



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes

June 2022

Services:

Sundays

8am, 5.30pm: Said Mass
10.30am: High Mass

Monday to Saturday

12.15pm, 6.00pm: Said Mass

Monday to Friday

8.15am: Morning Prayer
5.40pm: Evening Prayer

Confessions

A priest is available to hear confessions
after the 12.15 Mass.

Other times by appointment with
Fr Peter or Fr Stephen

Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage

By appointment with the Parish Priest

Parish Clergy:

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Groves
Telephone: 01865 247836
peter.groves@theology.ox.ac.uk

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The Reverend Stephen Hearn
fatherhearn@icloud.com

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The Reverend Esther Brazil
Telephone: 078964 60905
marymagscurate@gmail.com

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Parish Administrator

Mrs Suzie Engela
admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Find us online

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk
Twitter: @marymagsoxford
Facebook: /stmarymagdalen.oxford

Events

Platinum Jubilee

5th June

On Pentecost Sunday the 5th of June, the Jubilee celebrations will be marked in church with a solemn Te Deum at the end of the High Mass, followed by the singing of the national anthem.

First Communions

12th June

On Sunday the 12th of June, Trinity Sunday, three members of our children's church will make their First Communion.

Corpus Christi

16th June

On Thursday the 16th of June we will join our friends at Pusey House and St Barnabas, Jericho for a celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi. 6.30pm High Mass at Pusey House with The Rt Revd Richard Chartres, followed by procession to St Barnabas, Jericho for Benediction.

Bible Study

We continue with our study of Romans this month, with two concurrent bible study groups running online. Dates and times are below.

Wednesday, 6.30-7.30pm: June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Saturday, 10.00-11.30am: June 4th, 18th

Notices

Petertide Ordinations

We are hosting the Oxford Area priests' ordinations at St Mary Magdalen's on the afternoon of Sunday the 26th of June at 3pm. Three other current curates from the Oxford area will be ordained along with Mthr Esther to the sacred priesthood. Please pray for her, for Matthew, Luke, and Joanna, and for all to be ordained this coming Petertide.

Jonathan Roberts and Francesca Vernon will shortly complete theological college and be ordained to the diaconate. Jonathan will be serving his curacy in Leominster in the Hereford Diocese, and Francesca in Milton Keynes, in our own Diocese.

Also shortly to be ordained from our congregation is Tatiana Kalveks, who will be serving her title at Greenwich, in the Diocese of Southwark.

First Mass

Mthr Esther will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time on Tuesday, the 28th of June, at 7.30pm. The traditional first blessings will be offered after mass. All are welcome. Please come and support Mthr Esther on this, the most important day of her ministry so far.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Nigel Timms and Deborah Vorhies were elected as Churchwardens at our APCM in May, and Veronica West-Harling and Nancy-Jane Rucker were newly elected to the PCC; Charl Engela, Gareth Jones, and Susan Purver were re-elected for a further term.

Student Group

There is no student group on the 7th of June. On the 14th of June we will hold a games evening at the Vicarage.

APCM 2022

Vicar's report

Our last annual parochial meeting took place only eight months ago. Our last apm which was anything like normal took place three years ago. A lot has happened since, most obviously the trauma of the pandemic, trauma which has yet fully to pass. On a personal note, I am aware that I was absent for several of the last twelve months, and this time last year I was laid up at home unable to walk, having recently come out of hospital.

I remain tremendously grateful to all the people who make St Mary Magdalen's what it is. Thanks are due to Helen our outgoing churchwarden, who certainly didn't sign up for everything which has been thrown at us these last two years. Nigel her colleague has been a rock of generous support, and we are very thankful for Deborah who is stepping into Helen's shoes. The clergy team continue faithfully to offer the holy sacrifice at our altars and to give so much of themselves to our community. Special mention should be made of Fr Stephen who has filled so many roles for us in recent times, and of course of our curate Mthr Esther whose first year in orders has presented many challenges, all of which she has overcome with grace, efficiency and warmth.

All of you listening to me now play your various parts in our worship and witness. The profound joy of our Holy Week and Easter celebrations is a reminder to us all that God's love has not and cannot go away, and that our task as a church remains as ever to give of our best in love for God and for neighbour. The glories of our music and liturgy must always be accompanied by the strength of our community life and our willingness to welcome young and old through our doors and into our hearts.

There are challenges ahead of us: our day to day management and organization needs to improve, and we look forward to welcoming a new parish administrator in the form of our own Suzie Engela, a longstanding member of this church and a very experienced professional to the role. Our building, site and fabric will always be a call on our time and resources. We will need to raise money to meet immediate needs, and we must also look ahead to a time when we can make better and more accessible use of our churchyard as a gift to the city which surrounds it. Conversations with the local authorities and the Oxford Preservation Trust are at an early stage but there are some promising ideas in the mix.

An obvious effect of the pandemic on churches everywhere has been the reduction of what we might call the volunteer base. Our community has a very rapid turnover, largely because we are so fortunate to welcome so many students and young academics who are not in Oxford for ever. This is a blessing but it also places a demand, to make sure the burden of our ministry is being shared and that we do not rely on the same few people to provide everything which we take for granted. We will be having a little push in this regard over the next few months – we need altar servers, flower arrangers, people to read the lesson, people to manage the building, people to teach our children, people to lead study groups and fellowship. And very much more.

Most pressingly, we do need to tackle the question of our closed doors. Whilst it is good that we are currently open three times a day for worship, it is not good that we are closed at other times to the many visitors who would like to step inside or pass through. Of course security, safety and good stewardship are issues. But it ought not to be beyond us to put together a team of volunteers to sit in the building, at least two at any one time, so that it can be open every afternoon, for example. Again, this will be a matter to pick up in the coming months.

Last week we said farewell to a great stalwart of our community, Alan Palmer, who had not been able to be with us physically for quite some time. His passing was a reminder that the life of Mary Mags goes very far beyond these walls and even this city. In the same month we have welcomed to new members to baptism, both from families who are already a hugely valued part of our church life. The period since we returned to unrestricted worship has seen growth, and it needs to continue to see it. This is the clear responsibility of us all. And I don't mean, to produce babies, nice and important as that is.

In the coming weeks, there will be no clearer sign of God's blessing on this church than our hosting of the ordinations to the priesthood of four current deacons, including our own Mthr Esther. I am not sure St Mary Magdalen's has ever hosted an ordination before. It certainly has not done so in the last century. What a joy it will be to celebrate the gift of priesthood – to women and to men – and then to rejoice in that priesthood as Mthr Esther celebrates her first mass. We are almost a thousand years old, and it has taken time to get to this point. But as much as we celebrate and value our tradition, we are and must be forward looking. Unlike the Duke of Plaza Toro, our Lord Jesus Christ does not lead from behind.

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, Diana Arkwright, Gordon Scott, Michael Starford, Helen Bell, Jenny, Gladys Bushell, Beryl Dryden, Susan Barnes, Roy Dicker, John O'Leary, Jennifer Larcombe, Bob Guthrie, Eleanor Jamison.

Sunday readings

Sunday 5th June: Acts 2.1-11; Romans 8.8-17; John 14.15-16, 23b-26

Sunday 12th June: Proverbs 8.22-31, Romans 5.1-5, John 16.12-15

Sunday 19th June: Zechariah 12.10-11; Galatians 3.26-29; Luke 9.18-24

Sunday 26th June: I Kings 19.16,19-20; Galatians 5.1,13-18; Luke 9.51-62

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Justin M	2 Feria	3 Feria	4 Feria
			Justin our Archbishop	Steven our Bishop	Religious communities	Christian Unity
5 Pentecost	6 Feria	7 Feria	8 Feria	9 Feria	10 Feria	11 Barnabas, Ap
Parish community	The gift of the Spirit	The PCC	Children's church	The homeless	Monthly requiem	St Barnabas Jericho
12 Trinity Sunday	13 Anthony of Padua, Pr, Dr	14 Feria	15 Feria Anointing at 6pm	16 Feria Anointing at 12.15	17 Feria	18 Feria
Parish Community	The lost	Preachers	Healing Ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Christian Aid	Famine relief
19 Corpus Christi	20 Feria	21 Feria	22 Feria	23 John the Baptist	24 Feria	25 Feria
Parish Community	Journalists	Vocations	Students	Churchwardens	The Gatehouse	Historians
26 6th Sunday of Easter	27 Cyril of Alexandria, B, Dr	28 Feria Mthr Esther's first mass	29 Peter and Paul, Apostles	30 Feria		
Mthr Esther Brazil	Missionaries	The gift of the Spirit	The gift of priesthood	Choir and Musicians		