



St Mary  
Magdalen  
OXFORD

**Parish Notes**  
**November 2024**

## **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  
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The Reverend Dr Melanie Marshall  
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### **Parish Administrator**

Mr Nigel Speight  
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admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

### **Website**

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

[www.theschooloftheology.org](http://www.theschooloftheology.org)

## **Events**

### **All Saints**

On Friday 1 November, both masses will be of All Saints. Our principal celebration of the feast will be at the High Mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The preacher will be Mr Gerry Lynch, an ordinand who is training for ministry at St Stephen's House.

### **All Souls Day**

The Commemoration of All Souls is observed on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. There will be a said Mass of Requiem at 11am in church. There will be a High Mass of Requiem at 7.30pm, at which the combined choirs of St Mary Magdalen's and Somerville College will sing the Requiem by Maurice Durufle. If you would like to add names to the list of those to be remembered in the intercessions, please email the parish office or write the names on the sheets by the north door.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on 10<sup>th</sup> November, the day before Armistice Day itself. The civic Act of Remembrance which takes place in St Giles necessitates certain road closures that morning. Those coming to church from the relevant directions may wish to allow extra time for travel.

The preacher will be Fr Nathan. The Act of Remembrance will take place during the High Mass as usual.

## **Dedication Festival Weekend**

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the celebration of our 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary such a success. We plan to produce a booklet with the texts of the sermons and some photographs from the weekend. This will be available to purchase in aid of the churchyard project.

If you weren't able to attend, copies of the special triple service booklet are still available on the chest by each door, or if you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact the Parish Office. Donations in exchange will be most welcome and you will find details how to make those inside.

## **Parochial Church Council**

The PCC meets next on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in church.

## **Scripture on Saturday**

Our Bible Study group will gather online on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 10am in church. Anyone is welcome, no previous participation is necessary.

## **Carol Service**

Please book in your diary the afternoon of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, which is the third Sunday of Advent. At 4.30pm that day we will hold our annual Carol Service, always a highlight of our year and an ideal opportunity to invite friends or newcomers to visit our church, and enjoy a familiar liturgy supported by our wonderful choir.

## **Mary Magdalen at the feet of Christ**

*A concert to be given by Instruments of Time and Truth, directed by Edward Higginbottom, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin.*

For a musician boasting a string of prestigious appointments – maestro di cappella at Mantua, to Charles III (pretender to the Spanish throne) in Barcelona, Ruspoli in Rome, and finally Vize-Kapellmeister at the Imperial Court in Vienna – Antonio Caldara (1670–1736) is strangely overlooked in our own time. He held these positions precisely because he was an outstanding composer, both of opera and oratorio. Instruments of Time & Truth, as part of its tenth anniversary season, will offer a unique opportunity to hear one of Caldara's finest oratorios, Maddalena ai piedi de Cristo, a dramatic telling of the struggle between Good and Evil for the soul of Mary Magdalena. Such libretti were the stuff of Lenten observance in European Courts, but there is nothing Lenten about Caldara's treatment, vivid, intense, compact and compelling. Six solo voices take on six dramatic roles; one fabulous aria follows another; all enriched by highly original writing for string orchestra.

## **Oxford Winter Night Shelter**

The Oxford Winter Night Shelter is run by a number of churches in Oxford and provides a warm welcome with a hot drink and snack, a bed for the night, and breakfast the next morning for men and women who are rough sleeping. Details of how you can help with donations or volunteering can be found on their website <https://www.ownsoxford.org.uk/>.

## Poem of the month

### Prayer

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth  
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,  
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,  
The six-days world transposing in an hour,  
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;  
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,  
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,  
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,  
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,  
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,  
The land of spices; something understood.

*George Herbert may not be the greatest poet who was an Anglican, but he is perhaps the greatest Anglican poet, that is, the writer whose theological poetics have been most celebrated by and inspiring for the modern Anglican tradition. His life was relatively short, and marked by politics as much as by preaching, though his treatise on parish life, *The Country Parson*, remains a classic. His volume of poems *The Temple* was published shortly after his death through the efforts of his friend Nicholas Ferrar (the founder of the short-lived Little Gidding community).*

*This celebrated and glorious sonnet speaks for itself, piling one upon another an extraordinary set of metaphors for the concept and activity of prayer. There are many things to note about the poem, not least how its final word is a wonderful punchline: a declaration of faith so powerful it feels like a statement of fact.*

*But above all note that the poem has no verb. It is a series of nouns and noun phrases, each of which is a description of prayer. The verb that is missing from the sonnet is the verb “to be” – these are all things which Herbert is saying prayer “is”. So why not include the verb “to be”? Because just as our activity of prayer depends on the unacknowledged presence of God, which we take for granted and which underlies our very existence, so the poem depends on the unacknowledged God who is himself the verb “to be” – I am who I am, being itself.*

## **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, Andrew Linzey, Sancha Maya-Rai, Vernon Porter.

## **Sunday readings**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Revelation 7.2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November: 1 Kings 17.10-16, Hebrews 9.24-28; Mark 12.38-44

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November: Daniel 12.1-3; Hebrews 10.11-14, 18; Mark 13.24-32

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November: Daniel 7.13-14; Revelation 1.5-8; 18.33-37

# November 2024

| Sun  | Mon                         | Tue                          | Wed                                 | Thu                                     | Fri                            | Sat                            |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  |                             |                              |                                     |   | <b>1 All Saints</b>            | <b>2 All Souls</b>             |
|  |                             |                              |                                     |   | The hope of heaven             | The faithful departed          |
| <b>3 All Saints</b>                          | <b>4 Charles Borromeo B</b> | <b>5 Feria</b>               | <b>6 Feria</b>                      | <b>7 Feria</b>                          | <b>8 All Saints of England</b> | <b>9 Feria</b>                 |
| Parish community                             | Steven our Bishop           | Justin our Archbishop        | The Gatehouse                       | Famine relief                           | Our country                    | Sacristans and servers         |
| <b>10 Remembrance Sunday</b>                 | <b>11 Martin of Tours B</b> | <b>12 Feria</b>              | <b>13 Feria</b>                     | <b>14 Feria</b>                         | <b>15 Albert B Dr</b>          | <b>16 Margaret of Scotland</b> |
| Parish Community                             | Victims of conflict         | Churches Together            | Healing ministry (anointing at 6pm) | Oxford's hospitals (anointing at 12.15) | Those in authority             | Those in authority             |
| <b>17 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b> | <b>18 Feria</b>             | <b>19 Feria</b>              | <b>20 Edmund M</b>                  | <b>21 Feria</b>                         | <b>22 Cecilia VM</b>           | <b>23 Feria</b>                |
| Parish Community                             | Ecumenical work             | Community Emergency Foodbank | The persecuted church               | Helen and Douglas House                 | Musicians                      | The homeless                   |
| <b>24 Christ the King</b>                    | <b>25 Catherine M</b>       | <b>26 Feria</b>              | <b>27 Feria</b>                     | <b>28 Feria</b>                         | <b>29 Feria</b>                | <b>30 Andrew, Ap</b>           |
| Parish Community                             | Peace in the Holy Land      | Christ Church Cathedral      | Christian Aid                       | Oxford City Council                     | Colleges in our parish         | The people of Scotland         |