



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes

July 2017

Services

Sundays

Eucharist at 8 am and 5.30 pm,
Mattins 10 am, High Mass 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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The Reverend Dr Jonathan Jong
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The Reverend Dr Jarred Mercer
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Events

Scripture on Saturday

Our monthly Bible Study sessions continue on Saturday 15th July, from 10.30am – 12noon in church. We will be beginning a study of the First Letter of Peter. All are welcome, and no previous participation is necessary.

Patronal Festival

On Sunday 23rd July. The preacher at the High Mass will be the Rt Revd Humphrey Southern, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, formerly Bishop of Repton and now Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford. In a change to our previous practice, lunch will follow in Trinity College. Since the refreshments are being provided by the college, the cost of tickets will be a little more than in recent years.

At our recent PCC meeting, it was felt a good idea to “splash out” on the patronal celebrations, as something of a last hurrah before the major disruption which will follow over the next few months with the major restoration works being done. Although we have our main celebration of our patron saint on the nearest Sunday, the Feast of St Mary Magdalen falls each year on July 22nd, and so the church council thought it symbolically appropriate to sell tickets for the lunch at £22 per person. (We realise that this is a significant increase on our previous costs, and would not want anyone to miss out because of this, so please feel free to contact Fr Peter in confidence if you find the price prohibitive.)

Summer events which make use of Oxford’s unique surroundings, and are fully catered, are usually memorable occasions, and we hope this will be the case with our patronal. But such events are never cheap. The PCC welcomes any feedback about the event and its cost, and will discuss future plans in the autumn. If you do feel strongly that this sort of pricing is not helpful, please let us know.

Notices

Ordinands

Among those ordained at Petertide are several current and former members of our church. Please pray for Sarah Foot, Jessica Reid (née Sheppard), Emma Hopegood-Jones, Samuel Gibson, Caitlyn Carmichael-Davis, Giles Bartleman, Robert Church, Daniel Trott, Samantha Sartain, Tom Carpenter, James Holden, Ross Maidment, Sebastian Harries,

A Mary Mags Festival Weekend

For most of the rest of the year, our major restoration project will be underway. Once it is finished, we shall want to celebrate the newly restored building and give thanks for the ongoing life of our church. The weekend of 3 – 4 February 2018 will be a “Mary Mags Festival Weekend”, and we will be inviting as many as possible of the hundreds of clergy who have been connected with us in the past, as members of the congregation or ordinands on placement, or part of the clergy term. We shall also be marking twenty years of our choir in its current form, and will invite back as many singers as possible. The festival will further provide an opportunity of launch our “Mary Mags School of Theology” on which the clergy are currently working. Plans are ongoing, but it is good to be able to confirm that Fr Rowan Williams, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, will be among the bishops who are with us for those celebrations.

Pilgrimage plans

The Area Dean, Fr Will Donaldson, has organised a Deanery trip to the Holy Land for April next year. The dates are 10th – 20th April 2018 and the cost is likely to be around £1100 plus flights. If you are interested in going, please contact Fr Peter. All churches in the Deanery are invited to participate.

On our own, we are considering a parish holiday / pilgrimage to Rome in September 2018, for perhaps a week. If this is of interest to you, please speak to Fr Peter or email him, or Katie in the parish office.

Church Watch

Any time that people can give to Church Watch is always much appreciated. Please contact Katie in the Parish Office if you are able to help with this essential ministry which enables us to keep the church open for all.

Fr. Phillip's trek to Machu Picchu in aid of Christian Aid

Many thanks to all those who supported my trek by prayers, words of encouragement and donations. At the time of writing (14 June) it looks as though the amount received by Christian Aid will be £2180, which makes the effort well worthwhile. (I paid the travel costs myself.) Some donations that were sent via Justgiving were anonymous; thanks to all who gave.

There were four days of walking, typically from 7am to 8pm, and many, many steps uphill. We went from 2800m up to 4200m and down to 3600m on the second day. No one claims it is easy, but I did carry my own backpack, and I think I carried more bottled water than anyone else - the allegedly boiled stream water didn't appeal, and although several of the others were ill, I escaped.

Machu Picchu is an amazing sight, an amazing site in the remote mountains of Peru. Previously we had stayed in Cusco, the former capital of Peru. I saw there the painting of the Last Supper with cooked guinea-pig on the table, and also a painting of the Good Shepherd, carrying not a sheep but a llama: making the gospel fit the local context.

As the other trekkers went home, I stayed another week in South America. I saw the birthplace of St Martin of Porres in Lima, a wonderful saint that the church took more than 300 years to canonise (he was black). I attended mass 200 metres underground in a salt-mine at Zipaquirá near Bogotá in Colombia. My very rudimentary Spanish could pick out only one sentence from the sermon, *Jesús esta aqui*, Jesus is here; what more need a preacher say?

Trinity Sunday, Fr Jonathan's Sermon

Baptism of Kathy Peacock

Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 [John 3:16-18]

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The fiery pillar materialises ex nihilo, and speaks, to Charlton Heston in Cecil DeMille's 1956 biblical epic *The Ten Commandments*. I am, I am, I am the Lord Thy God, names the voice before a prehensile stream of Oscar-winning special effects emerges from the pillar and etches into the mountainside some Bronze Age Phoenician Hebrew far beyond my palaeographical powers. And then the familiar slabs—those rectangles with rounded tops—are carved by the same supernatural flame, and Heston's Moses reaches for them, and holds them in his own hands.

These are not the plates he now holds, of course. They lie crumbled at the bottom of Mt Sinai; God's own work and writing smashed in the old prophet's fury at his people's faithless idolatry. His wrath burned hot and burned the golden calf and ground it into dust, and the people drank the dust mixed with water, and so the idol is transmuted into effluent waste.

Moses had to supply the slabs this second time around. But the Lord came again and stood with him, comes in the midst of us and takes us as an inheritance and utters that mystery of a name, a name that may or may not come from the verb to be, but has been received anyway as an indication that God just is. I am, I am, says the Lord. There is no why or how to the existence of God. There is, in other words, no purpose, no function, no point to God. God is in this way like number theory and the ballet, like poetry and musical theatre, none of which need to be useful to be essential. God is a gratuitous act, and therefore utterly free, free from our obsessions with utility and value, costs and benefits, and therefore free to love for no reason at all.

And so, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is most commonly and disastrously misunderstood in functional terms: the Father is for creating, the Son for redeeming, and the Spirit for sanctifying. God is thus defined in terms of what God does for us, which is almost laughably narcissistic, if not tragically idolatrous. The problem with modern idols—made of ideas rather than of gold—is that they cannot be so easily identified and expelled.

It is not our fault, of course. From all fronts, we are assaulted with our own objectification and commodification. Human beings have become human resources, to be evaluated based on our outputs and efficiencies. Cries of need are met at best with unfeeling mantras about balanced budgets and at worst with mocking talk of magical money trees. We are now perhaps known best by the mindless algorithms that extract data from our most popular avenues of self-expression; this data is then sold to the highest bidder, and thus we have become the products of the services we purport to use. It is no wonder that we don't know how to be loved, that we are in perpetual states of anxiety about whether we belong, whether we are worthy so to do.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is the idea that at the heart of all things 3 is a life that consists of nothing other than gratuitous love. Father, Son, and Spirit pour themselves out into one another without remain, holding nothing of themselves back for themselves: they therefore define one another, not by roles fulfilled but by love given and received, given and received, given and received, ever world without end.

This then, is the name into which you, Kathy, are to be baptised, really the same name revealed to Moses so many mythic years ago.

This is the life into which you are to be baptised, a life of learning to be loved not for what you can produce or accomplish or what you look or sound like, but just because; because you were made by love for love.

Our job—the job of this congregation now gathered and of the Church throughout the world—is to help you with this learning, by loving you. Your baptism calls forth ours, in which we too were brought into this new life. And we are unspeakably privileged, from now on, to call you our own. Take seriously the promises we are making to you, Kathy: This will forever be your Church, and we will forever be your people. It will not matter how far away you go—though London is really not very far away—this will always be a home to which you can return. We will always have your back.

Your job is, like ours, to live out this calling to be in the world unencumbered by the trappings of life as it is typically known, the petty insecurities that fuel our narcissistic compulsions to assert ourselves, even to the detriment of others. This is, of course, the sense in which baptism is a kind of death: you will be drowned in the waters of baptism into the death of Jesus Christ, who gave up his life for the sake of the world. The life into which you then emerge is the life of his resurrection, which walks with strangers and breaks the barriers of fear and sits at table to truly know and be known.

These are all glorious mysteries. God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit. The baptism by water and the name of God. And you. Amen.

Intercessions

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

Holly Ryan, Wendy Webb, Ann-Marie, Abigail, Melanie, Dan, Angela, Anna and Phoenix, Philip, Chris, Lewis, Julie, Michael, Sue Goodall, Alex Underwood, Richard Gurney, Brian, Jonathan, John Duffield, Allan Moore, Ian Morris, Alan Springett, Bennet Saunders, William Pope, Chloe Ogden, Colin Brown, Sybilla Pfeiffer, Liam Bradshaw, Di Taylor, Tracy O'Sullivan, Abigail Bruins, William Missin, Jane Thomas, Tony Washington-Jarvis, David Games, Charlotte Jacob-Maguire, Trevor Shakeshaft, Barbara Shakeshaft

Sunday readings

Sunday 2nd July: 1 Kings 4.8-11; Romans 5.3-11; Matthew 10.37-42

Sunday 9th July: Zechariah 9.9-10; Romans 8.9-13; Matthew 11.25-30

Sunday 16th July: Isaiah 55.10-11; Romans 8.18-23; Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Sunday 23rd July: Song of Songs 3.1-4; 2 Corinthians 5.14-17; John 20.1-2, 11-18

Sunday 30th July: 1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.28-30; Matthew 13.44-52

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Feria
						Steven, our Bishop
2 13th Sunday of the Year	3 Thomas, Ap	4 Feria	5 Feria	6 John Fisher & Thomas More Ms	7 Feria	8 Feria
Parish community	Justin, our Archbishop	Those newly ordained	The Gatehouse	The persecuted church	Those recently married	Bishops
9 14th Sunday of the Year	10 Feria	11 Benedict, Ab	12 Feria	13 Feria	14 Feria	15 Bonaventure B Dr
Parish community	The PCC	Religious communities	The homeless	Famine relief	Keble College	Theologians
16 15th Sunday of the Year	17 Feria	18 Feria	19 Feria: anointing 6pm	20 Feria anointing 12.15	21 Feria	22 Mary Magdalen
Parish Community	Oxford City Council	Churches Together	Healing Ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Helen and Douglas House	Penitence
23 Patronal Festival	24 Feria	25 James, Ap	26 Anne and Joachim	27 Feria	28 Feria	29 Martha 30 Feria
Parish Community	Parish fundraising	Pilgrims	Parents	Assistant Clergy	Vocations	Family life
30 17th Sunday of the Year	31 Ignatius Loyola Pr					
Parish Community	Campion Hall					