help us to form our own prayers so that we both focus on God and God's many qualities, and bring to God a wide range of needs, including the day ahead and each other, the worldwide church communities, the needs of the world and the sick and the dying. This both engages us in our relationship to God, but also helps us learn how to pray in our private times of prayer, by stretching us to consider those situations which we might otherwise forget about. Praying together helps form holy habits which bring Christian communities closer together, as well as open us to being more concerned about others.

We hope to encourage as many people as possible to learn more about leading intercessions. For this reason, we will be holding a couple of workshops about writing and leading intercessions early in the New Year. The workshops will be designed to be of interest to anyone who wants to learn more about using structured prayers even if this might be solely for times of personal prayer. For those who would be open to taking a turn in leading intercessions in our services, then the workshop will offer you guidance and resources to equip you to do this with confidence. One workshop will be in person at a weekend and one on zoom on a weekday evening to meet different needs, but the same material will be covered in each.

What will be included in the Intercessions workshops?

- How to pray about difficult things
- Different ways of structuring prayers
- How to pray for lots of things without it sounding like a list
- How to connect the intercessions with the readings, sermon and the hymns
- Praying in a way that helps other people pray
- Using space and silence

The workshops will be supported by a printed guide, which will include sample prayers, templates, further reading and other online prayer resources.

Where and when with the Intercessions workshops be?

St Andrew's Chapel - **Saturday 25th January 2025**, 10am-12pm, with a mid-session break for tea/coffee and pastries.

Zoom - **Tuesday 4th February 2025**, 7.30pm-9.15pm (with 15 min comfort break in the middle)

How to find out more

Perhaps as you read this you are thinking that you might like to lead intercessions at GSM, or learn more about writing and leading intercessions, or perhaps you just want to learn more about this sort of prayer.

If you wish to join the GSM intercessors rota, to sign up to one of the intercessions workshops, or simply to learn more about prayer, please speak to one of us, or

send an email to clergy@gsm.cam.ac.uk

Ally Barrett, Clare Stephenson, Juliet Jackson and Aishwarya Jacob



Coptic Church Centre day retreat Fri 14 March

We are honoured that His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Archbishop of London and Papal Legate to the United Kingdom, has invited members of Great Saint Mary's to the Coptic Church Centre in Stevenage. This will be a great opportunity during Lent to take some time out and encounter a different Christian tradition from our own. The day retreat will comprise two morning sessions then in the afternoon a pilgrimage to the Cathedral followed by a closing Anglican Eucharist in the private chapel. The retreat will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3.40 p.m. Those who wish may take the 8.55 a.m. train from Cambridge to Stevenage and the 4.08 p.m. return service. For drivers, the full address is the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre, Shephalbury Manor, Broadhall Way, Stevenage, SG2 8NP.

The suggested voluntary donation is £30 (£20 retired or unsalaried) including refreshments and lunch. Donations may be made on the day in cash. In order to reserve a place, please contact davidg@gsm.cam.ac.uk by 5 March with the following details: i) name(s); ii) any dietary requirements; iii) whether you wish to share a return taxi between Stevenage railway station and the Centre.

Elsewhere.....



Holocaust Memorial Day

Light the Darkness

Monday 27 January, 8pm (participate at home)

This is a national movement to join faith and civic leaders in marking HMD, and simply involves putting a lighted candle in your window in memory of those killed in genocides, and in solidarity with others in standing against prejudice and hatred.

<https://hmd.org.uk/lightthedarkness/>

Candle Lighting Ceremony, with readings and speeches

Tuesday 28 January at 5.30pm

Hosted by the Mayor of Cambridge, in the Council Chamber at The Guildhall, Market Square (we are invited to use the Peas Hill Entrance, which is wheelchair accessible, and to attend from 5.15pm for a 5.30pm start).

The event ends at 6pm with tea offered until 6.30pm.

Please RSVP to Ariadne.henry@cambridge.gov.uk

The theme for HMD this year is 'For a better future'. You can read more about it by visiting <https://hmd.org.uk/>



Market Square Consultation



Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are seeking views on markets in the area.

- How do markets contribute to the community?
- Why do local residents visit (or not visit) markets?

- What would encourage local residents to use markets more?
- Do markets provide enough access to locally sourced, sustainable food?

Share your views in our survey:

- [Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire markets survey](#)

Your feedback will be used as part of a report to make recommendations about long-term support for the markets.

The survey is open for comments until **Sunday 2 February 2025**.

You will need to register or log in on our consultation and engagement platform to take part in our survey.

Thank you to everyone who participates.



Twilight at Great St Mary's

Monday 17 February 6.00 - 8.30pm

See the Cambridge University Schola Cantorum (previously St John's Voices) in rehearsal for night prayer (Compline), and learn how the cycle of the moon impacts Christian, Jewish, and Muslim festivals.

The event is FREE but you will need to book on the Museums website:

<https://museums.cam.ac.uk/events/twilight-great-st-marys-church-0>.



Alex Courtney investigates!



It was good to see PCC member Dr Alex Courtney at the Cambridge University Library for Episode 2 of Lucy Worsley Investigates (Series 2) on BBC Two, Friday 10 January. In the episode, Lucy investigated the men and motives behind the Gunpowder Plot. Lucy and Alex consulted the manual on kingship written by King James VI and I: Basilikon dōron, or The Kingly Gift (CUL Bb*.14.28(F)). If you missed the programme, the full series is available to stream on iPlayer now: <https://loom.ly/jJZZok!>



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