



St Mary  
Magdalen  
OXFORD

**Parish Notes**  
**September 2025**

## **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**

We are in Interregnum just now,  
awaiting the appointment of a new Vicar.

### **Associate Priest**

The Reverend Dr Mel Marshall  
Telephone: 01865 436243  
mthrmelanie@gmail.com

## **Administration**

### **Parish office**

admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Phone: 01865 246143

### **Website**

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

## **X**

Parish: @marymagsoxford

Choir: @magschoir

## **Facebook**

stmarymagdalen.oxford

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC is committed to making St Mary Magdalen's a safe environment for everyone. If you have any questions about safeguarding matters or wish to report a concern, please talk to the Parish Safeguarding Officer **Peter Dockrill** or send an email to: [safeguardingsmmox@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingsmmox@gmail.com)

## **Treasurer**

"Mary Mags Oxford costs £400 per day to run and is supported by your generous donations. We have to be self-funding. This means that we do not receive any funds other than the income we raise through planned giving, fundraising, etc.

We are constantly aware how the cost of living is affecting every one of us differently. We want you to know that we appreciate every penny you give and do not take your generosity for granted.

If you would like to discuss giving options, please contact the Treasurer, Oscar Riba-Thompson at [marymagstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:marymagstreasurer@gmail.com)

## **Events**

### **PCC**

The next Parochial Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in church.

### **St Giles Fair**

The Fair – and our sale – is on **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>**. If you are attending Mass the Sunday before, help sorting our donations around breaking for lunch whenever you like would be very welcome, with first choice of bargains your immediate reward.

### **Ride and Stride on Open Saturday**

The church will be open all day for Open Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Three of our Ride and Striders have set up their sponsorship pages. To sponsor Bethany Sollereder, go

to: <https://www.goodhub.com/go/bethanyridestride>. To make George Prince's cycling from Witney to Abingdon worthwhile, it's

<https://www.goodhub.com/go/oxfordshire-historic-churches-trust-201028>.

And Matt Timms is also girding up his loins on our behalf

at <https://www.goodhub.com/go/oxfordshire-historic-churches-trust-201030>

Your sponsorship of these doughty volunteers will help both St Mary Mags and the Oxford Historic Churches Trust which has generously awarded us with three meaty grants in recent times.

### **Concert**

There will be an evening of a capella in church on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, featuring Oxford Harmony and "the beatroots" with barbershop, pop, jazz and swing all promised.

### **Scripture on Saturday**

There will be another Zoom meeting on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss how best to take our Bible Study meetings forward. The link for this will be in the Pew Sheet and e-circular in the week before it.

## **Shipston Song 2025: 19-21 September.**

Founded by our very own organist Ian Tindale, this year performers include Roderick Williams and Katie Bray. St Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone. See [www.shipstonsong.co.uk](http://www.shipstonsong.co.uk) for details.

## **Gardening**

At 10am on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> our two great friends Sir Hugo Brunner and Professor Ingrid Lunt who have spearheaded our Railings Project are asking for help clearing vegetation and soil away from the base of the railings to reduce rust and decay. This is actually quite a serious business, so volunteers are really needed. Equipment, coffee and nibbles will be provided. If enough turn out, the job can be finished in two hours.

## **Notices**

Our thanks to Ruth and Stuart Dryden for organising a new carpet for the Lady Chape altar rail. And thanks too to the Company who supplied it **completely free** in exchange for a mention here: Manor Flooring of Wootton (<https://manorflooring.co.uk> - [01865 321554](tel:01865321554) ) They are in Besselsleigh Road near Abingdon and the Drydens can vouch for their professionalism and expertise. Do give Manor a call if you want carpets or new hard floors and mention Mary Mags.

## **New Altar Guild**

Our Sacristans are looking for volunteers to assist our priests with weekday masses, and to help them with Sunday preparation. We are blessed to enjoy a rich liturgy and full pattern of services; this Altar Guild ministry will facilitate our worship and support our sacramental life. Volunteering is also an excellent way to commit to attending a weekday mass. If you are interested, please talk to Susan or Cooper after mass, or email Cooper ([cooper.ackerly@gmail.com](mailto:cooper.ackerly@gmail.com)). Training will be provided.

## Poem of the Month

### Holy Sonnet V by John Donne

I am a little world made cunningly  
Of elements and an angelic sprite,  
But black sin hath betray'd to endless night  
My world's both parts, and oh both parts must die.  
You which beyond that heaven which was most high  
Have found new spheres, and of new lands can write,  
Pour new seas in mine eyes, that so I might  
Drown my world with my weeping earnestly,  
Or wash it, if it must be drown'd no more.  
But oh it must be burnt; alas the fire  
Of lust and envy have burnt it heretofore,  
And made it fouler; let their flames retire,  
And burn me O Lord, with a fiery zeal  
Of thee and thy house, which doth in eating heal.

As so often with Donne, everything seems to be bursting at the seams here: the rhyme scheme (ABBA ABBA CDCD EE) is that favoured by Sir Philip Sydney, but instead of the traditional split of a sonnet into octave and sestet, Donne's big change of direction arrives one line late after the ninth line as if, such is the depth of his trauma at the extent of his guilt, everything gets thrown out of joint. It is as if this rake has made such progress that verbal flagellation is now top of his Christmas wish list. It is rare to find a sonnet where the poet cannot stop himself from exclaiming "Oh" or "O" three times. With "oh both parts must die." He laments with five straight stressed monosyllables as if there can be no arguing with him, except that of course, being Donne, he will be arguing with himself.

Although the set of 19 Holy Sonnets was not published until after Donne's death in 1633, it is fascinating to trace here how the discoveries of

Copernicus and Galileo, igniting a new dawn for astronomy and a new realisation of the possible size of the universe, are also opening new possibilities for the religious poet. New ground is available for the contrasts of Donne's shock tactics to become even more dramatic.

The relative calmness of the opening lines, where he seems to have been quietly assembled in some workshop, suddenly gives way to black whole horror as he imagines the endless future his own sins are preparing for him.

Typically, he then sets about telling God what to do, as if God has no-one else to worry about. Donne's egotism is as imperious as it often is in the love poetry in which the sins he now regrets were being committed. This begins with "You" at the start of line 5, but the tone is close to "Oi! You!" The most interesting word in this line is "was". It is as if the old view of Heaven as a kind of penthouse suite at the top of creation is no longer viable, because telescopes are discovering "new spheres".

"Pour new seas" he demands with a triple stress. I suppose you might query just how "earnest" his "weeping" is if God has to supply the water. But then he changes his mind and asks for fire, only for that to be insufficient too, so only a metaphysical "fiery zeal" might do before he signs off with a paradox sweet as nut, just as he did at the end of "Batter my heart" the Holy Sonnet we featured here earlier in this sequence.

Whatever, God bless you, John Donne, for your wonderful poems – and fine Sermons of course as well. Thankfully, we still have another 17 Holy Sonnets to look at here as our sequence unrolls.

## **New Features**

Two were promised last month, but unfortunately there is no space this time to launch them properly. However, we can unveil the intention. Look out for alternating "Our Mags" and "My Mags". With the former we shall feature a pic of a different item in the church and discuss its story or significance. The latter will be a description by a different member of the clergy and congregation describing how and why they arrived here to become part of our community. That will of course be a way of publicising St Mary Magdalen.

## **Intercessions**

*Please pray for the long-term sick and those in special need, among them: Sophie Brown, Pamela Rogers, Jo, Mathew Sale, Kay Brinton, Eleanor Sartain, Jasmine Turner, Kyeong Mi Lee, Janet Scott, Julia Walters, Guy Westwood, Peter Dodson, Barry Beck, Diana, Elwyn Knight, Erin Choi, Susannah, Kamal, Burns Ackerly, Vernon Porter, Wilma Murphy, Karen Jones, Graham Davies, Ruth Dryden, Andrew Siantonis, Christopher Lenton, Ann Garfit, Jonathan Gouws, Rene, Megan.*

## **Sunday readings**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Wisdom 9: 13-18; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Numbers 21: 4-9; Philemon 2: 6-11; John 3: 13-17.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Amos 8: 4-7; 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: (1-9) 10-13.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September: Amos 6: 1, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; Luke 16: 19-31.

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Giles R</b>	<b>2 Feria</b>	<b>3 Gregory Pp</b>	<b>4 Birinius B</b>	<b>5 Feria</b>	<b>6 Feria</b>
Parish Community	St Giles Oxford	The PCC	Missions	Oxford diocese	Sacristans and servers	The Gatehouse
<b>7 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>8 Nativity of the BVM</b>	<b>9 Feria</b>	<b>10 Feria</b>	<b>11 Feria</b>	<b>12 Feria</b>	<b>13 John Chrysostom B Dr</b>
Parish community	St Mary the Virgin Oxford	St Giles Fair	Vistors to our Church	Church Musicians	The Restoration & Development Trust	Preachers
<b>14 Holy Cross</b>	<b>15 Feria</b>	<b>16 Feria</b>	<b>17 Feria</b>	<b>18 Feria</b>	<b>19 Feria</b>	<b>20 Feria</b>
Parish community	Ordinands in training	Ecumenical work	Healing Ministry Anointing 6pm	Oxford Hospitals Anointing 12.15pm	Those to be married	The persecuted church
<b>21 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>22 Feria</b>	<b>23 Feria</b>	<b>24 Our Lady of Walsingham</b>	<b>25 Feria</b>	<b>26 Cosmas and Damian Ms</b>	<b>27 Feria</b>
Parish Community	Evangelists	Clergy	The shrine at Walsingham	Physicians	Monthly Requiem	St Michael at the North Gate
<b>28 Michael and All Angels</b>	<b>29 Feria</b>	<b>30 Jerome Dr</b>				
Parish Community	Safeguarding	Biblical translators				