

St Edward, King and Martyr

Summer 2016 Newsletter



Bell ringing in St Edward's Tower

Bell ringing at St Edward's

We do not now have the audible range we did in past centuries before the sound screen of modern buildings was erected around St. Edwards but we can see the ringing of our bells as an act of witness.

There is a sense in which bell-ringing is somewhat separate from the rest of the life of the church: we are not very visible and some of the ringers do not attend services. Though ringing can be done as an act of devotion, it is not overtly devotional or religious. To my mind, this is all to the good, because it allows us to be welcoming to all, including those who do not feel comfortable with Christian doctrine or liturgy.

As well as calling the congregation to worship on Sunday morning, bell-ringing marks special occasions, including licensing vicars (perhaps we won't have to do that again for a while), holidays and weddings.

If you haven't been in the bell tower, it is well worth a visit, which can be arranged with the tower captain. Climbing above the ringing chamber to see the bells in operation is an

extraordinary experience. Practices are held every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

St Edward's number five bell, cast in 1470, is the oldest operational church bell in Cambridgeshire.

Edwin Hall

St Edward's day out Stanley Spencer Exhibition in Cookham

On a hot and sunny Saturday, 23rd July, five intrepid members of our congregation met at Cambridge railway station, 9 am, and travelled by various means to Cookham in Berkshire. A local bus took us to the village and the Stanley Spencer Gallery, our destination.

Air conditioning made the close examination of the works on display very comfortable: the exhibition focussed on some of Stanley's flower paintings, but included some Biblical and other scenes set in the village. There was a video to watch, and in a corner the old pram he used to trundle his painting equipment around the streets, along with a large battered black umbrella.

After this we headed for the river and enjoyed a cool drink at a pub near the bridge featured in other paintings, notably “Swan Upping”. Then to the churchyard for a picnic, to see Stanley's gravestone, and the large stone angel, which loomed over his painting of the church. Then to a tea shop spotted by Alison, in the garden in shade, and finally an adventure in a taxi back to the wrong railway station...but we all arrived back in Cambridge at 7pm much enriched by our day out, culturally, geographically, and in the friendships formed and deepened. Thank you to Edwin for firstly arranging the Lent course based on Stanley Spencer's paintings of Christ in the Wilderness, and for suggesting and planning this visit to the Gallery.

Hannah's comments:

For Stanley Spencer Jesus' life is completely integrated with our daily lives where we are. So he painted "Christ preaching at Cookham Regatta" with recognizable local characters in the boats, and Jesus arriving on a donkey in the High Street while children in the school uniform ran past. The view from his bedroom window was to him a sacred space so he placed the nativity scene there with the roofs of the brewery in the background. These paintings shock my usual (more comfortable!) images of Jesus in first-century Israel and holiness generally out there somewhere, ideal, to be

reached for, but not here in my everydayness. And going to Cookham and seeing the actual streets and buildings really made me face it. In "The Resurrection, Cookham" Spencer painted people coming out of their graves in the churchyard. On Saturday we sat in that churchyard eating our picnic.

Chris's response:

I think of Spencer's figures as being rather stylised with strange shaped bodies and features. It came as a surprise to see what a good portrait artist he was, in various paintings in this exhibition. He also produced some lovely summer scenes in England, with beautiful sunlight conditions, e.g. the beach at Southwold, and a scene in the Thames valley near Cookham.

Edwin's observations:

Every one of us, all of nature, and every mundane detail of life is part of the divine drama...or at least this is what I see in the pictures of Christ mingling, teaching, bearing his cross in the streets of Cookham. I see it in the exhaustive attention to detail, and in what seems to be colliding of alternate realities, with impossible body positions, and the way Spencer manages to picture movement in stillness and death in life, how human arms become tree limbs, and statues can feel. Another thing I like

about Spencer's painting is the acknowledgement, almost celebration, of the tragedy and despair we all collide with sooner or later, without even clumsy words like these getting in the way.

Alison's thoughts:

In an age where the virtues of travel and change of place are assumed to be self-evident, it is refreshing and salutary to see a body of work by someone who was born and died in the same small village, but who experienced it, painted it, as the site of the deepest Christian mysteries, and who saw and painted Christ in the street, on the river, next door. In many ways a vision of the divine in the everyday, which does, in part, what George Herbert so often does in his poems. Paintings which are vibrantly startling in their immediacy, humbling in their unselfconsciousness, conviction and apparent trust.

Jillian's remark:

Some of the crowd scenes in Spencer's paintings reminded me of the frescoes of Giotto, in Padua or Assisi, the same block shaped bodies, smooth faces, but with expressions and characteristics. How wonderful that Stanley brought the beginnings of natural religious painting up to his day, in his own village.

Edwin Hall, Alison Hennegan, Hannah Stone,
Chris Walker, Jillian Wilkinson.

Stephen Cottrell.

*Christ in the Wilderness: reflecting on the
paintings of Stanley Spencer.*

is available in St Edward's library.

<http://www.stanleypencer.org.uk>

There are several Stanley Spencer paintings in
the collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Assistance needed at St Edward's.

Is there anyone in our congregation who would be interested in joining Geoffrey in keeping the accounts for St Edward's? He has been carrying this load on his own for a very long time and would appreciate help. It will involve becoming familiar with a computer-based system, and also the myriad filing, reporting and keeping of records, which keeps our finances under careful review. Training will be given, and ideally some regular hours a week will be committed.

Please talk to Jillian, or Mark, or Geoffrey if you are interested in this ministry for the church.

New books in St Edward's library

Kenneth Bailey: *'Poet and Peasant' and 'Through Peasant Eyes'* Parables in the gospel of Luke in their contemporary situation.

Stephen Cottrell: *'Christ in the wilderness - reflections on the paintings of Stanley Spencer'*
The inspiration for the expedition to Cookham.

Brother Lawrence compilation: *'Practice and presence of God; Spiritual maxims; a life of Br Lawrence'* Recommended by Mark Scarlata

Rowan Williams: *'Being Disciples - essentials of the Christian life'* A guide by our local Archbishop

Volunteers Wanted for Cambridge Money Advice Centre

Cambridge Money Advice Centre (MAC) is a debt and budget counselling charity based at Barnwell Baptist Church, employing a centre manager and team of volunteer advisers. We have been serving the city and surrounding area

for the last eleven years and have the following part-time opportunities:

- New trustee to join our existing board.
- Volunteer debt adviser. No experience is needed as full training will be given.
- Fundraising volunteer/intern. For a combination of office and home-based working, with a particular emphasis on trust fundraising.

You may like to combine two or more of these roles.

For further information please contact or speak to Robin Turner (randjturner97@gmail.com) or contact John Morris, MAC Centre Manager (details on www.cambridgemoneyadvicecentre.org.uk).
<http://www.cambridgemoneyadvicecentre.org.uk/>

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride, Drive and Stride

Saturday 10th September, between 10am and
6pm

We are looking for volunteers to be on a rota to welcome people, offer a cold drink, initial their score sheet. Some of the funds raised through sponsorship will come to us, as well as to the CHCT.

Please let Jillian know if you can help, a sign up sheet will be at the West door. There are lots of churches to tick off in close proximity to St Edward's.

Summer Services

Fridays	10.30am	Each week	Led by Alan Cole
Sunday 31 st July	8am BCP Communion Mark Scarlata	11am CW Communion Mark Scarlata	5pm Meditative service David Pedder
Sunday 7 th Aug	8am BCP Mattins	11am Adrian Stacey	5pm Taizé service Jillian Wilkinson
Sunday 14 th Aug	8am BCP Mattins	11am CW Communion Tom Buchanan	5pm Meditative service Br Christopher Martin SSF
Sunday 21 st Aug	8am BCP Communion Mark Scarlata	11am CW Communion Mark Scarlata	5pm Meditative Eucharist Mark Scarlata
Sunday 28 th Aug	8am BCP Communion Mark Scarlata	11 am CW Communion Mark Scarlata	5pm Meditative Eucharist Mark Scarlata
Sunday 4 th Sept	8am BCP Communion Mark Scarlata	11am CW Communion Mark Scarlata	5pm Meditative Eucharist Mark Scarlata
Sunday 11 th Sept	8am BCP Communion Mark Scarlata	11am CW Communion Mark Scarlata	5pm Meditative Eucharist Mark Scarlata