

The Walsingham Review



Candlemas 2025 | Issue 175

The magazine of the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham



MARY: SISTER IN FAITH

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IN UNUM
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“

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the licensing, which was a glorious occasion, and to everyone who has been in touch to offer prayers and support – I’ve been deeply touched by them.”

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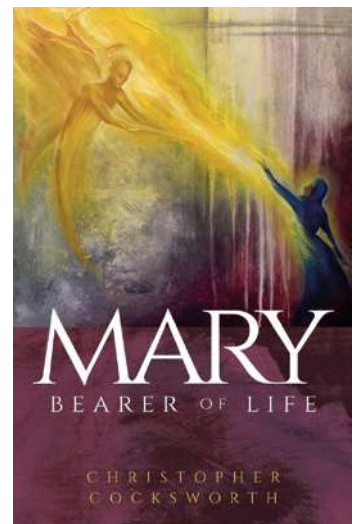
Front cover:
The Shrine’s season logo for
2025 designed by Lee Harvey

The Priest Administrator’s Letter

It’s been quite a long period of time between being appointed and taking up post as the new Priest Administrator, but it’s great to finally be here and in harness. As I write this letter, I’m familiarising myself with the workings of the Shrine (as you may imagine, there’s an awful lot more that goes on behind the scenes here than meets a pilgrim’s eye!) and getting to know our wonderful staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the licensing, which was a glorious occasion, and to everyone who has been in touch to offer prayers and support – I’ve been deeply touched by them. Please continue to keep me and the work of the Shrine in your prayers.

The Master is writing the ‘official’ thank you to Fr Graeme, but I would like to offer my own here, not that any words can do justice to him. He has ministered here with great care and devotion to Our Lady, to our pilgrims, and to everyone involved with the life of the Shrine. He has also shared much wisdom (and demonstrated great patience) with me during an invaluable handover period. Thankfully, he will never become a stranger to the Shrine, and we will continue to see him here regularly.

This year’s pilgrimage theme is *Mary: Sister in Faith*. 2025 is a jubilee year and also marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea. Our theme for the new pilgrimage season seeks to explore its significance. The Council of Nicaea paved the way for the Council of Ephesus at which Our Blessed Lady was declared to be Theotokos or God-bearer. We have taken our title from the excellent book, *Mary, Bearer of Life*, by the Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Dean of Windsor (and available from the Shrine Shop). His book contributes some wonderful thinking and reflection on this year’s theme. We also look forward to welcoming Bishop Christopher at the National Pilgrimage as our preacher this year. Looking a little further ahead in the year, we will also be celebrating a regional





festival on Saturday 20th September at Peterborough Cathedral, for which I hope as many of us will be able to gather as possible.

As with each Priest Administrator's tenure, there will be some changes and variations to our patterns of worship. In particular, we have introduced some changes to the daily rhythm of worship here and details and an explanation are given further on in this edition of the Walsingham Review. I welcome any feedback on these changes, as I appreciate feedback on any aspect of life at the Shrine, and ways in which we can improve the pilgrimage experience.

I look forward to welcoming you on pilgrimage in the coming year and the years to come.

May Our Lady of Walsingham pray for us.

With my prayers and every blessing,

Fr Ben Eadon



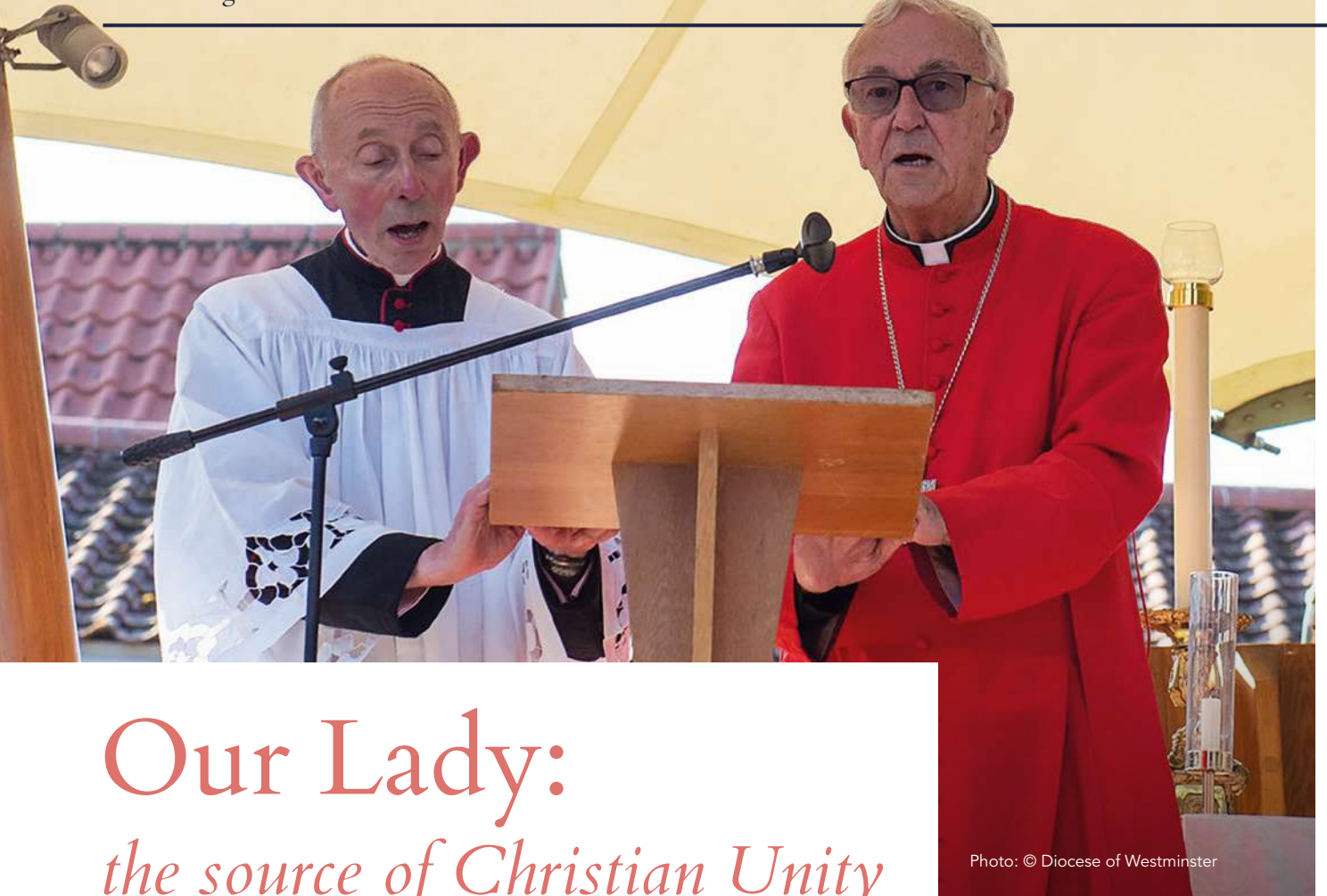


Photo: © Diocese of Westminster

Our Lady: *the source of Christian Unity*

Sixteen years ago, for the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Lourdes, I helped to organise quite a significant group to go there on Pilgrimage, including nine Bishops, 75 priests, some 30 youth and about 400 people in all. The Guardians of the Shrine took part in the processions as an official group and a Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was carried into the Basilica of St Pius X at the International Mass. For one of the 12 themes of the year, celebrating all that Lourdes had achieved during that time, was that of the Unity of Christians. As a result, Mgr Jacques Perrier, the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, came to the National Pilgrimage here in 2009.

During my time at Walsingham, I have been able to understand more deeply how Mary brings together all the scattered children of God. On 21st September, we were able to provide hospitality to over 1,200 pilgrims from the Diocese of Westminster, led by Cardinal

Vincent Nichols. They gathered for Benediction at the Altar of Light, went into the Holy House to light candles and lamps and venerated Our Lady with great enthusiasm. It was the Ecumenical Covenant in action and I pray that something similar will happen again soon.

Only three weeks later, we welcomed a large group from St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church in Swindon. I preached to them about the Shrine, led them for Sprinkling at the Well and took part in their Liturgy of Praise in honour of Our Lady. It was a wonderful and joy-filled day.

Then a month later, we welcomed into the Shrine Church the Hawaiian Myrrh Streaming Icon which was officially recognised as miraculous by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2008. The priests from the Annunciation and from the National Shrine were here to venerate the Icon with me and she was placed on the Altar in the Holy House before

being taken to the Orthodox Chapel for the Liturgy. It has been venerated by millions all over the world and it was a privilege to welcome her here.

Mary is indeed the source and sign of Unity!

Fr Graeme Rowlands



This address was delivered by Fr Graeme Rowlands on 21st September 2024 at the Altar of the Mysteries of Light, following Benediction.

As far as I know, this is the only place in the world with two parallel Shrines which are Catholic and Anglican. As you know, the revival of pilgrimage and the work of rebuilding also happened in parallel. Fr Patten had a copy of the image carved and set it up in the Guild's Chapel at the Parish Church. Ironically, the only contemporary copy of what the image had looked like is on the wax seal by which the Priory was dissolved, now in the British Library. When the numbers grew, it attracted the attention of Bishop Pollock, the Bishop of Norwich who came here on a stormy visit and ordered Fr Patten to remove the image from the Parish Church. To his surprise, he agreed – and built a Holy House and another Church as the Shrine.

The foundation stone of the Holy House reads:

'This chapel, placed here at the wish of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, in honour of the most holy mystery of the Incarnation in 1061, under S. Edward the Confessor, Master of the Manor of Walsingham; a foundation destroyed by Henry when he had reigned for 19 years, with his most iniquitous desire for possession (upon whose soul may God have mercy) is now restored as it was at first in the year 1931 during the Pontificate of Our Most Holy Father Pius XI, Pontifex Maximus, Bertram being the Bishop of Norwich, Hope Patten being the Parish Priest of Walsingham AMDG'.



The Bishop immediately objected to his name being linked on this stone with Pius XI so Fr Patten scrubbed out the Bishop's name, filling that line of the inscription with concrete!

Since then, this Shrine has grown beyond anything dreamed of at the time and it is wonderful that our two Shrines have been able to work more and more closely together. In 2018,

we signed an Ecumenical Covenant of which each Shrine received an icon as an outward sign. That Covenant states: *'We will ensure our Shrines are places of reciprocal welcome and hospitality for pilgrims of all traditions... We will share together in prayer and procession and work together where appropriate to share information, resources and skills.'*

This is the first time I have seen that practical cooperation and support so vividly demonstrated. It is a privilege to welcome his Eminence Cardinal Vincent, Bishop John Sherrington, and so many priests and people from the Archdiocese of Westminster: I hope and pray that this will mark the beginning of an even greater cooperation and mutual support.

Carlo Acutis
1991 - 2006



YOUNG PILGRIMS

The Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage

The 2024 Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage once again brought young people together from all over the country for a week of lively worship, teaching, fellowship and fun for

11-18 year olds. This year we thought about Mary's song, the Magnificat, with all its many facets, expressed in our daily Masses and Bible Studies. We processed along the Holy Mile and ended in the Shrine grounds with silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction; we

had a wonderful Healing Liturgy on the Wednesday evening, with the Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation; but there were also inflatables, circus skills, workshops and much more to enjoy.

We were the first official group of Anglicans to venerate the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis. We heard about his inspiring life and the ways in which he drew closer to God in the ordinary and everyday, completing the story of our lives in what we choose to do to bring us closer to Jesus and to one another.

The Youth Pilgrimage continues to grow post Covid and the 2024 pilgrimage left a lasting impact on all who attended. Feelings of a renewed sense of faith and purpose, combined with the friendships formed and the lessons learned during the pilgrimage, were invaluable. It was a truly transformative week where the young people were able to connect more deeply with their faith and renew their commitment to living and sharing the Christian faith in their daily lives.



The Family Pilgrimage

This year the theme was 'Singing God's Praises – One generation to another' and was a special time together for all the family, young and not so young, in fact all generations! The Shrine welcomed a wonderful mix of families from babies up to grandparents and everyone in between. Various stories about Mary and Song were explored along with fun crafts and activities, including a selection of furry animals to cuddle! This year, everyone made a lantern during the craft session and then processed around the gardens with the image of Our Lady, having thought about light and how God's light can shine through each of us.



“

“The family loved their few days in Walsingham. The worship was excellent and the children were really engaged throughout.”

“All the children had the opportunity to participate in the services in whatever way they felt comfortable. Good choice of music. The crafts were very enjoyable and the lantern parade was a real success.”

“The children feel valued and I am truly blessed to spend this time in the company of my grandson and the other children and families.”

Educational Visits

The Education Department was delighted to have received the prestigious Sandford Award as a mark of excellence in heritage education. This is the third Sandford Award it has received in recognition of the quality programmes and teaching on offer.

The assessor commented: *The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham offers a unique opportunity to immerse students in exploring the Christian faith across different denominations of Christianity. Sessions have been well developed in conjunction with teachers and education professionals. Students will come away not only with learning objectives met but having benefited from a totally bespoke experience. The team have a clear, concise and confident offer which puts the learner at the centre of all they do.*

The department continues to be committed to bringing young people to the Shrine and exploring Christianity and the uniqueness of the setting with them.

For more information on the Shrine's Educational visits and all our work with young pilgrims please visit www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/youngpilgrims

Caroline Ward

Director of Engagement and Education



Fr Graeme explaining the story of St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin at the Family Pilgrimage



Thank you Fr Graeme

The founder of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit Order, St Ignatius Loyola wrote that Christian discipleship is a call *“to keep your soul always in peace and quiet, always ready for whatever our Lord may wish to work in you.”*

Over the past few months we’ve had a vivid witness to this discipleship in the ministry of Fr Graeme Rowlands at the Shrine.

Just as retirement began after a long and fruitful ministry as Parish Priest of St Silas with Holy Trinity, Kentish Town we called Fr Graeme to lead the Shrine for a period whilst the appointment of a new Priest Administrator was being made. Ready for this new work of the Lord, he has been quick to give himself selflessly, generously, graciously and cheerfully and we are deeply grateful.

His gifts as a loving pastor, a wise and thoughtful preacher, and a skilful leader have blessed both staff

and pilgrims alike. His has been no mere ‘stop gap’ in the priestly ministry of the Shrine, but an energetic service in which the beauty of holiness has flourished and we’ve been encouraged and helped to grow.

We’re blessed that Father Graeme continues as Registrar of the College of Guardians (not least so he can keep me in order), but for the vision, care and faithfulness with which he has served over the past pilgrimage season we offer our heartfelt thanks.

Fr Philip Barnes
Master of the Guardians



Restoration of the Barn Chapel

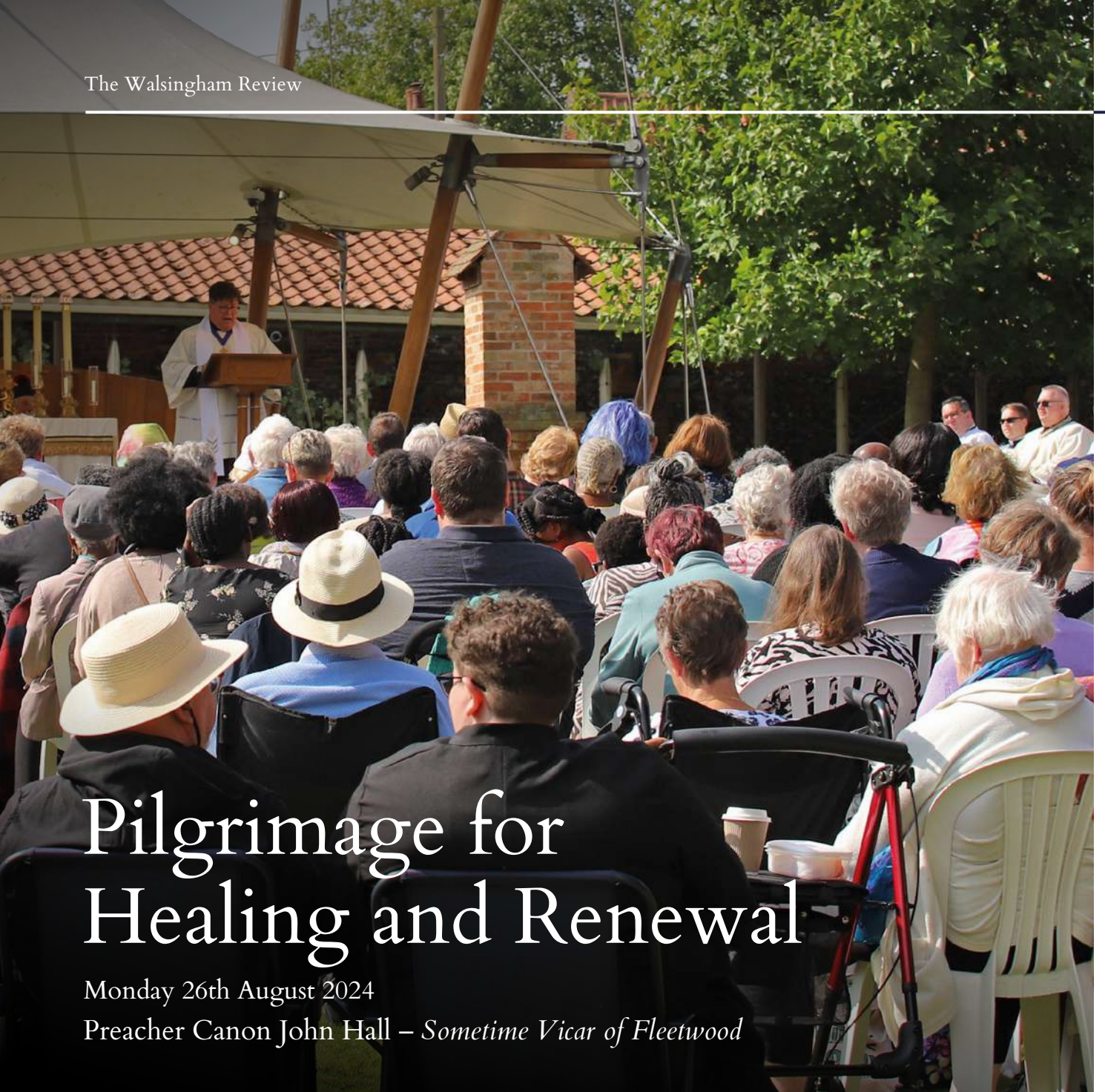


After the Solemn Mass on October 15th, when we celebrated the Translation of the Image from the Parish Church in 1931, it was most appropriate that Bishop Philip North should dedicate the restored Barn Chapel in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As well as the famous crucifix by David Begbie, and the Icon by Sergei Fyodorov, it now houses a fine carved wooden image of the Immaculate Heart. The building has been beautifully restored, thanks

to the hard work of our builders and our Shrine Staff, and creates a warm and devotional space for so many groups for their Masses and Offices.

Our immense thanks go to all who contributed to this project and to the following Trusts and Foundations: Ascot Priory, Benefact Trust, Chichester Theological Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The St Mary's Charity, the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith.





Pilgrimage for Healing and Renewal

Monday 26th August 2024

Preacher Canon John Hall – *Sometime Vicar of Fleetwood*

When God was creating mothers, he was in his sixth day of overtime when the Angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one".

And God said, "Have you read the spec on this order? She has to be completely washable but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts. All replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a broken heart. And six pairs of hands".

The Angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands, no way!"

"It's not the hands that are causing problems," God remarked, "it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers need to have."

"God," said the Angel, touching his sleeve gently, "get some rest tomorrow."

"I can't," said God, "I am so close."

The Angel circled the model of a mother very slowly, "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough," said God.

"Can it think?" asked the Angel.

"Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said God.

Finally, the Angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek, "There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said God, "It's a tear!"

"What's it for?" said the Angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the Angel.

"I didn't put it there," said God.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, today on this beautiful summer's afternoon here in Norfolk I make no apology for talking to you about tears. Ours is a culture that doesn't readily accept tears. It's so often considered childish, a sign of weakness, it's certainly not manly (well, not in the North where I come from!). Nor is it a British thing! So often we hear the cry, "pull yourself together". "Get a grip!" – we have a coded word for the situation, "they're having a breakdown or a moment". We often hear people apologising for crying, for losing that sense of self control. We have, by and large, internalised that crying is something one ought to be ashamed of.

We can cry for all sorts of reasons, for the occasions we have wronged someone, or out of frustration and out of grief. We can shed tears for joy and gladness, for pride, for relief and surprise.

But for many, as we participate in this day of healing and renewal, learning to cry and learning to overcome the fear of tears, is the first stage of discovering what it is to be made whole again by the grace of God.

So often, Our Lady sheds tears, an overwhelming response from her sacred heart as she saw what lay in store for her son. As she listened to those who plotted his death and demise, as he on the wooden gibbet. She like us, will have heard that tears are not a problem to be fixed, but a way to heal and process – today as we seek healing and renewal let us not be ashamed if our heart moves us to tears – it's valuable and necessary!



A few years ago, I had a mental breakdown just after my mother died. I discovered then how easy it was to weep – it wasn't for me just grief, it was also as a result of anxiety and fear. Even now I can find myself weeping uncontrollably. In the darkness of my mental anguish, I found the *Jesus Prayer* most helpful and, in moments of anxiety, I still do. "Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner."

Yet, as part of the healing process, I was also able to make peace with my daughter who, throughout her teenage years, had battled with mental illness, which I disregarded as something she would get over. Being given the opportunity to apologise to her for my lack of compassion went some way to me finding healing and wholeness for myself and our relationship.

Grieving, weeping, crying is a special gift – it helps to heal not only the heart and mind but also the soul. "Blessed are they who mourn," says Jesus. *It's a heavenly thing to do, my brothers and sisters in Christ!* It is a heavenly thing to do!

Of course, we weep for joy and relief, for pride and in thanksgiving. Indeed, the Angel asks, "Why are you weeping?" *Whether they be for joy or grief, pain or thanksgiving – tears are of the soul!*

Today, in this place, a place that has witnessed so many tears of so many generations, let us begin to understand that here, Mary provides us with the space and opportunity to express ourselves, if necessary, through our tears. Here Mary has provided the space for us to be compassionate with ourselves and here we must learn how to offer the same empathy to others.

Tears provide a vital emotional release, they are a gift, they help us to navigate all sorts of complex emotions and situations. It is a language we do well to learn – "And he wept" says St John of Jesus – something God knows about.



The psalmist writes, "Your tears are not unknown to God."

Our Lady knows the condition of a broken heart, she knew the joy that only a mother knows, she knows now of our destiny and the joys of heaven.

One of my favourite saints says, "Let us bind ourselves tightly to the sorrowful heart of our heavenly mother and reflect on its boundless grief and how precious is our soul." – Padre Pio

For whatever reason they come, be it joy, relief, frustration, pain or sorrow – we do well to share them for they are none other than the rumbling of God's spirit in each of us. Tears are the precious stones of the resurrection. I don't doubt we shall all cry at our resurrection and that of others. For heaven is a community, a community full of blessed mourners. For a faith with no tears is not a faith in Jesus!

Today, if needs be, let the tears flow, it is the beginning of our healing, it's the rumbling of God's sigh in our hearts. Here your cries are offered with Mary and all the saints, come and let God touch your troubles and let him walk with you in those darkest hours – for it is him who ultimately will lead you to that place where tears are no more, no pain, nor sorrow but only joy and peace – the same that Mary found and wishes us to know for ourselves.

This homily was dedicated to a dear friend and brother Priest, Fr Paul Smith RIP.



A Ministry of Joy

The Shrine Church was full to overflowing for the Sung Mass at which Fr Ben Eadon was licensed by the Bishop of Norwich as our new Priest Administrator.



There's so much that we ask our Priest Administrator to be attentive to for the good functioning of the Shrine; from buildings, to employees, investments, accounts, keeping people safe, management structures and all that goes with them. Without them the Shrine would not function. Essential though these things are, as Fr Ben began his ministry we recalled that the Shrine is called to be and do something much greater.

In the medieval poem known as the Pynson Ballad we hear Our Lady say that Walsingham is to be established in honour of the *joy* of the Annunciation. At a time when there is much anxiety in the Church and in the world, our vocation is to witness to the joy of the God who, in Mary's child, stoops down to the lowest point of our need so that we might be lifted up into his resurrection life. In sacramental encounter, in seeking the companionship of Our Lady, in our entrusting our needs in prayer, and in the conviviality and joyful sharing with our fellow pilgrims we are being prepared for that plenitude of joys which lies in the future.

We're welcoming Fr Ben with thankfulness that God has given him an abundance of gifts for his

role as our Priest Administrator. Chief among those gifts is a capacity for joy which will help us all to be agents of that celestial delight in England's Nazareth.

Please pray for him as he begins this great calling. Pray for the life and witness of the Shrine as he leads us in new tasks. May the joy of God's blessings be ours together!

Fr Philip Barnes
Master of the Guardians



The Master, with The Lady Dannatt, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, and General the Lord Dannatt

Masses and Liturgies at the Shrine

In recent months, we have been reflecting on the regular weekly timetable at the Shrine, considering what works best for our pilgrims, both for groups and individuals, and have decided to introduce a revision of the times offered by the Shrine, beginning on January 1st 2025. This is particularly to sort out the Saturday programme where, at the moment, our pilgrims do not come together as a group until 6pm that evening, then, after a hurried supper, meet again for a Homily, Procession of Our Lady and Benediction that evening. By that time, most groups are more than half way through their time with us. It enables us to make proper provision for Day Pilgrims who currently have their own Sung Mass on Saturdays at 12 noon and to cater for the many casual visitors every day. It also deals with the anomaly that the Pilgrim Mass on Wednesdays is currently at a different time from everything else.

New timetable

Daily programme

- 8am** Morning Prayer
- 9.30am** Mass in the Priory Chapel (Tues-Sat)
- 12 noon** Mass (8.30am on Sundays – livestreamed)
- 2.30pm** Sprinkling (Easter to end of October)
- 5pm** Mass – Guild of All Souls Chapel (4.30pm first Sunday of the month)
- 5.30pm** Evening Prayer
- 6pm** Shrine Prayers (livestreamed)

Pilgrimage programme

The following Pilgrimage programme is held in addition to the above when pilgrimage groups are resident:

Tuesday

- 8pm** Sprinkling, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament & Healing Ministries

Wednesday

- 12 noon** Solemn Pilgrimage Mass
- 8pm** Procession of Our Lady & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Pilgrimage programme (cont.)

Saturday

- 12 noon** Solemn Pilgrimage Mass
- 8pm** Procession of Our Lady, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament & Healing Ministries

Sunday

- 2.30pm** Sprinkling, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction and Last Visit

Before Easter and during November a modified pilgrimage programme is run at weekends and midweek, if pilgrims are resident.

Saturday Day Pilgrimage (offered one Saturday per month April – October)

- 12 noon** Pilgrimage Mass
- 2.30pm** Sprinkling
- 4pm** Benediction & Last Visit



193 NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS



NEW CELLS

- The Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, Nuneaton
- St Michael & All Angels, Maidstone
- Colgate & Roffey
- SS Thomas of Hereford, Dubricius & Leonard, Bishop's Frome

OBITS

GUARDIANS

Patrick W King

ORDER OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

John W Pawson

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Henley James
Michael Bromfield
David Brecknell
Graham Morgan
John Brownsell
Derek Belcher
Raymond Woodhams

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Lee Kent
Irene Oakley
Linda M Berry
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Joyce Ball
Anny Lee
Hilda Preston
Mavis Roberts
Jan Penn
Vera Seale
Patricia Kirk
Norma Spacey
William Thomas
Patricia Ward
Maureen Tinsey
Melanie Westenra-Hartley
Marion Taylor
Clare E Marks
Reginald Ashall
Leonard Chapman



NEW PARTNERS

6



NEW PRIESTS & DEACONS ASSOCIATE

20

The North East Walsingham Festival

Saturday 21st September 2024

The Festival was held at St Mary's Horden in the Diocese of Durham on the Feast of St Matthew. 130 people gathered for a Solemn Pontifical Mass of St Matthew celebrated by the Bishop of Beverley, at which Fr Brian Bell SSC, Guardian of the Holy House, preached. The generosity of the many pilgrims who attended meant that, after covering the costs of the day, a surplus of £500 was able to be donated to the Shrine.

Well, I've really drawn the short straw this weekend, haven't I? Preaching at the Festival of Our Lady of Walsingham on the Feast of Saint Matthew. How on earth, I wondered as I composed my sermon, am I going to draw together in one thread these two great Saints of the Church, the Apostle Matthew and importantly Mary, Our Lady of Walsingham. The starting point inevitably has to be the Gospel set for this afternoon. A beautiful gospel – and yet in some ways so frustratingly simple.

Jesus says to Matthew the Tax-Collector, "Follow me." And Matthew, for his part, seemingly without hesitation gets up and follows the Lord. End of story. No other details are provided. For all we know, there was no struggle in Matthew's heart. No anxious hesitation or battle of the will. If we believe the words of the Gospel, he simply gets up... and follows. So simple! So quick!

And maybe this is where we can see at least some resonance with the Blessed Virgin's own calling. "*Let it be to me according to your word,*" she says, though of course not completely without hesitation. Remember her perplexity at the words of the Angel, wondering what God had in store for her. And, of course, Gabriel's perhaps much needed reassurance that she was not to be afraid.

Both Matthew and Mary at the beginning of a vocation to a life of holiness, faithfulness and obedience to God. Neither of them really very reluctant at all or greatly hesitant, both simply accepting of what they were being asked to do.

It's probably an understatement, but this has not been my own experience in following the Lord. I'm all too often a reluctant disciple. So I don't know about you, but when I hear the story of the calling of Saint Matthew, or indeed

reflect on Mary's "Yes", it in some senses seems much too straightforward. They are both so receptive to God's call! So prompt to respond to His Voice! Matthew abandons his post without looking back! And Mary says her "Yes"!

I just want to be more simple like them!

All of us know that faith isn't always straightforward or easy. We need look no further than the Blessed Virgin's own path to see the truth of that: "*And a sword shall pierce your own soul,*" says the prophet Simeon to her in those first tentative days of her motherhood.

And although in the gospels we're not actually given a lot of details or information about Mary, we do know that she followed Jesus as he preached and healed people. She saw him being betrayed, denied, arrested and condemned. She was there at the cross with the other women when he died. She buried her son and then, at Pentecost, she was there when the friends and followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Mary, then, is truly the example of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. She asks us to do what he, Jesus, tells us and what she herself did all her life: she followed her Son faithfully with courage and conviction, even when it was difficult and challenging.

Yes, at times, our own relationship with God may well be challenging or a struggle. Perhaps on occasions we lose sight of the goal of our faith – and we forget what it was like when Jesus first spoke to our heart with those same incredible words Matthew heard: "Follow me!" Or with the injunction given to Mary not to be afraid and at the same time be willing to look to a future of uncertainty and the unknown.

I do like that. The idea of hesitancy and uncertainty. The notion that there may well be times in our Christian life when we question.

"Am I really cut out for this? Why is it so hard to follow you with my whole heart, Jesus?"

Thankfully, Saint Paul's words from our first reading today are a source of great encouragement and comfort for us. He writes to the Ephesians saying:

"Brothers and sisters, I implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together."

These words seem almost to balance the radical promptness of Saint Matthew's and Mary's response. Paul exhorts us to *"lead a life worthy of our vocation"*. It is the same exact call Matthew received from Jesus – *"Follow me!"* It is a proposal that demands a yes or a no. Matthew followed. Our Blessed Mother said her *"Yes"*, whatever that was going to mean for her, as challenging as the journey would eventually become.

But remember... be patient! Bear with one another through love! Be humble. Be gentle.

In other words: The radical call of Jesus to follow Him without reservation is for each and every one of us. There are no halfway-saints. We can't both follow and not follow Jesus at the same time!

And yet – and this is so crucial to remember – we also need to be patient – patient with ourselves and with our neighbour. Holiness isn't magic. In fact, it usually takes an

entire lifetime to grow into, with lots of failure and forgiveness along the way. By God's tender, patient grace, we find the courage to turn back to him again and again – until finally, as Saint Paul himself puts it, *"We all attain the full stature of Christ."*

This is such a great proof of the Lord's mercy and love toward us: That even when we are broken, imperfect, and sometimes even reluctant followers, His call stands firmly unshaken: *"Follow me."*

Fr Brian Bell



Major Patrick King 1937 - 2024



Barbara Marlow, Guardian Emerita,
and Fr Jeremy Sheehy, Guardian,
write following the death of Major
Patrick King on 10th September 2024:

Patrick King was a well known figure around Walsingham, in the village, in the Shrine and at the parish church of St Mary and All Angels. He was a child of the Vicarage and was sent to the Sanctuary School in Walsingham along with his two brothers.

Patrick was a lifelong Anglo-Catholic Christian and had a great devotion to Our Lady. He was a member of the General Synod and fought hard to get the September 8th date, Our Lady's Birthday, into the Anglican calendar: he succeeded!

St Mary's was his home and he served her so well: he was churchwarden for many years and it was a great tribute to Patrick that four of the previous vicars were present at his funeral, Father John Barnes, Father Michael Rear, Father Keith Hayden and Bishop Norman Banks. Father Rear preached the homily and was able to enhance Patrick's commitment to his Catholic faith.

Patrick went to Marlborough College and from there he went into the Army. A life he loved and it was there that he met and married Wyn. A military career is a moving life and he and his family travelled world wide. Patrick was

a concerned and supportive training officer who was able to help and guide many young recruits in the way of the army, and he delighted in forming a branch of the Army Cadets in Walsingham on his retirement to the village.

Patrick was made a Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in 1991 and served the College with steadfast love and devotion. He was an enthusiastic and very capable Chairman of Parcevall Hall, making many journeys to North Yorkshire to sort out problems with water wells and old barns! Problems that are now resolved, thanks in so many ways to Patrick's tenacity.

Although he hasn't been in the best of health during the last two years he was very much aware of the work of the Shrine. He loved the place and missed being at Chapter.

Patrick was kind, considerate and a committed member of the College of Guardians. We shall miss him. May he rest in Peace.

Barbara Marlow
Guardian Emerita

I first met Patrick in those difficult days after the vote in 1992. When it was known that I was to be the next Principal of Saint Stephen's House, he wished me well and, not long after that, he asked me if he could nominate me as a Guardian and so I owe him that debt. But also I knew he was on General Synod and when I realised that we had two nominees from General Synod on our Governing Body and that we were allowed to make suggestions I suggested to Bishop Alan Chesters we asked for Patrick – and we got him. He was a great support throughout my time as Principal – serving also on our Finance and General Purposes Committee – and dutiful in attendance at meetings, despite the distance. The links with the College of Guardians and the Catholic Group in Synod were valuable, but what mattered more, and most stayed with me, was Patrick's constant interest in the students. When I learned more about his army service and his interest and work for young people at Walsingham and around, this ceased to surprise me.

Fr Jeremy Sheehy
Guardian

Lamps & Thanks Offerings

I have often been struck, whilst leading Shrine Prayers, at how few expressions of thanks there are compared with the number of requests for healing and support, for the sick and the dead. On the west wall of the Shrine Church there are a number of plaques given by some of our pilgrims, offering thanks for prayers answered, for miracles of healing and lives transformed. A few are more recent, but most belong to the earlier days of the Shrine. There is still space and it would be very good if we could revive this tangible expression of our thanks.

If you would like to offer your thanks in this way, please contact the Membership Department (membs@olw-shrine.org.uk; **01328 820582**) and send us the wording for your offering of thanks. It will include the year and should have a maximum of 25 words. We ask for a contribution of £250 for each permanent plaque.

We are also increasing the number of votive lamps which burn every day at the time of Shrine Prayers. There has, for some years, been a waiting list of requests for these and we should now be able to cater for all who are waiting and for a number of additional intentions. If you would like to request a lamp, please contact the Membership Department as above.

Fr Graeme Rowlands



THE GUILD OF ALL SOULS
WITH
THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM



for clergy, ordinands & laity of all denominations

'CHRISTIANS & ASSISTED DYING'

Thursday 22nd May 2025

10:45am – 2:45pm

at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Incarnation – What does it mean for us?	Attitudes to Death- What Should we Think?	Assisted Dying- A Christian Response
The Revd Fr Andreas Wenzel SSC, Vice Principal and Director of Pastoral Studies, St Stephen's House, Oxford	Teresa Lynch RN, MSc, Founder member of Pro-life Nurses UK	Dr Simon Eyre MA, FRCP, FRCGP, GP (retired) Member of the CofE General Synod

£25 including tea/coffee and lunch.

To book, please email: mihoward@btinternet.com

www.guildofallsouls.org.uk

At the time of writing, I do not know how properly to express my personal thanks for all that I have received here during the last six months. It feels like about six years! It has been such a privilege to meet so many regular pilgrims, those here on pilgrimage for the first time and countless occasional visitors. Some of those conversations have led to sacramental ministry, Mass intentions and ongoing opportunities to keep in contact. All of them have immensely enriched my life and ministry. Along with that, it has been a joy working with such a committed team of staff at the Shrine, getting to know them and to share some of their joys and sorrows, as they share mine. To all, and to Our Lady for bringing me here, I offer my thanks.

Fr Graeme Rowlands

Registrar of the College of Guardians



From the Sacristy

The Shrine has care of a large collection of antique and modern vestments and hangings gifted by clergy (often in their wills) and lay people alike. We do our best to preserve and conserve them while still using them (albeit occasionally for some) for their intended purpose. In this task we are aided by our fantastic "Mistress of the Robes", Bev Standing. Every Thursday she can be found in the Sacristy mending and restoring a vast array of vestments and hangings. Many of the larger jobs then go home and more hours are spent there draped over the dining room table! Some recent work includes patching the silk around the morse on a humeral veil, strengthening the lining seams on one of our copes and bringing back to life the silver thread on a cope hood. We are so grateful for Bev's hard work keeping the vestments in a worthy state for our liturgies and saving them for future generations to use.

Before



After





Norton's Café & Bar

Norton's Café and Bar was opened in 2003 and is the Shrine's own on-site facility for pilgrims and visitors to enjoy. Serving a wide range of local produce, it is a relaxed area which can seat up to 57 people inside and a further 50 in the pleasant courtyard.

Lord Norton was a lay guardian of the Shrine between 1967 and 1993. He was key in managing the Parcevall Hall Estate in Yorkshire, owned by the Shrine, where the gardens were laid out by the late Sir William Milner from 1927 onwards, and are planted with specimens from around the world, many collected from Western China and the Himalayas. The café bar is named after him in recognition of his extensive work for the Shrine.

Norton's serves a variety of soft and alcoholic drinks, including their own Vision Gin and Vision Ale which is made locally, both of which are

very popular! Homemade cakes and pastries, pizzas, flatbreads, salads and other light lunches are available daily. Keep an eye open for specials, including Sunday lunches and a pensioner's special on Wednesdays.

Norton's staff live locally and, in the summer, students are employed to assist over those busy few months. Produce used in the kitchen is sourced from local butchers, greengrocers and other catering suppliers. You can even sample and buy honey produced by the bees belonging to our Catering Manager, Pat!

A recent innovation is the Ale and Gin Festival for pilgrims visiting Walsingham for the National Pilgrimage. This event is held outside Norton's where a selection of local beers, ciders and gin are on offer along with a BBQ and hog roast. This has swiftly become a much-loved tradition, and we look

forward to developing the range of local drinks on offer.

Norton's is open from 9.30am until 11pm during the pilgrimage season. If you wish to arrange your own quiz night or something similar in Norton's, this can be accommodated and the bar kept open. All profits from Norton's support the work of the Shrine, so you can visit, drink and eat in the knowledge that you are contributing to the wider mission of the Shrine!

Norton's Cafe & Bar Opening Hours:

9.30am - 11pm *during pilgrimage season*

To book for larger groups or special requests call the Pilgrim Refectory at **01328 820523**. All profits support the work of the Shrine.



2025 Events

The Walsingham Children's Weekend

Creed all about it!

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 March

For children aged 7-11 years old

Lenten Retreat

Monday 17 – Thursday 20 March

An opportunity for reflection & prayer in the season of Lent

Led by: The Revd Dr Aidan Nichols OP

The Annunciation of the Lord

Tuesday 25 March

12 noon – Solemn Mass

Preacher: The Revd Preb. Philip Barnes, Master of the Guardians

National Pilgrimage

Monday 26 May

12 noon – National Pilgrimage Mass

Principal Celebrant: The Rt Revd Paul Thomas,
Bishop of Oswestry

2.30pm – Sermon, Procession & Benediction

Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth,
Dean of Windsor

Youth Pilgrimage

Credo: Seeing Jesus through Mary's eyes

Monday 4 – Friday 8 August

Assumptiontide

Thursday 14 August

3pm – Assumptiontide Lecture, Parish Church

5pm – First Vespers and Benediction

8.15pm – Ecumenical Torchlight Procession from
the Parish Church

Friday 15 August

12 noon – Solemn Mass

Pilgrimage for Healing and Renewal

Monday 25 August

12 noon – Solemn Mass

Principal Celebrant: The Rt Revd Glyn Webster

2.30pm – Sermon, Sprinkling & Healing Ministries

Preacher: The Rt Revd Glyn Webster

Walsingham Festival – Peterborough Cathedral

Saturday 20 September

12 noon – Solemn Mass

2.30pm – Healing Ministries, Procession of OLW & Benediction

Family Pilgrimage

Believe!

Monday 27 – Thursday 30 October

Teaching, worship & activities for all the family

Bible Weekend

Friday 14 – Sunday 16 November

Adoremus

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 November

A weekend of teaching, pilgrimage & fellowship for students
& young adults from 18 to 35

Advent Retreat

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 December



Scan this code to donate

If you wish to donate towards the Shrine's work please scan this QR code which will take you to the Donation page on the Shrine's website. We are grateful for your support.

www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk



For further details on the above, other events and accommodation at the Shrine please go to our website: www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk or contact the Hospitality Department by calling us on 01328 820239 or emailing accom@olw-shrine.org.uk.