



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes

April 2024

Services

Sundays

Eucharist at 8 am and 5.30 pm,
Matins 10 am High Mass at 10.30 am

Weekdays

Eucharist at 12.15 pm and 6.00 pm
Morning Prayer 8.15 am, Evening Prayer
5.40 pm

Confessions

Daily after the 12.15 pm Mass, Wednesdays
& Saturdays at 6.30 pm
Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage by
appointment with the Parish Priest

Parish Clergy

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Groves
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Assistant Curates

The Revd Esther Lay

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The Revd Lucie Spiers

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Associate Priest

The Reverend Dr Mel Marshall
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Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Events

The Feast of the Annunciation

8th April

The usual date for “Lady Day” (25th March) fell on Palm Sunday, and so the Feast is transferred to the first day outside the Easter Octave, that is Monday 9th April. Mass at 12.15pm and 6pm as usual.

Parochial Church Council

17th April

The PCC meets next in church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th April.

Scripture on Saturday

20th April

Our online Bible study mornings continue on Saturday April 20th, from 10am via Zoom. We shall be looking at Genesis 23 onwards. All are welcome, no previous experience or participation required. The link will be circulated via the parish email list.

Annual Parochial Meeting

21st April

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 21st April after mass. At this meeting, we shall elect our churchwardens for the coming year. We shall also elect several representatives to the Parochial Church Council. The parish’s accounts for 2023 will be presented by the Treasurer, and reports on various bodies and activities will be provided, along with the Vicar’s annual report to the parish. Please make a note of this in your diary and join us.

Notices

New Administrator

We are delighted to welcome Nigel Speight as our new parish administrator. Nigel will be in the church office most mornings (and all day on Tuesdays) and will begin work on Monday 8th April. The contact number and email address for the parish office will remain the same.

Hospitality and Church Watch at St Mary Mags

We benefit every Sunday from the kindness of volunteers who serve coffee or other drinks, and clear and wash up afterwards. If you think you could help with this simple task every few weeks, please let Fr Peter or Veronica Ellis know.

We also welcome any offers of church watch – both these are simple and effective ways to serve our church community.

With our administrator in the church office we are able to keep the church open for longer hours now, and with the help of volunteers we hope to be open all day much more often. If you feel you can help, please speak to Mthr Esther, who will provide more information.

Electoral roll revision

In preparation for the APCM, the Electoral Roll of the parish will be revised. If you are not on the roll please collect a form from the back of church by the north door, or email the parish office to ask for one.

Churchyard project

Our plans to improve and develop our churchyard are continuing. A programme of planting has begun in both the north and south yards, and as spring shows itself more and more, so the appearance of the churchyards will change. The fine Georgian Ward monument, on the south side, will undergo extensive restoration, probably in June, and the new garden design, with a mown collar and path, will soon be apparent also. The railings around the churchyard will be fully repaired repainted over the summer as well.

Fundraising events

In support of our efforts to meet the costs of the project, Mthr Esther is undertaking two fundraising events, including a recital in church on the evening of 1st June – an important date for our diaries. The other event – a sponsored singing of duets – will be confirmed shortly.

Anniversary Celebrations

This year St Mary Magdalen's celebrates 950 years since its founding, in 1074. Our Dedication Festival in October will involve a weekend of celebrations. On Saturday 26th October, the Bishop of Oxford will bless our newly restored churchyard following a High Mass which will begin at 11.30am. Evensong and Benediction later that afternoon will feature a reunion of many of those who have sung in our choir over the last twenty-five years or so. And on the morning of Sunday 27th October, the Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams will preach at our Dedication Festival High Mass. That service will also feature the first performance of a specially commissioned mass setting from the world-famous composer Cecilia McDowall.

As if all this were not enough, Saturday 26th October is also the 90th birthday of our beloved former Vicar, Fr Hugh Wybrew, and so we will be able to combine our celebrations with his.

Please make sure you have put these dates in your diary.

Easter Day

A sermon extract from Fr Peter

The women, and the disciples, find a tomb which is empty. Jesus has gone before them. They have, then, a choice: hang around, scouring the empty tomb, going in and looking at all there is to see, focusing on the absence of a body rather than a presence: or acting on that injunction to follow, to go after Jesus, to allow themselves to be led not just home – for they, remember are Galileans – but also abroad, because Galilee is also the home of the Gentiles, the symbol of the gospel as it spreads from Jerusalem across and around the entire created world.

Why do we seek the living among the dead? To look only at the empty tomb is to commit the dangerous mistake which we have considered throughout this week. I can look at the events of Jesus death and resurrection simply as a set of historical events. In so doing, I see them at a distance and make no connection between the events themselves and myself as their witness. Or, on the other hand, I can recognise that the resurrection of Jesus is, yes, an historical event but also and far more importantly an eternal event, the eternal event, the decisive moment of human history in which the life giving presence of God ruptures the world that we thought we knew and remakes it, renews it in the risen life of Christ which you and I are invited by grace to share. The risen life of Christ is here, there and everywhere, present us for all to see, in the vital and energetic life of the world around us, in the beauty of the created order, the magnificence of human endeavour, the resonance of music and the arts, the generosity of our neighbours, the love of those who make our lives what they are.

But this is not a substitute, not an alternative, not a mere symbol for the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Rather it is the effect of that real resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus was and is real and ought to be the basis of everything which we call life, precisely because the presence of Christ is as real, as life-giving, as triumphant, as enduring in your life and mine as it was in the lives of those we call his disciples.

So what are we to do with this good news? Sit back, and congratulate God on a job well done? Or do something about it, act upon the gospel, take seriously the instruction to go and meet Jesus? For he is ever present, ever ready, ever waiting to meet us in every corner of the wonderful mess that we call our lives. Life, after all, is what Easter is about. And life, as they say, is for living.

Intercessions

Please pray for the long-term sick and those in special need, among them:

Jo Laity, Sr Mary Bernard, Sophie Brown, Pamela Rogers, Sophie, Adrian, Ann, Alison, Johanna Merz, Maggie, Michael, Gordon Scott, Michael Starford, Helen Bell, Jenny, Beryl Dryden, Susan Barnes, Roy Dicker, John O'Leary, Jennifer Larcombe, Bob Guthrie, Eleanor Jamison, Anna, Phoenix, Elwyn Knight, Bernard Bishop, Francis O'Gorman, Andrew Linzey, Sancha Maya-Rai, Muhammad Sarwar

Sunday readings

Sunday 7th April: Acts 32-35; 1 John 5.1-6; John 20.19-31

Sunday 14th April: Acts 3.13-19; 1 John 2.1-5; Luke 24.35-48

Sunday 21st April: Acts 4.8-12; 1 John 3.1-2; John 10.11-18

Sunday 28th April: Acts 9.26-31; 1 John 3.18-24; John 15.1-8

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Easter Octave	2 Easter Octave	3 Easter Octave	4 Easter Octave	5 Easter Octave	6 Easter Octave
Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
7 2nd Sunday of Easter	8 Annunciation of the Lord (tr.)	9 Feria	10 Feria	11 Feria	12 Feria	13 Feria
Parish community	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation	Steven our Bishop	Justin our Archbishop	Vocations	Monthly requiem	The homeless
14 3rd Sunday of Easter	15 Feria	16 Feria	17 Feria Anointing at 6pm	18 Feria Anointing 12.15	19 Alphege B M	20 Feria
Parish community	Helen and Douglas House	The PCC	Healing ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Our musicians	Theologians
21 4th Sunday of Easter	22 Feria	23 George, M	24 Feria	25 Mark, Ev	26 Feria	27 Feria
Parish community	The Gatehouse	Our country	Those preparing for exams	Biblical scholars	Ordinands	Oxford Deanery
28 5th Sunday of Easter	29 Catherine of Siena	30 Feria				
Parish community	The religious life	Scholars				