



Parish Notes

April 2026

Our new Vicar to be installed on May 27th

The PCC is delighted to announce that our new Vicar, Father Jonathan Lewis-Jong will be installed in church on May 27th at 6pm. Do join us for this solemn celebration if you can.

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 installation of our new
Vicar, Fr. Jonathan Lewis-Jong.

Associate Priest

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

Administration

Parish office

Parish Administrator Matthew Watts
admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Phone: 01865 246143

Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

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Parish: @marymagsoxford

Choir: @magschoir

Facebook

stmarymagdalen.oxford

Safeguarding

The PCC is committed to making St Mary Magdalen's a safe environment for everyone and we have two Safeguarding Officers, Henry Jestico and Francesca Holloway. If you have any questions about safeguarding matters or wish to report a concern, please email: safeguardingsmmox@gmail.com

Treasurer

"Mary Mags Oxford costs £470 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"

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday April 2nd 7.30pm; Good Friday, April 3rd Readings 12pm; Good Friday High Mass of the Lord's Passion 3pm; The Easter Vigil 7.30 Saturday, April 4th; High Mass, Easter Sunday, April 5th

Church cleaning on Easter Saturday

We shall be having a cleaning session in church on Saturday April 4th to make sure we are spick and span for Easter Sunday. Please come and help if possible; any time you have between 9.30am and 11.30am will be much needed and appreciated. Cleaning materials, good company and refreshments will be provided.

Poem of the Month

Easter Wings by George Herbert

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

When I did the Oxford English Literature degree nearly 60 years ago, we started with Latin and Anglo-Saxon, but the nearest we got to a tip-toe into the 20th Century were Hopkins and Hardy. Straying towards anything “modern” was only possible in the final General Paper. A fad surrounding us in popular culture at the time however was “Concrete Poetry” where the layout and visual effect of the words were part of their statement - in some cases, their only statement. Some would hit a single target very hard in the style of Banksy. I recall one about Highland Terriers where the “poem” was clearly in the shape of a Scottie, entirely created by the repetition of the word “woof.” At least my quoting it is proof, I suppose, that it was memorable. But childish, too.

The poetry of George Herbert of course is never silly but usually craftily solemn. And his composition of a concrete poem over 400 years earlier beautifully highlights the genuinely poetic potential of the genre with characteristic simple directness to underline the meaning of Easter. He has created a poem that hardly needs exposition. The only hint of complexity is in the satisfying paradox with which each stanza ends. The words that form the rhyme scheme all chime together sweetly with no apparent stretch required. And the shaping with the shrinking from pentameter to a single foot before expansion at the same rate back to pentameter is a clear expression of wit given the theme of the piece.

Notices

PCC

The next Parochial Church Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 7th** at 7pm in church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 26th April after the High Mass. At this meeting, we shall elect our churchwardens for the coming year, and several representatives to the Parochial Church Council. This year we shall also elect three representatives to the Deanery Synod. The parish’s accounts for 2025 will be presented by the Treasurer, and reports on various bodies and activities will be provided. It is also an opportunity for us to come together as a congregation, to reflect on the year past, and look forward to welcoming and working with a new vicar. Please make a note of it in your diary and join us if you can.

Electoral Roll revision

The Electoral Roll of the parish is a register of all lay members of the parish church who are entitled to vote at the APCM. We will be updating it in advance of the meeting – if you would like to be added to it, please pick up and fill in an enrolment form (available at the back of the church by the north door), or email admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org to request one.

Events

Tallis in Wonderland

Exciting news about the next fundraiser led by our musicians. Saturday 25th April is the date. Ten hours of Tallis in a single day! Total Tallis. Do pick up a flier from the chest by the North door to entice friends and family. It will be a special Mary Mags occasion in just the way “Byrd is the Word” was in both 2017 and 2022. If you want to make a donation online please follow this link

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/tallisinwonderland>

Sunday readings

Sunday 5th April: Acts 10: 34a & 37-43. Col 3: 1-4. John 20: 1-9.

Sunday 12th April: Acts 2: 42-47. 1 Pet 1: 3-9. John 20: 19-31.

Sunday 19th April: Acts 2: 14 & 22-33. 1 Pet 1:17-21. Luke 24: 13-35.

Sunday 26th April: Acts 2: 14a & 36-41. 1 Pet 2: 20b-25. John 10: 1-10.

Intercessions

Please pray for the long-term sick and those in special need, among them: Beryl Dryden, Joyce Day, Vernon Porter, Sophie Brown, Eleanor Sartain, Guy Westwood, Jill, Joanna Hickie, Ro, Ann Garfit, Alison Mundy, Fr Barry Hammett, Anne Douse, David, Jenny Foster, Dorothy Lovegrove, Mary Knight and Alan John.

If you would like any name added to this list (or removed from it, post recovery) ask admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk.

My Mary Mags

*Every month we highlight a feature of the Church (**Our Mary Mags**) or invite members of the community to describe how and why they hooked up with it (**My Mary Mags**). This month, it is the turn of PCC member **Veronica West-Harling***



I have always been a ‘smells and bells’ kind of girl. When I returned to Oxford over 25 years ago, I went back first to my student worship place, Christ Church, which epitomised the best of a spiritual home, with a fabulous cathedral choir and music, and a beautiful liturgy conducive to spiritual fulfilment.

I then tried to find a church with a similar offering centred on the ‘beauty of holiness’ – enter S. Mary Mags. Here the harmony of extraordinarily beautiful music, a fulsome and deeply engaging liturgy, and depth of preaching, worked seamlessly together to offer an experience of transcendence leading to spiritual fulfilment. As a medieval historian, my ideal has always been Benedictine monasticism; in that sense, it may be right to say, as Father Peter once did, that Mary Mags is a church which attracts introverts.

However, it has proved to be also, for me, one setting great value on community, as I have learnt when I gradually took on more ‘jobs’ both for Mass and within its overall life (some as a result of gentle arm-twisting by the vicar). Belonging to this community, whether at exceptional times, difficult ones like COVID, or joyous ones like the 950 anniversary, during various compositions, or even sing-along sessions – of which Father Peter’s rendition of the Pirate King in G&S was a memorable moment – has been a learning curve in terms of solidarity and sharing, even for an introvert. Regular events have added to this sharing, whether as fun – you cannot beat a Saturday morning cleaning session bonding over Brasso; or as moments of extraordinary spiritual significance – I defy anyone who has lived through the Good Friday liturgy to come out at the end of it unchanged.

This is partly what makes Mary Mags so special. One can have associate with others, listen to inspirational preaching but, above all, feel the immanence of it as a CHURCH, a sacred space. It keeps the ritual strength of centuries of tradition through the most wonderful part of it, the liturgy and the music, talking to the best and noblest in us all, never sacrificing its integrity for a cheap appeal to the lowest common denominator. In my view, this is why young members, students and others, keep coming to it, cohort after cohort: they are pulled up and made to feel better about themselves through the ‘beauty of holiness’ – long may the Spirit continue to inspire its preservation!

Sermons

Our double sermon feature will return in May’s edition

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Wednesday of Holy Week	2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
			Sacristans and Servers	Vigilance	Penitence	Hope
5 Easter Sunday	6 Easter Octave	7 Easter Octave	8 Easter Octave	9 Easter Octave	10 Easter Octave	11 Easter Octave
Parish community	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
12 2nd Sunday of Easter	13 Feria	14 Feria	15 Feria	16 Feria	17 Feria	18 Feria
Parish community	Steven our Bishop	Sarah our Archbishop	Vocations	Healing Ministry	Choir and Musicians	The homeless
19 3rd Sunday of Easter	20 Feria	21 Anselm B Dr	22 Feria	23 George M	24 Feria	25 Mark Ev
Parish Community	The Gatehouse	Theologians	Preachers	England	The faithful departed (Monthly requiem)	Biblical Scholars
26 4th Sunday of Easter	27 Feria	28 Feria	29 Catherine of Siena V Dr	30 Feria		
Parish Community	Those preparing for exams	Ordinands	Spiritual writers	Scholars		