



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes

May 2019

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
On Sabbatical

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The Reverend Dr Jonathan Jong
Telephone: 07799 271913
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The Reverend Prof Judith Brown
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Parish Administrator

Dr Jonathan Roberts
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admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

www.theschooloftheology.org

Events

Concerts

Papagena

4th May

The all-female a capella group Papagena will be performing a concert of music ranging from medieval to classical and folk to contemporary in church at 4pm. Tickets available on the door.

Viols and Voices

11th May

Ensemble Ex Animo will be performing Italian, German, Franco-Flemish, and English music of the 16th-17th Centuries at 4pm. Tickets on the door.

The Parochial Church Council

15th May

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

Scripture on Saturday

25th May

Our monthly Bible Study mornings continue on Saturday 25th May from 10.30am. We shall be continuing our journey through the Psalms by considering the responsorial psalms set for the Easter Vigil: Psalms 104, 16, and 118.

Ascension Day

30th May

Ascension Day falls this year on Thursday 30th 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.

Notices

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week runs this year from 12th – 18th May. This year's campaign focuses on Sierra Leone, including working for the writing off of international debt and supporting vulnerable mothers in that country. 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.

Donations can also be made directly by visiting 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.

APCM Vicar's Report 2019

At last year's APCM we were looking back on a momentous year, in which our church building had been transformed and we had recently welcomed hundreds of people to our festival weekend. This year's meeting falls, for the most part, into the more normal category. But that is not to say we have not enjoyed a great deal of celebrating since last April. Not one but two of the parish clergy have entered the marital state, and our ever growing community of families have added seven members of the congregation in just a few months, remarkably including three sets of twins. As our children's church continues to thrive, we should start planning now to purchase the children's sized cassocks and cottas we will very soon be needing.

When I began as parish priest fourteen years ago, our annual turnover was around the £50,000 mark. It has pretty much trebled in the time which has passed. This is a sign of growth and of health, but also of the responsibility we bear to respond to the needs of the church and the world around us ever more carefully. We were blessed with an excellent response to a giving appeal during the last year. As you have already heard, there is of course more to be done. Our excellent churchwardens, Nigel x 2, have stewarded the parish with their characteristic care and good sense throughout the year, and I am exceptionally grateful to them, and to our marvellous Treasurer Gillian. They and I have been greatly supported by the splendid contribution of Jonathan Roberts, who took over as administrator in 2018... Special mention should always be made of Joyce Day, and

of Robert, Susan, Susannah and all who support her in enabling the liturgy, the heartbeat of our church , give life to us all as a community.

Ten days ago we bade farewell to a Mary Mags legend in Barbara Cameron. It was entirely fitting that at her requiem mass the music was of a standard I doubt has been recently replicated in any parish church in England. Through Will, David and all our singers we enjoy a foretaste of heaven which is audible as well as sacramental, and we owe them a very great deal, just as we do Sally and the flower team, Veronica and those who provide hospitality, Susan and all who clean, and everyone who gives of themselves to make this church what it is. And of course we offer our thanks and our love to the ever faithful and generous team of clergy who preside at our altars, visit our sick, support those in need and welcome the many strangers who glimpse a bit of the divine within these walls. In Fr Jonathan and Fr Jarred, Mthr Judith, Fr Barry, Mthr Mel, Fr Martin, Fr Phillip, Fr Nevsky and Fr Hugh we have, I am certain, a clergy team as gifted as in any parish church.

One of our particular successes this year has been the development of our School of Theology project. The web resources in particular are accessed and appreciated from all over the world, and the recently published book which introduces readers to the riches of Christian theology will be, we hope, the first of many. Following the Bishop's instruction, we have paid specific attention to catechesis, and I would like to thank Bethany and Clare who have taken on the role of catechists, along with the clergy, with considerable success. The discernment of priestly vocation remains a big part of what we do, and four members of our church are scheduled to attend selection panels for ordination training during the next few months. One – Francesca Vernon - goes tomorrow.

All these signs of health and self-sufficiency might leave you asking whether or not we really need a Vicar. I have been wondering the same, and have responded to the question in two ways that are new this year. One is that I have taken on the role of Assistant Archdeacon of Oxford. In this position I provide support for Archdeacon Martin's work in a number of ways, working for example to advise colleges on the appointment of chaplains, or to support parishes undertaking fabric projects. I am also able to act as the bishop's commissary for some legal and administrative matters relating to clergy in the deaneries of Oxford and Cowley. This new role is not as time consuming as one might

fear, since our Archdeaconry is only two deaneries. But the real Archdeacon has many other responsibilities, hence the need for this assistance. While these responsibilities do take me away from the parish from time to time, it does no harm for St Mary Magdalen's to be closely involved with the bishop and the leadership of the diocese as a whole.

My other response to the parish's self-sufficiency is to test it thoroughly by disappearing. After the Easter services, I shall be taking a three month sabbatical from parochial duties. As is often the way in Oxford, I have sneakily combined this three month entitlement with five weeks of annual leave and a couple of retreats, and hence will be absent until the middle of September. During the sabbatical, as well as taking rest and going into retreat, I shall be rediscovering the joys of the university's libraries as I work on some writing projects. The pace of change in Oxford is so rapid, however, that I have had to ask my wife to give me a guided tour of the Bodleian, which is almost unrecognisable from the institution which was my next door neighbour when I was chaplain of Brasenose.

The immediate pastoral care of the parish will be taken by Fr Jonathan and Mthr Judith, with the support of the other clergy of course. The churchwardens will retain their legal responsibility and the PCC will continue to meet and exercise its leadership. I hope and expect that, for this reason only, we will be able to quote Theresa May: nothing has changed. Though perhaps something might have changed in Downing Street by the time I return.

It is a testimony to the community as a whole that I am able to take this break without worrying at all about the parish's ability to take care of itself. It is you who make us what we are, or rather, God through you who makes us what we are. I am constantly thankful to the Lord, and to every member of our church, for the privilege of ministering here, and I am grateful to everyone for coming to this meeting and giving me your attention. Thank you very much.

Intercessions

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

Ann-Marie, Anna, Phoenix, David, Elizabeth, Di, Terry, Michael, Lucy, William, Joy, John, Bernard, Fr Michael, Conor, Mary, Margaret, Philip, Liam, Allan, Colleen, Jo, Sr Mary Bernard, Jean, Eleanor

Sunday readings

Sunday 5th May: Acts 5.27-32, 40-41; Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-14

Sunday 12th May: Acts 13.14, 43-52; Revelation 7.9, 14-17; John 10.27-30

Sunday 19th May: Acts 14.21-27; I Revelation 21.1-5; John 13.31-35

Sunday 26th May: Acts 15,1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21.10-14, 22-23; John 4.23-29

May 2018

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