



St Mary
Magdalen
OXFORD

Parish Notes
October 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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The Reverend Prof Judith Brown
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Parish Administrator

Mr Nigel Speight
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Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

www.theschooloftheology.org

Events

MARY MAGS 950

The last weekend in October sees us celebrate the 950th anniversary of our church, as we keep our Dedication Festival.

Saturday 26th October

11.30 High Mass with dedication of churchyard.

Preacher: the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

4pm Solemn Evensong and Benediction (joined by Choir alumni)

Preacher: the Very Revd Professor Sarah Foot, Dean of Christ Church

Sunday 27th October

8am Said Mass

10.30am High Mass, with world premiere of the new “St Mary Magdalen Oxford Mass” by Cecilia MacDowall

Preacher: the Rt Revd Lord Williams of Oystermouth, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury.

There will be drinks served after each service. Following the Sunday High Mass we will also have the opportunity to toast our former Vicar, Fr Hugh Wybrew, whose 90th birthday also falls this weekend.

October Feasts

The feast of St Luke the Evangelist is 18th October.

The feast of St Frideswide, patron of Oxford, is 19th October. The cathedral will celebrate its eucharist for St Frideswide at 6pm that day.

A Vigil for Peace, Remembrance and Unity

Sunday 6 October, 7pm, Bonn Square, Oxford

Join faith and community leaders in an act of solidarity with all who suffer from conflict and war in Israel, Palestine and across the world; and to stand in unity against all forms of hatred, racism and division.

The vigil has been organised by the Oxfordshire Civic, Community and Faith Leaders' Group, led by Bishop Steven and Imam Monawar Hussain. Representatives from all faiths have been invited to join those gathered to pray and reflect on conflicts around the world, especially people living in Gaza and Israel.

Harvest Festival

We keep Sunday 6th 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, has appealed this year for gifts of money. We invite you to make a donation to the parish account with the reference "CEF", and we will make a one off payment to the Foodbank account. The parish's bank details are:

The Parochial Church Council meets on Tuesday 1st October at 7.30pm in church.

Scripture on Saturday

Our online Bible Study mornings sessions on Saturday 12th October from 10am on Zoom. The link will be circulated by email. All are welcome, no previous participation is necessary. This month we are concluding our examination of the short but highly significant letter to the Ephesians.

Oxford Half Marathon Advance warning that on Sunday the 13th October there will be extensive road closures to allow this event to take place. Further information can be found at www.oxfordhalf.com

Poem of the Month

From near the beginning of "Paradise Lost" by John Milton.

Who first seduc'd them to that foul revolt?
Th' infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile
Stird up with Envy and Revenge, deceiv'd
The Mother of Mankind, what time his Pride
Had cast him out from Heav'n, with all his Host
Of Rebel Angels, by whose aid aspiring
To set himself in Glory above his Peers,
He trusted to have equal'd the most High,
If he oppos'd; and with ambitious aim
Against the Throne and Monarchy of God
Rais'd impious War in Heav'n and Battel proud
With vain attempt. Him the Almighty Power
Hurl'd headlong flaming from th' Ethereal Skie
With hideous ruine and combustion down
To bottomless perdition, there to dwell
In Adamantine Chains and penal Fire,
Who durst defie th' Omnipotent to Arms.

After September's dramatic short religious poem, we tuck into a sliver of the most dramatic long religious poem in English. Totally blind by 1652, Milton dictated "Paradise Lost" to an amanuensis at the rate of ten lines a day, so it is densely packed. His appetite for puns can be Shakespearian: in line 3, Eve is "dis-Eve'd" as if she loses herself when eating the apple and the Devil's attempt is "vain," both futile and self-regarding; "penal Fire" sounds painful, especially forever. No wonder he is angry. Four references to fire indicate his final destination.

Milton had been Cromwell's Latin Secretary, so we have latinate syntax twisting the word order to boost the drama. The four run-on lines near the end gather speed via three opening prepositions, with "Hurd" and "down" a long way apart, brilliantly driving us to imagine the long arc of the fall before the abstraction of "bottomless perdition" shifts the movement from physical into metaphysical, making Satan's journey away from God speed up through eternity. He is morally slaughtered – it is his "Pride" that has evicted him not God – but made to look intellectually ridiculous too: equalling the "most High" is tricky and defying the "Omnipotent" absurd. Milton has a lot of fun with illogical devils.

For all its limitations, James Cameron's film "Titanic" compels us to imagine and feel what it was like to be on the doomed ship, and here Milton does a similar job for ejection from Heaven. Find someone to read this to you when your eyes are closed as Milton's had to be. Space is short, so occasionally we shall have to do a Classic FM by putting on the bitz, but with long winter evenings approaching, can this amuse-bouche tempt you to savour all twelve courses of this magnificent poem?

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 6th October: Genesis 2: 18 – 24, Hebrews 2: 9 – 11, Mark 10: 2 - 16

Sunday 13th October: Wisdom 7: 7 – 11, Hebrews 4: 12 – 13, Mark 10: 17 – 30

Sunday 20th October: Isaiah 53: 10 – 11, Hebrews 4: 14 – 16, Mark 10: 35 – 45

Sunday 27th October: 2 Chronicles 5: 6 - 11, 13 - 6: 2, 1 Corinthians 3: 9 – 13, 16 – 17, John 4: 19 – 24

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Therese of Lisieux V Dr	2 Holy Guardian Angels	3 Feria	4 Francis of Assisi	5 Feria
		Steven our Bishop	Our PCC	The homeless	Franciscans	The Gatehouse
6 27 th Sunday of the Year	7 Our Lady of the Rosary	8 Feria	9 John Henry Newman, pr	10 Paulinus B	11 Ethelburga Ab	12 Wilfrid B
Parish Community	Famine relief	Children's church	College chaplains	Oxfordshire Historic Churches	Religious communities	Chichester diocese and cathedral
13 28 th Sunday of the Year	14 Feria	15 Teresa of Avila V Dr	16 Feria	17 Ignatius of Antioch B M	18 Luke Ev	19 Frideswide Ab
Parish Community	Community Emergency Foodbank	Spiritual Directors	The Restoration and Development Trust	Theologians	Evangelists	Our city
20 29 th Sunday of the Year	21 Feria	22 Feria	23 Feria anointing 6pm	24 Feria anointing 12.15	25 Crispin and Crispinian	26 Dedication Weekend
Parish Community	Oxford City Council	The Shrine at Walsingham	Healing ministry	Oxford's hospitals	The persecuted church	Our church and parish
27 Dedication Festival	28 Simon and Jude Ap	29 Feria	30 Feria	31 Feria		
Parish Community	Preachers	Church musicians	Helen and Douglas House	The Lutheran church		