

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, Daniel Chilson, Abigail, Melanie, Dan, Angela, Anna and Phoenix, Philip, Chris, Lewis, Timothy, Ilona Zimon, Steven Wiltshire, Julie, Michael, John Cuff, Sue Goodall, Alex Underwood, Janet Semper, Peter Parsons, Richard Gurney, Brian, Jonathan

ST GILES FAIR takes place on Monday and Tuesday 5th and 6th September. Pre-order forms are already available allowing you to order home made produce in advance. As usual, we need people to contribute items for sale lists of what is required are available in church. Volunteers for the stalls and church on the 5th and 6th September are requested—a full rota is at the back of church to be signed. Help will also be required on the days before and after the fair itself, in particular after mass on Sunday 4th. Those willing to help on that day are advised to bring a packed lunch to church, and all are reminded of the powerful incentive that helping in advance of the fair gives one first pick of the items on offer!

BLESSING ST GILES FAIR On Sunday 4th September, a service of blessing to mark the beginning of the fair, takes place at 7:30pm around the carousel on the north side of the churchyard. All are most welcome.

There will be **no 5:30pm mass** at St Mary Magdalen's that evening.

During the fair, **there will be no evening celebration (6pm) on Monday or Tuesday.**

RIDE OR STRIDE On Saturday 10th September, in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, the annual "Ride or Stride" will take place. This is an opportunity to raise money by visiting as many Oxfordshire churches as possible, by bike or on foot. Please sponsor those who are participating on our behalf. More details are available from Jenny Farthing.

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS September sees major feast days in honour of St Giles, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St Michael the Archangel. These three saints are the patrons of three of our neighbouring parishes. Please use those days to pray for our friends and neighbours in the other city centre churches.

HEALING MASSES IN SEPTEMBER It is our custom to celebrate healing masses, with laying on of hands and holy anointing offered, twice a month, one Wednesday evening and at lunchtime the next day. However, since the two central Wednesdays this month are both major Feast Days (Holy Cross Day, and St Matthew the Evangelist) we will have our evening healing mass on a Friday this month, 16th September. The lunchtime healing mass will be on a Thursday as usual, 15th September.

HOLY MATRIMONY Chris Hindley and Lesley Hallam will be married in church on Saturday 17th September at 1pm. Although they now live in Cambridge, Chris and Lesley met in Oxford, when Chris was at Merton and Lesley at Trinity. Under the new marriage regulations, they are entitled to be married in our church because one of them (Lesley) was resident in the parish for 6 months or more at some time in the past. This new regulation, it will be noticed, entitled anyone who was ever a student in residence at the colleges in our parish, to be married in our church. We have yet to discover whether we shall have a significant increase in weddings as a result. It seems unlikely, simply because most former students who wish to marry in Oxford do so in their college chapel.

BAPTISM AT THE HIGH MASS Edward James Martin Groves will be baptised at the High Mass on Sunday 25th September. The celebrant and preacher will be Fr Simon Jones, Chaplain of Merton and one of our regular celebrants, who is a close friend of Fr Peter and Beatrice.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH will begin again in September, and will continue to meet regularly on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Meetings begin in St Michael at the Northgate just before 10:30am, and those present are able to join the High Mass at St Mary Magdalen's at approximately 11:20am.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday 13th September at 7:30pm in the vicarage.

ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS Are you an animal lover? Are you concerned about the well-being of all of God's creatures? If so, please join us for the inaugural meeting of the Oxford branch of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals. We will be meeting at St Mary's, Kidlington, on Thursday 8 September. We will meet first in church at 7.15pm for a short service of prayer, followed by a light supper and meeting in the Refectory. You do not need to be an ASWA member, and there is no obligation to join the Society. If you are a Christian interested in animal welfare, we'd love to see you. It would be helpful if we could have an idea of numbers planning to attend, so please contact Jennifer Brown (01869 250 569 or jen@jenbrown.org.uk) if you think you would like to come, or speak to Fr Martin Henig if you would like more information.

SUNDAY CELEBRANTS August's celebrants are as follows:

4th September 8am Fr John Muddiman 10:30am Fr Peter Groves *no 5.30pm mass*

11th September 8am, 10.30am 5:30pm Fr Peter

18th September 8am Fr John; 10:30am, 5:30pm Fr Peter

25th September 8am Fr Peter, 10:30am Fr Simon Jones, 5:30pm Mthr Jenn

PARISH ASSISTANT September will see Kate Seal complete her term as Parish Assistant—we shall say farewell to her formally on Sunday 11th September. The Parochial Church Council decided some time ago that Kate would not be replaced with a full time parish assistant, but we are glad to say that one of our own candidates for ordination, Tom Carpenter, will be taking on the role part time, and this will ensure that the church is able to remain open during the afternoons.

VICARAGE TEA All are most welcome to come and enjoy tea at the vicarage on Wednesday September 21st from 3:30pm. There will be a short talk, details of which will be announced in the pew sheet.

Sunday Readings

SEPT 4TH:	Ezekiel 33.7–9	Romans 13.8–10	Matthew 18.15–20
SEPT 11TH:	Ecclesiasticus 27.30–28.7	Romans 14.7–9	Matthew 18.21–35
SEPT 18TH:	Isaiah 55.6–9	Philippians 1.20–24,27	Matthew 20.1–16
SEPT 25TH:	Ezekiel 18.25–28	Philippians 2.1–11	Matthew 21.28–32

SLEEP AND POETRY

by Fr Peter

“Sleep and Poetry” is the title of an early poem by John Keats. It is fitting as I write these notes, because I have this week been teaching a course on theology and poetry at the Oxford University Theology Summer School. Our already indispensable nanny, Arabella, has been co-ordinating this summer school as “programme assistant”—a job to which she was committed long before we signed her up to live with us and help with the children—and so there has been a certain amount of juggling at the vicarage to try to ensure Beatrice gets at least some sleep during the day, as there is not as much to be had during the night as might be hoped! I have been keeping myself going OK, but only because I take the cowardly option of sleeping on the sofa while Edward is keeping his mother awake.

I have only just returned to work during the week, having taken two weeks’ paternity leave and two weeks annual leave following Edward’s birth (We were not able to go away during this time, but we shall be doing so for four days during September.) Longer standing members of the congregation will remember the difficult circumstances which surrounded Michael’s first few days and weeks of life, and which coincided with the last few weeks of my mother’s life. I am glad to say that, by comparison, this time round has seemed a breeze, although Beatrice is obviously still rather worn out. We are most grateful to all who have helped us out and offered us help in person or in kind, and it has been a great joy to see Edward getting to meet the community at St Mary Magdalen’s little by little. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to share in the celebration of his baptism on Sunday 25th September.

The substance of my teaching this week has been a series of major topics in Christian doctrine, illuminated with particular reference to the work of George Herbert and Gerard Manley Hopkins. This being the case, I cannot resist printing one of my favourite poems to accompany these notes, a sonnet by Hopkins called “The Lantern Out of Doors”. It is not as rhythmically or syntactically bizarre as some of Hopkins’s works, but it does rely very much upon the sound of the words written, so please do read it aloud. It describes Hopkins’s understanding of creation, of the basic Christian truth that all things and people are held in existence by the eternal love of Christ. Whilst our experiences and encounters come and go, and we are unable to hold sights or sounds or thoughts more than briefly, the constant creative presence of Christ in all things assures us of the outpouring of love and grace in the world, a world which is not a combination of the natural and the holy, but rather a world in which nature is always holy, always the vehicle of God’s grace, because it exists through the gift of God’s love.

The Lantern Out of Doors

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Sometimes a lantern moves along the night
That interests our eyes And who goes there?
I think; where from and bound, I wonder, where,
With, all down darkness wide, his wading light?

Men go by me whom either beauty bright
In mould or mind or what not else makes rare:
They rain against our much-thick and marsh air
Rich beams, till death or distance buys them quite.

Death or distance soon consumes them: wind
What most I may eye after, be in at the end
I cannot, and out of sight is out of mind.
Christ minds: Christ’s interest, what to avow or amend
there, eyes them, heart wants, care haunts, foot follows kind,
Their ransom, their rescue, and first, fast, last friend.



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

The Reverend Dr Richard Frith

Telephone: Oxford 791509

richard.frith@gmail.com

Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Calendar for September 2011

1	Thur	Giles, Ab	<i>St Giles church and parish</i>
2	Fri	Feria	<i>John, our Bishop</i>
3	Sat	Gregory Bp Dr	<i>Rowan, our Archbishop</i>
4	Sun	23RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish community</i>
5	Mon	Feria	<i>Visitors to our church</i>
6	Tue	Feria	<i>St Giles Fair</i>
7	Wed	Feria	<i>Ecumenical work</i>
8	Thur	Birth of the BVM	<i>St Mary the Virgin, Oxford</i>
9	Fri	Feria	<i>Oxford's religious houses</i>
10	Sat	Feria	<i>Ordinands</i>
11	Sun	24TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish community</i>
12	Mon	Feria	<i>Oxfam</i>
13	Tue	John Chrysostom, Bp Dr	<i>Preachers</i>
14	Wed	Holy Cross Day	<i>Devotion to Christ crucified</i>
15	Thur	Feria: anointing at 12.15pm mass	<i>Healing</i>
16	Fri	Feria: anointing at 6pm mass	<i>Oxford's hospitals</i>
17	Sat	Feria	<i>Those to be married today</i>
18	Sun	25TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish Community</i>
19	Mon	Feria	<i>Helen and Douglas House</i>
20	Tue	Feria	<i>Oxford City Council</i>
21	Wed	Matthew, Ap	<i>Evangelists</i>
22	Thur	Feria	<i>The PCC</i>
23	Fri	Feria	<i>Monthly requiem</i>
24	Sat	Feria	<i>Churches Together in Oxford</i>
25	Sun	26TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish community</i>
26	Mon	Feria	<i>Lay ministers</i>
27	Tue	Vincent de Paul, Pr	<i>Confessors</i>
28	Wed	Feria	<i>Those new to Oxford</i>
29	Thur	Michael and all Angels	<i>St Michael at the Northgate</i>
30	Fri	Jerome, P Dr	<i>Biblical scholars</i>