



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes
June 2024

Services

Sundays

Eucharist at 12.15pm and 6.00pm
Morning Prayer at 8.15am
Evening Prayer at 5.40 pm

Weekdays

Eucharist at 8am and 5.30pm
Mattins at 10am, High Mass at 10.30am

Confessions

Daily after the 12.15pm Mass,
Wednesdays & Saturdays at 6.30pm

Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage by
appointment with the Parish Priest

Parish Clergy

Vicar

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Groves
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Assistant Curate

The Revd Esther Lay
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Associate Priest

The Reverend Dr Mel Marshall
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Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Twitter

Parish: @marymagsoxford

Choir: @magschoir

Facebook

[/stmarymagdalen.oxford](https://www.facebook.com/stmarymagdalen.oxford)

Events

Fundraising Concerts

1st June and 20th July

In support of our efforts to meet the costs of the 950th Anniversary Churchyard Project, Mthr Esther is undertaking two fundraising events, including a recital in church on the evening of 1st June – an important date for our diaries. The other event – a sponsored singing of duets running all day, i.e. a “duetathon” – will take place on 20th July.

Do get in touch if you would like to sing something with Mthr Esther at the Duetathon on 20th July.

An audio recording of the 1st June recital will be available for anyone who wishes to make a voluntary donation. Do get in touch with Mthr Esther if you would like to receive a copy.

You can support the churchyard project by donating at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/marymagschurchyard>

Corpus Christi

2nd June

The High Mass at 10.30am will be followed by Benediction.

Ordinand on Placement

June 2024

During June, we are joined on placement by Gemma Ferrier, who is training for ordained ministry at Queen’s Foundation, Birmingham. Gemma will be with us full time (day off Friday) until the end of the month. Please take the opportunity to welcome her, and feel free to invite her round for tea.

Church cleaning

13th July

There will be another cleaning session in church from 9.30am on Saturday 13th July. All help is greatly appreciated; even half an hour of your time is enormously valuable. Church cleaning is a marvellous opportunity to catch up with friends, and refreshments are provided.

Nativity of John the Baptist

23rd June

We will be keeping the feast of the nativity of John the Baptist on Sunday the 23rd of June (transferred from the 24th).

10 Anniversary of Priesthood

23rd June

On Sunday 23rd of June, Mthr Mel will sing the high mass and invites everyone to join her for a glass of fizz after the mass to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her priesting.

Contrapunctus Concert

13th July

On Saturday 13th July, Mthr Esther will be performing in a concert of Italian motets at Queen's with Contrapunctus, conducted by Owen Rees. All are welcome.

Ian Tindale (our organist):

Upcoming concert (4 July), a recording, and a festival (20-22 Sept)

Songs for a summer's evening

7.30pm-8.30pm, 4th July, Christ Church Cathedral, with Harriet Burns, soprano.

Following the success of their first album, 'Schubert Lieder: Love's Lasting Power', with Delphian Records, established duo Harriet Burns and Ian Tindale are delighted to be recording an album of English song in November 2024. With thanks to Christ Church Cathedral, they are very grateful to have the chance to perform this concert in order to fundraise for their next album. The evening features something for everyone, from folk-songs, to ballads, lighter numbers from Flanders & Swann, and English song classics by Quilter and Gurney.

https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/songs-for-a-summer-evening-christ-church-cathedral-tickets-907516354847?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1

Shipston Song 2024

20th to 22nd September, Shipston-on-Stour

Founded in peaceful countryside on the edge of the Cotswolds in 2022 by pianist Ian Tindale, Shipston Song's third iteration sees him joined for three recitals with Carolyn Sampson, Bethany Horak-Hallett and James Atkinson and four young artists, as well as masterclasses given by Benedict Nelson and Iain Burnside.

<https://www.shipstonsong.co.uk/>

Corpus Christi

A sermon from Mthr Esther

Song recitals are things that early music specialists don't often get to enjoy. So last night it was an enormous treat to be able to sing some of my very favourite things in this very place, along with a few new discoveries introduced to me by my brilliant colleagues, one of whom is in the organ loft right now.

But whether old or new, almost every song in last night's programme pointed in the same direction. Because to perform or listen to art songs is to confront that timeless preoccupation of human life, romantic love: its absence, its longing and desire, its fulfilment, its bliss, and the torment of rejection. To seek love is to seek belonging and home in another. To marry for love is to express a confidence in having found that home, to commit to building and maintaining it together.

English, unlike languages such as Greek, or Sanskrit, or Persian, does not have lots of words for different kinds of love. We only have one. So we have to explain, in the marriage service, that this kind of love is a physical phenomenon, not just something in the head. It is not a crush, an idea, a business partnership, a logistical collaboration - though it *can* be all of those things too, at different times. It is primarily something intimate and fleshy, more than just cohabitation. Thus we talk about two people becoming one body, giving themselves to one another in love.

The idea of the body, and of its being given as a gift, is central to this feast of Corpus Christi, which after all just means "Body of Christ". It is a feast in which the fleshiness of God, and his giving of himself to us, is more at the fore than at any time other than Maundy Thursday, when we commemorate the institution of the Lord's Supper, which provides the groundwork for every celebration of the mass.

God's gift of himself to us in physical form happened not only once on the cross, though the sacrifice itself was unique, full and sufficient. The gift of God's body to us is the timeless preoccupation of the church, as love is the timeless preoccupation of humans. We celebrate and commemorate it in every mass. If the church is the bride of Christ, she holds Jesus in her hands when she receives him in the eucharist. You, and I, and every Christian who receives communion, is in the position of a spouse who cares tenderly for the person she married. She receives his broken body in her hands, and loves him, because his body has been broken for her.

The love we as Christians give to God, and owe to God, is of course not a romantic love or a sexual encounter. But it is, miraculously, a physically real love, not just something in the head, not a crush or an idea, not a business partnership or a logistical collaboration - though sometimes the church can mistake it for those things.

Corpus Christi, the great feast of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is a day on which we hold Jesus in our hands and take him into ourselves. We remember as we do this that the truth is deeper than our holding of him; in fact, he holds *us* in *his* hands, he carries *our* broken bodies, he loves *us* despite *our* weakness and vulnerability. When we celebrate this feast, we remember that his brokenness on the cross is real because he came to meet the world in its brokenness. And as he loves us, we ought to love each other: tenderly, with infinitely careful hands.

The eucharist is not explained to us in our gospel account of its inception. It is a statement from Jesus: this is my body; this is my blood. Its beauty and comfort can be found in its mystery, in its power to bring us close to Christ, to comfort and console us; to be a balm for the heart. This is the same sort of mystery that we participate in when we offer the sacrifice of the mass together, and meet Jesus Christ in the holy sacrament of the altar.

And being known in our entirety is part of this mystery. When we come to him in our sorrow, we can ask, as King David does in the great song by Howells, "Who taught my grief to thee?" His own sorrow and sacrifice is contained in that small piece of himself that we hold in our hands, and it heals us.

How fitting that the first thing the disciples did afterwards was sing a hymn, just as we do at the end of every high mass. Perhaps singing is all we can do in response to so great a love, poured out for us so freely in the bread of heaven, containing in itself all sweetness. So let us strive to be ready to meet him, and to sing our grief and joy to him. He is always there, waiting with infinite patience to comfort us and call us home.

Amen.

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, Gordon Scott, Michael Starford, Helen Bell, Jenny, Beryl Dryden, Susan Barnes, Roy Dicker, John O'Leary, Jennifer Larcombe, Bob Guthrie, Eleanor Jamison, Anna, Phoenix, Elwyn Knight, Bernard Bishop, Andrew Linzey, Sancha Maya-Rai, Muhammad Sarwar

Sunday readings

Sunday 2nd June: Deuteronomy 8. 2-3, 14-16; 1 Corinthians 10.16-17; John 6.51-58

Sunday 9th June: Genesis 3.9-15; 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1; Mark 3.20-35

Sunday 16th June: Ezekiel 17.22-24; 2 Corinthians 5.6-10; Mark 4.26-34

Sunday 23rd June: Isaiah 49.1-6; Acts 13.22-26; Luke 1.57-66, 80.

Sunday 30th June: Wisdom 1.13-15 & 2.23-24; 2 Corinthians 8.7, 9, 13-15;
Mark 5.21-43

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Justin M
						The persecuted church
2 Corpus Christi	3 Martyrs of Uganda	4 Feria	5 Boniface B M	6 Feria	7 Sacred Heart of Jesus	8 Feria
Parish community	The persecuted church	Those taking exams	Missionaries	Ordinands	The divine compassion	Christian Aid
9 10th Sunday of the Year	10 Feria	11th Barnabas Ap	12 Feria Anointing at 6pm	13 Antony of Padua Pr Dr Anointing at 12.15	14 Feria	15 Feria
Parish community	Nurses	St Barnabas Jericho	Healing ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Oxford City Council	Famine relief
16 11th Sunday of the Year	17 Feria	18 Feria	19 Feria	20 Feria	21 Aloysius Gonzaga R	22 Alban M
Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Vocations	Students	Churches together	Pilgrims	Society of Jesus	Pilgrims
23 Nativity of John the Baptist	24 Feria	25 Feria	26 Feria	27 Cyril of Alexandria	28 Irenaeus B M	29 Peter and Paul Aps
Parish Community	World peace	Candidates for election	The Gatehouse	Theologians	Biblical scholars	Christian Unity
30 13th Sunday of the Year Parish Community						