

The Barbara Pym Society

2010 North American Conference Details

Venues

Friday night: [The Church of the Advent](#), 30 Brimmer Street (corner of Mt Vernon), Beacon Hill, Boston. [\[map\]](#) Evensong is at 6:30 p.m. with dinner to follow at approximately 7:30; the service (see below) is free and open to the public. You are free to attend either or both events. The dinner costs \$50 per person, and reservations and payment must be received by 12 March. Wine will be available for purchase.

♿ The church sanctuary, parish hall and restrooms are fully accessible; ramp access to the church is through the parish house entrance at 30 Brimmer St.

MBTA subway Red Line: Exit at Charles/MGH, turn left when you leave the station and cross the street towards the CVS pharmacy. Keep the CVS on your left and proceed down Charles Street to the third set of lights, which is Mt Vernon Street. Turn right onto Mt Vernon and proceed past the Charles Street Meeting House one block to the church; the main entrance is around the corner on Brimmer Street.

MBTA subway Green Line: Exit at Arlington Street station, turn left when you pass through the turnstiles and proceed north on Arlington St with the Arlington Street church on your left and the Public Garden on your right. Continue past the Taj hotel to the end of Arlington St, where it meets Beacon Street. Cross to the far side of Beacon St and turn right; proceed two blocks to Brimmer St (Greek consulate and Cheers pub on the corner) and turn left onto Brimmer. The church is at 30 Brimmer St.

Parking at the nearby Boston Common Garage is \$11 after 4 p.m. Meters on Charles and Beacon streets are in effect until 8:00 p.m., so if you park after 6:00 p.m. and put in \$2 for 2 hours you will be fine.

Warning: Most spaces on the side streets around the church are for neighborhood residents only and require a special sticker, and parking regulations are vigorously enforced.

Saturday and Sunday: Harvard University, Barker Center for the Humanities, 12 Quincy Street (at Harvard Street), Harvard Square, Cambridge [\[map\]](#). Use the ramped entrance in the courtyard.

♿ The Barker Center is fully accessible. If you have HP plates or a placard, there are a very limited number of HP parking spaces adjacent to the building; let us know if you need one.

MBTA subway Red Line: Go to Harvard Square station and use the main exit. When you leave the station you will be facing the Harvard Coop store; make a U-turn, cross Dunster Street towards Au Bon Pain and then cross to the opposite (Harvard campus) side of Mass. Ave. Proceed down Mass Ave, keeping Harvard Yard on your left. At the fork in the road, bear left; the Barker Center will be across Quincy Street on your left and the Inn at Harvard across the street on your right.

Parking is available at the Inn at Harvard, directly across the street from the Barker Center, for \$15 per day; you can call 617 491 2222 on Saturday morning to check availability. If their garage is full try the Holyoke Center parking garage: Proceed down Mass Ave to Dunster Street, just before Mass Ave bears right. Turn left onto Dunster Street one block, then left onto Mt Auburn Street one block, then left onto Holyoke Street to the garage entrance. They charge \$23 to park until 6:00 p.m. and \$28 max for all day.

On Sunday morning, parking meters are not in effect so you may be able to park nearby on Harvard Street, Quincy Street, or Massachusetts Avenue for free.

A word of warning: The chairs in the Barker Center conference room are mostly of the stackable, hard plastic variety, so you might want to bring a cushion with you.

Choral Evensong

Evensong has been sung by British cathedral choirs since the 17th century. The service consists of texts from the Bible, either read or set to music, and a series of prayers sung by a cantor and the choir. There is no sermon and no Communion. You are free to participate as much or as little as you like – if you want to enjoy the music and the atmosphere but not join in the hymns and prayers, that is perfectly acceptable.

The service will conclude in the usual Anglo-Catholic manner with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, an ancient ceremony in which a consecrated communion wafer is displayed for veneration and then is used to bless the congregation. This is the epitome of “smells and bells” high church – Mildred Lathbury’s mother would be horrified. (“I could imagine my mother, her lips pursed, shaking her head and breathing in a frightened whisper, ‘Incense.’” —*Excellent Women*)

Bring-and-Buy Sale

On Saturday afternoon we have expanded the traditional book swap into a Bring-and-Buy sale. Suitable items to bring include used books, homemade preserves or candy, tea cozies and other handcrafts, small *objets d’art*, Pymish CDs and DVDs, etc. Nothing will be priced over \$5 – this is meant to be a fun event, not a fund raiser. Please do not donate clothing or items with significant damage. Unsold items will be returned to the donor or given to charity. And you need not bring anything in order to buy!

We will also have Pym mugs, coasters, bookmarks, note cards, and copies of *No Soft Incense* and the Pym cookbook available for purchase on Saturday.

Saturday Dinner

We have made 7:30 p.m. reservations for multiple groups of 6 at the following nearby restaurants. If you would like to be included, please [let us know](#) no later than **Sunday 14 March** which restaurant you prefer. If you wish to dine with friends, tell us the names of everyone in your group and we will do our best to accommodate you. You will order off the regular menu and each table will pay their server.

[Grafton Street Pub & Grill](#), 1230 Massachusetts Ave, Harvard Square: Contemporary American pub grub in a casual setting just across the street from our conference venue. Salads and appetizers \$8-\$13, pizzas and sandwiches \$9-\$12, entrees \$14-20. Free parking available after 6:00 p.m.; ask for details.

[Pizzeria Uno Chicago Grill](#), 22 JFK Street, Harvard Square: Another casual, inexpensive option near the conference venue. Salads and appetizers \$4-\$11, deep dish pizzas and sandwiches \$9-\$11, entrees \$10-\$21.

[Legal Sea Foods](#), 22 University Road, Charles Square hotel complex. Boston’s most famous seafood restaurants since 1968. This option is a bit further from the conference venue (0.6 miles, 12-15 min walk), and more expensive; salads and appetizers \$9-\$15, entrees \$17-\$37.

Sunday Brunch

After we adjourn, we will have our traditional brunch at the [Sheraton Commander Hotel](#), 16 Garden St. in Cambridge, at approximately 12:30 p.m. Brunch costs \$30 per person and includes either soup or salad and your choice of chicken pot pie, Thai scrod (white fish fillet), grilled vegetable panini sandwich, or three-egg omelet, plus coffee, tea and soft drinks. Tax and gratuity are included; alcoholic beverages and desserts are available by request for an additional charge. We will collect \$30 per person in cash (no credit cards, please) at the restaurant; exact change is greatly appreciated. The Sheraton is about 0.7 miles from the Barker Center, a 15-20 minute walk. If you want to join us for brunch please [e-mail Donna Safreed](#) by Thursday 18 March or speak to her during conference check-in on Saturday morning.