



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes
October 2020

Current Services:

Sundays

Said Mass 8 am
Solemn Mass 10.30 am

Weekdays

Monday - Friday

Morning Prayer 8.15 am
Mass 12.15 pm

Saturday

Mass 6 pm

Confessions

Please speak to Fr Peter to arrange
Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage by
appointment with Fr Peter

Parish Clergy:

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Groves
Telephone: 01865 247836
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Parish Administrator

Mrs Katherine Woodward
admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Events

October Feasts

The feast of St Luke the Evangelist is normally on 18th October, but falls to a Sunday this year.

The feast of St Frideswide, patron of Oxford, is 19th October.

The feast of Ss Simon and Jude is 28th October.

Harvest Festival

We keep Sunday 4th October as our Harvest Festival, providing an annual opportunity to help two local charitable projects, the Gatehouse Drop-in Centre for the Homeless and the Community Emergency Foodbank. The Gatehouse is in particular need of produce to make sandwiches - peanut butter, chocolate spread, tinned tuna, mayonnaise, Marmite/Bovril, and Branston pickle, as well as tea, coffee, hot chocolate, sugar and cup o'soup. The Community Emergency Foodbank, for which we regularly collect, welcomes almost all kinds of tinned food, as well as hot chocolate, jams and other spreads, sugar and long-life fruit juice & milk, plus any practical toiletries. They both ask that anything donated is well within its sell-by date. Items can be brought to church throughout the week or on Sundays; please put them in the boxes beneath the font.

Scripture on Saturday

Our monthly Bible Study mornings will shortly restart, via Zoom, starting on Saturday 10th October from 10.30am. All are welcome, no previous participation is necessary. Before lockdown we were studying the Epistle to the Hebrews, and we will restart with an overview of the book this month.

Christian Aid Abseil

Since 2012, Christian Aid have used our tower for their sponsored abseils on a regular basis and on the last occasion they nearly broke their UK record for the amount raised - over £17k. So Mags is only just behind Coventry Cathedral now on this particular scale.

The next one is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17th**, Covid and Government permitting. The recent Ride and Stride experience would suggest that there is some pent-up giving around, but for obvious reasons CA are struggling to round up their usual quota of abseilers.

Would you like to abseil for Christian Aid? If so, please contact their local Christian Aid Fund Raising Officer, Phil Evans - PEvans@christian-aid.org. Once you are signed up, we shall of course canvas the St Mary Magdalen community on your behalf, although we are hoping to arrange an abseil on our own behalf next summer, all being well.

We shall of course be making sure that our church is as Covid-secure as it can be on the day and access will be restricted to the back of the building.

Dedication Festival

On Sunday 25th October we will keep our Dedication Festival. The preacher at the High Mass will be the Revd Canon Richard Peers, Sub-Dean of Christ Church. Fr Richard is new to Oxford and his role at the cathedral, but is a long standing friend of our parish, and is the Superior of the Sodality of Mary, a new catholic society for clergy and ordinands within the Church of England.

Our Dedication Festival will also be our annual Gift Day. You can make a donation to the parish's ongoing life and mission by giving online via the website, or taking home an envelope marked "gift day" and returning it to church the following week.

Notices

Prayer lists

Every so often we conduct an audit of our prayer lists. If you have asked for a name to be put on the list of those who are sick, please could you email Fr Peter or Katherine in the parish office with an update of their situation. We will clear the sick list of names we do not recognise in a few weeks' time, unless we receive information about them.

A new curate for Mary Mags

It is a great joy to announce that the Bishop has invited Esther Brazil, currently in training at Ripon College Cuddesdon, to serve her title as curate of St Mary Magdalen's from the summer of 2021. Esther will, God willing, be ordained deacon at Pentecost 2021, and priested in 2022, and will be with us for three or four years in total.

Esther comes to us having studied Philosophy and Theology at Queen's College here in Oxford, and moving on via the Royal Academy of Music to a career as a professional singer. She is married to Bojan Cicic, who is a distinguished baroque violinist (he currently leads the Academy of Ancient Music), and they have two children - Beatrice, 4 and Teddy, 1. Esther and her family worshipped regularly with us some years ago - indeed both Bojan and Bea were baptised in our church. Esther then moved on to become ministerial assistant at the University Church, a post she held for two years before starting at Cuddesdon. It will be a great joy for us to welcome them all next year, and we hope to be able to see a little of them from time to time as Esther completes her training.

Vicar's Report for APCM 2020

(This was the report delivered at the Annual Parochial Meeting. A longer version will be circulated by email to the parish mailing list.)

This will be the shortest report I have delivered at one of these meetings. As with other aspects of our business, we felt it appropriate to be able to share the Vicar's report with as many people as possible, and so a longer version will be circulated electronically to the Mary Mags community in the coming week.

For today, I should like only to thank those who continue to serve the parish in a multitude of ways, and none more so than Nigel Speight, whose term as churchwarden is coming to an end. Nigel has been the most remarkable of wardens, taking on all sorts of different responsibilities and carrying them out with such commitment, efficiency and good will that many of them have gone unnoticed by the rest of the parish. At the same time, he has been unstinting in his efforts to bring people together in the endeavours which make us tick, and his generosity, fellowship and hospitality have been an essential part of our life as a parish for the last six years. Of all Nigel's many achievements, the most significant was surely his oversight of our hugely successful restoration project in 2017, and it is very fitting that only two days ago he welcomed representatives from the Oxford Preservation Trust, because the work he and others achieved has been nominated for a heritage prize.

Nigel's work for the parish is far from over, and he will continue to organise and encourage a number of our important events and tasks. We're very grateful to Dr Helen Todd for stepping into his shoes as churchwarden. Her leadership and collaboration with Nigel Timms have already produced some very good things, not least in the discernment process for our new curate. Clergy wise, we have had what Oscar Wilde might call a careless year, since we have lost not one but two former curates, in Fr Jarred and Fr Jonathan. In different ways, they will continue to work with us through the School of Theology, but of course we are sorry to see them go. However, we could not be happier with the news that Esther Brazil, entering her final year at Cuddesdon, will be ordained to our parish next summer.

Another essential note of thanks also goes towards Cuddesdon, in that Dr Jonathan Roberts, our administrator for the last two years and more, has now begun training for ordination there. Like Nigel's, Jonathan's contribution to the parish has been far greater than can be summarised here, but we send him forward into theological training with our love and our prayers, confident that his service to the Church of England will go from strength to strength.

At this meeting we also officially mark the end of Gillian Hamnett's term as Treasurer. Gillian has reorganised not only the finances but also the general administration of the parish in the four years and more that she has been in the role, and has proved an invaluable colleague and a very wise counsellor to me and to the wider leadership team. Where she gets her inexhaustible reserves of energy and industry will doubtless remain a mystery, but we are very glad that she continues on the PCC and will be serving on the Deanery Synod as well. Among Gillian's many responsibilities is the oversight of student welfare in the University of Oxford, and so at this unimaginably busy time for her, she needs our prayers and support as much as ever.

There are many other people to thank – it's lovely today to welcome back the choir, for example, but I will now stop talking. We remain in uncertain times and should not expect anything resembling normality for some months to come. But the worship of God, the celebration of the mass and the preaching of the gospel are still our lifeblood, and none of them will be stopping any time soon.

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, Margaret, Philip, Liam, Allan, Colleen, Jo, Sr Mary Bernard, Jean, Eleanor, Clifford, Christopher, Alison, Ann, Adrian.

Sunday readings

Sunday 4th October: Isaiah 5: 1 - 7; Philippians 4: 6 - 9; Matthew 21: 33 – 43

Sunday 11th October: Isaiah 25: 6 - 10; Philippians 4: 12 - 14, 19 - 20; Matthew 22: 1 – 14

Sunday 18th October: Isaiah 45: 1, 4 – 6; Thessalonians 1: 1 - 5; Matthew 22: 15 - 21

Sunday 25th October: 2 Chronicles 5.6-11, 13-6.2; 1 Corinthians 3.9-13, 16-17; John 4.19-24

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Teresa of the Child Jesus V Dr	2 Holy Guardian Angels	3 Feria
				Steven our Bishop	Justin our Archbishop	Franciscans
4 27th Sunday of the Year	5 Our Lady of the Rosary	6 Feria	7 Feria	8 Feria	9 Denys B M	10 Paulinus B
Parish Community	Famine relief	Children's church	The homeless	Oxfordshire Historic Churches	The persecuted church	Community Emergency Foodbank
11 28th Sunday of the Year	12 Wilfrid B	13 Edward the Confessor	14 Feria	15 Teresa of Avila V Dr	16 Feria	17 Ignatius of Antioch B M
Parish Community	Chichester diocese and cathedral	The Shrine at Walsingham	The Restoration and Development Trust	Theologians	Evangelists	Christian Aid
18 29th Sunday of the Year	19 Frideswide Ab	20 Feria	21 Feria	22 Feria	23 Feria	24 Feria
Parish Community	Our city	The St Frideswide Community	Healing ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Monthly requiem	Servers and sacristans
25 Dedication Festival	26 Feria	27 Feria	28 Simon and Jude Ap	29 Feria	30 Feria	31 Feria
Parish Community	The Gatehouse	College Chaplains	Preachers	Church musicians	Helen and Douglas House	The Lutheran church