

St Edward, King and Martyr August 2015 Newsletter



The Pleiades (image from NASA)

“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?” (Job 38:31 - 33)

The news in brief

For the summer period, we have the usual 8am and 11am services on Sunday, but will have 5pm services only on the 23rd of August, before recommencing again on 11th October.

The meditation group is on hold for the summer but intends to reconvene in the Autumn.

The women's group will meet on Sunday 6th September at 3.00pm for tea, cake and good discussion. All women are welcome.

Chapter reports

Chapter has not met since the previous newsletter was published.

Service Styles at 11am

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| Contemplative Morning Prayer | The liturgy follows the general pattern supplied in Common Worship, but with a "St Edward's" twist. The sermon is preceded by a substantial contemplative element in the service (Lectio divina, a themed chant, some poetry or other literature, and a period for silent contemplation). |
| EMBODIED | This new style of service brings together the spiritual and the intellectual sides of St Edward's. We use dramatised interpretations of the bible passages and a range of musical forms. The standard liturgy from Common Worship is extended with responses that foreground our engagement with the meditative and spiritual. |
| BCP Communion | The liturgy follows the pattern for communion as supplied in the prayer book. In these services we will conform to both the service structure and words in the prayer book. There may be periods of silent reflection, we will take communion, and there will be a sermon. |
| Common Worship Morning Prayer | The liturgy follows the general pattern supplied in Common Worship, and makes use of the diverse material in New Patterns for Worship. In these services we will explore the great breadth of material in New Patterns for Worship. There may be periods of silent reflection, and there will be a sermon. |

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| Sunday August 9 th | 0800 | BCP Mattins |
| | 1100 | Common Worship (David Instone-Brewer) “Out of the depths I cry to you” |
| | 1700 | <i>No service</i> |
| Friday August 14 th | 1030 | BCP Communion (Alan Cole) |
| Sunday August 16 th | 0800 | BCP Mattins |
| | 1100 | Common Worship Communion (Nigel Cooper) “My flesh is real food” |
| | 1700 | <i>No service</i> |
| Friday August 21 st | 1030 | BCP Communion (Alan Cole) |
| Sunday August 23 rd | 0800 | BCP Communion (Bro Malcolm) |
| | 1100 | Contemplative Morning Prayer “In my beginning is my end” (Ann Kember) |
| | 1700 | Meditative Eucharist by extension (Ann Kember) |
| Friday August 28 th | 1030 | BCP Communion (Alan Cole) |
| Sunday August 30 th | 0800 | BCP Mattins |
| | 1100 | Morning Prayer “Be doers of the word” Duncan Dormor |
| | 1700 | <i>No service</i> |
| Friday September 4 th | 1030 | BCP Communion (Alan Cole) |
| Sunday September 6 th | 0800 | BCP Mattins |
| | 1100 | BCP Mattins with poetry |
| | 1700 | <i>No service</i> |

The bells of St Edward's

A time to celebrate! ...21 years ago this Summer, the tower at St Eds was a hive of activity with the restoration and rehangng of the bells in full flow.

It had started as a project back in 1992, when the churchwarden Arthur Pickett asked Chris Higgins, an experienced bell hanger and founder of the Huntingdonshire Church Bell Restoration Society, to inspect the bells. The six bells, ranging in age from 1470 (Pre-Reformation) to 1669 and by four different local foundries, were in a sorry state. The wheels were derelict, stays missing and the bells were hanging precariously from rather rotten headstocks; at the very least the bells needed making safe, by taking them out of the frame and setting them on 2x4's. So the HCBRS came to St Eds one Saturday to do that and clean the tower. Playing the organ that morning was Donald Wort, Master of the Church Music and it was he who, later that year, died leaving a specific bequest to enable the restoration of the bells.

And so it was that in 1994, the bells were taken down by HCBRS and sent away to the foundry for restoration and tuning (to the sound of the 5th bell because of its age). Whilst away, the tower was strengthened with a ring beam and a new ringing gallery was constructed at the level of the West window. The old wooden frame was retained in-situ and a new stronger metal one, made by Whites of Appleton, was put together lower in the tower by HCBRS. Whites also made all the new fittings, including canon-retaining headstocks and repaired the treble (lightest) bell.

In anticipation, with the kind help of the Tower Captain, and with commitment, determination and teamwork, a number of the congregation started to learn to ring on the bells at Hemingford Grey; Freda Matthewson (a close friend of Donald's), Margaret English, Anne Farmer, David Barber, Richard Moss and Alan Whiting. Almost all of the band were over 65, proving that age is not a barrier to learning a new skill.

There was great excitement as the bells returned, were raised up into the new frame and then heard ringing out from St Eds for the first time in several generations. The 5th took its place as the oldest ringable bell in the county. In January 1995 the bells were re-dedicated in a service of celebration led by Rev Dorothy Wilman and Rev Jonathan Priestland Young, which included a reading from Dorothy L Sayers' *The Nine Tailors*. Chris Higgins was given the honorary title of Master of the Bells and Ali Finn, a local HCBRS member who'd helped in the restoration right the way through and taught the new band (though not single-handedly!), was installed as Tower Captain. Many from around the country, including the renowned Ron Dove, author of *'Dove's Guide'*, made a special trip to ring on the newly-restored bells. That same weekend the first ever peal on the bells was rung in thanksgiving for the life of Donald Wort and his legacy that enabled the bells to be restored; an act of great vision and kindness which has so enriched the life of the church.