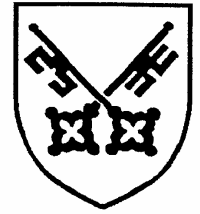


St Peter's Church Magazine



April 2015 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk

Remember

This magazine comes to you at the beginning of April. Cold it may be, but the sunshine [when it comes] is warm and the evening skies are full of light.

This year the beautiful beginning of April brings us Holy Week, the most emotionally charged week of the Christian year. This is the week when Jesus' confrontation with all that is evil would come to a head.

We started Holy Week on Palm Sunday, just at the end of March. Jesus was going into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Quite often he went quietly into the city... but not this time. This time He rode in on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy; the crowds quickly understood and soon the ride became a noisy triumphal procession with waving palms and a great deal of noise.

He had laid down His challenge. From now on it was inevitable that the end would be swift. He crammed His last days with teaching...teaching his disciples, teaching in the temple. The authorities watched Him, but did not dare to act publicly. He brought His teaching and preparation to a climax on Maundy Thursday when He gave us the most Holy Communion; when He took the Passover meal and transmuted it into his own sacrifice, into the communion which keeps us going today.

Then, quite deliberately, when everything was in place, He went out to the quiet garden at Gethsemane. There he allowed the enemy to make their secretive capture: in less than 24 hours, he was dead.

When I was a child, Good Friday was a holy day. Shops were shut and factories did not work. It was not too difficult to remember Jerusalem some 2000 years ago. Now it is hard for even a devoted Christian to find some time to spend before the Cross. But please try to do so...if you cannot get to church; spend time quietly, perhaps before your bedroom crucifix.

Then there is Saturday! As you rush around, spare a thought for Mary and all Jesus' followers, deep in despair, mourning and bewilderment; while all around them the rest of Jerusalem celebrated Passover. A bitter Passover indeed for them! **Remember** them as you go around Didcot which will be immersed in pre-Easter shopping.

Remember and pray for our town.

If you can do these two things, you will come into church on Easter Day ready prepared to celebrate the full, astonishing, unbelievable joy of the Resurrection!

So, join as fully as you can in the experience of this week. There are all sorts of things happening in church to help you if you can make yourself free to get to them. Above all, come on Easter Day to rejoice with us [or with another church if you are on holiday].

The important thing is to prepare and to rejoice.

Sylvia Adley

Inside this month

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Plant Sale
Saturday 2nd May
10.30AM—1.00PM

The Services of Holy Week Explained.

Many people have never been to some of the services that take place in Holy Week and have not experienced first hand that journey with Jesus from the Last Supper through to the watching from the foot of the cross as he dies and then waiting, forlorn. We, of course, know that the resurrection takes place, but taking part in the services of the Triduum (three days) allows us some idea of what those first disciples went through with Jesus.

Maundy Thursday

This service marks the Institution of the Eucharist and finishes shortly after 9pm with the watch in the Garden and at the Altar of Repose. Many people choose to leave at this point, others will return to watch and pray, and others will stay for the 3 hours watch, which finishes at midnight. It is named after the “New Commandment” (the Latin *novum mandatum* was corrupted into ‘Maundy’ in English) that Jesus gave at the Last Supper: “Love one another as I have loved you.” It features the actions of Jesus and the disciples on that night:

Washing of the Feet. In St John’s Gospel Jesus washes the feet of his disciples before they share their meal. The ceremonial of the Washing of the Feet is part of this evening’s Eucharist. It reminds us that Christ is amongst us as “one who serves” and that Jesus’ disciples are called to serve too, “For I have set you as an example,” Jesus says after finishing the foot washing.

The Garden of Gethsemane. After supper Jesus and the disciples go out into the Garden of Gethsemane and so after Holy Communion the Sacrament is taken in Procession to the Altar of Repose in our Garden of Gethsemane. Here Jesus asks his disciples to watch and pray with Him but they fall asleep. Jesus agonises in prayer, that the will of the Father be done. Here in our Garden, we experience what prayer is, praying with Jesus who is also praying. It involves struggle within us and all around us that: “Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.”

Stripping of the Altars. After the Sacrament is taken to the Altar of Repose, the priest and servers return for the Stripping of the Altars as Psalm 22 or Psalm 51 is sung. The church is laid bare for Good Friday, stripped

naked as was the Body of Christ. We feel something of what the disciples themselves felt when Jesus was taken away from them – it is always a deeply moving experience.

The Watch at the Altar of Repose. This lasts until midnight, when the Sacrament is taken away along with the flowers and lights, symbolising Jesus’ betrayal by Judas, his arrest and imprisonment away from his disciples. People can stay for as long as they like or come back to pray at any time until midnight when the candles are extinguished and the Sacrament removed.

Good Friday

This is a short service marking the last hours of Jesus life, starting at 2pm and finishing at the hour that Jesus himself gave up the Spirit. This is a day to contemplate the stark reality of the crucifixion of Jesus, and the people gather in silence in a bare church to make us aware that this is a day of dereliction and desolation. It is one of the most important and solemn days in the whole of the Church’s year.

The service begins with a silent procession into the church and the **prostration of the priest** before the stripped and bare altar. Undoubtedly the central theme of this service is the Cross and it is the narration of the events leading up to the Crucifixion of Jesus and His Death, as related in St John’s Gospel, which lies at the heart of the service. The **ministry of the word** focuses the Cross before our minds and imaginations. After this we are to unite our wills to the will of him who “opened wide his arms for us upon the Cross” by joining in **intercessions** for the needs of the Church and the world.

During the **Veneration of the Cross**, a cross is symbolically processed through the body of the people and is set up before them for silent reflection and intercession. The people are then invited to venerate the cross, with a bow, a kiss or whichever way they feel comfortable. This is no simple gesture. To embrace the cross is to make an act of faith in Christ and his Cross, an act of faith is also an act of gratitude, of penitence and love.

The Eucharist is not celebrated on this day, but **Holy Communion** is given in one kind (the holy bread) from the sacrament consecrated on

(Continued on page 6)

Waiting for the doors to open



Who could have imagined that the wrong sort of doors would delay the opening of the Great Western Park (“GWP”) Northern Community Centre – well apart perhaps, from all of you who know about doors and the delights of completing a community building! Delays in fitting “commercial” type doors which meet requirements for disabled access mean that we still have no firm date to gain access to the building. This means that exciting plans for a weekly Community Café, monthly Café Church and Easter celebration wait tentatively “for the doors to open”.

There is no point getting exercised about it; these things happen. But why the wait and what purpose does it serve if community activity (and there are many groups affected by this delay) is stalled and the message of hope that is offered in Christ is muffled, at least for now?

Waiting is usually associated with Advent, a time of expectation of the coming of Jesus. But it seems somehow appropriate for this time in Lent; not in expectation of something which is about to happen, but in getting ready, in preparation for God to work in and among us.

Is this, therefore about us being ready? God’s mercy and grace is always waiting for us, always going ahead, always anticipating.

I have been going to Stephen Freeman School each Wednesday morning for just over 6

months now, to meet any parents who may want to chat. But no one has really taken up the offer. It has, however, allowed me to meet the parents as they drop off their kids, to become a familiar face and to get to know the children. More importantly perhaps, I have begun spending time talking with the teachers and joining in during class time as the children consider what faith might mean in their lives. Waiting, as I do each week, also enables me to pray for the School, its teachers and pupils and those especially living in GWP. This relationship could not have been built without time and the waiting was as much to prepare me for this task.

As I reflect on this I begin to realise that “waiting” in Christian language should not be a trigger for frustration. In fact, in all our busyness to do “stuff” for God, are we getting in the way of his work? If we stopped and waited “for the doors to open”, would we allow Gods kingdom to be revealed a little more clearly?

As you wait this Lenten period, ask God for patience to prepare you, accept that waiting has a deep and lasting value in itself and be willing to “take on” Christ even if it is not in your plan.

*Mark Bodeker
Curate All Saints’ Church,
Didcot and Community Minister,
Great Western Park*

Prayer Intentions: April 2015

<p>1st: Weds of Holy Week Readings: Psalm 88; Jeremiah 11:18-20; Luke 22:54-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Loyd Road. Wednesday Church, their leaders and all those who care for those with learning disabilities.</p>	<p>2nd: Maundy Thursday Readings: Psalm 39; Leviticus 16:2-24; Luke 23:1-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Cockcroft Road, Mowbray Road. Our choir, our Director of Music.</p>	<p>3rd: Good Friday Readings: Psalm 130; Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 10:1-10.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Barnes Road, Barnes Close. Persecuted Christians and all those who suffer and die for their faith.</p>	<p>4th: Holy Saturday Readings: Psalm 116; Hosea 6:1-6; John 2:18-22.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Edwin Road. Those who watch over people close to death, Helen and Douglas House.</p>
<p>5th: Easter Day Alleluia Christ is Risen!</p> <p>Readings: Psalm 105; Genesis 1; 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Green Road; Green Close. All those who read lessons in St Peter's.</p>	<p>6th: Easter Monday Readings: Psalm 135; Song of Solomon 1:9-2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Royal Berkshire Close. Our clergy and those at All Saints, particularly Fr Mark and his ministry on GWP.</p>	<p>7th: Readings: Psalm 136; Song of Solomon 12:8-end; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Queensway; Hardings Strings. Our Bishops Colin, Archdeacon Judy and those who will appoint the new Bishop of Oxford.</p>	<p>8th: Readings: Psalm 105; Song of Solomon 3; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Tavistock Avenue; Bowness Avenue. Wednesday Fellowship and those who work to make it happen.</p>
<p>9th: Readings: Psalm 106; Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:29-34.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Warner Crescent; Morse Road. Our PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), Chris Wyatt.</p>	<p>10th: Readings: Psalm 107; Song of Solomon 7:10-8:4; 1 Corinthians 15:35-50.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: South Park Avenue; Downs Road. Those who clean the church.</p>	<p>11th: Readings: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 8:5-7; 1 Corinthians 15:51-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Newlands Avenue. Our Sacristan and those who clean the linens and prepare the church for worship.</p>	<p>12th: Easter II Readings: Psalm 22; Isaiah 53:6-12; Romans 4:13-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Glebe Rd; Lynmouth Rd. Those who pray for the Church: the prayer group and the intercessors on Sundays.</p>
<p>13th: Readings: Psalm 139; Deuteronomy 1:3-18; Colossians 1:1-14.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Craven Way; Hillary Dr; Lockinge Close. Didcot TRAIN and their Youth Workers.</p>	<p>14th: Readings: Psalm 104; Deuteronomy 1:19-40; Colossians 1:15-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Cullen Place; Hanover Court. Little Fishes. Those who work maintaining the Church grounds.</p>	<p>15th: Readings: Psalms 33; Deuteronomy 3:18-end; Colossians 2:1-15.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Clarence Place, Frideswide's Court. Didcot Community Gospel Choir.</p>	<p>16th: Readings: Psalm 34; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; Colossians 2:16-3:11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Wantage Road; Colbourne Road. Our PCC and Church Wardens.</p>

Prayer Intentions: April 2015

<p>17th: Readings: Psalm 118; Deuteronomy 4:15-31; Colossians 3:12-4:1.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Barleyfields; Elbourne. Singing for the Brain and those suffering from Dementia.</p>	<p>18th: Readings: Psalm 66; Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Colossians 4:2-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Drake Avenue; Collingwood Avenue. St Peter's Outreach to the community.</p>	<p>19th: Easter III Readings: Psalm 142; Isaiah 63:7-15; Zephaniah 3:14-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Park Road; Park Close. Our Healing Ministry Team.</p>	<p>20th: Readings: Psalm 61; Deuteronomy 5:1-22; Luke 1:1-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Garden Close; Rutherford Place. Our house-bound members of St Peter's, the Eucharistic Ministers.</p>
<p>21st: Anselm Readings: Psalm 71; Deuteronomy 5:22-end; Luke 1:26-38.</p> <p>Archbishop of Canterbury under William II and during the period of Pope Urban II and Antipope Clement. A Benedictine scholar and founder of Scholasticism (intellectual argument applied to all things theological).</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Norreys Road; Norreys Close. Alton Abbey.</p>	<p>22nd: Readings: Psalm 72; Deuteronomy 6; Luke 1:39-56.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Meadow Way; Brunel Road. Those who provide refreshments for services and events at Church.</p>	<p>23rd: George Readings: Psalm 126; Revelation 12:7-12; John 15:18-21.</p> <p>Believed to have been born in Lydda, in modern Palestine, in the late 3rd Century. A Roman Soldier who converted and was martyred for his Christian Faith. Patron saint of England and a further 21 countries and 24 cities.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Portway; Wheatfields. Our Queen, Supreme Governor of the Church of England.</p>	<p>24th: Mellitus Readings: Psalm 77; Deuteronomy 7:12-end; Luke 2:1-20.</p> <p>First Bishop of London, and then third Archbishop of Canterbury. Part of a mission to convert the Anglo-Saxons in London and Kent to Christianity.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Cromwell Drive; St Ann's Court. Our Ordinands and those learning alongside them.</p>
<p>25th: Mark Readings: Psalm 45; Ezekiel 1:4-14; 2 Timothy 4:1-11.</p> <p>Presumed to be one of the 70 disciples sent out by Jesus, also identified as John Mark or Mark the Cousin of Barnabas. Little is known as fact about the writer of the Gospel of St Mark.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: St Hilda's Close; St Hugh's Rise. Didcot Community Hospital, all who use the facilities and who work there.</p>	<p>26th: Easter IV Readings: Psalm 23; Nehemiah 7:73b-8:12; Revelation 2:12-17.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Campion Hall Drive; Pebble Drive. Our Ministry Team.</p>	<p>27th: Readings: Psalm 114; Deuteronomy 9:1-21; Luke 2:41-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Stonesfield; Mansfield Gardens. Didcot Library, its users and staff.</p>	<p>28th: Readings: Psalm 116; Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5; Luke 3:1-14.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Linacre Close; Balliol Drive. St John's Guild, those who work for and with those with visual disabilities.</p>
<p>29th: Catherine of Siena Readings: Psalm 47; Deuteronomy 10:12-end; Luke 3:15-22.</p> <p>Born in 1347, the 23rd child of a family of cloth dyers in Siena, she dedicated herself as a third order nun of the Dominican Order. She was active in restoring the Papacy to Rome, from its exile in France. She is one of the few female Doctors of the Church (i.e. A theologian of note, as recognised by the Vatican)</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Northbourne and Willowcroft Schools.</p>		<p>30th: Readings: Psalm 85; Deuteronomy 11:8-end; Luke 4:1-13.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Buckingham Close; Balmoral Road. The Quiz n Chips team, those who raise funds for the ministry of St Peter's.</p>	

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The April meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 21st April which will be our 2nd annual General Meeting

Didcot & District U3A is a democratic, self-funded and self-managed organisation which exists to provide educational and leisure activities at minimal cost. It draws upon the knowledge, experience, skills and enthusiasms of its members to organise interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership.

Tel: 07804159993

Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Website:

<http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

Didcot All Saints' & The Ladygrove Church Services

All Saints'

Sunday 8:00 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)
10:00 AM	The Parish Eucharist (Except first Sunday of Month)
10:00 AM	Family Service (First Sunday of Month)
6:30 PM	The Holy Eucharist with a hymn and Prayer for Healing (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language, First Sunday of Month)
Tuesday 9:30 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)

The Ladygrove Church

Sunday 9.00 AM	Morning worship
Sunday 10:00 AM	Refreshments for those attending either service.
Sunday 10.30 AM	Morning worship with children's groups (changes each Sunday—see notice sheet)

Last Sunday of the month:

7.00 PM Evening service

The Services of Holy Week

(Continued from page 2)

Maundy Thursday. This reminds us that the Cross unveils the love of God, not only the sacrifice of Jesus but the divine initiative coming close to us in redeeming love. With this last sharing of the Body of Christ, the church is also marking the moment of Jesus' death, and his presence – the Real Presence in the Sacrament – is no longer there for us.

Easter Vigil

This service starts in silence and darkness, as we symbolically sit with the disciples in the darkness of a world with no Christ in it. We hear the retelling of our salvation history leading up to the arrival of St Mary Magdelene at the tomb, and the lighting of the **Easter Fire**,

from which the **Paschal Candle** is lit. We then process to the font and the Easter Hymn (**Exsultet**) is sung, followed by the **Easter Acclamation** and the Gloria – all joyous songs of praise as we greet our Risen Lord.

We renew our Baptismal vows at the font and then celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. As this is a joyous occasion, we follow this with drinks and nibbles after the service!

We hope you will join us this year in this roller-coaster ride alongside Jesus and the disciples, remembering that first ever Easter.

Services

Sundays

8.00AM Book of
Common Prayer Holy
Communion.
10.00AM Parish Sung
Eucharist
6.00PM Evensong
(1st Sunday in month)

Weekday Services

Tuesday 12.00NOON
Little Fishes Eucharist
Thursday 9.30AM
Eucharist

Weekday Offices

Morning Prayer:
usually said at 8.30AM
on weekdays (except
Fridays) & Saturday.

**The Sacrament is
reserved at St Peter's
and is available to any
who wish to receive it
in their home or in the
hospital.**

Registers

**Funerals 'may they rest in peace and rise in
glory'**

Arthur McGibbon

Mary Head

Edith Jean Turner

Subscription and website information

St Peter's offers a few ways in which one can keep
up-to-date with events and happenings at the
church—the website, the monthly magazine, the
weekly news-sheet.

The website—www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk is updated
on a weekly basis.

If you would like to subscribe to the monthly
magazine or electronically receive the weekly news-
sheet, please contact the editor, Margaret Meardon,
on 01235 210525 or email
maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com.

Next issue

Wednesday 22 April 2015 is the next magazine
deadline. Please telephone or email the editor with any
articles—210525 or maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com

Thank You

A big Thank You to all who helped to raise a total
of **£58.58** during the October-December quarter
of 2014 towards funds for St Peter's by using the
easyfundraising web. See notice in church as to
how you can help.

Keith Mintern

Year's Mind for April

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Daisy Parris | Evelyn Taylor |
| | Agnes Bennett | Edith Gibbens |
| | Nellie Warne | Bernard Measor |
| | Roy Hammond | 18 Roland Evans |
| | Muriel Breeze | 19 Horace Parsons |
| 2 | Gladys Rhodes | Dorothy Butler |
| 3 | Edward Green | Florence Mitchel |
| | Denis Day | Frank Swadling |
| 4 | Herbert Sturt | Hilda Jamison |
| | Stephen Smith | 20 Vicki Shunker |
| | Albert James | William Price |
| | Annie Town | Hilda Timson |
| 5 | William Parris | 21 George Hill |
| 6 | George Hill | Louis Tierney |
| | Clifford Bradbeer | 22 Catherine Stephens |
| | James Glen | Eva West |
| 7 | Craig Williams | Laura Meredith |
| | Maud Town | Doris Cracknell |
| | Alfred Barham | 23 William Marshall |
| 8 | Ruth Turner | Doreen Stevens |
| | Arthur Hine | 24 |
| 9 | Kate Goldring | 25 George Eustace |
| | Christopher Purdy | William Cole |
| | Alec Oakes | Christopher Cooke |
| | Marjorie Cox | Leona Cooke |
| 10 | John Lang | 26 James Hall |
| | Barbara Hughes | Mary Hill |
| | Margaret Williamson | Eric Thurman |
| 11 | Gladys Wear | Victor Parsons |
| 12 | William Burrows | 27 Bob Pease |
| | Ronald Davis | Frederick Church |
| | Sarah Powditch | 28 Laura Milne |
| 13 | (Clive) Fraser Smith | Clifford Jones |
| 14 | Rose Hitchcock | Mary Evans |
| | Olive Sheffard | Alma Tanner |
| 15 | Eliza Rickett | Graham Hatt |
| 16 | Clara Gorton | 29 Charles Ackerman |
| | Norman Thrift | 30 Ellen Price |
| 17 | Edward Hall | |
| | Frederick Turner | |

Church Calendar for April 2015

Wednesday 1

10.00AM Wednesday Church.

6.00PM Stations of the Cross

Thursday 2 Maundy Thursday

9.30AM Holy Communion (MU).

7.30PM Eucharist of the Last Supper.

Friday 3 Good Friday

10.00AM Children's Activities.

11.00AM Children's Passion.

2.00PM Liturgy of the Cross.

9.00PM Compline.

Saturday 4 Holy Saturday

9.00AM—11.00AM Church cleaning and decorating.

7.30PM Easter Vigil.

Sunday 5 Easter Sunday

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

Wednesday 8

11.00AM Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday 10

6.45PM Choir practice

Saturday 11

2.00PM Wedding.

Sunday 12 Second Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

Tuesday 14

12.00NOON Little Fishes

7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 15

7.00PM Eucharist

APCM & PCC Meeting.

Thursday 16

9.30AM Holy Communion.

Friday 17

6.45PM Choir Practice

Saturday 18

7.30PM Quiz 'n' Chips

(Doors open 7.00PM)

Sunday 19 Third Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

10.00AM Sunday school.

Tuesday 21

12.00NOON Little Fishes.

7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 22

7.30PM Didcot Community Gospel Choir rehearsal.

Thursday 23 St George

9.30AM Communion by Extension.

Friday 24

6.45PM Choir practice.

Sunday 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

Tuesday 28

12.00NOON Little Fishes

2.00PM St John's Guild.

7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Thursday 30

9.30AM Holy Communion.



Priest-in-Charge

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