



St Mary  
Magdalen  
OXFORD

# **Parish Notes**

## **May 2018**

## **Services**

### **Sundays**

Eucharist at 8 am and 5.30 pm, Mattins  
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  
Telephone: Oxford 247836  
peter.groves@theology.ox.ac.uk

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The Reverend Dr Jonathan Jong  
Telephone: 07799 271913  
jonathan.jong@anthro.ox.ac.uk

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The Reverend Dr Jarred Mercer  
Telephone: 01865 436243  
Jarred.mercer@merton.ox.ac.uk

### **Website**

[www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk)

## **Events**

### **Concert**

**5<sup>th</sup> May**

Music of the Spires: a concert in church given by the vocal chamber ensemble Sansara, beginning at 7.30pm.

### **Ascension Day**

**10<sup>th</sup> May**

Ascension Day falls this year on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a said mass at 12.15pm and a Sung Mass at 7.30pm. Also on Ascension Day our neighbours from St Michael's will be beating their parish bounds, and will come to St Mary Magdalen's around 10.50am. Members of our church are most welcome to join them in their progress round the city centre.

### **The Parochial Church Council**

**15<sup>th</sup> May**

The first meeting of the new PCC, following elections at the Annual Parochial Meeting in April, takes place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in church.

### **Vicarage Tea**

**16<sup>th</sup> May**

All are welcome to tea at the Vicarage, 15 Beaumont Street, from 3.30pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Fr Jonathan will give a short talk on the subject of "Religion in Malaysia".

### **Scripture on Saturday**

**26<sup>th</sup> May**

Our monthly Bible Study mornings continue on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30am. We shall be continuing our journey through the Book of Judges by looking at the story of Jephthah in Judges 11 and 12. Anyone is welcome, no previous participation is necessary.

## **Notices**

### **Christian Aid Week**

Christian Aid week runs this year from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May. This year's campaign 'Standing together against the storm' is focusing on supporting people in Haiti who have been affected by consecutive natural disasters. As usual, envelopes will be distributed in church to take away, fill and return the following Sunday. Donating in this collective way helps to show our Parish commitment to giving.

Bishop Steven is also encouraging people in the diocese to lobby their MP on behalf of those displaced by natural disaster or war. Details of how to do this can be found at: <http://caid.org.uk/displaced>

Donations can also be made directly by visiting [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk). Please pray for our local Christian Aid team, based in their office at New Road Baptist Church, and for all volunteers and collectors around the country.

During the week itself, there will be collections at Oxford Railway Station from 7.30 – 9am and 5 – 7pm. Volunteers are needed – please contact David Potts on 01865 511340.

## **Vicar's Report for the 2018 Annual Parochial Meeting**

Each year with this report I am forced to attempt the impossible. I make a vain effort to thank everyone who needs and deserves to be thanked - all those people who make this wonderful church tick - and at the same time I try to say something about the future. And I try to do these two things whilst also keeping my remarks brief. Impossible. The more so since I've just wasted time telling you that it's impossible.

This year last year has been one in which the life of our church has been dominated by the practical. And so the most important thanks I have to offer is to everyone, everyone who has anything at all to do with this church, because it was the efforts of everyone which made possible the wonderful transformation of our building which we now enjoy. I should like to pay particular tribute to people who are not here - all those who did the work: those worked on the roof, on the scaffolding, on the ladders, with the lights, with the wires and brushes and cloths and slates and the organ and the pipes and absolutely everything else. We were blessed with a wonderful team, led by Tony Higgs for Richard Ward, and Neil Blake for Antony J Smith lighting. It was great to work with them, and that work was made incredibly smooth thanks to the efforts of our former parish administrator Katie. We said goodbye to her before Easter, and she will be sorely missed. Her two years with us were crowned by the essential part she took in the major works. At this point we should also note our profound gratitude to Sir Jonathan Phillips, to Fr Nevsky and to all at Keble College, who hosted us with such generosity and ease.

Our churchwardens too deserve special thanks for their handling of the project. Both Nigels were absolute rocks throughout, and I'm sure Nigel T won't mind me saying that Nigel S more than any other individual took on the responsibility of getting everything done. We couldn't have done it without him, and he couldn't have done it without the wise financial management of Gillian our incomparable treasurer, whose unseen dedication has been central to our functioning and our progress in the last twelve months.

Many of you know that I have an obsessive interest in Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather movies. In a deleted scene from the original, which reflects a passage in the novel, the old godfather remarks to his son and heir that he has now found his "Luca Brasi". Luca Brasi was the ruthlessly efficient and fiercely loyal assassin on whom Don Corleone relied. His son Michael finds his equivalent in a former policeman called Albert Neri. In my first few years at St Mary Magdalen's I was entirely reliant on the ruthless efficiency of Brian Stewart, but now Gillian has undoubtedly become my Luca Brasi. And the

churchwardens can attest that if you think the comparison with a terrifyingly effective murderer is a strange one, you need only try disagreeing with her.

Of course a Mafia don needs his captains and lieutenants, and Frs Jonathan and Jarred have continued to grow beyond the roles of learners into valued colleagues and friends, supported by the wonderful clergy team on whom we rely – in our curates and in Judith, Barry, Mel, Nevsky, Martin and Phillip, along with my distinguished predecessor, we have the strongest clergy team here in many years. New developments such as the School of Theology reflect this, as does our continuing work in discerning and nurturing vocations. The festival weekend which we enjoyed in February was a roaring success thanks to that and to them, but much more thanks to those who made it happen – not least Joyce our sacristan, Matthew our head server and Will, David and all who continue to spoil us rotten with a world class standard of church music. Jonathan, our new parish administrator, is already bringing a calm and efficient dedication to the role. These are just a few of the many, many individuals who make us tick. But all of us contribute – some spectacularly, such as Sally and the wonderful flower team – and some more quietly, such as those who sit in the open church, or who welcome worshippers on Sunday, or who serve a post mass coffee, or simply say a friendly word to someone they've not met before. We all have something to offer.

And we all have reasons to be thankful. I said I would keep these remarks short, and so two and only two brief things about the future. One concerns our teaching ministry. Bishop Steven has called upon the churches of Oxford to engage with renewed energy and enthusiasm in the task of catechesis, the teaching of the Christian faith. We may think that we do this well already, but there is much more to be done, and this will be a priority for us as a church in the year ahead. The other is a reminder of our need to look outward. We cannot be financially complacent, and we must continue to steady the ship in monetary terms, but we also cannot afford to be insular. Local co-operation, such as with St Frideswide, needs to grow, and national and international mission is something where we have been lacking. We must do more to support the needs of God's world.

It's been a big twelve months for us. We've a great deal for which we should be thankful. And we've a great deal to be getting on with.

## **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, Eleanor Harrison, Ian Morris, Alan Springett, Jane Thomas, William Pope, Chloe Ogden, Colin Brown, Sybilla Pfeiffer, Liam Bradshaw, Di Taylor, Tracy O'Sullivan, Abigail Bruins, William Missin, Joanna Hickie, Tony Washington-Jarvis, David Games, Charlotte Jacob-Maguire, Trevor Shakeshaft, Barbara Shakeshaft, Sidney Rutter, Rowena Mackaness, David Gostick, Kevin Timpe, Arthur Boyd.

## **Sunday readings**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May: Acts 10.25-26, 34-35; 1 John 4.7-10; John 15.9-17

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May: Acts 1.15-17, 20-26; I John 4.11-16; John 17.11-19

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May: Acts 2.1-11; I Cor 12.3-7, 12-13; John 20.19-23

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May: Deuteronomy 4.32-34, 39-40; Romans 8.14-17; Matthew 28.16-20

# May 2018

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
		<b>1 Philip &amp; James, Aps</b>	<b>2 Athanasius B Dr</b>	<b>3 Feria</b>	<b>4 The English Martyrs</b>	<b>5 Feria</b>
		Steven, our Bishop	Justin our Archbishop	Helen and Douglas House	Christian Unity	The Homeless
<b>6 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>7 Feria</b>	<b>8 Feria</b>	<b>9 Feria</b>	<b>10 Ascension of the Lord</b>	<b>11 Feria</b>	<b>12 Feria</b>
Parish community	Oxford City Council	The PCC	Children's church	The hope of heaven	Monthly requiem	Sacristans and servers
<b>13 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>14 Matthias Ap</b>	<b>15 Feria</b>	<b>16 Feria Anointing at 6pm</b>	<b>17 Feria Anointing at 12.15</b>	<b>18 Feria</b>	<b>19 Dunstan B</b>
Parish community	Preachers	Christian Aid	Healing Ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Famine relief	Bishops
<b>20 Pentecost</b>	<b>21 Feria</b>	<b>22 Feria</b>	<b>23 Feria</b>	<b>24 Feria</b>	<b>25 Bede Pr, Dr</b>	<b>26 Augustine of Canterbury B</b>
Parish Community	Vocations	Students	Churchwardens	The Gatehouse	Historians	Missionaries
<b>27 Trinity Sunday</b>	<b>28 Feria</b>	<b>29 Feria</b>	<b>30 Feria</b>	<b>31 Visitation of the BVM</b>		
Parish Community	World peace	Biblical scholars	Choir and Musicians	Expectant parents		