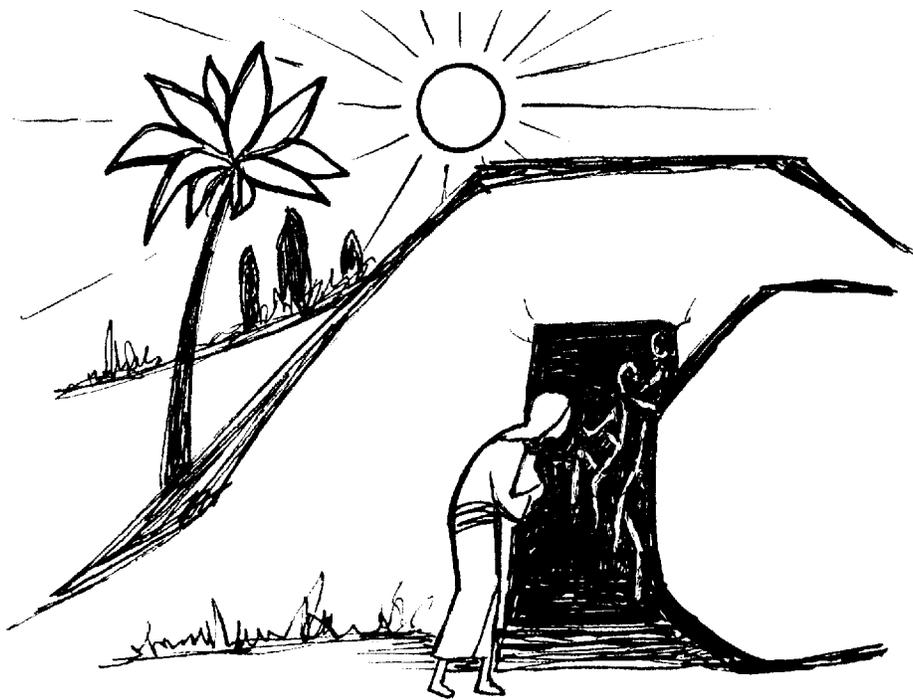


July 2020

St Mary's News

The magazine of the
Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin
A Registered Charity
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire



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S. Mary Magdalene

From the Rector July 2020

Dear friends,

We find ourselves at a strange moment. On one level there is a sense of hopes fulfilled, as many have been looking forward for some time to a relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. On the other hand, there is also still a greater hope of better things to come, of a more complete victory over the Covid-19 virus, and of a lifting not only of restrictions, but also of fear and anxiety.

The feast of the Birth of S. John the Baptist is celebrated each year on 24th June. It is one of the major saints' days in the Christian year, and one of the relatively small number of such celebrations which are included in the Book of Common Prayer. Its coincidence with the longest days of the year is in fact no coincidence at all. S. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, said of him that "He must increase, and I must decrease", and so it is that the days following the celebration of the birth of S. John the Baptist get shorter, until we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, when, with the coming of the Light of the World, the days begin to lengthen once again.

The story of S. John the Baptist is one both of hopes fulfilled, and also of a renewed sense of expectation of greater things to come. S. John the Baptist fulfilled the expectation of a great prophet who would call people to repentance, and would "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers". But he is also understood to be the one who would "prepare the way of the Lord, and make his path straight", pointing to the greater hope of the coming of Jesus.

And so as well as the hope of a triumph over Covid-19, and freedom from the fear and anxiety that has come with the virus, there is also a hope that this strange period we have lived through might yet provoke re-evaluation, reflection, perspective, even repentance; a turning of the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that with the help of God we can move forward together as a church, as a community, as a nation, and as a world.

With my prayers,

Fr Jeremy

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Monday is the Rector's day off;

Friday is his study day.

*He would appreciate being spared calls on these days except
in an emergency.*

Public worship resumes at S. Mary's

Public worship resumes on Sunday 5th July, but things will not be exactly as they were before lockdown started. Please read the following instructions carefully.

Times and locations of services

(Some locations of services have been changed to ensure that the same seats are not used more frequently than every 72 hours, to reduce risk of transmission)

Sundays

8am Holy Communion (BCP), Jesus Chapel, access through the south door

9.30am Holy Eucharist at the Nave Altar, access through the main doors

11.15am Holy Communion/Matins *at St Nicholas, Remenham*

Mondays

9am Morning Prayer in the stalls, access through the main doors

Tuesdays

9am Morning Prayer in the stalls, access through the south door

7.30pm Holy Eucharist at the High Altar, access through the south door

Wednesdays

9am Morning Prayer in the stalls, access through the main doors

11am Holy Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, access through the main doors

Thursdays

9am Morning Prayer in the stalls, access through the south door

10am Holy Eucharist (traditional language) in the Jesus Chapel, access through the south door

Fridays

9am Morning Prayer in the stalls, access through the main doors

12noon Holy Eucharist in S. Leonard's Chapel, access through the main doors

Saturdays

No services

Church opening

Church will be open at the times detailed above, until 1pm on Sundays, and on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm-5pm. Moving to fuller opening is dependant on volunteers coming forward to help supervise visitor compliance with hygiene rules.

Who should come to church?

People who have Covid-19 symptoms must not come to church – the key symptoms to look out for are a temperature, a new continuous cough, and/or changes in your sense of taste and/or smell.

People who are currently shielding are advised not to come to church.

People who are vulnerable, either because of age or underlying health conditions, are not encouraged to come to church.

How can I attend church safely?

Church will not be exactly the same as it was before lockdown. For the foreseeable future, the following changes will be in place:

- 1) Everyone will be asked to sanitize their hands on arrival using the sanitizer provided
- 2) Everyone will be asked to provide their name and a telephone number on arrival so it is possible to trace contacts in the (relatively unlikely) event of a church-based outbreak
- 3) 2 metres social distancing between individuals (or households) is to be observed; please take particular care when arriving and leaving; seating positions have been pre-marked; the only exception is when receiving Holy Communion from Fr Jeremy
- 4) The Peace will not be shared
- 5) Holy Communion will be offered under one kind only; the chalice will not be offered to the people
- 6) The words of distribution ("The body of Christ") usually said to each communicant will be said to everyone together after Fr Jeremy has himself received the sacrament; all who intend to receive reply "Amen"; the sacrament will be administered by Fr Jeremy silently
- 7) Holy Communion will be received standing, not kneeling
- 8) There will be no singing
- 9) Service books will be quarantined, so each book is used only once a week, removing any risk of transmission
- 10) There will be no refreshments offered after the service
- 11) Fr Jeremy will be using strong hygiene measures at the altar.

Please also note that there are many opportunities to worship on weekdays, at services which are usually very thinly attended. The same safety rules will apply at all services.

What is offered for those who cannot attend?

It is not practicable to continue Church at Home as well as offering Sunday services. We are however going to attempt to livestream our 9.30 Sunday service. This raises technical and legal questions; we will do our best! But our hope is that you will be able to watch the service live through Fr Jeremy's youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF0WRLKWtkgWjZw_d4S6Mw/ .

The Parish Office

Julie is back at work, but the parish office remains closed to visitors. If you need to get in touch, please telephone or email rather than dropping into the office.

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for July 2020

Wednesday 1st July	Feria	The struggle against Covid 19
Thursday 2nd July	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	The Spread of the Gospel
Friday 3rd July	S. Thomas the Apostle	Faith
Saturday 4th July	Feria	The departed
Sunday 5th July	The Fourth Sunday after Trinity	The Parish and People of God
Monday 6th July	Ss. Thomas More, Scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535	Courage
Tuesday 7th July	Feria	Gillotts School
Wednesday 8th July	Feria	Henley Deanery and our Area Dean
Thursday 9th July	Feria	The legal system
Friday 10th July	Feria	Those who suffer
Saturday 11th July	S. Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Casino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550	Religious Orders
Sunday 12th July	The Fifth Sunday after Trinity	The Parish and People of God
Monday 13th July	Feria	Our PCC and its officers
Tuesday 14th July	John Keble, Tractarian, Poet, 1866	Christian Poets
Wednesday 15th July	S. Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862	The Bishop and Diocese of Winchester
Thursday 16th July	S. Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099	The Bishop and Diocese of Salisbury
Friday 17th July	Feria	Those in need
Saturday 18th July	Elizabeth Ferard, First Deaconess of the CofE, Founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883	The departed
Sunday 19th July	The Sixth Sunday after Trinity	The Parish and People of God
Monday 20th July	S. Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th Century	S. Margaret of Antioch, Harpsden
Tuesday 21st July	Feria	The Houses of Parliament
Wednesday 22nd July	S. Mary Magdalene	Love
Thursday 23rd July	S. Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373	The Church of Sweden
Friday 24th July	Feria	Those who suffer
Saturday 25th July	S. James the Apostle	S. James, Bix
Sunday 26th July	The Seventh Sunday after Trinity	The Parish and People of God
Monday 27th July	Ss. Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Grandparents
Tuesday 28th July	Feria	Children in Care
Wednesday 29th July	Ss. Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of the Lord	Christian Friendship
Thursday 30th July	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, Anti-Slavery Campaigners, 1833, 1797 and 1846	Racial Equality
Friday 31st July	S. Ignatius of Loyola	Those in need

Parish Giving Scheme

Most of you should by now have received letters about our Parish Giving Scheme. Thank you to those who have already signed up. If you haven't yet done so, please do consider if this is something you are able to join.

If you have not received a letter, you can also join the scheme by telephone, by calling 0333 002 1271, and someone from PGS (Parish Giving Scheme) will contact you to help you set a direct debit and gift aid. You may not get through straight away, but you can leave a message and they will get back to you. Our Parish Code, which you will need to provide, is 270627170.

My warm thanks also to those who have made one-off donations recently.

Fr Jeremy

Gardening July 2020

True wisdom in life is to plant a tree under whose shade you will never sit. Nelson Henderson.

I hope the same is true for those who plant runner beans and swedes and never expect to eat them. My two big disasters this year but I am still hopefully planting out some late swede seeds for late winter. As ever at this time of year everything is growing well and just needs keeping an eye and the occasional watering can or hose. The redesigned herb garden where I raised half of it and planted it with bulbs is now really beginning to shine. The crocosmias are about a metre tall and the rest is covered in buds and new shoots. The beauty of it is that apart from weeding it will return every year. Deep joy. Cleone kindly sent me some Cerinthe seeds from the plant I fell in love with in her lovely garden, so they are now in a seed tray waiting to germinate. It is fun just being able to keep planting out to keep the rotation of plants going. Lettuce tends to bolt very quickly in the heat and I plant about a dozen seeds every two weeks and this keeps up a steady supply (until one tray decides not to grow) then its back to egg and chips. I have pulled up the broad beans and peas now and will put in a second crop of peas for the end of July. In the broad bean bed I am going to plant out all the brussels sprout plants I still have growing in the greenhouse and all the winter savoy cabbages. They will probably get attacked by cabbage white butterflies but as long as I keep an eye on them it shouldn't be a problem. The main crops are under strict lockdown in fine mesh hooped covers. One thing about this lockdown is that without the continuous trips here there and everywhere I have time to just mooch. Whilst mooching may not be a recognised occupation it does give you the chance to spot anything that needs sorting, like weeds and insect damage. This has meant the veg plot is in better shape than I think it has ever been. The downside is that we can't get some of the plants we want for the shrub and flower borders. We are trying to fill out the final third of the main bed but I don't like buying plants unless I can see them growing and check the rootballs. I've taken a few cuttings but we need some different plants to give the range of colour and seasons the look we want. I could take philladelphius cutting but we would only have a white garden from April to June then only green. Not good. I liken to grow bedding plants from seeds but it is handy to have a back up. This year all the pots are a beautiful orange with tinges of blue and red as the marigolds did brilliantly but the salvias and ageratums didn't do quite as well. Not to worry. The star jasmine is out in full bloom and the garden is like a scent factory as it spreads everywhere, what a delight. Anyway, I'm still making videos so keep safe, keep happy and keep praying for each other.

Dave and Sheila Croton

Notices

St Mary's Choir Fund

A beautiful print of the church commissioned originally for the Millennium (church restoration) appeal, renowned 'Ladybird' artist Martin Aitchison is available to buy in aid of the St Mary's choir fund.

At just £12 for a mounted print including details of the artist on the back, this print will fit into any standard 16 x 12 " frame. Details from parish office or Gill Aitchison in the choir.

Food Bank

Although we cannot bring donations to church at this time, please continue to support the Food Bank.

The supermarkets have donation points and you can also donate to NOMAD online www.nomadhenley.co.uk

Thank you.

The Children's Society

At this time of year we would usually be raising money for the Children's Society through the Regatta Café. But the work of the Children's Society continues, and we know that children and young people, although less vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus, have been hard hit by disruption to education and employment. You can find out more about the work of the Children's Society – and make a donation if you wish – at <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/>.

Articles

From our Music Director

I write this as I have just returned from playing the organ at Henley. A number of my colleagues suggested that I get to Henley to play sooner rather than later with the worry that the organ might not start up again if it was left for too long! Despite the huge amount of time I have had at my disposal, I haven't done that much music and it has been a "nice" break to recharge the batteries. Having said that, my focus has been on moving house to Witney, household improvements and overseeing the letting of my old house in Oxford. Having painted/decorated every room in my new house, I feel quite accomplished but I won't give up the day job just yet!

Several weeks ago, my house organ was delivered and I set about challenging myself to learn some more Bach. For me, the greatest composer that ever lived and certainly for my instrument! It is his Preludes and Fugues that are so highly regarded that I have set about learning the B minor and C minor movements which I will be presenting on Sunday mornings. Having dusted away some of the cobwebs, I gave a very short and informal organ recital to our esteemed Church Warden, Sue so that I might "experience" the feeling of performing again. To add a little more pressure, this performance was recorded live.

I have missed my church friends and very much look forward to seeing some of you on 5th July, all being well! The choir have been at the forefront of my mind and I hope to see them before long. I am sure they will relish the opportunity to get back together but at this stage, this isn't possible. However, we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when...

Sebastian Thompson

From our Youth Club

My experience going into lockdown, by Izzy Edgell.

It all happened pretty much overnight, the Wednesday before they announced that schools were closing everything still seemed relatively normal, there were a few theories as to what might happen, especially with my GCSEs and other people's A levels but no one predicted they'd all be cancelled entirely. Going into school the next Thursday everyone was very upset, we all felt that these exams had been such a huge part of our lives. I felt sorry for the teachers too as you could see they were just as upset as us, but they worked really hard to support us on those last two days of school and they still made sure we got a proper send off on Friday. At first the complete lockdown was a bit of a shock, but over the weeks I've adapted to living like this. During the Easter holidays I took part in a virtual camp and that was a good chance to meet many new people, over zoom, whom I am still in touch with. I'm grateful that my school started setting us A level work for the summer term as it gave me something productive to fill my time with. My mum has been very good at getting me and my brothers out of the house for a bit of exercise every day, a nice long walk has slowly become the highlight of my day. Overall it has been nice to see restrictions ease over the past few weeks although the new normal when it comes to shopping is not something I'm excited about. We've been incredibly lucky with the sunny weather and I hope it stays!

Forthcoming Concert – Henley Choral Society

Saturday September 19th

In St Mary's

'Nelson Mass', Haydn

Ave Verum Corpus, Mozart

Miserere Mei Deus, Gregorio Allegri

For Lo, I raise up, Stanford

O for the wings of a Dove,

Felix Mendelssohn

Opera Prelude

Before the lockdown, Opera Prelude had planned quarterly concerts at St Mary's. Opera Prelude's talented young artists present culturally vibrant lecture recitals drawing on the wealth of social and historic connections between opera and the other Arts. In order to support the work of the charity, they are presenting short online Lecture Recitals, performances and inspiring discussions. These will be presented by some of their most talented young artists, who will be joined from time to time by celebrated performers, academics, art historians and musicologists. Donations will be invited from £4 - £25. See www.operaprelude.org.

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