



St Mary Magdalene's Monthly Update

January 2019

Day and Date	Time / Event	Theme / Readings	Prayers are asked for...
Sunday 6 th January Epiphany	11.00am Festival Family Service	Matthew 2:1-12 	St Mary's & St Leonard's, Wallingford; residents of Thamesmead & The Limes; those who work with people troubled by Substance and Alcohol misuse; Local House Groups
Thursday 10 th January	7.30pm PCC Meeting		The ministry and mission of all at St Mary Magdalene's
Saturday 12 th January	10am – Noon Community Café (Village Hall)		Our village and community as we come together and build relationships
Sunday 13 th January Baptism of Christ	11.00am Parish Communion	Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22	The Methodist Church, Wallingford; residents of The Street & Winters Field; for God's blessing on the earth and sea and on human labour; our Intercessors and Readers
Sunday 20 th January Epiphany 3	10.00am Team Confirmation Service at St Mary-le-More		For Bishop Colin and those being confirmed, especially Chris & Laura from our congregation
Sunday 27 th January Epiphany 4	11.00am Family Communion ----- 6.30pm CTWA Service at the Baptist Church	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21 	The Baptist Church, Wallingford; residents of Bellamy Way & Benson Lane; for the mentally and physically disabled in our Parish; Derek and our other organists
Sunday 4 th February "Candlemas" Presentation of Christ in the Temple	11.00am Family Service	Luke 2:22-40 	The Friends Meeting House, Wallingford; residents of Clacks Lane & Cox's Lane; Paramedics and Ambulance Drivers in our area; those who visit our Village; those married or preparing for marriage in our church

Other services: Morning Prayer Fridays 9am / Evening Prayer Sundays 4pm

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 Wallingford CofE Team

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Introduction to the Epiphany Season:

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany. In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th). In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately.

The 40 days of celebration ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Church News:

We celebrate our first year of the "Crowmarsh Community Café" this month and its success in bringing our community together and to build relationships. Thanks to the generosity of those who have made cakes and waived their expenses, and to those who have made donations towards the costs, we are in the happy position of having raised over £800, of which we will be donating £250 to the Village Hall, with the remainder being used to improve other communal facilities in the church.

Also, this month, we are delighted to be joining the wider Wallingford Team and Bishop Colin for a special service in the town at which two of our members, Chris & Laura, will be confirmed, having previously had their son Christened last May.

Our Finances and Giving

As well as the cost of maintaining our Grade I listed building, our largest outgoing for 2019 will be the Parish Share, set at £25,000. Such an amount can only be raised through the sacrificial giving of our church members and parishioners. The national average giving is £500 per person per year – roughly **£10 per week** - with each contributing in proportion to their means.

We encourage all church members to give using the Parish Giving Scheme, which is why most of the congregation place a "PGS token" in the offertory to represent their giving via Direct Debit. If you have not yet signed the simple form to pledge regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme but would like to sustain the work and ministry of this church, even with a small amount, then please speak to the Team Vicar or Barry Ford, our Stewardship Co-ordinator. **THANK YOU!**

Key Contacts:

Team Vicar:	Revd Kevin Beer The Vicarage, 34 Thamesmead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EY teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk	Tel 599873 (day off Monday)
Team Rector:	Revd David Rice david.rice5@ntlworld.com	Tel 202188 (day off Saturday)
Associate Priest:	Revd Janice Chilton	Tel 836661
Churchwardens:	Mrs Margaret Foster Tel 836076 & Mrs Eva Thompson Tel 201675	
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Felicity Hermsen flickhermsen@hotmail.com	Tel: 07765 007972
Organist:	Mr Derek Nightingale d_nightingale@talktalk.net	Tel 835712