



St Mary  
Magdalen  
OXFORD

# **Parish Notes**

## **September 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  
[peter.groves@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.groves@theology.ox.ac.uk)

\*

### **Parish Administrator**

Mrs Katherine Woodward  
[admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk)

### **Website**

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

# Events

## **Annual Parochial Meeting**

**27<sup>th</sup> September**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September after mass. At this meeting, we shall elect our churchwardens for the coming year. We shall also elect representatives to the Parochial Church Council, and the Deanery Synod. The parish's accounts for 2020 will be presented by the Treasurer, and reports on various bodies and activities will be provided, along with the Vicar's annual report to the parish.

We will be appropriately spaced out in church for this meeting, but the recently serviced sound system will mean there should be no difficulty in hearing what is going on. If you would like to come, please make a note of the date in your diary and join us.

## **Ride & Stride**

The annual Ride & Stride in aid of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust takes place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September and is a great way to see some of the fascinating churches in and around Oxford. Half of all monies raised by our congregation will come straight back to St Mary Magdalen's. There is also plenty of opportunity to donate after the event. We have three teams this year: our incoming churchwarden Helen Todd is participating along with her husband Barney Taylor and their son Edmund. Helen's sponsorship page can be found here

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HelenTodd7>

Our former treasurer Gillian is cycling and can be sponsored here

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GillianHamnett>

and Clare, Nevsky, Agnes, and Alban are walking, sponsorship details to follow.

## **News from Christ Church**

Our cathedral church has two new canons arrived this summer. The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey is the new Archdeacon of Oxford, and was licensed as Archdeacon by the Bishop in a virtual ceremony during lockdown. The new Sub Dean is Fr Richard Peers, who is well known in Anglo-Catholic circles as founder of the priestly organization called the “Sodality of Mary”, to which a number of former Mary Mags people belong. Both Jonathan and Richard are friends and colleagues of Fr Peter.

These two new canons will be installed at a service of Evensong on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. Places are limited, but Fr Peter will be attending in his capacity as Assistant Archdeacon. Please pray for both Jonathan and Richard in their new ministries.

## **PCC**

The Parochial Church Council meets on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 8pm via Zoom.

## **New icon in church**

Enormous thanks are due to Susannah Harris-Wilson, who has commissioned a glorious new icon for the church, in memory of her late husband Fr Jay Wilson who served at our altars for many years. The new piece, painted by the distinguished icon writer Aidan Hart, is a copy of Andrei Rublev’s celebrated depiction of “The Hospitality of Abraham”, an artistic meditation on the Trinity and the invitation of divine love. The icon was blessed at the Solemn Mass on 9<sup>th</sup> August, and the preacher was Fr Hugh. The following is an extract from his sermon:

In the early fifteenth century a Russian icon painter, or writer, as the Orthodox say, produced a remarkable version of this image. The monk Andrey Rublev left out Abraham and Sarah and the servant, though he kept a token oak of Mamre, and a tiny house representing Abraham's tent. Only the three angels were left, sitting each at one side of a table depicted as an altar. There's just one dish on it, a bowl containing the head of a sacrificed animal. The middle angel, representing the Son, is making a gesture of blessing towards the dish. The three have identical faces: there is only one God. But their clothing is different, in colour and style; and the three are inscribed within a circle, an artistic symbol of divinity. The one God has been revealed as Father, Son and Spirit.

The dish symbolises the eucharistic meal in which Christians celebrate the self-giving love of God revealed on the cross. It's set amid the three angels, to show that sacrificial love is at the heart of God, even that God, as St John says in his first letter, is love. That love is never self-contained, but is always outgoing, seeking to share itself with others. That is symbolised in Rublev's icon by the empty fourth side of the altar table. It's the side that faces whoever stands prayerfully in front of it; it's the side for us. It's an invitation to us to feast at God's table, to share in the life of the Triune God. Rublev has transformed the Hospitality of Abraham into the Hospitality of God. God invites us to share in his life, to let his love transfigure us as it transfigured Jesus. That will draw us ever deeper into the God in whom we already live and move and have our being.

Icons, as Orthodox Christians understand them, make present what they represent, they're sacramental. That's why when you stand in front of them, you stand prayerfully, exposing yourself to the gracious and transforming presence of God. To stand before the 'Hospitality of Abraham' is to stand before the purpose of your Christian life, the goal of your life as a human being; because to be drawn into the divine love is to be transfigured by it and so to become more maturely human. As an Orthodox hymn sings, the Transfiguration of Jesus reveals not only his full divinity, but at the same time his perfect humanity.

Though they're one and the same icon, there's a difference between the Hospitality of Abraham and the Hospitality of the Triune God: the former was offered once, long ago; the latter has been, is and will be always on the table. All we have to do is accept the invitation.

## **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, Clifford, Christopher, Felix.

## **Sunday readings**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September: Ezekiel 33.7-9; Romans 13.8-10; Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September: Ecclesiasticus 27.30 – 28.7; Romans 14.7-9; Matthew 18.21-35

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September: Isaiah 55.6-9; Philippians 1.20-24, 27; Matthew 20.1-16

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September: Ezekiel 18.25-28; Philippians 2.1-11; Matthew 21.28-32

# September 2020

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
		<b>1 Giles, Rel</b>	<b>2 Feria</b>	<b>3 Gregory the Great, P Dr</b>	<b>4 Birinus B</b>	<b>5 Feria</b>
		St Giles Oxford	Steven, our Bishop	Justin our Archbishop	Oxford Diocese	The homeless
<b>6 23rd Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>7 Feria</b>	<b>8 Birth of the BVM</b>	<b>9 Feria</b>	<b>10 Feria</b>	<b>11 Feria</b>	<b>12 Feria</b>
Parish community	Oxford City Council	St Mary the Virgin, Oxford	Sacristans and servers	The Gatehouse	Oxfordshire Historic Churches	Religious communities
<b>13 24th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>14 Holy Cross Day</b>	<b>15 Feria</b>	<b>16 Feria</b>	<b>17 Feria</b>	<b>18 Feria</b>	<b>19 Feria</b>
Parish community	Devotion to Christ Crucified	The St Frideswide Community	The Restoration and Development Trust	Preachers	Ordinands in training	Church musicians
<b>20 25th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>21 Matthew Ap</b>	<b>22 Feria</b>	<b>23 Feria</b>	<b>24 Our Lady of Walsingham a</b>	<b>25 Feria</b>	<b>26 Cosmas and Damian Ms</b>
Parish Community	Evangelists	Ecumenical work	The PCC	The Shrine at Walsingham	Evangelists	Confessors
<b>27 26th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>28 Feria</b>	<b>29 Michael &amp; All Angels</b>	<b>30 Jerome Dr</b>			
Parish Community	Those to be ordained	St Michael at the Northgate	Biblical Scholars			