

**INTERCESSIONS** Please pray for the long term sick and those in special need, among them:

Holly Ryan, Wendy Webb, Ann-Marie and Andy, David Games, Abigail, Melanie, Dan, Angela, Anna and Phoenix, Philip, Chris, Lewis, Ilona Zimon, Steven Wiltshire, Julie, Michael, Sue Goodall, Alex Underwood, Peter Parsons, Richard Gurney, Brian, Jonathan, Martin Souter

**ASH WEDNESDAY** The first day of Lent falls on 22nd February. There will be a said Mass with hymns and Imposition of Ashes at 12.15pm and a High Mass with Imposition of Ashes at 7:30pm

**CONFESSIONS BEFORE LENT** Fr Peter will be in church to hear confessions at 6:30pm on Friday 17th February, at 6:30pm on Saturday 18th February and at 5pm on Tuesday 21st February. Other times are available by appointment.

**SHROVE TUESDAY** Our regular student gathering will take place as usual on Tuesday 21st February, but will take the form of a pancake party, from 7.30pm. All members of the church and friends, young and old, are warmly invited to join us. (Compline will be sung in Hertford College Chapel at 10pm as usual.)

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS** As usual, we shall be celebrating Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Wednesday evenings during Lent, at 7:30pm. Each service will feature a short address after Stations, and will conclude with Benediction. Please try to make this service part of your Lenten observance.

**PARISH LUNCH** There will be a bring and share lunch at the Vicarage after the High Mass on Sunday 12th February. All are most welcome. A list where those intending to come can note what they plan to bring, will be available in church for the two preceding weeks.

**PALM CROSSES** If you have kept your palm cross from last year, please bring it to church so that it can be burned, and the ash used on Ash Wednesday.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** If you are a UK tax payer, please do not put loose money into the collection plate, but put it first into a Gift Aid envelope with your name on the front, which allows us to reclaim the tax payable on that amount.

**DIARY DATE** The Annual Parochial Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th April at 7:30pm in church.

**PRAYERS FOR THE HOMELESS** The next prayers for homeless people and agencies will be at 12.30 on Wednesday 1st February at St Michael's. These prayers last just 20 minutes. All are welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** The St Mary Magdalen craft group has now begun meeting, and will meet next on 9th February at the Vicarage, at 7.45 p.m. Emma Frith and other members of the group have begun making rosaries, which are offered for sale for £12 each, with all profits donated to church funds. For more details about the group, or if you'd like to look at the rosaries, please speak to Emma or any member of the group.

**VICARAGE TEA** This February is a special month, since 2012 is a leap year. That means that Fr Michael Farthing will be able to celebrate his actual birthday, something he can do only every four years. Not only that, but he will this month celebrate his 21st birthday. So he is truly coming of age. In order to mark this milestone, there will be a Vicarage Tea in Fr Michael's honour on Wednesday 29th February, at 3.30pm, at which birthday cake will be served.

**THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FOODBANK** Jane Benyon, Chairman of the CEF, has sent this kind message to all at St Mary Magdalen:

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank the congregation of St Mary Magdalen Church for its continued support for the work of CEF in 2011. Over the year you have provided 265 items of food, for which we are most grateful.

During the past year, due to the increasingly difficult financial situation, we have found that the numbers coming through our doors at the food bank has increased considerably. Many people are finding that they are without the resources to feed themselves and their families. We really believe that we are making a tangible difference to people's lives at a time that they find themselves in their own personal crisis. We are distributing over 2,000 items of food each month so you can see how important your contribution is to the people in financial crisis in Oxford.

**THE GATEHOUSE** This month the Gatehouse Drop-in Centre for the Homeless makes its move to its new premises in the parish hall at St Giles. A marvellous job of renovation and reordering has been done to make the hall suitable to accommodate this important church project, which makes provision for Oxford's homeless. Congratulations are due to all involved both for a terrific fundraising effort, and for the vision and expertise to bring the transformation of the hall about. Please pray for Fr Andrew Bunch, Vicar of St Giles and Chair of the Trustees of the Gatehouse, and for all the Gatehouse's volunteers and visitors.

**VOCATIONS GROUP** The Mary Mags vocations group will meet next on Tuesday 6th March (Tuesday of 8th week), after the lunchtime mass, i.e. at about 12.45. The group provides a supportive space for reflection for anyone exploring (however tentatively) a Christian vocation of any kind, or simply for those interested in the subject of vocation. All are very welcome — please talk to Fr Richard, or just come along.

**SECURITY ISSUES** Sadly, the churches of central Oxford are again being targeted by professional thieves. It is even more important than usual, therefore, that no-one leave any bags or personal belongings anywhere in church, for however short a time, unless they are behind a locked door. For the next few weeks, a notice reminding people not to leave bags in the pews during communion will return to the weekly pew sheet.

**FR RICHARD WRITES** Emma, Stephen, and I will be away from St Mary Magdalen's for much of February, on holiday in New Zealand. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to go and visit close friends, and something that we've been looking forward to for a long time.

Heading off to the southern hemisphere in February means, of course, that we'll miss a part of the great British winter, and while it would be less than truthful of me to say that this doesn't appeal, it nonetheless feels odd to be missing a part of our natural cycle of seasons. This year, I've felt more exposed to the changes in the seasons than I have for a few years, what with cycling to church for Morning Prayer and daily mass in all weathers, not to mention spending a fair amount of time in an ancient building which, despite the marvels of modern central heating, can still be a bit chilly of a winter's morning. It all reminds one of what a test of endurance the simple act of going to church must often have been for our forebears. More than this, though, to live properly through winter makes the spring all the more of a blessing, all the more life-giving when it finally comes.

Welcome as it is to be getting away from the frost, the wind, and the rain, it is strange to think that when we return spring will not be quite so far away. As we

come back at the beginning of Lent, however, another period of waiting will just be beginning - for the sombre drama of Holy Week, and, finally, for the joy of Easter Day. We look forward to being back at Mary Mags to share together in our Lenten pilgrimage.

### THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

At the end of January, members of St Mary Magdalen's visited the shrine at Walsingham to pray for, among other things, the needs of our parish. What follows is a brief history of the Shrine, from its beginnings in the year 1061, when Our Lady appeared to Richeldis de Faverches, a Saxon noblewoman, married to the Lord of the Manor of Walsingham Parva. Richeldis' life of prayer and good works was rewarded by a vision in the year 1061. In this vision she was taken by Mary to be shown the house in Nazareth where Gabriel had announced the news of the birth of Jesus. Mary asked Richeldis to build an exact replica of that house in Walsingham.

The vision was repeated three times, according to legend, and retold through a fifteenth century ballad. The materials given by Richeldis were finally constructed miraculously one night into the Holy House, while she kept a vigil of prayer. Although we cannot be certain that this story represents all the details of historical fact, we do know that in passing on his guardianship of the Holy House, Geoffrey de Faverches left instructions for the building of a Priory in Walsingham. The Priory passed into the care of Augustinian Canons somewhere between 1146 and 1174. It was this Priory, housing the simple wooden structure Richeldis had been asked to build, which became the focus of pilgrimage to Walsingham. Royal patronage helped the Shrine to grow in wealth and popularity, receiving visits from Henry III, Edward II, Edward III, Henry IV, Edward IV, Henry VII and Henry VIII, who finally brought about its destruction in 1538.

After nearly four hundred years, the 20th century saw the restoration of pilgrimage to Walsingham as a regular feature of Christian life in these islands, and indeed beyond. In 1897, there was a Roman Catholic pilgrimage to the restored 14th century Slipper Chapel, now at the centre of the Roman Catholic National Shrine. Fr Alfred Hope Patten, appointed as Vicar of Walsingham in 1921, ignited Anglican interest in the pre-Reformation pilgrimage. It was his idea to base a new statue of Our Lady of Walsingham on the image depicted on the seal of the medieval Priory.

In 1922, this statue was set up in the Parish Church of St. Mary, and regular pilgrimage devotion followed. From the first night that the statue was placed there, people gathered around it to pray, asking Mary to join her powerful prayer with theirs. This work of intercession continues to this day. Throughout the 1920's, the trickle of pilgrims became a flood of large numbers, for whom eventually a Pilgrim Hospice was opened (a hospice is technically the name of a place of hospitality for pilgrims) and in 1931, a new Holy House encased in a small pilgrimage church was dedicated, and the statue translated there with great solemnity. In 1938 that church was enlarged to form the Anglican Shrine, more or less as we know it today. Fr Patten combined the posts of Vicar and Priest Administrator of the Shrine until his death in 1958. He was succeeded by Fr Colin Stephenson, who moved to Walsingham from his ministry as Vicar of St Mary Magdalen. His successor at Walsingham, Fr Charles Smith, subsequently came to be our Vicar in 1972. Thus the links between our church and the Shrine are strong, and we hope they will remain so.

### Sunday Readings

FEB 5TH:	Job 7.1-4, 6-7	1 Cor 9.16-19, 22-23	Mark 1.29-39
FEB 12TH:	Leviticus 13.1-2, 44-46	1 Cor 10.31-11.1	Mark 1.40-45
FEB 19TH:	Isaiah 43.18-19, 21-22, 24-25	2 Cor 1.18-22	Mark 2.1-12
FEB 26TH:	Genesis 9.8-15	1 Peter 3.18-22	Mark 1.12-15



# ST MARY MAGDALEN

**Services**  
**Sundays :** Eucharist at 8 am and 5.30 pm  
 Mattins 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 Dr Peter Groves

Telephone: Oxford 247836

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

The Reverend Dr Richard Frith

Telephone: Oxford 791509

[richard.frith@gmail.com](mailto:richard.frith@gmail.com)

### Website

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

### Calendar for February 2012

1	Wed	Brigid, V	<i>John our Bishop</i>
2	Thur	Feria	<i>Rowan our Archbishop</i>
3	Fri	Feria	<i>Children's church</i>
4	Sat	Feria	<i>Churches Together</i>
5	Sun	5TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish community</i>
6	Mon	Ss Paul Miki and companions, Ms	<i>Missionaries</i>
7	Tue	Feria	<i>Parish community</i>
8	Wed	Feria	<i>The Gatehouse</i>
9	Thur	Feria	<i>Theologians</i>
10	Fri	Scholastica V	<i>Religious communities</i>
11	Sat	Feria	<i>Spiritual directors</i>
12	Sun	6TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish community</i>
13	Mon	Feria	<i>Christian Aid</i>
14	Tue	Cyril R & Methodius B	<i>Orthodoxy</i>
15	Wed	Feria: Anointing at 6pm mass	<i>Healing</i>
16	Thur	Feria: Anointing at 12.15pm mass	<i>Oxford's hospitals</i>
17	Fri	Feria	<i>Monthly requiem</i>
18	Sat	Feria	<i>The elderly</i>
19	Sun	7TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish community</i>
20	Mon	Feria	<i>Oxfam</i>
21	Tue	Feria	<i>Confessors</i>
22	Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	<i>Penitence</i>
23	Thur	Feria (Polycarp B M)	<i>Preachers</i>
24	Fri	Feria (Lent)	<i>The PCC</i>
25	Sat	Feria (Lent)	<i>Vocations</i>
26	Sun	1ST SUNDAY IN LENT	<i>Parish Community</i>
27	Mon	Feria (Lent)	<i>Helen &amp; Douglas House</i>
28	Tue	Feria (Lent)	<i>Walsingham</i>
29	Wed	Feria (Lent)	<i>Fr Michael</i>